

Second Sunday of ADVENT

DECEMBER 7, 2014

Saint Patrick Parish

Saint Hedwig Parish

Serving the East Bayfront of Erie since 1837

Daily Mass 8 AM

Saturday Vigil Mass 5 PM

Sunday 8 AM & 10:30 AM

Saturday Vigil Mass 4 PM



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
Erie, PA 16507
454-6232 FAX 454-8096
sainthedwig@neo.rr.com
www.sainthedwigparisherie.org
Office Hours: Wednesday 8AM—3:30PM

From the Pastor's Desk....

Today is the Second Sunday of Advent and again we hear first from Isaiah, the longest book in the bible, divided into three sections, each written at a different time in Israel's history. Chapters 1-39 contain oracles and prophecies from the prophet Isaiah around the year 740—700 BC. Chapters 40-55 were written about 200 years later toward the end of the Babylonian exile. The oracles and songs in this section are attributed to an unknown prophet commonly called Second Isaiah. This section contains the well known "Servant of the Lord" oracles which are proclaimed on Palm Sunday and Good Friday. The remaining chapters (56-66) were written soon after the end of the Babylonian Exile. Our reading today is the opening verses of Second Isaiah which prophesied an almost unthinkable message of hope to the captive Israelites. The exile has come to an end and God is calling his people back and forgiving their sins.

Second Peter, our second reading, is regarded by scholars as the last written book of the New Testament, written around 125 AD. The focus of today's reading is one reason why scholars date this letter so late: an explanation for the "delay" in the return of Christ. The first generation of Christians, including Peter and Paul, had a strong conviction that the imminent return of Christ would happen within their lifetimes. With the death of the last apostles in the late 60s and the destruction of the temple in 70, these expectations begin to fade. This is when the gospels begin to be written. With the apostles gone and Jesus not yet returned, Christians were anxious to keep the Good News of Jesus alive. Peter is assuring his readers that the Lord does not delay his promise.

We hear the opening verses of Mark's gospel today which he writes not with the birth stories of Jesus as we get from Matthew and Luke, but

with the figure of John the Baptist. Mark begins with Jesus as an adult and he sees the ministry of John as fulfilling the prophecies of Isaiah and Malachi. He then describes the appearance of John similar to that of the prophet Elijah (2 Kings 1:8). It is Mark alone who emphasizes John's humility as the forerunner to announce the good news that Israel's long wait is over. He contrasts John's baptism as merely cleansing one from sin, but Jesus comes to purify us for God's presence.

As I mentioned earlier, St. Patrick's Parish is going to host a Homeless Shelter from Feb. 11-24 at the Russian Church of the Nativity Social Center. In anticipation of that, we are in need of winter clothing, ie., towels, jeans, socks, underwear, shoes, boots, gloves and coats. Please—winter clothing only. It can be dropped on the side porch of the rectory. We are also still in need of more volunteers to help staff the shelter.

Monday, December 8, is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception and a holy day of obligation. We will celebrate a 12:05 PM Mass at St. Patrick's.

People have asked about upcoming trips that we are planning. September 1-11, 2015 we are doing a two night stay in Athens, Greece and then a 7 night cruise in the Greek Isles including a day in Istanbul and Ephesus—both in Turkey. That trip is filling up fast. If interested in details, contact the parish office. In addition, we are doing a May 18—23, 2016 Viking River cruise which round trip flights to Paris and then two nights in Paris aboard a Viking ship and then a cruise out to Normandy with stops in Giverny, Rouen, the American cemetery and the beaches at Normandy. We are only able to hold rooms for this cruise for 60 days, so if you are interested, you should again contact the parish office. This trip will sell out fast. The river cruises only hold about 170 people and are very, very popular. This will be the fourth Viking River cruise we have done and have found them to be five star all the way.

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

People have been asking about the Christmas schedule at both parishes. At St. Hedwig's there will be a 4 PM Vigil Mass on Christmas Eve. At St. Patrick's, there will be a 5 PM Vigil Mass, a 9 PM Mass and then on Christmas day, we will have Masses at 8 AM and at 10:30 AM.

Ever since becoming a pastor in 1984 I have always closed the parish office between Christmas and New Years. It is the slowest time of the year and it gives the staff a break. I'm here in case of emergencies.

I was very touched by the response of St. Patrick parishioners to a recent appeal I placed in the bulletin for people to help a needy family whom I know through BEST (Bayfront Eastside Task Force). The response was overwhelming, not only in terms of monetary gifts for them but with offers of a meal, other gifts, etc. God never forgets what we do to help those who can't help themselves.

Maintenance staff at St. Patrick's recently took the windows out of my kitchen to sand them, apply new varnish and put them back in. When they did so, they discovered that in every one of the 101 windows in the house, the recessed area on the sides where the window slides up and down is completely lined with copper! And instead of the normal rope that was used in these old windows to slide them up and down, in the rectory windows, they used a half inch band of brass!

The Italian secret to a long marriage: At St. Peter's Church in Brooklyn, they have weekly husbands' marriage seminars. At the session last week, the priest asked Giuseppe, who came to the U. S. 60 years ago and is now approaching his 50th wedding anniversary, to take a few minutes and share some insight into how he managed to stay married to the same woman all these years. Giuseppe replied, "Wella, I've tried to treat her nice, spenda da money on her, but besta of all is, I took her to Italy for our 25th anniversary." The priest replied, "Guiseppe, you are an amazing inspiration to all the husbands here. Please tell us what you are planning special for your wife for your 50th anniversary?" Giuseppe proudly replied, "I gonna go pick her up."

Saint Hedwig News



Our Sanctuary Lamp burns for a
Special Intention.

Our Lady's Shrine Lamp burns for the intention of
Evelyn Belczyk requested by Peter & Judy Pentz.

St. Joseph Shrine Lamp burns in loving memory of
Joseph Borgia requested by Rose Niedzwiecki.

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

Our offertory for week of 11/23 was **\$620.00**. Offertory for the week ending 11/30 was **\$1,118.00**. Thank you and God bless.

Our sincere condolences to the family and friends of **Evelyn Belczyk** who passed away last week. Evelyn was a life long member of St. Hedwig's. May her soul and the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace.

Masses Celebrated at Priest Retirement Home

Peter Zielinski (Hamot Hospital), Raymond Kantorowski (Dave, Beckie & Matt Juchno), Dorothy Glembocki (the Jendrack family), Stefania Tyczkowski (Family), Betty Jarzomski (St. Hedwig Rosary Society), John Gorski (Helen Zielinski), Frank Olszewski (Kathy Hilbert).

St. Hedwig Rosary Society Christmas Party

Today, Sunday, December 7th at the Falcons. No tickets will be sold at the door. Hope to see you there!



Christmas Flower Memorials

Please return the letter or Christmas Flower envelope in your packet by December 14th. This is a wonderful way to remember your loved ones during this Holy Season. The names will be published in the bulletin.

Oplatki—Christmas Wafers will be available before and after Mass December 6th, 13th and 20th.

St. Hedwig Ministry Schedule

December 13

Saturday

4:00 PM

Lector	Art Blum
Eucharist	Charlotte Mabie
Ushers	Nancy Widomski
	Michelle Moskel
Altar	Portia & Yvonne
Servers	Nowosielski



PRAY THE ROSARY



Saint Patrick News



Stewardship

Offertory Collection week of 11/23	\$ 6,577.00
Online Giving	<u>917.00</u>
Total Income	\$ 7,494.00
Offertory Collection week of 11/30	7,812.52
Online Giving	<u>865.00</u>
Total Income	\$ 8,677.52
Campaign for Human Development	\$ 174.00

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: **James F. Wheeler and Mary Anne Wheeler** on their birthdays from Robert & Patricia Wheeler.

The **Food Pantry Truck** is sponsored this week in memory of **Deceased Family Members** from Kathy Alessi

Donations to the **Food Pantry**:

In memory of **Sister Anna Mae Kuzma** from Carolyn & Robert Schenker

In memory of **Dominic Masenas, Mary Masenas, John V. Rewers, Joan Rewers** from Denise & Phillip Rewers

Ministry Schedule

Saturday, December 13, 2014 at 5:00 pm

Lector: Mary Beth Pinto

Eucharistic Ministers: Carol Habas, Jay Habas,
Patty Dailey

Greeters: Tom and Linda Brunner

Altar Servers: Addie & Own Babinsack

Ushers: Chris Lampe, Rob Oligeri, Phil Rewers

Sunday, December 14, 2014 at 10:30 am

Lector: Michele Wheaton

Eucharistic Ministers: Cyndi Pristello,
Charla Leemhuis, Forrest Mischler

Greeters: Marlene Golab, Mary Alice Hartwell

Altar Servers: Juliette Morales, Sarah Pristello

Ushers: Randy Pristello, David Wilcox,
John Purvis, Luke Purvis

Offertory Counters: Michele Wheaton, Tim Torrey,
Susan Merski, Mary Frick



Let us Welcome
Marcie Bea Zinna, daughter of
Matthew & Melissa (Cross) Zinna,
who will be baptized after 10:30 Mass on
Sunday, December 7, 2014

The **Shining Stars** disappeared from the Christmas Tree so quickly that we had to petition St. Martin's Center for more. You certainly are a generous group! St. Martin's also issued some reminders to be passed along to you:

- 1.) Please place gifts in **gift bags**, rather than wrapping them.
- 2.) Please **securely attach the star to the gift** with tape or a tie, etc. Place multiple gifts in one bag and attach the star to the outside.
- 3.) We ask that only stars that can be fulfilled on time be taken.
- 4.) **Gift receipts** are highly encouraged. This will help if an item of clothing does not fit. Feel free to buy gift cards. Please include the child's name and star number on the envelope.
- 5.) **St. Martin Center's** truck will pick up on Thursday, December 11, 2014 at 11:30!



The **Director of the Food Pantry**, Mike Litzinger, received a lovely letter and a donation of \$150.00 from the First Evangelical Lutheran Church in Johnstown, PA. The letter said in part "the mission and vision of First Lutheran Church is to reach out and serve those in our own community, the church and the world—far and wide. Please accept the enclosed gift to be used specifically toward your ministry efforts in response to hunger needs in your community." The letter and the donation were a complete surprise and much appreciated. It is a wonderful thing that the Lutheran Church in Johnstown would recognize our efforts from so far away.

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.





Have an Irish Christmas

& shop at Saint Patrick's Trinity Gift Shop!

Spread a little **Irish joy** this holiday season!

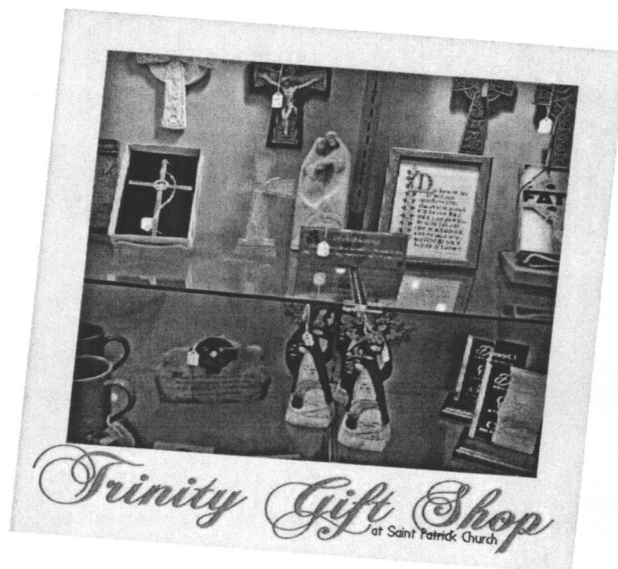
Looking for a unique specialty gift item, we can help you find it! Our store has religious gifts of crucifixes, cards, candles, jewelry, cook books & more! Get a Saint Patrick tee shirt or sweatshirt for any gift!

Happy Holidays

*from your friends at
Trinity Gift Shop!*

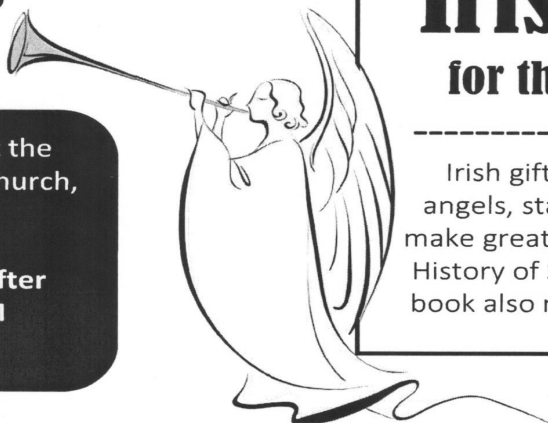
We are located inside at the south east corner of the church, stop by & see us!

**We're open before & after
5:00 PM & 10:30 AM
weekend masses!**



Feel like spreading **Irish luck** for the New Year?

Irish gifts of trinity crosses, angels, statues & Irish plaques make great stocking stuffers. The History of Saint Patrick's Church book also makes for a great gift!



***"SAVE AROUND" COUPON BOOKS
ARE AVAILABLE IN THE GIFT SHOP
THESE MAKE GREAT GIFTS!
WE HAVE ABOUT A DOZEN FOR SALE AND
WHEN THEY ARE GONE THEY ARE GONE!***

ST. PATRICK CHURCH AND ST. MARTIN CENTER PARTNERSHIP

"A lot of days, I wanted to give up but [my caseworker] kept me with hope. I finally made it through the storm."
This quote by a client tells the story of the mission and work of the St. Martin Center, Inc. (SMC)

The agency was established in 1952 and incorporated in 1969 as a non-profit organization with the mission of continuing St. Martin de Porres' work of helping the poor. SMC's services empower the working poor, without discrimination, and help reduce their dependence upon subsidies. SMC also offers several major programs to assist the unemployed and underemployed in Erie and the surrounding communities. All in all, we assist over 15,000 families and individuals annually through all of our programs.

Our programs are designed to "extend a helping hand" to individuals and families so that they can overcome their personal challenges and move towards self-sufficiency. At the core, our programs strengthen the family unit by educating and empowering children, meeting basic needs, helping reduce financial challenges and supporting responsible homeownership. Once a person's immediate needs have been met, he or she can begin to focus on lifetime goals such as: beginning and/or completing higher education, developing their employment skills or owning a home.

It all starts with the children. Our Early Learning Center provides Pre-K and after-school programs for about 130 children from six weeks of age to 13 years old. It is not childcare; it is an early learning program. The program is a STARS 4 Learning Center which is the highest rating by PA. In other words, the instruction is of the highest quality. Another unique aspect of our learning center is that it is based on the philosophy of continuity of care. That is, as the children move on to other classrooms as they get older, they remain with the same teacher. There is no other early learning center in the area that uses this philosophy. This allows the teachers to get to know the children and their families well. It also provides the children with consistency which is needed for some of their stressful lives.

It is well



documented that the the City of Erie has large number of individuals in poverty. This is a complicated and community wide problem that needs to be addressed in a multitude of ways. Our Social Service program is our longest running program and it directly addresses the needs associated with poverty. The specific services include our food pantry; vouchers for clothing and household goods which can be used at partnering agencies. It is important to note that we see about 70 individuals a day and distribute about 21,000 pounds of food monthly. Families are also eligible for temporary assistance to help pay their utility and rent or mortgage. Finally, this is the program that serves the most clients of the agency.

Our Social Service program also provides ancillary services. For example, we also provide Thanksgiving (full-meal) baskets to about 200 individuals yearly. Also, about 1,300 receive Christmas gifts through our Shining Stars program. Without these gifts, many children would not experience Christmas.



Another valuable program is what we call our Food Services. Their goal is to bring food directly to the people most in need. It consists of two programs: Bishop's Breakfast and our partnership with Meals on Wheels. The philosophy of these programs is to provide individuals a hot nutritious meal. Bishops Breakfast is a Monday-Friday breakfast for homeless men and women. It is prepared here at SMC and distributed by volunteers to individuals at a church in downtown Erie. Sometimes, this hot, free breakfast represents the only meal the participants receive all day. Close to 50 individuals receive this breakfast monthly.

Our partnership with Meals on Wheels consists of cooking 60-95 meals Monday-Friday and some frozen meals on the weekends. For the most part, this fee for service program provides meals to elderly and homebound individuals. Meals are cooked and packaged in our licensed commercial kitchen and the food is delivered to the individuals' homes through the Meals on Wheels volunteers.

While most of our programs focus on families with low income, they are also open for individuals with higher income as well. This is very common in our Housing Counseling program. SMC is certified through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Our staff has been trained by the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency (PHFA), HUD and NeighborWorks.

Our goal is to increase financial literacy among those we serve, and in doing so help our clients become more self-sufficient. Through homeownership, we also aim to stabilize and improve the conditions in which they live. Our specific programs include:

- First-time Homebuyer's Pre-Purchase Counseling – walks a homebuyer through the process detailing paperwork, lenders, closings, budgeting, affordability, inspections, etc.
- Financial Literacy Counseling – how to create and stick to a budget, how to read a credit report, how to build or repair credit, etc.
- Fair Housing and anti-Predatory Lending Counseling – Fair Housing laws and rights, including landlord-tenant issues; red flags of predatory lenders, avoiding such loans
- Lead-Based Paint - risk assessments, clearance testing and lead safety cleaning demonstrations for the Erie Redevelopment Authority

We have assisted well over 5,000 prospective homeowners since the 1998 program inception. Approximately half currently own their first home. This is of important economic impact to the region.

To sum up, SMC personnel are called to serve the Erie community in a dignified manner. We believe that there is hope for the people of Erie. Our work must continue.

Your general support of our programs is sorely needed in this era of uncertain funding for nonprofit organizations. Your support will help us educate and prepare children for Kindergarten. Your support provides emergency and temporary assistance and feed the hungry. Your support helps us prepare future homeowners and secure current homeowners.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of further assistance.

David González

CEO

St. Martin Center, Inc.

LITURGY INTENTIONS**Dec. 06** *Saturday, Vigil: Second Sunday of Advent*4:00 PM ROBERT T. NIEDZWIECKI, ANNIV. - ST.H
(MOM & FAMILY)5:00 PM VINCENT (JIMMY) AND DELPHINE ARDUINI,
DEBRA (SZYMANOWSKI) MCINTOSH, EDWARD
SZYMANOWSKI, NOREEN MILLER - ST.P
(GLORIA SZYMANOWSKI)**Dec. 07** *Second Sunday of Advent*

8:00 AM SEAMUS KEARNS (MASI FAMILY) - ST.P

10:30 AM JAMES & MARY ANN MAHONEY - ST.P
(PAUL & ANNE CAUSGROVE)**Dec. 08** *Monday, Immaculate Conception of the Blessed
Virgin Mary (Holy Day Mass at St. Patrick's)*12:05 PM AMELIA WEBER & SOPHIE CRABB
(SISTER, VIKI)**Dec. 09** *Tuesday, Advent Weekday*

8:00 AM AMANDA JUCHNO (CHARLOTTE MABIE)

Dec. 10 *Wednesday, Advent Weekday*8:00 AM PARISH SHUT-INS AND FAMILIES
(AVE MARIA CARE & CONCERN SOCIETY)**Dec. 11** *Thursday, Advent Weekday*8:00 AM ROBERT T. NIEDZWIECKI, ANNIV.
(WIFE & FAMILY)**Dec. 12** *Friday, Our Lady of Guadalupe*8:00 AM STAWNIAK FAMILY
(DAUGHTER, ROSE NIEDZWIECKI)**Dec. 13** *Saturday, Vigil: Third Sunday of Advent*4:00 PM RICHARD MOSKEL, ANNIV - ST.H
(WIFE, JANICE)5:00 PM TONY & IRENE IZBICKI (DAUGHTERS, MARSHA
GENSHEIMER & PATTI GRAY) - ST.P**Dec. 14** *Third Sunday of Advent*8:00 AM TESSIE KOLODZIEJCZAK, ANNIV. OF BIRTH
(DAUGHTER, ANN)

10:30 AM LIL MARINCE (FAMILY) - 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=Rector, CV=Convent

12/06 3:30 PM Confessions - St.H

4:30 PM Confessions - St.P

12/07 9:00 AM Rel. Ed Kdg.- Gr 6 - Holy Rosary

1:00 PM Rel. Ed. Jr./Sr. High - Holy Rosary

12/09 11:00 AM Food Pantry - PR**12/10** 12:00 PM A.A. - PR**12/13** 3:30 PM Confessions - St.H

4:30 PM Confessions - St.P

12/14 9:00 AM Rel. Ed Kdg.- Gr 6 - Holy Rosary

1:00 PM Rel. Ed. Jr./Sr. High - Holy Rosary

A Moment of Reflection

Reading I: Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11

Gospel: Mark 1: 1-8



The Gospel of Mark is different from the others in that he proclaims the gospel, the good news. Mark is the one evangelist who uses the word gospel. The word of Jesus got around because Capernaum was right in the middle of one of the oldest trade routes between Egypt And Syria. Word went north and south and before long good news traveled. Today, with all the gadgets we too need to tell the good news... to comfort the afflicted and to afflict the comfortable. Too often we miss opportunities, grace filled moments, because of our lack of courage. How does the way you live your life point to the good news and make way for the Lord?

NEW PARISHIONER REGISTRATION FORM☐ Saint Hedwig☐ Saint Patrick

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____

STREET: _____ CITY: _____ ZIP: _____

E-MAIL: _____ DATE OF BIRTH _____

PLEASE CIRCLE ONE BELOW:

New Registration

Change of Address

Moving

Want Envelopes

PLEASE DROP THIS INFORMATION INTO Offertory Basket or mail to Rectory