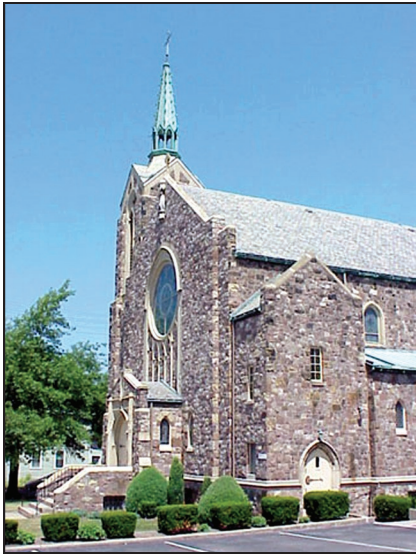


# *Saint Hedwig Saint Patrick*

*Sister parishes serving the East Bay Front of Erie*

*Pastor*

**Rev. Msgr. Henry A. Kriegel**



## **DAILY MASS**

**Saint Patrick 8:00 AM**

## **SATURDAY EVENING MASS**

**Saint Hedwig 4:30 PM**

**Saint Patrick 5:00 PM**

## **SUNDAY MORNING MASS**

**Saint Hedwig 9:00 AM**

**Saint Patrick 10:30 AM**

## **HOLY DAY MASSES**

**Anticipation**

**Saint Hedwig 5:30 PM**

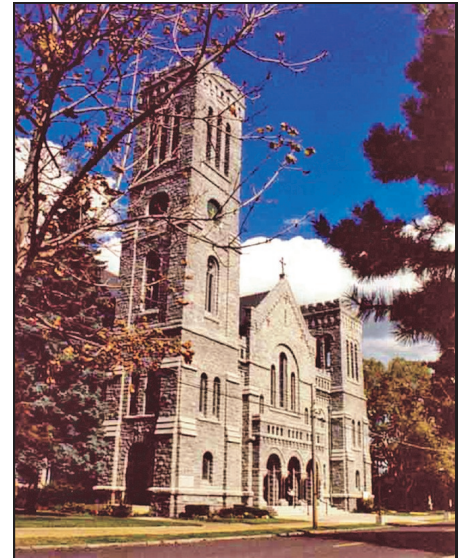
**Holy Day**

**Saint Patrick 12:05 PM**

## **CONFESSIONS**

**30 Minutes before each Saturday**

**Evening Mass or by appointment**



## *Saint Hedwig Parish*

Established 1910

521 E. 3rd Street

Erie, PA 16507

(814) 454-6232

[www.sainthedwigparisherie.org](http://www.sainthedwigparisherie.org)

## *Saint Patrick Parish*

Established 1837

130 East 4th Street

Erie, PA 16507

(814) 454-8085

[www.saintpatrickparisherie.org](http://www.saintpatrickparisherie.org)



***For information on Baptism, Religious Education, Penance, Eucharist, Confirmation,  
Adult Initiation, Marriage, Prayer or Study Groups, please call either parish office.***

Today is the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord and our first reading is from a section of the prophet Isaiah which is called the Book of Consolation. We also hear this reading on the second Sunday of Advent, but today you will see how it is linked with the gospel. When this book was written, Israel was in need of consolation. She had endured a long exile and no one knew how much longer it would go on. In today's prophecy, they are told that the end is near. The Lord's coming will bring redemption and the forgiveness of sin; God's justice will triumph. But prior to his coming, they have to prepare the way, a daunting task.

Our second reading is from Paul's letter to Titus who was in charge of the church on Crete. While Acts of the Apostles does not mention him, we learn a great deal about him in the epistle. He was a companion of Paul and Barnabas and had previously been a pagan. Paul is writing this letter in about the year 66 while he is imprisoned in Rome. Titus struggled to keep his community on Crete as a caring group because they were anything but that. The first part of today's reading is proclaimed at the Midnight Mass of Christmas and the second part is read on Easter Sunday and it combines the two feasts.

Our gospel excerpt from Luke marks the change in focus from the ministry of John the Baptist to that of Jesus. John knows his place—he is unworthy to tie Jesus' sandals and he also baptizes with water, a common practice, whereas Jesus will baptize with the Holy Spirit. We also encounter Jesus praying in today's reading, a very common encounter in Luke. Following this reading, Luke has Jesus going to the desert to pray and it is here that he will encounter the temptations of the devil. And it is because he has the Spirit with him that he is able to resist Satan's temptations.

Everywhere I go I continue to be stopped by people who have seen the church and are absolutely overwhelmed with the restoration. It's very interesting to watch the large number of people who are going in during the week to see it. You'll also notice that our attendance at weekend Masses is up with a good number of visitors. I think I mentioned earlier that I'm going to add an 8 AM Sunday Mass June, July and August and see what kind of attendance we get. There will not be any music at the Mass as I have to be at St. Hedwig's for a 9 AM Mass and then back here for 10:30.

A new study on Irish Catholicism reveals how dramatically the church has disappeared from Ireland in a very short span of time. The study reveals that 7% of the Irish do not believe in God, 21% do not believe in the resurrection and when it comes to making serious moral decisions, 78% said they follow their own conscience rather than church teaching. Forty-five percent do not believe in hell while 18% do not believe that God created man. The dramatic reversal in religious belief and behavior in Ireland is some of the most dramatic in history. On the other hand, 92% of Irish Catholics believe in God and 84% believe that Jesus was the son of God.

When it comes to Mass attendance it has fallen to about 34% with 16% never attending. In 1998, 55% of Irish Catholics attended Mass weekly and the change reflects a drop of 20% in 14 years. At the same time, only 17% of 18-34 year olds attend Mass weekly compared to 31% for the 34-54 age group and 57% for those over 55. We have to remember that Ireland has suffered from a sexual abuse scandal far more enormous than what occurred in our own country. The failure of church leadership to understand people's anger and their lack of belief in the moral leadership of these people have moved to center stage. A once very docile group of Catholics have become very outspoken and drifted away from accepting the word of the hierarchy particularly on serious moral issues.

I mentioned last week new statistics which show that Mass attendance in the Diocese of Erie has declined by 31% between 1999 and 2009 and that now only 26.4% of our people attend Mass on a regular weekly basis. In 1957, 74% of our Catholics were attending on a regular weekly basis. It is currently at its lowest level. It was 40% in 2003. Another troubling statistic which that report reveals is that while the population in the area of our diocese decreased by 1.1% during that same period of time, the Catholic population decreased by 4.25%.

That report also shows that funerals in the past decade have remained at their same level (but we are soon going to find that figure changing because we're finding more and more families who opt not to have a funeral Mass or even a service at the funeral home. While funerals did remain constant, there were thirty-six percent

## From the Pastor's Desk continued.....

Communion and 24% fewer baptisms. Nearly twice the number of weddings, confirmations, First Communion and adult initiation into the church were celebrated a decade ago compared to last year.

The decline in numbers of priests in the diocese is the same rate as the national figures. In 2001, there were 46,000 Catholic priests in the USA. By 2009, that number had dropped to 40,400 and has continued to drop since then. In the Diocese of Erie, we had 241 priests in 2001 and by 2009 there were 139. That's a dramatic drop in numbers.

The last weekend in the Cauley Auditorium we had two cars in the parking lot that were hit by other people, neither of whom stopped to identify themselves. One of the victims was yours truly. I hope we will be more careful and also willing to step forward and be responsible for our actions.

I am late in making this announcement only because the bulletins for early January had to be in before Christmas because of the holiday schedule. Our Christmas collection was \$24,391!! That is absolutely incredible. Your generosity is unmatched and I hope you know my gratitude. I'm also happy to tell you that our pledges for the restoration are now at \$1,064,000 and payments to date are \$560,411.

Chip Wachter, a local architect and St. Patrick parishioner, is going to design a new rest room for women, and we'll get started on that work. Once we finish with the women's restroom, we can hopefully get started on the men's.

The new pastor was greeting parishioners after his first Sunday and everyone raved about his homily. Finally, an older man said, "That was dull and boring." A little later he went by again and said, "I don't think you spent much time preparing your homily." And a third time he walked by and said to the pastor, "You really blew it today, you didn't have a thing to say." Finally, the priest could stand it no longer and went to the deacon to inquire about the man and his strange attitude. "Oh, don't let that guy bother you," said the deacon. "He's a little slow. All he does is go around repeating what he hears other people saying."

## Saint Hedwig News



Our Sanctuary Lamp burns this week in loving memory of **Carol Kurpiewski** requested by Charlotte Mabie, Our Lady's Shrine Lamp burns in loving memory of **Isabelle Dombrowski** requested by Helen Dombrowski and St. Joseph Shrine Lamp burns in loving memory of **Robert Niedzwiecki** requested by Grandchildren. Please remember in your prayers those in the hospital, nursing care and the home-bound.

Our offertory for Christmas was \$2,386.00; for the weekend of December 30th was \$1,288.00; weekend of January 6th was \$1,491.00. Additional Christmas flowers were \$799.00. Thank you and God bless.

**Additional Christmas Flower Memorial**  
**In loving memory of Grandpa Micky Mabie** requested by Alexis Mabie.

### Volunteer Needed

We are in need of an Usher to assist at the 9am Mass on Sundays in March, July and November. If you are interested, please call Jim Gorski at 456-3766.

### The Baptism of Our Lord Jesus Christ

**What was the significance of Jesus' Baptism by John?** The Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC), in article no. 535 teaches that Jesus' public life begins with His Baptism by John in the Jordan (See Luke 3:23; Acts 1:22). The CCC goes on to say that the Baptism by John had this meaning for Jesus: "The Baptism of Jesus is on His part **the acceptance and inauguration of His Mission as God's suffering Servant**. The Catechism states further, in no. 535: "He allows Himself to be numbered among sinners; He is already "the Lamb of God, Who takes away the sin of the world" (See John 1:29; and Isaiah 53:12).

### Saint Hedwig Ministry Schedule

	<u>January 19</u> Saturday 4:30 PM	<u>January 20</u> Sunday 9:00 AM
Lector	Ron Helminski	Barb Juchno
Eucharist	Ron Helminski	Tom Zielinski
Ushers	Roland Henderson Ray Nowosielski	Tom Zielinski Sharon Zielinski
Altar Server	Portia & Yvonne Nowosielski	Charlotte Mabie Amanda Juchno





# Saint Patrick News



## PARISH STEWARDSHIP

Because of the early deadline for the bulletin, we have not been up to date with reporting the offertory—Our offertory for the weekend of December 30th was \$4,825.53; for the weekend of January 6th it was \$6,595.32. We also received additional Christmas offertory bringing that total to \$24,743.00. Thank you for your generosity.

Please make a special effort to remember in your daily prayers the members of our parish who are hospitalized, in Long Term Nursing Care, or home-bound.

We continue to thank those who make special donations to our parish and we pray for those people in whose honor the donations were made: The **Sanctuary Lamp** burns in memory of **Mary Pascale** from family; The **Food Pantry Truck** is sponsored this week by the **Ave Maria Care and Concern**; The **Food Pantry** in memory of **Joe McClellan** from wife, Marilyn.

## LITURGY OF THE WORD FOR CHILDREN AGES 4 THRU 9

will begin on Sunday, February 3rd.

THE OFFERTORY COUNTERS have asked that you write a separate check for your donation to the Restoration Fund. That money goes into a different account and it is difficult to separate it from the weekly offertory. Thank you for your consideration.

**CHILD PROTECTION AND CREATING SAFE ENVIRONMENTS:** Place the computers in a well trafficked area in the house where the whole family can use it. While this practice can help with younger children, parents need to realize that children today access the Internet in many ways: school, library, coffee shop, work or a friend's house. Devices such as cell phones, smart phones, consoles like X box and Play Station enable to go online almost anywhere. Be aware of any other computers your child may be using. To see what the Diocese of Erie is doing to keep children and youth safe, check out

## Ministry Schedule

**Saturday, January 19, 2013 at 5:00 pm**

Lector: Jay Habas

Eucharistic Ministers: Ray Fiorelli, Kay Mannino,  
Carol Habas

Greeters: Kathleen Horan, Judy Kelly

Altar Servers: **NEEDED**

Ushers: Chris Lampe, Rob Oligeri, Phil Rewers

**Sunday, January 20, 2013 at 10:30 am**

Lector: Alex Wheaton

Eucharistic Ministers: Michele Wheaton,  
Colleen Welch, Forrest Mischler

Greeters: Marlene Golab, Arlene Miller

Altar Servers: Andy Wilcox, Leah Taccone

Ushers: Tom Welch, John Maloney,  
David Wilcox, David Taccone

Offertory Counters: Michele Wheaton, Tim Torrey,  
Alex Wheaton

A special thank you to the Liturgical Ministers for helping to make the Christmas Services run smoothly. Christmas Eve at 5:00 was quite a challenge but it went very smoothly. The ushers were instrumental in finding seats for the over 900 people in attendance. As the number of people attending grows each week, please continue to help them find seats. The Eucharistic Ministers helped so much by going to different areas to distribute communion. It kept the communion lines moving.

## A Moment of Reflection

Reading I: Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7

Reading II: Psalm 29: 1-4, 9-10

Gospel: Luke 3:15-16, 21-22



The Jordan River in today's Gospel was both a reminder of death and a source of holy water. Being submerged in the Jordan symbolized burying an old life so that a new and holy life could arise. Because Jesus was without sin and had no old life to bury, his baptism was an acceptance of his missions with an anticipation of the cross, whereby he took upon himself our sins and death. The Church continues to offer us the sacraments to enable us to grow in holiness. Jesus' word teaches us HOW to be holy; His Body and Blood provide us with STRENGTH to be holy; his forgiveness FREES us from the choices we have made that are obstacles to being holy. Today, as we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord, let us renew our own baptismal commitment to strive for holiness. A sense of mission arose from baptism for Jesus. What is God calling you to do today? What concrete actions can you take to grow in holiness/wholeness?

**LITURGY INTENTIONS****Jan. 12 Saturday, Vigil: The Baptism of the Lord**4:30 PM JOSEPH BORGIA, ANNIV. - ST.H  
(BABE NIEDZWIECKI)5:00 PM ROSE FIORELLI, ANNIV. OF BIRTH - ST.P  
(RAY & PATTY FIORELLI)**Jan. 13 The Baptism of the Lord**9:00 AM BERNARD & JANE KUTZ - ST.H  
(TORBIC FAMILY)

10:30 AM PATRICIA TRAPP (SR. MARIE) - ST.P

**Jan. 14 Monday, Weekday**8:00 AM TESSIE KOLODZIEJCZAK, ANNIV. OF BIRTH  
(DAUGHTER, ANN)**Jan. 15 Tuesday, Weekday**

8:00 AM COMMUNION SERVICE

**Jan. 16 Wednesday, Weekday**8:00 AM JOSEPH WITKOWSKI  
(JEAN & STANLEY LIPINSKI)**Jan. 17 Thursday, St. Anthony, abbot**

8:00 AM JAMES KONTUR, ANNIV. (WIFE, ANGIE)

**Jan. 18 Friday, Weekday**

8:00 AM ANN KRUSZEWICZ (THERESA SHESSLEY)

**Jan. 19 Saturday, Vigil: 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time**4:30 PM ROBERT NIEDZWIECKI, ANNIV. - ST.H  
(WIFE & CHILDREN)

5:00 PM BECKY FLAHERTY (CATHERINE GOOD) - ST.P

**Jan. 20 Second Sunday in Ordinary Time**

9:00 AM DOLLY BERDIS (BROTHER &amp; SISTERS) - ST.H

10:30 AM WILLIAM SCHRIEFER - ST.P  
(REFOCUS GROUP)**DATES TO REMEMBER**St.H=St. Hedwig, St.P=St. Patrick, HR=Holy Rosary  
CP=Chapel, PF=Polish Falcons  
PR=Pascal Room, R=Rector, CV=Convent**01/12** 3:30 PM Confessions - St.H

4:30 PM Confessions - St.P

**01/13** 9:00 AM Rel. Ed. K thru 6 - Holy Rosary**01/15** 11:00 AM Food Pantry - PR**01/16** 12:00 PM A.A. - PR

7:00 PM RCIA - R

**01/19** 3:30 PM Confessions - St.H

4:30 PM Confessions - St.P

**01/20** 9:00 AM Rel. Ed. K thru 6 - Holy Rosary

1:00 PM Rel. Ed. Gr. 7, 8, 9, 10 - Holy Rosary

1:00 PM Confirmation Session—Holy Rosary

**PARENTS OF CHILDREN IN GR. 2** who are preparing for the **Sacrament of Reconciliation** – A reminder that Parent and child interviews are **Saturday, January 19th beginning at 10:00 am.** A schedule will be sent to you by January 10th.

**FIFTH ANNUAL SUPERBOWL PANCAKE BREAK-FAST** will take place **Superbowl Sunday, February 3rd from 8:30 am to 12:30 pm** in Hastings Hall on the Holy Rosary campus. The Knights of Columbus host this breakfast on behalf of the Eastside Catholic Faith Formation Ministry. The proceeds are used to purchase **Catholic Youth Bibles** for the children and youth of our Eastside parishes. Mark your calendars now and support our Knights who support us in our ministry to the children, youth and their families.

**NEED PRAYERS?**

Please call **Mary Alice Hartwell** at **454-5908** to have your prayer intentions placed on our joint parish prayer wheel. Please be assured that your prayer requests will be treated with respect and confidentiality.

**NEW PARISHIONER REGISTRATION FORM**☐

Saint Hedwig

☐

Saint Patrick

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

STREET: \_\_\_\_\_ CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE CIRCLE ONE BELOW:

New Registration

Change of Address

Moving

Want Envelopes

**PLEASE DROP THIS INFORMATION INTO Offertory Basket or mail to Rector**