

Second Sunday of Advent
December 6, 2015



Advent Wreath
St. Patrick Church

Saint Patrick Parish Saint Hedwig Parish

Serving the East Bayfront of Erie since 1837

Daily Mass 8 AM

Saturday Vigil Mass 5 PM Saturday Vigil Mass 4 PM

Sunday 8 AM & 10:30 AM

Monsignor Henry Kriegel, Pastor

Saint Patrick Parish

130 East Fourth Street
Erie, PA 16507
454-8085 FAX 459-8685
stpats@neo.rr.com
www.saintpatrickparisherie.org
Office Hours: Mon - Thurs 9AM-Noon,
1 PM - 4PM; Friday 9AM - Noon

Saint Hedwig Parish

521 East Third Street
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454-6232 FAX 454-8096
sainthedwig@neo.rr.com
www.sainthedwigparisherie.org
Office Hours: Tuesday 8AM—3:30PM

From the Pastor's Desk.....

Today is the second Sunday of Advent and we hear first from the prophet Baruch. Israel's exile in Babylon left the people hopeless, questioning their identity. Had they taken their privileged relationship with God for granted? How could God so utterly abandon them? In this midst of all of this despair, the prophet Baruch utters this glorious promise of restoration. He offers hope by painting images of the impossible. He urges the people to listen as a great miracle is unfolding. Those "led away on foot" will be brought back "as on royal thrones."

Ever the teacher, Paul instructs his community, even from prison where he awaits word of his fate: release or execution. His ability to remain focused on others' needs rather than his own is itself instructive. Notice how he identifies with Christ, whose "affection" for the Philippians he has made his own. He reminds them that growth in the Lord is gradual and ongoing. In this passage, Paul differentiates our belief from that of fundamentalists who say that conversion is a moment; for us it is a lifelong journey.

Luke very cleverly begins his gospel with the political and geographical centers of power (palace, fortress, temple) from which one might expect an announcement of the coming of the Messiah, to a wilderness place where a strange hermit proclaims a centuries-old prophecy. That the Word of God comes to a loner in the desert rather than one of the powerful is a basic theme of Luke's gospel. John announces an invisible kingdom that will permeate and leaven world affairs. Such a promise we would want fulfilled in a moment; but Luke reminds us that it comes to fruition through centuries of seeming silence. Isaiah speaks of a transformation of the physical order that will make rough paths smooth and winding roads straight. The theme of this message is one of hope, which is the basis of Advent.

With the beginning of the new church year we read our gospels this year from Luke. Let me take a few minutes and attempt to introduce you to Luke so that you might better understand what he is telling us this year. Luke is my favorite gospel beyond a doubt. It is the gospel of forgiveness and healing. It is the first of a two part series that tells the story of the origins of Christianity from the birth of Christ until the arrival of Paul in Rome around 60 AD. While his gospel ends with the ascension of Christ, he then begins Acts of the Apostles which traces the origins of the early church.

Luke basically takes Mark's gospel and applies it in a different way. While Mark was written in the late 60s, Luke will write in the early 80s. Luke is a Greek-speaking Christian, likely a convert of Paul, who writes in Antioch, Syria. The church is becoming more Gentile than Jewish and is no longer confined to Palestine but is scattered throughout the Roman empire. Its language is not the Aramaic of Jesus, but Greek.

There are several important themes in Luke's gospel. First is that salvation is for all, it is not limited to the Israelites. Second is the overriding theme of mercy and forgiveness. Luke's Jesus is constantly concerned about the poor, the sinner, the outcast. We will encounter more women in Luke's gospel than in any other, and remember that women were second class citizens, but Jesus embraces them in Luke's gospel. It is only in Luke that we get the great story of forgiveness—The Prodigal Son.

Only Luke tells us the familiar story of the birth of Christ in a manger with shepherds coming to adore him. Mark doesn't mention Christ's birth; Matthew alone gives us the story of the Magi and John has highly theologically developed image of Jesus as the Word of God.

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

Luke's gospel is also the gospel of joy. We will also hear more about Mary in Luke than in all of the other gospels combined.

Luke, like Mark and Matthew, begins the account of Jesus' public ministry with John preaching "Make ready the way of the Lord." Luke presents Jesus' mission as a continuation of the journey that began when Abraham left his homeland, continued with the Exodus, etc. It is all about a journey of faith.

Listen carefully to Luke this year. You'll get a new insight into the joy, the mercy and the forgiveness of Jesus. It is fitting that on December 8th, we begin a Year of Mercy as proclaimed by Pope Francis, and we will read from Luke throughout that year.

People are asking about the Christmas schedule as they are making plans for the holiday. At St. Patrick's, we will have a **Christmas Eve Mass at 5 PM**, a second **Mass at 9 PM** and on **Christmas Day** we will have Masses at **8 and 10:30 AM**. At **St. Hedwig's** there will be a **Christmas Eve Mass at 4 PM**.

Tuesday of this week is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, a holyday of obligation. There will be a Mass on Tuesday at 12:05 PM at St. Patrick's Church.

The parish Young Adults Group will meet Sunday, December 13, at 7 PM at the Tap House. Any young adults in the parish are more than welcome to join the group. They meet socially about once a month for a Happy Hour.

There was a monastery perched high on a cliff. The only way to reach it was by riding in a basket, which several monks hauled up to the top. The ride was steep, and to those who visited, it was terrifying. One visitor was extremely nervous. Halfway up the ascent, he saw that the rope holding the basket was a bit frayed. He frantically asked the monk next to him how frequently the rope was replaced. After a brief silence, the monk replied, "Whenever it breaks."

Saint Hedwig News



Advent

Don't skip Advent. The only I-gotta-do list we should be concerned about is the one that includes such things as increased prayer, acts of charity, an act of reconciliation with another, and so on (add your own to-do items). Amid all the ultimate sales that will be thrown your way these weeks, don't miss preparing for the birth of the One who brings us the ultimate event in all of history.



Our Sanctuary Lamp burns this week in loving memory of **Deceased St. Hedwig Rosary Society Members**.

Our Lady's Shrine Lamp burns in loving memory of the **Stawniak family** requested by Rose Niedzwiecki.

St. Joseph Shrine Lamp burns for a **Special Intention**.

Please remember in your prayers those in the hospital, nursing care, the military and the homebound.

Our offertory for the week of November 22nd was **\$810.00**, and for November 29th was **\$1100.00**. Thank you and God bless.

St. Hedwig Christmas Party

Today, Sunday, December 6th at the Polish Falcons. No tickets will be sold at the door. Hope to see you there!



Masses celebrated at Priest Retirement Home

Raymond Kantorowski (Dave, Beckie & Matt Juchno), Hedwig Lynch (the Toy family), Frank Olszewski (Lucille Dart), Peter Zielinski (Mary Fedarko), John Gorski (Heidi & Ray Huggins), Peter Joseph Dubowski (the Dubowski family), Deceased St. Hedwig Rosary Society Members (Rosary members).

Oplatki

We will have Oplatki (Christmas wafers) available before and after Mass during the month of December.

Christmas Flowers: Please return the names of your loved ones by December 13th. The names will be published in the Christmas bulletin.

St. Hedwig Ministry Schedule

December 12

Saturday

4:00 PM

Lector

Art Blum

Eucharist

Judy Pentz

Ushers

Ray Nowosielski

Tom Kurpiewski

Altar Server

Charlotte Mabie, Tom Kurpiewski



Pray the Rosary



Saint Patrick News



Stewardship

Week ending 11/22/15

Offertory Collection	\$ 6,776.13
Online Giving	<u>1,254.00</u>
Total Income	\$ 8,030.13

Week ending 11/29/15

Offertory Collection	\$ 6,886.81
Online Giving	<u>819.00</u>
Total Income	\$ 7,705.81



2015 Retirement Fund for Religious collection

This annual collection will be held in the Erie Diocese at the weekend Masses December 5th & 6th. Please give to those who have given a lifetime.

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:

Sr. Mary Pascal Food Pantry

Donations to the Food Pantry:

- ♦ In memory of **Mary Mason** from Deborah Musolf
- ♦ In memory of **Dorothy & Jack McManus** from Sue Ellen & Luigi Pasquale
- ♦ In memory of **Len & Pat Spitzig** from B.J. Spitzig
- ♦ In memory of **Ben Reske** from Mr. & Mrs. Michael Reske
- ♦ In memory of **Bill & Louise Phillips** from Charla Leehmuis

Also donations from:

Mr. & Mrs. John Purvis, Mary & Bill Flanagan,
Mr. & Mrs. Phil Fatica, Edward Chizewick,
Kay Mannino and Rev. John Bauer

A Special Thank You!!!
to **PANERA BREAD** for their generous donations every week to the Food Pantry.



St. Martin's Center - Christmas Shining Stars are due by Thursday, December 10, 2015. Please make sure the star is on the outside of your gift.

Ministry Schedule

Saturday, December 12, 2015 at 5:00 pm

Lector: Kathleen Haslett

Eucharistic Ministers: Kathy Sertz, Patty Dailey, Yvonne Gersims

Greeters: Tom & Linda Brunner

Altar Servers: Addie & Owen Bbinsack

Ushers: Chris Lampe, Rob Oligeri, Phil Rewers

Sunday, December 13, 2015 at 10:30 am

Lector: Mary Williams

Eucharistic Ministers: Mary Williams, Mary Kearney, Colleen Welch

Greeters: Norann Brugger, Charla Leehmuis

Altar Servers: Logan Kearney

Ushers: David Taccone, Tom Welch, Jim Wehan, Paul Balczun

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

Please let us know of your availability for the Christmas Services (Thursday, December 24th 5:00 pm & 9:00 pm and Friday, December 25th 8:00 am & 10:30 am).

Call the office at 454-8085 or email the office at

stpats@neo.rr.com.

Thank You!



The Knights and Ladies of St. Patrick's Parish will continue to collect diapers for infants and toddlers for the families served by the Sister Mary Pascal Gray, SSJ Food Pantry. Donations can be placed in collection boxes located at the main entrance to the church.

Thank you very much for your contributions!

Family Perspectives

Second Sunday of Advent

Today's gospel shows John the Baptist and parents have similar vocations. Like the Baptist, parents are asked to make "rough ways smooth" and to "prepare the way of the Lord" for their families. This Advent ask: "Does my life hinder or help my family to know Jesus?"



Marriage Moments



Do you have a pet name for your spouse (baby, honey, a nickname that only you use)? It's not essential but often it can remind both of you of your special relationship. It's like calling God, "Abba."

LITURGY INTENTIONS**Dec. 05** *Saturday, Vigil: Second Sunday of Advent*

4:00 PM ROBERT T. NIEDZWIECKI, ANNIV. - ST.H
(MOM & FAMILY)

5:00 PM JIM & IRENE WILKINSON FAMILIES - ST.P
(DAVID & DARLEEN WILKINSON)

Dec. 06 *Second Sunday of Advent*

8:00 AM MATTHEW PECAR - ST.P
(CHERYL & MIKE STEPHANY)

10:30 AM DAVID BLINZER - ST.P
(RON & SUSAN KINGSTON)

Dec. 07 *Monday, Saint Ambrose,
Bishop and Doctor of the Church*

8:00 AM COMMUNION SERVICE

Dec. 08 *Tuesday, the Immaculate Conception of the
Blessed Virgin Mary*

12:05 PM MARY JO LONGO MOTT
(ST. PATRICK CLASS OF 1957)

Dec. 09 *Wednesday, Saint Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoczin*

8:00 AM STAWNIAK FAMILY
(DAUGHTER, ROSE NIEDZWIECKI)

Dec. 10 *Thursday, Advent Weekday*

8:00 AM RICHARD MOSKEL, ANNIV. (WIFE, JANICE)

Dec. 11 *Friday, Saint Damasus I Pope*

8:00 AM NAN HELD (THE CARLOW FAMILY)

Dec. 12 *Saturday, Vigil: Third Sunday of Advent*

4:00 PM PATRICIA WERNICKI (FAMILY) - ST.H

5:00 PM MICHAEL CUMMINGS - ST.P
(DAN & DEE RENICK)

Dec. 13 *Third Sunday of Advent*

8:00 AM RUTH "DOLLY" HIGGINS - ST.P
(KATHY & NIKKI HIGGINS, RENEE HOLLAND,
LENA CONWAY)

10:30 AM JACQUELINE FONTECCHIO - ST.P
(DARLENE & DAVE WILKINSON)



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. If you know of anyone in a Long Term Care Facility needing conversation or a friendly visit, please contact the Parish Office at 454-8085.

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.

**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

- 12/05** 3:30 PM Confessions - St.H
4:30 PM Confessions - St.P
- 12/06** 9:00 AM Rel. Ed Kdg. - Gr. 6 - Holy Rosary
11:30 AM Festival Meeting - PR
1:00 PM Rel. Ed 7-10 - Holy Rosary
1:00 PM Confirmation Session - Holy Rosary
- 12/08** 11:00 AM Food Pantry - PR
12:15 PM Homeless Shelter Committee - R
- 12/09** 12:00 PM A.A. - PR
- 12/12** 3:30 PM Confessions - St.H
4:30 PM Confessions - St.P
- 12/13** 9:00 AM Rel. Ed Kdg. - Gr. 6 - Holy Rosary

FESTIVAL MEETING: The Festival Committee meeting immediately following the 10:30 Mass on Sunday, December 6th!

HOMELESS SHELTER COMMITTEE MEETING on Tuesday December 8th at 12:15 in the rectory community room.

St. Pat's Haven

St. Pat's Haven is a shelter for homeless men located at 147 East 12th Street.

The men are fed during the week at the Soup kitchen which is closed on the weekends.

They currently have 13 groups of volunteers who donate, prepare and deliver food on some Saturdays and Sundays each month. Each dinner consists of a main dish, salad, bread and dessert for 20-25 men. Each team consists of two, three or four people who are responsible for about six dinners a year.

More volunteers are needed. Anyone interested in forming a team or joining an existing team please contact Mary Harsh at 474-1015.

Are you a person with a disability and looking for more in your Faith Life?

Are you someone with a disability or do you know someone with a disability who wants more out of their Faith Life? The Office of Disabilities and Deaf Ministry has a number of groups that will provide the faith-filled social interaction you're looking for. Call Michael Adamus at 814-824-1257 or email him at madamus@eriercd.org for more details. You can also learn more about our ministry on the diocesan website www.ErieRCD.org under Catholic Charities Disability Ministries

DIOCESAN NEWS & EVENTS

ADVENT PROGRAM

- * December 5th from 6-8 p.m. and Sunday, December 6th from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m.

Saint Andrew Church, 1116 W 7th St. is presenting Christmas Nativity Scenes for you to view in the St. Andrew Parish Center. (Please enter at the glass doors in the back of the school) We are asking for a donation to view the many loaned Nativity Scenes. This would be a beautiful event to begin your Advent Season.

- * The Donations will go to **WOMEN'S CARE CENTER OF ERIE COUNTY.**

The Center began in 1982 and has 9 locations throughout Erie County—one of the largest in the nation. The women's Care Center assists women who experience an unexpected pregnancy and its associated difficulties. Their goal is to provide compassionate and supportive care bringing hope to the women & their families in crisis.

- * We will be serving snacks and beverages. More information call Kate at 454-8732



Don't miss **A CHRISTMAS CAROL**, the classic Christmas story by Charles Dickens, as it comes to life at the H.O. Hirt Auditorium at the Blasco Library. Shows, presented by

the Lake Effect Theatre (formerly the Saint Boniface Players) are Thursday, Friday and Saturday, December 10, 11 and 12th at 7:30 p.m. with a special matinee on Sunday, 12/13 at 2:00 p.m. Every member of the family will enjoy this traditional telling of the immortal story! Tickets are \$12 for adults, \$10 for seniors and \$6 for students. Advance tickets at a discount are available on line at www.erietheatrical.org. Tickets will also be available at the door. Bring along a canned or non-perishable food item and help us to feed the poor! More Information: www.erietheatrical.org.

Bishop Persico to open Holy Door

The Holy Year of Mercy will officially begin in the Diocese of Erie with the opening of the Holy Door at St. Peter Cathedral by Bishop Lawrence Persico at the regularly scheduled 4 p.m. Mass on Saturday, Dec. 12. After the Mass, there will be an opportunity for pilgrims to go through the Holy Door; Confessions will be available. The faithful of the diocese are encouraged to attend the Mass. Pastors are asked to promote this event to their parishioners in a significant way in the coming weeks. For more information, call Sister Kathleen Dietz, FSO, at 814- 824-1135.

The Erie Diocese is sponsoring a concert called **Answer the Call** on December 13, 2015 at 4:30 PM in Cathedral Prep's H. David Bowes theatre. Bishop Persico will be there to speak prior to the concert and a choir of 50+ singers from nine Erie parishes will perform the work. The work bridges Advent to Christmas in word and song with eight original choral pieces written by Michael Malthaner that enhance eight Scripture Readings.

The concert is free and open to the public, although a free-will offering will be accepted to promote awareness and retreats for vocations.

Mark Alloway and Gary Drapcho from our parish are participating in the concert. Please make plans to support *Answer the Call* which is a wonderful family holiday event.



HOLY TRINITY ANNUAL CHRISTMAS MARKET

Will be held Friday, December 18, from 4 -7 pm and Saturday, December 19, from 9 AM til Noon at the Holy Trinity Social Center—The Gathering Place at 2220

Reed Street. Order in advance to ensure you get all your Christmas favorites. Order forms are available at www.holytrinityrc.org or call your order in to **814-456-0671**. Pre-orders will be accepted until December 7th.

Some of the favorite featured items available are Chrusciki, Nutroll, Oplatki, Pierogi, Potato Pancake Batter, Sweet Bread, and NEW this year: Frozen Golabki!



WOMEN'S RETREAT

February 12—14, 2016. Register now. Limited space. Fills quickly! The retreat will be held at St. Columban Center, Derby, New York. Cost is \$145.00 includes meals and private room. Non

refundable deposit of \$45 due with registration. Retreat includes: conference talks, daily Mass, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, Confession, personal reflection, spiritual direction.

Contact: sr.josephine@stgeorgeerie.org
Phone 814-864-0622

Jesus Christ is the face of the Father's mercy.
Pope Francis

NEW PARISHIONER REGISTRATION FORM

☐ Saint Hedwig

☐ Saint Patrick

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____

STREET: _____ CITY: _____ ZIP: _____

E-MAIL: _____ BIRTHDATE: _____

CHILD _____ BIRTHDATE: _____

CHILD _____ BIRTHDATE: _____

PLEASE CIRCLE ONE BELOW:

New Registration

Change of Address

Moving

Want Envelopes

PLEASE DROP THIS INFORMATION INTO Offertory Basket or mail to Rectory

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For advertising in our parish bulletin.