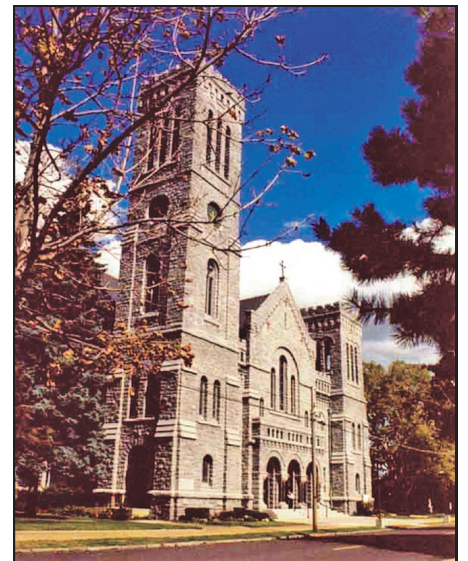


# *Saint Hedwig Saint Patrick*

*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 first Sunday of Advent and the beginning of the new church year. Our gospels this year will come from Luke who was a convert of Paul's and a Roman citizen living in present day Turkey. Luke wrote his gospel in the early 80s, perhaps as late as 84 or 85. His gospel concludes with the Ascension, and he then writes Acts of the Apostles which begins with Pentecost and in which he gives us a clear description of the early church, how it was governed, who ministered to people, etc.

It is Luke who helps us understand that at this point we still don't have ordained priests, we have "presbyters," older men identified by the various communities of believers and approved by the apostles, who governed the local church. People secretly gather very early in the morning to pray and worship and then each of them would take some of the consecrated bread home and keep it in a tabernaculum, or a "little house," hence our word tabernacle. When the family gathered for meals, the father of the household would take some bread from the tabernaculum and hand it to members of his family.

This early church struggled with a concept that the second coming of Jesus was going to happen almost immediately. Many of them sold their farms, their businesses, gave the money to the church and spent their days in a frenzied form of charismatic prayer awaiting the coming of the Lord. They struggled greatly with the ultimate fact that the second coming of Jesus was not immediately at hand.

Our first reading today is from the prophet Jeremiah, a prophet of Judah (the southern kingdom) from 627—587 BC, a turbulent time in the lives of the Israelites. The northern kingdom had already been captured by the Assyrians and the Babylonians were threatening Judah. Jeremiah's words we read today are words of hope. Although the Israelites knew that God had promised to care for them in a unique way, they also knew that their present king was unfaithful, and Jeremiah tells them that God will raise up someone who will be faithful.

Our second reading is from the first letter of Paul to the Thessalonians and he is offering them hope because, as they diligently await the coming of Christ again, some of their family have died and they are concerned that these people

will miss the rising with Christ. Paul assures them they will not.

In our gospel we hear Jesus speaking about the "Son of Man," an image that comes from the OT Book of Daniel. In Daniel, the messianic figure is given authority over nations, and today Jesus applies the figure to himself. Jesus warns the disciples that persecution awaits them, and he resorts to apocalyptic imagery to describe what awaits them. He also tells them when they witness these things, they are not to lose hope, but to stand erect and raise their heads. By the time Luke is being written (early 80s), the temple has been destroyed by Herod (in the year 70) and yet the coming of Christ on a cloud has not yet happened and people are losing faith.

Next weekend is the annual collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious. These women have given their lives to our parishes with very little compensation and now face retirement and health issues with no monies to help them. This annual appeal has generated a great deal of money to provide for them, and I hope you will again be your usual generous selves.

Next Saturday is a bit of an awkward feast — if a holyday falls on a Saturday or Monday, it is not considered binding for Catholics to attend Mass. However, the American bishops voted to keep this feast as a holyday though it falls on Saturday, December 8. Thus, we will have a Vigil Mass on Friday at 5:30 PM at St. Hedwig's and a 12:05 PM Saturday Mass at St. Patrick's. We'll then follow the regular weekend schedule.

With each passing week, we are moving closer to our returning to the church. The pipe organ is being reassembled, repaired and tuned. The scaffolding is coming down and work has begun on the new marble floor in the sanctuary. The Stations of the Cross are being cleaned by Jeff Rouse and a small group of parish volunteers, and next will be the installation of the restored pews. The last project to be completed will be the carpeting of the aisles. I think I mentioned to you that Michael DeSanctis of Gannon University is faux painting the radiator covers to look like marble and blend in with the rest of the room rather than stand out like a sore thumb. I must tell you that the building looks magnificent. I know you're going to be pleased. I think as beautiful as all of

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

the painting and gold leafing is, it is the new lighting that is the icing on the cake. The lighting in the church used to be very uneven with bright spots here and dark spots there. Now it is so evenly distributed. For the first time, we're able to get light bulbs close to the Stations because the new LED bulbs don't give off any heat. I think you will also see the Stations in a new way because of the lighting.

We continue to be ahead of schedule and I'm very hopeful that we will be able to return to the church on the weekend of December 22 & 23rd. Keep your fingers crossed.

Our capital campaign to raise the needed funds for this went over our million dollar goal with the pledges being \$1,054,000. Of that, we have about \$500,000 in cash. Starting just before Thanksgiving I began to draw the needed money from the diocese with an initial draw of \$220,000 and this week we will draw that same amount. In two more weeks, we will draw \$70,000 and that will be the end of what we owe the Conrad Schmitt Studio of Milwaukee. We will need to draw more to pay the balance of the marble floor, the carpet and the pews as well as the electrical and exterior work. Please keep your payments on your pledges coming as we are repaying the diocese \$10,000 per month.

A father was reading Bible stories to his young son. He read, "A man named Lot was warned to take his wife and flee out of the city, but his wife looked back and was turned into a pillar of salt." His son asked, "What happened to the flea?" .....A drunk smelling of beer sat down next to a priest on the subway and had half a bottle of gin in his pocket. He opened the newspaper and turned to the priest and asked, "Father, what causes arthritis?" "My son, loose living, being with wicked women and drinking too much alcohol." "Hmmm," replied the drunk. After a few minutes, the priest realized he had been harsh and judgmental and said to the man, "I apologize, I didn't mean to come on so strong. How long have you had arthritis?" The drunk replied rather wearily, "I don't have it Father, but it says here in the newspaper that the pope does."

## Saint Hedwig News



Our Sanctuary Lamp burns this week for a **Special Intention**, Our Lady's Shrine Lamp burn in loving memory of **Samuel Donikowski** requested by Judy & Peter Pentz and St. Joseph Shrine Lamp burns in loving memory of **Matthew Plizga** requested by Judy & Peter Pentz. Remember in your prayers those in the hospital, long term nursing care and the home-bound.

Publicizing of the offertory amounts will be off for a few weeks because of an early deadline with the bulletin company. Our offertory for the week-end of Nov. 18 & 19 was \$967.00 and \$300.00 for the Campaign for Human Development. Thank you and God bless.

### St. Hedwig Christmas Party

The Christmas Party sponsored by St. Hedwig Rosary Society will be held today. Hope to see you there!

### Oplatki - Christmas Wafers

Oplatki will be available before and after Mass during the month of December. Please contact Patti Mielnik at 456-6814 for more information.

### Christmas Flower Memorials

Please return Christmas Flower envelopes by Sunday, December 16. This is a wonderful way to remember your loved ones during this Holy Season. The list of memorials will be published in our Christmas bulletin.

### Fuel & Heat Envelopes

You will notice that your envelopes for the offering to help defray heating costs are in the packet you receive. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

### Please Join Us

The Holy Name Members will be reciting the rosary before the 9am Mass on Sunday, December 9th beginning at 8:30am. If you would like to join the Holy Name Society call Tom Kurpiewski at 455-3467.

### Saint Hedwig Ministry Schedule

	December 8	December 9
	Immaculate Conception	
	Saturday	Sunday
	4:30 PM	9:00 AM
Lector	Patricia Mielnik	Tom Kurpiewski
Eucharist	Patricia Mielnik	Judy Pentz
Ushers	Nancy Widomski	Art Blum
	Michelle Moskel	Pete Pentz
Altar Servers	Charlotte Mabie	Nick Hayes





# Saint Patrick News



Parish Stewardship: Our offertory for the weekend of November 17/18 was **\$4,198.07 and \$370.00** for the Campaign for Human Development. And, for the weekend of November 24/25 offertory was **\$4,277.24**. 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 **Food Pantry Truck** is sponsored this week by the **Ave Maria Care and Concern Society**; The **Food Pantry** in memory of **Kathryn Gatti Smith** from Tim Smith.

## Ministry Schedule

**Saturday, December 8, 2012 at 5:00 pm**

*Lector: Stan Malinowski*

*Eucharistic Ministers: Kathy Sertz, Judy Emling, Kay Mannino*

*Greeters: Stella Abbato, Patty Abbato*

*Altar Servers: Brenden Humphrey*

*Ushers: Chris Lampe, Rob Oligeri*

**Sunday, December 9, 2012 at 10:30 am**

*Lector: Mary McCarthy*

*Eucharistic Ministers: Mary Kearney, Colleen Welch, Tim Scully*

*Greeters: Marlene Golab, Arlene Miller*

*Altar Servers: Kiely Kearney, Logan Kearney*

*Ushers: Randy Pristello, Tom Welch, David Wilcox, David Taccone*

*Offertory Counters: Mary McCarthy, Mary Kearney, Mary Pat Schlaudecker*

*This Minister Schedule for December has been emailed to those who provided email addresses. Those who don't have email should have received a hard copy in the mail. As you will notice, there are several areas that were left blank. We need your help in filling them. Please call the office with your availability for Christmas Eve at 9:00 PM and Christmas Day at 10:30 AM.*

**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.



Letters for Christmas flower memorials have been mailed...please be sure to get them in to the rectory by December 16th to ensure they are included in the December 22nd bulletin. It would really be appreciated if you can get them in as early as possible as it takes some time to compile the list.



## A Moment of Reflection

Reading I: Jeremiah 33:14-16

Reading II: Psalm 25:4-5, 8-9, 10-14  
1Thessalonians 3:12-4:2

Gospel: Luke 21:25-28, 34-36

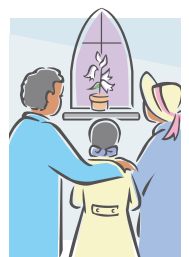


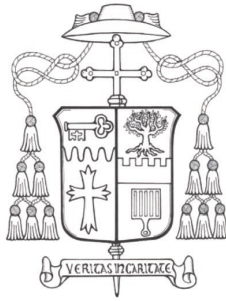
The beginnings of new years are often times when people take steps to regain control of certain areas of their lives, whether it be diet or budget or scheduling. As people of faith, we have reason to assess our lives to personal reassessment as we prepare for his coming at Christmas, the end of our lives, and at the end of the world. Try some wait-management plans; praying at the checkout line while waiting, praying in traffic, celebrating Eucharist more frequently, working on changing a bad habit, and reaching out to others in a more loving way. To make some time for quiet reflection this Advent, what will you have to relinquish? What do you need to pray for this Advent season?

## St. Patrick's welcomes these new parishioners:

Carol & Con Lyons, Megan Bomba, Claire Russell, Gary & Shirley Winschel, Patrick & Eithne Murphy, John & Colleen Bloomstine, Mr. & Mrs. Buckley Cook, Barbara Coughlin, Patrick Wachter, Thomas & Susan Elliott, Jane CarneyMichael & Barbara Cross, Geoffrey Gloecker, Erie Williams, Gerald & Patricia Wolf, Marsha Gensheimer, Bill & Kathy Masek, Philip & Denise Rewers, Julie Ross, Pauline Stevens, Michelle Tortorelli, Tom & Jan Clancey, Mary Ellen Demyanovich, Matthew Wachter.

**A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE:** At this time of the year we are very conscious of our family as we make preparations for Christmas. Today's gospel warns us not to be consumed by all the consumer activity. This Advent appreciate the gift of people in your life. The best gift this season might be your appreciation of others.





December 2, 2012

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In his Prayer for Generosity, St. Ignatius of Loyola asks for guidance in living selflessly. "Teach me to serve you as you deserve; to give and not to count the cost . . . to labor and not to ask for reward, save that of knowing that I do your will."

This prayer comes to mind as I reflect on the faithful service of our nation's elder religious. These women and men—Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests—never stopped to count the cost as they educated the young, cared for the sick, and sought justice for the oppressed. In so doing, they made an inestimable contribution to the Church in the United States, establishing Catholic schools, hospitals, and social-service agencies.

Today, many senior religious continue to manifest God's love and generosity by serving in a wide range of volunteer activities. Others, though sometimes frail and infirm, remain dedicated to a ministry of prayer. Nearly all are challenged by the rising cost of care. Most elder religious worked for years for small stipends, leaving a substantial gap in retirement savings. A majority of religious communities now struggle to provide necessary medications, nursing care, and basic services for their older members.

On the weekend of December 8 and 9, 2012, our parishes will be conducting the annual collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious, an opportunity for each of us to emulate the generosity exemplified by our senior religious. I understand many of you have financial difficulties of your own; I ask simply that you give what you can. Please join me in supporting the Retirement Fund for Religious and in praying for God's continued blessing on our nation's elderly sisters, brothers, and religious order priests.

Sincerely in Christ,

The Most Rev. Lawrence T. Persico, JCL  
Bishop of Erie

/ptd

TO BE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF YOUR PEOPLE IN A SIGNIFICANT WAY ON  
DECEMBER 1 and 2, 2012.  
SIGNATURE ON FILE IN THE CHANCERY.



## **Holy Trinity Annual Christmas Market**

The market will be held on Friday, Dec. 21 from 4-7 p.m. and Sat., Dec. 22 from 3-6 p.m. at the Holy Trinity Social Center, 2220 Reed Street, Erie, PA. Supplies will be limited during the market. Order in advance to ensure you get all your Christmas favorites. We will be accepting pre-orders on Thurs., Nov. 8 through Mon., Dec. 3. Items include: cookies, chrusciki, nutroll, oplatki (blessed), sweet bread and pierogies. Order forms can be found at [www.holytrinityrc.org](http://www.holytrinityrc.org). Fax your order to (814) 461-1150, call your order in at (814) 456-0671 or mail your order to Holy Trinity Parish, 2220 Reed Street, Erie, PA 16503.

## **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 18, 2012.

## **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@holytrinityrc.org](mailto:deacontom@holytrinityrc.org) or at Holy Trinity Church at 814/456-0671. Our next session is Thursday, December 20, 2012.

## **Advent Vigils At Mount Saint Benedict Monastery**

Prepare for Christmas with the Benedictine Sisters of Erie on Saturdays at 7:00 pm—December 1st, 8th, 15th and 22nd. For more information contact: Sister Marilyn Schauble, OSB at 814-899-0614, ext. 2424 or [marilynosb@mtstbenedict.org](mailto:marilynosb@mtstbenedict.org)

## **All are invited to Year of Faith series**

In celebration of the Year of Faith, the Diocese of Erie is partnering with Gannon University to host a three-part speaker series to renew a spirit of education and faith formation. First on the docket is Ed Curtin who spent many years as a youth minister and is now an instructor and assistant principal at Mercyhurst Preparatory School in Erie. He plans to reflect on what it means to be a Catholic person of faith and will touch on many of the liturgical changes since Vatican II. Curtin's talk, which promises to incorporate humor, is scheduled for Tues., Dec. 4 in Gannon's Yehl Ballroom and Wed., Dec. 5 at Immaculate Conception Parish in Clarion. Both events begin at 7 pm and are free and open to the public. Additional presentations will be made in March and November 2013.

## **Follow the Star 2012**

Tennessee Backporch Christmas Show with Sam Hyman on December 16th at 7:30 pm. at Our Lady of Mercy Church, 837 Bartlett Road, Harborcreek. Phone 899-5342. Tickets are \$10.00.

**LITURGY INTENTIONS****Dec. 01 Saturday, Vigil: First Sunday of Advent**

4:30 PM ANNA BUSZEK (J. &amp; ANN YADESKI) - ST.H

5:00 PM SYLVESTER CARLOW, ANNIV. OF BIRTH - ST.P  
THE CARLOW FAMILY**Dec. 02 First Sunday of Advent**

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

10:30 AM JEANNE J. TUZNIK, ANNIV. OF BIRTH - ST.P  
(HATTIE LYNCH)**Dec. 03 Monday, St. Francis Xavier, Priest**

8:00 AM JOHN PURCELL (LOU ANN NOWOSIELSKI)

**Dec. 04 Tuesday, St. John Damascene, Priest & Doctor of the Church**8:00 AM RITA DONIKOWSKI CLACHER  
(DAMIAN AND LAURA PANEK)**Dec. 05 Wednesday, Advent Weekday**

8:00 AM RITA CALDWELL (DICK &amp; MARY ALLEN)

**Dec. 06 Thursday, St. Nicholas, Bishop**

8:00 AM PARISHIONERS &amp; BENEFACTORS

**Dec. 07 Friday, St. Ambrose, Bishop and Doctor of the Church**

8:00 AM ST. HEDWIG ROSARY SOCIETY MEMBERS

***Vigil of the Feast of the Immaculate Conception***5:30 PM ALBERT (MICKEY) MABIE  
(WIFE, CHARLOTTE)**Dec. 08 Saturday, Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary**12:05 PM FREDERICK ALOIZ - ST.P  
(CAROLINE & KAREN RASTATTER)***Saturday, Second Sunday of Advent***4:30 PM ROBERT T. NIEDZWIECKI, ANNIV. - ST.H  
(WIFE, BECKY)5:00 PM MARY CERAMI - ST.P  
(THE BOB OLSEN FAMILY)**Dec. 09 Second Sunday of Advent**

9:00 AM PETER WIERNICKI (TONY WIERNICKI) - ST.H

10:30 AM KEVIN CALLAHAN, ANNIV. (FRED BARRY)- ST.P

**DATES TO REMEMBER**

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

CP=Chapel,, PF=Polish Falcons

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

**12/01** 3:30 PM Confessions - St.H

4:30 PM Confessions - St.P

**12/02** 9:00 AM Rel. Ed. K thru 6 - Holy Rosary

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

**12/04** 11:00 AM Food Pantry - PR**12/05** 12:00 PM A.A. - PR

7:00 PM RCIA - R

**12/08** 3:30 PM Confessions - St.H

4:30 PM Confessions - St.P

**12/09** 9:00 AM Rel. Ed. K thru 6 - Holy Rosary

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

**FAITH FORMATION SESSIONS IN DECEMBER:****Kdg - Gr 6:** Dec. 2, 9, 16; **Gr 7, 8, 9:** Dec 2 & 16; **Confirmation Candidates:** NO sessionsin December .**ADVENT MISSION ACTIVITY – A reminder to the**students in Kindergarten through Grade 6: The first phase of our mission collection in this catechetical year **will be gathered Sunday, Dec 16th as part of our opening prayer at our Faith Formation session.** Please continue through the *Season of Advent* to remember those who have less than we do. God bless you in your generosity! **If you are still looking for your mission box, please be sure to get one Sunday, Dec 2nd.****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