

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 8:00 & 10:30 AM

HOLY DAY MASSES

Anticipation

Saint Hedwig 5:30 PM

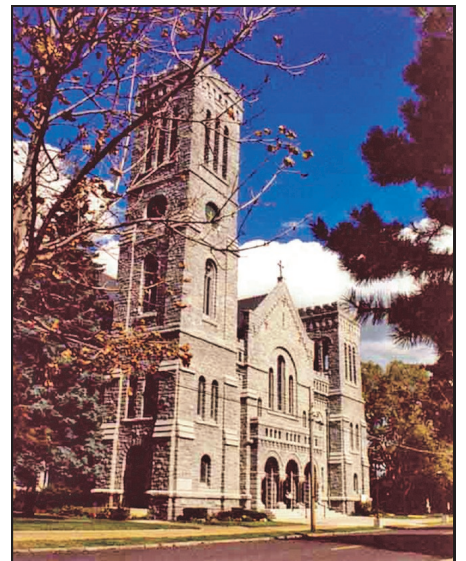
Holy Day

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

Saint Patrick Parish

Established 1837

130 East 4th Street

Erie, PA 16507

(814) 454-8085

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 first Sunday of Advent and the beginning of the new church year. Today and for the next three weeks, the priest will wear violet vestments as we use this time to prepare for the birth of Christ.

Our first reading from Isaiah is a rousing message meant to encourage a people facing possible military destruction. It also appeals to the individual hearts that have lost hope and limp with failing energy.

Our second reading is from Paul's Letter to the Romans. Paul, like his contemporaries, felt that the second coming of Christ was immanent. But listen to these words in light of the fact that Christ has not yet returned because they remained an important part of the early church's teaching. Paul speaks of time not found on a clock but in the heart of the believer. Like a mother rousing a drowsy teenager, Paul urges us to wake up and remain awake while daylight lingers.

Our gospels will come this year from Matthew, a gospel written in the late 80s. Matthew had a copy of Mark's gospel (written in the late 70s) before him and copied a great deal of material out of it. Luke will do the same when he writes, also in the late 80s.

Today's excerpt is taken from the great apocalyptic discourse which Jesus addressed in private to his disciples. They are words that are meant to stir and unsettle. Chapters 24 and 25 of his gospel paint a vivid picture of the end times and call for constant watchfulness, for the Son of Man will return at a time we least expect. Jesus seems to make no claim as to when the end will come, only that it will rush upon us like the flood that swept away Noah's generation. Jesus wants us to be better prepared than Noah's neighbors who "did not know" until it was too late.

In the early church, four different "comings" or manifestations of the Lord were celebrated all as one feast on January 6th: his birth, the visit of the Magi, his baptism by John and his miracle at Cana. The feast was named Epiphany, a Greek word meaning "showing" or "manifestation. Along with Easter, Epiphany became a traditional time when baptisms were celebrated. Just as the baptisms at Easter were preceded by a time of fast-

ing and penance (Lent), so there was a time of fasting and penance called Advent (from the Latin word "coming") to prepare for the baptism at Epiphany. Gradually, Christ's birth was given its own feast on December 25, and the season of Advent shifted to a time of preparation for this feast. Advent varied in length, but eventually the practice of beginning on the fourth Sunday before Christmas became the norm. Gradually, Advent also became less and less a carbon copy of Lent (a time of fasting and penance) and more a time of prayer and reflection to appreciate the meaning of Christ's coming.

This week will find us celebrating the feast of St. Nicholas on December 6th. He was a fourth century bishop in Myra (present day Turkey) who came from a wealthy family and was very generous and kind to the poor. Legend says that he dropped bags of gold coins down chimneys of the poor at this time of year and soon others began giving to the poor. By the 16th century when the Protestant Reformation took place, some felt Nicholas was too closely tied to the Catholic church and so different countries or regions developed their own gift giver. In France, for example, he is known as Pere Noel, and he arrives not via the chimney, but on a donkey (because this man is way too fat to fit in a chimney!). In England he was Father Christmas and to the Dutch, Sinter Klass. Early Dutch settlers in New York brought their tradition of Sinter Klass with them where he later became known as Santa Claus.

Congratulations to Lauren Sophia Stevenson who will make her First Communion during the 10:30 AM Mass today. Lauren is the daughter of Jim and Bridget Stevenson.

There will be a second collection this weekend at all Masses in the diocese for the people of the Philippines. If you are writing a check, you can make it payable to St. Patrick's Parish and make a notation "Philippine collection."

A special thanks to the students of the East Side Catholic Faith Formation Ministry who made a donation of \$126 to St. Patrick's Food Pantry. It is impressive to see children donate their small amounts of money to help feed the poor.

Our neighbors at the Russian Church of the

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

Nativity are going to open up their Social Center at 2nd & German to homeless people during the weeks of February 12-23. We are together hoping that parishioners of our parishes might help with this project by volunteering to make/serve meals each nite of the week for about 40 people and to take shifts overseeing the shelter from 7-11 PM, 11- 3 AM and 3-7 AM. Volunteers will be trained and will have supervision each nite. Bishop Persico has written all of the city pastors asking that if we have a facility we might consider opening it for the homeless. We do not have such a facility, but what a wonderful opportunity to reach out to some of the most vulnerable of God's suffering people. If interested in helping, please contact Daria Devlin at 460-5387 or at daria@churchofthenativity.net.

I had Bishop Persico and 8 of the priests in for dinner the other night so they could see my new digs. They now all want to be pastor of St. Patrick's! After the Saturday evening 5 PM Mass and the Sunday morning 10:30 AM Mass, the rectory will be open if any of you want to go over to see the finished product. Because of the crowds, we thought that this weekend anyone whose last name begins with the letters A-L can go over and next weekend anyone whose last name begins K-Z can go over. The only thing I would caution you on is that it is up three full flights of stairs so you'll have some climbing to do. I'm also happy to tell you that our friendly ghost has been rather quiet these past few weeks with only a little commotion here and there!!!

Father Murphy walks into a pub in Donegal and asks the first man he meets, "Do you want to go to heaven?" "I do, Father," he replied. The priest then said, "Then stand over there against the wall." Then the priest asked the second man, "Do you want to go to heaven?" "Certainly, Father," he replied. "Then stand over there against the wall," said the priest. Then Father Murphy walked up to O'Toole and asked, "Do you want to go to heaven?" O'Toole answered, "No, I don't, Father." The priest said, "I don't believe this. You mean to tell me that you when died you don't want to go to heaven?" O'Toole answered, "Oh, when I die, yes. I thought you were getting a group together to go right now."

Special collection for the Philippines Nov. 30-

Dec. 1st: The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops has asked dioceses nationwide to take up a special collection for the victims of Typhoon Haiyan. Bishop Lawrence Persico has approved a second collection to be held in all parishes of the Diocese of Erie Nov. 30-Dec. 1. Parishioners who are writing personal checks should make them out to their parishes, which will then send a single check to the diocesan Finance Office. The diocese will forward all funds directly to the appropriate agency handling recovery efforts in the Philippines.

A Moment of Reflection

Reading I: Isaiah 2:1-5

Reading II: Romans 13:11-14

Gospel: Matthew 24:37-44



Some claim that Advent is the season of hope, but a more accurate description is that it is a season of expectation. Hope sounds like a mere wish that something will be; expectation says that what we look for will actually happen. When today's Gospel was written, the early Christian community knew that the first Advent had in fact happened. Jesus had come; they believed that completely and allowed that faith to change their lives. So, they fully expected that the second Advent was actually going to happen as well. The second Advent calls us to our own preparedness. Advent is different every year because we are different every year. What in you needs a savior this Advent 2013?

A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE: In today's gospel Jesus advises: "Stay awake, watch out, and pray for the strength to hold your ground" when "fearful and bewildering signs" appear threatening your family. Resist being "fearful;" fear cripples! Instead "pray for the strength" to be courageous.



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.





Saint Hedwig News



Our Sanctuary Lamp burns this week in loving memory of **Joseph Borgia** requested by Rose Niedzwiecki, Our Lady's Shrine Lamp burns in loving memory of **Robert T. Niedzwiecki** requested by Mom & family and St. Joseph Shrine Lamp burns in loving memory of **Richard Moskel** requested by wife & children. Please remember in your prayers those in the hospital, nursing care and the homebound. Thank you and God bless.

Parish Stewardship: Because on an earlier deadline for the bulletin the weekly offertory amount is not available. It will be reported next week.

St. Hedwig Rosary Society Christmas Party will be held today, Sunday, December 1st from 1 until 5pm. **No tickets will be sold at the door.** Hope to see you there!

Special Raffle

The Christmas Wreath of Gift cards totaling \$450.00 will be raffled today at the Rosary Society Christmas Party.



Christmas Flower Memorials

Please return Christmas flower envelopes by Sunday, December 15. The list of memorials will be published the week of Christmas. This is a wonderful way to remember loved ones during this Holy Season.

What are some recommended spiritual practices to help prepare for Christmas during Advent?

Reading scripture, which is by far, the best spiritual preparation; pray the Holy Rosary, fast during Advent (one can fast from food or TV, or music or even a sin one wishes to be rid of); spending time before Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament; root out a fault, or work at gaining a virtue; perform Works of Mercy each day of Advent. Since Advent is a penitential season marked by the joy of looking forward to the Feast of Jesus' Birth and His final Return at the End of Time, our prayers and spiritual practices should focus on thinking about Our Lord's Birth at Christmas and His Return on the Last Day.

Learning to pray the Holy Rosary is an excellent way to meditate on the mysteries of Our Lord's Birth and Our Lady's life. Based on Scripture, the Rosary allows us to consider each event leading up to Christmas.



ADVENT: Please mark your calendars for Wednesdays Dec. 4, 11 and 18th for **Presence for Christmas**, a unique journey to the heart of Christmas lead by Msgr. William Biebel and Msgr. Richard Mayer. 7 p.m. St. George Parish. (Confession begins at 6:30 p.m.) Powerful witness, contemporary worship music, confession, adoration, and fellowship. Prepare ye the way of the Lord! Join us, and visit Made2WorshipErie.org for more information.

The Christmas Market will be held on Friday, December 20 from 4-7 p.m. and Saturday, December 21 from 3-6 p.m. Join us at the Holy Trinity Social Center (The Gathering Place), 2220 Reed Street in Erie, to buy your Christmas favorites: cookies, chrusciki, nutroll, (blessed) oplatki, sweet bread and pierogies. (Supplies will be limited during the market.) Or buy in advance! Pre-orders will be accepted from Thursday, November 7 through Monday, December 2. To place an order, please go to www.holytrinityrc.org beginning November 7. Fill out the form and fax it to (814) 461-1150, mail it to Holy Trinity Parish, 2220 Reed Street, Erie, PA 16503 or call your order in to (814) 456-0671. The market is sponsored by the Holy Trinity Parish Catholic Education Program.

Saint Hedwig Ministry Schedule

	<u>December 7</u>	<u>December 8</u>
	Saturday	Sunday
	4:30 PM	9:00 AM
Lectors	Ron Rossi	Russell Robison
Eucharist	Charlotte Mabie	Sharon Zielinski
Ushers	Nancy Widomski	Art Blum
	Michelle Moskel	Pete Pentz
Altar Servers	Charlotte Mabie	Nick Hayes



Saint Patrick News



Parish Stewardship: Because on an earlier deadline for the bulletin the weekly offertory amount is not available. It will be reported next week.

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 **Duane "Buck" Hintgen** from Brian & Annie Candela; The **Food Pantry Truck** is sponsored this week in memory of **The Ave Maria Care & Concern Society**; The **Food Pantry** is sponsored In Memory of **Helen Starnier Larocca** from Eileen & Paul Balczun, from Kathleen & James Wehan and Jim & Bonnie Stark, In Memory of **Alfred Sokolowski** from Mrs. Frances Sokolowski, In Memory of Joe McClellan from Mrs. Marilyn McClellan, In Memory of **Fred & Carmella Pristello** and **Jim & Eleanor Boris** from Cynthia & Randy Pristello, In Memory of **Linda Cirillo** from Marjory & Merle Painter also donations from Timothy Torrey, Dotty & Michael Schloss, Dr. Carla Orlando and Laith Ward, Sue & Warren Weber, Cathy & Howard Hamme, and Carolyn & Robert Schenker.

Ministry Schedule

Saturday, December 7, 2013 at 5:00 pm

Lector: *Chris Sanner*

Eucharistic Ministers: *Lynne Long, Jay Habas, Kay Mannino*

Greeters: *Tom & Linda Brunner*

Altar Servers: *Ryan Jublulis*

Ushers: *Chris Lampe, Phil Rewers, Rob Oligeri*

Sunday, December 8, 2013 at 10:30 am

Lector: *Gail Smith*

Eucharistic Ministers: *Mary Kearney, Dario Cipriani, Forrest Mischler*

Greeters: *Marlene Golab, Mary Alice Hartwell*

Altar Servers: *Andrew Wilcox*

Ushers: *Randy Pristello, Dave Wilcox, Luke Purvis, John Purvis*

Offertory Counters: *Dario Cipriani, Donna Cipriani, Gail Smith*

The cup will not be offered during flu season.

The Lector Books are available in the Trinity Gift Shop.

We are preparing the December schedule.

Please let us know your availability for December and especially for Christmas. Thank you!



CONGRATULATIONS

to **Lauren Stevenson** who will be making her First Holy Communion during 10:30 AM Liturgy.

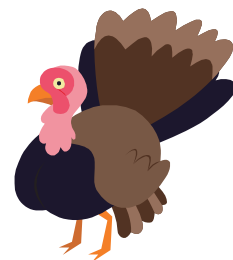
The Food Pantry Toy Drive is underway. **Becky Johnson** and **Irene Nemergut**, who are acting as Santas Helpers, are requesting donations for boys and girls ages 1 year thru 9 years old. Price range \$5 to \$10 and no clothes, please. No need to wrap the gifts as they need to match them to the clients. There will be a box for collection in the vestibule. Thank you for any donations.



MANY THANKS TO

WEGMAN'S who donated 15 turkeys to the Sr. Mary Pascal Gray Food Pantry and to **Marquette Savings Bank** who made a generous cash donation.. It is through the generosity of businesses like

Wegman's and Marquette that help us to provide for so many needy people. Heartfelt thanks especially at this time of year!



CONGRATULATIONS TO ANDREW WILCOX who scored 35 out of a possible 36 on the ACT test. Andrew is senior at Cathedral Prep and is also taking classes at Gannon University. Among his various activities and busy schedule, he has been an altar server at St. Patrick's for a number of years. Andrew is the son of David and Brigid Wilcox.



MARRIAGE MOMENTS

Thanksgiving and Christmas are traditionally times when adult children return home and blended families regather in unique and complicated ways. This can be both joyous and stressful as family systems reshuffle. Don't let the holidays be a battlefield. If your family is perfect, work on letting go of pride.

PALS Support Group

PALS Support Group (People After Loss from Suicide) is a grief support group that offers encouragement and education to all who suffer from the loss of a loved one by suicide. PALS meetings are held every 3rd Tuesday from 7 pm to 9 pm at St. Marks Catholic Center, 429 East Grandview Blvd. in Erie in the Bishop Michael J. Murphy Conference Room (entrance located in the back of the building on the west side.) For more information contact the Catholic Charities Office at 814/824-1250. Our next session is Tuesday, December 17, 2013.

Cancer Support Group

Individuals and families dealing with cancer are invited to share thoughts, hopes, angers and fears about cancer. The Cancer Support Group is led by Deacon Tom Matusiak who was a cancer caregiver. It is open to all people who are open to God's presence in their lives. The Cancer Support Group meets on the 3rd Thursday of each month at St. Mark Catholic Center, 429 East Grandview Blvd., Erie in the Bishop Michael J. Murphy Conference Room (entrance located in the back of the building on the west side and look for the big red "C" on the door.) We meet from 7 pm until 8:15 pm. For more information contact Deacon Tom via email at deacontom@holyltrinityrc.org or at Holy Trinity Church at 814/456-0671. Our next session is Thursday, December 19, 2013.

St. Gregory Parish hosts 'Follow the Star' concert

The popular "Follow the Star" Christmas Tour will come to St. Gregory Thaumaturgus Parish, 136 West Main St., North East, on Sunday, Dec. 15, at 4:30 p.m. Featuring Tennessee Back Porch with Chris and Julie Moore, the show will include special guest Sam Hyman and a performance by the North East Vineyard Vocalists. The event is handicap accessible. Tickets can be purchased at the parish office, Rizzo's on the Park Restaurant, 17 West Main St., North East, or at the door. The cost is \$10 per person. For more information, call 814-725-9691.

The **Community Outreach Group** will host their annual **Clothing Distribution Party** on Saturday, December 7, 2013 from 10:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m. at St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church (West 22nd & Peach Streets, Erie). In addition to receiving free clothing, visitors can enjoy a free hot lunch. Santa and/or his some of his special helpers will be on site to distribute toys to the children.. Volunteers should enter on the SOUTH SIDE, where the sign reads "Parish Center." Volunteers should be there on the day of the event by 8:30a.m. and wear RED. Students needing service hours are welcome. If you care to help set up, please come to St. John's on Wednesday, December 4th and/or Thursday December 5th between 5:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. For more details, please visit us on Facebook: "Community Outreach Group of Erie, PA."



FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 1, 2013



LITURGY INTENTIONS

Nov. 30 *Saturday, Vigil: First Sunday of Advent*

4:30 PM SOPHIE KOWALEWSKI (EDDIE EBERT) - ST.H

5:00 PM RICHARD JOHN ECCER (FAMILY) - ST.P

Dec. 1 *First Sunday of Advent*

8:00 AM AURELIA "IRISH" ARDERY - ST.P
(JOHN & IRENE ABBATE)

9:00 AM FRANK CHESNY (TORBIC FAMILY) - ST.H

10:30 AM JAMES & MARY ANN MAHONEY -ST.P
(PAUL & ANNE CAUSGROVE)

Dec. 2 *Advent Weekday*

8:00 AM COMMUNION SERVICE

Dec. 3 *Saint Francis Xavier, Priest*

8:00 AM COMMUNION SERVICE

Dec. 4 *Advent Weekday, Saint John Damascene, Priest
and Doctor of the Church*

8:00 AM COMMUNION SERVICE

Dec. 5 *Advent Weekday*

8:00 AM COMMUNION SERVICE

Dec. 6 *First Friday, Advent Weekday*

8:00 AM COMMUNION SERVICE

Dec. 7 *Saturday, Vigil: Second Sunday of Advent*

4:30 PM ROBERT T. NIEDZWIECKI, ANNIV. - ST.H
(MOM & FAMILY)

5:00 PM RITA HACKMAN (THE LAMPE FAMILY) - ST.P

Dec. 8 *Second Sunday of Advent*

8:00 AM FORREST SHORTS (WEBER FAMILY) - ST.P

9:00 AM PETER ZIELINSKI (ROSE NIEDZWIECKI) - ST.H

10:30 AM PAUL & NORMA CAUSGROVE - ST.P
(PAUL & ANNE CAUSGROVE)

DATES TO REMEMBER

St.H=St. Hedwig, St.P=St. Patrick, HR=Holy Rosary

CP=Chapel, PF=Polish Falcons

PR=Pascal Room, R=Rectory, CV=Convent

11/30 3:30 PM Confessions - ST.H

4:30 PM Confessions - ST.P

12/01 NO RELIGIOUS ED CLASSES

12/03 11:00 AM Food Pantry - PR

12/04 12:00 PM A.A. - PR

12/07 3:30 PM Confessions - ST.H

4:30 PM Confessions - ST.P

12/08 9:00 AM Rel. Ed K-Grade 6 - Holy Rosary

1:00 PM Rel. Ed Grades 7-10 - Holy Rosary

CONFIRMATION CANDIDATES are reminded that the month of **December is ministry month** and is part of the preparation for the **Sacrament of Confirmation**. Candidates will not meet for classroom sessions but are expected to be involved in an outreach ministry within their parishes or the larger Erie community. **Contact Kathleen at 454-6322 if you have questions.** Thank you.

THANK YOU TO ALL who helped the *Eastside Faith Formation Ministry* by purchasing the ROMOLO chocolates! So far we have collected **\$900.00** for the missions and the ongoing purchase of the *Catholic Youth Bibles*. (People continue to ask if they can still buy the chocolates.) We will resume the candy sale in **January, 2014**. God bless you for your generosity.

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 Rectory