

# *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**

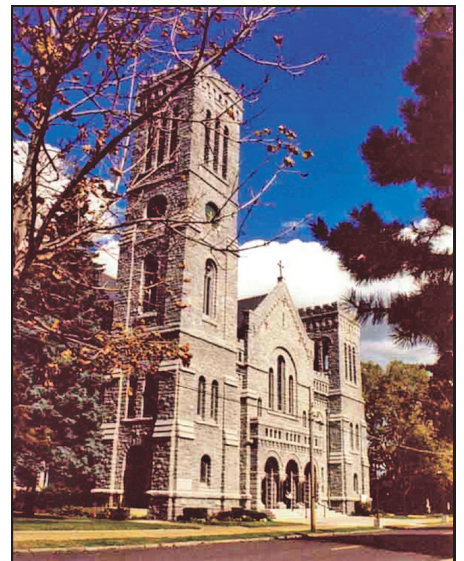
**Saint Hedwig 5:30 PM**

**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](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.***



December 8th is the feast of the Immaculate Conception, a holyday of obligation for Catholics living in the NE United States. However, no feast usurps the Advent feasts and so the Immaculate Conception is transferred to Monday, Dec. 9th. It is NOT, however, a holyday of obligation.

The rich and elegant words we first hear today from Isaiah express the hope that all of the kings of Israel would rule with justice. But Israel never had such a king and so these words became their hope for a Messiah. Isaiah returns us to the garden of Eden where everything is peaceful and well. The meaning of these words today is that the coming of the Messiah will reverse all of the ill effects of sin and restore the innocence and trust of the garden. This Messiah will be a descendant of David, the son of Jesse. The “stump of Jesse” is a reference to the current king, Ahaz, whose reliance on political alliances rather than on God demonstrated his lack of faith and made him an unfit king. The Messiah, on the other hand, will defend the poor and afflicted and deal decisively with the wicked.

In our second reading from Paul’s Letter to the Romans, he is addressing the tensions between Jews and Gentiles. Paul tells us that whatever was written previously, that is, all the words of Scripture, offers hope to anyone who embraces God’s word. Hope is what sustains us in the face of mounting evidence that sin more than grace abounds.

In our gospel, Matthew introduces us to the stark, stern and riveting figure of John the Baptist. It will not be until the fourth week of Advent that we will begin to hear of angels, etc. Today and next week, John holds the stage and reminds us that this season is not about preparing for the babe in the manger, but for the Christ who was born amid livestock and urine, who lived among tax collectors and prostitutes, and who died shamefully on the cross. John’s presence reminds us that we are preparing for the coming of Jesus’ whole life and ministry, not just the romantic moment in a manger. John’s call was heard by large numbers of the people who went out to listen to him. John speaks of the one to follow him as mightier than he and better able to separate wheat from chaff. John is saying very

clearly that without genuine repentance we will lack the weight of the wheat and be blown away with the chaff when the Messiah comes.

People have been asking about our Christmas Mass schedule so they can plan family events. We will have a 4:30 PM Christmas Eve Mass at St. Hedwig’s; then a 5 PM Mass at St. Patrick’s and finally a 9 PM Mass at St. Patrick’s. On Christmas Day there will be a 9 AM Mass at St. Hedwig’s and a 10:30 AM Mass at St. Patrick’s.

Congratulations to St. Patrick parishioners Mary Daly and Elisa Guida who are among the 12 women chosen by Mercy Center for Women as their 2014 “Women Making History” honorees.

Following the Saturday evening 5 PM Mass and the Sunday morning 10:30 AM Mass, the rectory will be open if you want to see my new apartment on the third floor. Last weekend, people whose last name began with the letters A-L went over and this weekend anyone whose last name begins K-Z is welcome to go over. I would only caution you that it is up three flights of stairs. Take special notice of the beautiful hardwood floors we found under the carpets as well as the three Waterford crystal chandeliers (original to the house) which we found and did not know were still in the building. The original file for the house shows that there were 20 Waterford crystal chandeliers but they have almost all mysteriously disappeared.

We’ve had some damage done to one of the Stations of the Cross in church. Someone broke a finger off one of the figures in the Fifth Station. I constantly see people kissing and hugging the statues and beg them not to touch them because just the oil on our fingers does damage. We presently have a security camera on the southwest tower door which is open during the week, but we are now going to put a second one on the west side aisle so that we will be able to see people who are in church. Those stations are absolutely priceless works of art and we need to do everything we can to preserve them. Hopefully the camera will be in place soon.

Pope Francis has asked Catholics throughout the world to respond to a questionnaire on the family, contraception, communion for divorced and



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

remarried Catholics, communion for elected officials who do not agree with church teaching, etc. The questionnaire has been sent to all bishops of the world and is available on our diocesan webpage until December 16th. I strongly encourage you to go to [www.eriecd.org](http://www.eriecd.org) and click on the questionnaire and complete as much as you can. The results will be studied and analyzed at the coming Synod of Bishops and changes could come in our church teaching.

A couple who were married recently asked their guests to, rather than give them gifts, make a donation to the Saint Patrick Food Pantry. They came to the rectory recently and presented a check for \$600 for the Food Pantry. What a generous and wonderful gift.

The total cost of care for senior women and men religious topped \$1 billion in 2012. 61% of religious communities in the US have a median age of 75 or older. By 2023, retired religious will outnumber wage-earning religious by four to one. Of 548 communities who submitted data, only 8% are fully funded for retirement!

A priest was being honored after 25 years in the parish. A leading local citizen and member of the congregation was chosen to make the presentation and give a short speech at the dinner. However, he was delayed, so the priest decided to say his own few words while they waited. "I got my first impression of the parish from the very first confession I heard here. I thought I had been assigned to a terrible place. The first person to enter my confessional told me he had stolen a TV set and, when questioned by the police, was able to lie his way out of it. He had stolen money from his parents, from his employer, had an affair with his boss's wife and had used illegal drugs. I was appalled. But as the days went on, I learned that my people were not like that, and I had, indeed, come to a fine parish full of good and loving people." Just as the priest finished his talk, the man chosen to honor him arrived full of apologies at being late. He immediately began his talk by saying, "I'll never forget the first day our parish priest arrived," he said. "As a matter of fact, I had the honor of being the first person to go to confession to him!"

## Saint Hedwig News



Our Sanctuary Lamp burns this week for a **Special Intention**, Our Lady's Shrine Lamp burns in loving memory of **Amanda Juchno** requested by Yvonne Gersims and St. Joseph Shrine Lamp burns in loving memory of **Ted Mielnik** requested by Irene and family. Please remember in your prayers those in the hospital, nursing care and the homebound.

The Offertory for the weekend of **November 24th** was **\$768.00** and **\$93.00** for the **Human Development** collection. Also, **\$225.00** for **Christmas Flowers**. The offertory for the weekend of December 1st was **\$1,142.00**. We also received **\$110.00** for Christmas Flowers and **\$84.00** for the victims of the typhoon in the Philippines. Thank you for your generosity.

### St. Hedwig Rosary Society Christmas Party

We thank all the ladies of the Rosary Society and thank all of you for your support of St. Hedwig. Also, we don't want to forget the people who attended our party, all who donated gifts, the Polish Falcons Club and those who worked so hard to make it an enjoyable afternoon. Winner of the Christmas Wreath of Gift Cards was **Linda Ford**. Congratulations!

### Christmas Schedule at St. Hedwig's

Confessions (Sat. Dec 21) 3:30pm  
Christmas Eve Mass 4:30pm  
Christmas Day  
The Nativity of the Lord 9:00am  
New Year's Eve 5:30pm



Fr. John Santor will hear confessions  
on Saturday, December 21st at 3:30pm

*The Nativity....Jesus was born in a stable, a poor place. He preferred poverty and humiliation in order to suffer more for us. He wished to show Himself a friend of the poor, and to teach that the best way to heaven is through humility and detachment from worldly goods.*

### St. Hedwig Ministry Schedule

	<u>December 14</u>	<u>December 15</u>
	Saturday	Sunday
	4:30 PM	9:00 AM
Lectors	Ron Helminski	Frederic Olds
Eucharist	Ron Helminski	Tom Zielinski
Ushers	Nancy Widomski	Art Blum
	Michele Moskel	Pete Pentz
Altar Servers	Portia & Yvonne	Charlotte Mabie
	Nowosielski	



November 25, 2013

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Soon, our parishes will be conducting the appeal for the Retirement Fund for Religious, an annual collection that benefits some 34,000 senior Sisters, Brothers, and religious order priests. As I reflect on the service of our women and men religious, I recall the words of Jesus in John's Gospel: "Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there also will my servant be" (Jn 12:26). Through their prayer and ministries, religious can be found wherever Jesus is found—not just in Catholic parishes, schools, and hospitals, but also in service to the poor, the lonely, and the oppressed.

In a profound way, we also find Jesus in the ongoing witness of our elderly religious. While many continue in active and volunteer ministry, others are frail and need assistance. Yet they remain wholly committed to their vocations, accepting the limitations of aging and embracing the opportunity to focus more fully on praying for our Church and world.

Most elderly religious worked for years for small stipends, leaving a substantial gap in retirement savings. With the ever-rising cost of health care and the increase in the number of those needing care, many religious communities now struggle to provide for their senior members. The Retirement Fund for Religious offers vital financial assistance to help meet day-to-day needs for prescription medications, nursing care, and more.

In 2012, thanks to the generosity of the parishioners of the Diocese of Erie, \$182,685.05 was collected to help meet these needs.

The annual collection is an opportunity for each of us to be the presence of Jesus to our senior religious. 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 yours in Christ,

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

LTP/ptd



DIocese OF ERiE ♦ P.O. Box 10397 ♦ ERiE, PENNSYLVANIA 16514-0397  
814.824.1120 ♦ FAX 814.824.1124



# Saint Patrick News



Parish Stewardship: The offertory for the weekend of **November 24th** was: **\$5,347.00** and **\$710.00** from online giving for a total of **\$6,057.00**. Also, for the collection for **Human Development** the offertory was **\$176.00**. The offertory for the week of **December 1st** was **\$6,824.75** and **\$468.33** from online giving for a total of **\$7,293.08**. You also were extremely generous with donations to the victims of the typhoon in the Philippines. That collection netted **\$1,414.31**! Thank you for your generosity.

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 **Edward Szymanowski & Debbie (Szymanowski) McIntosh** from wife & mother, Gloria; The **Food Pantry Truck** is sponsored this week in memory of **Deceased Family Members** from Kathy Alessi; The **Food Pantry** is sponsored in memory of **Helen Starner Larocca** from Steve & Carol Kontur, Chuck & Betty Franek, Ron & Lily Keller, Chet LaPrice & Elisa Konieczko, Timothy & Mary Anne Welsh, Paula Kosko and ReMax Real Estate Group, Donna Harrington; in memory of **Melvin F. Gingenbach** from Barbara Gingenbach; also donations from Mrs. Mary Ellen Demyanovich, Alice & Kenneth Daub and Susan & Mark Sullivan.

## Ministry Schedule

**Saturday, December 14, 2013 at 5:00 pm**

Lector: *Chris Sanner*

Eucharistic Ministers: *Kathy Sertz, Carol Habas, Patty Dailey*

Greeters: *Judy Kelly*

Altar Servers: *Owen & Addie Babinsack*

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

**Sunday, December 15, 2013 at 10:30 am**

Lector: *Mary Duncan*

Eucharistic Ministers: *Colleen Welch, Cyndi Pristello, Michelle Tortorelli*

Greeters: *Tom & Linda Brunner*

Altar Servers: *Andrew Wilcox*

Ushers: *Dave Taccone, Tom Welch, Jim Wehan, Paul Balczun*

Offertory Counters: *Tom Brunner, Linda Brunner, Mary Duncan*

**The cup will not be offered during flu season.**

**The Lector Books are available in the Trinity Gift Shop.**

## CHRISTMAS AT ST. PATRICK'S

### Christmas Eve

**5:00 pm - Family Mass**

**Prelude begins at 4:30pm with bagpipes, piano and choir. Also trumpet, tympani and organ.**

**9:00pm - Mass**

**Prelude begins at 8:25 pm—Christmas Choir Cantata "Let the Whole World Sing" with trumpet, tympani and organ.**

### Christmas Day

**10:30 am Mass**

**Prelude begins at 10:10am with organ and choir. Also trumpet and tympani.**

**CHILD PROTECTION AND CREATING SAFE ENVIRONMENTS—ONLINE SAFETY TIPS FOR PARENTS AND KIDS #8:** Cyber Tipline Fights Internet Crimes against Children—The *National Center for Missing and Exploited Children*, the *Federal Bureau of Investigation*, and other government agencies all work together to fight Internet crimes against children. They've established a "Cyber Tipline," a reporting mechanism for cases of child sexual exploitation including child pornography, online enticement of children for sex acts, child victims of prostitution and unsolicited obscene material sent to a child. Reports may be made 24 hours a day, seven days a week—online at [www.cybertipline.com](http://www.cybertipline.com) or by calling **800-843-5678**. To see what the Diocese of Erie is doing to keep children and youth safe, check out <http://www.eriercd.org/protectionyouth.com>

**A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE:** Like John the Baptist, every parent "prepares the way of the Lord" in the hearts of their children. Advent is a good time to ask: "Do I help or hinder my children to know Jesus?"



**FOUND**—a ring and a bracelet were recently found in Church. If you are missing either, please call the office at 454-8085, ext. 1 to identify.







# Have an Irish Christmas

& shop at Saint Patrick's Trinity Gift Shop!

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

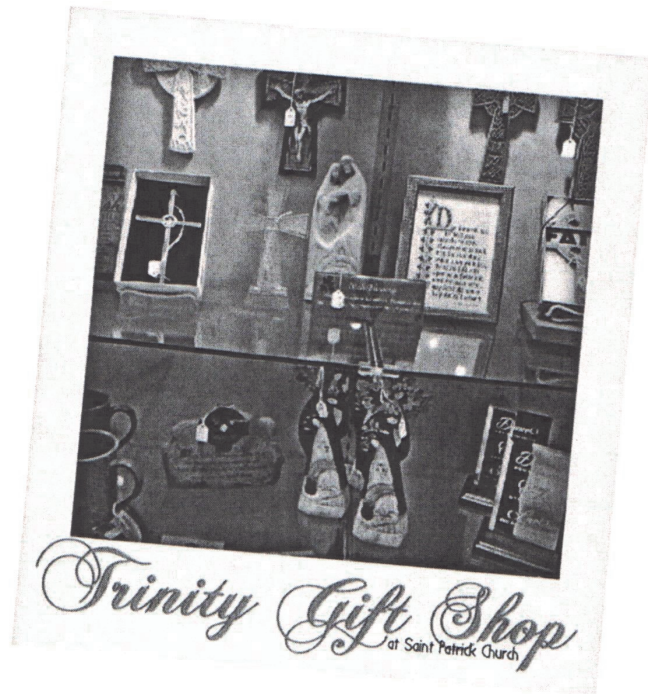
Looking for a unique specialty gift item, we can help you find it! Our store has religious gifts of crucifixes, cards, candles, jewelry, cook books & more! Get a Saint Patrick tee shirt or sweatshirt for any gift!

***Happy Holidays***

*from your friends at  
Trinity Gift Shop!*

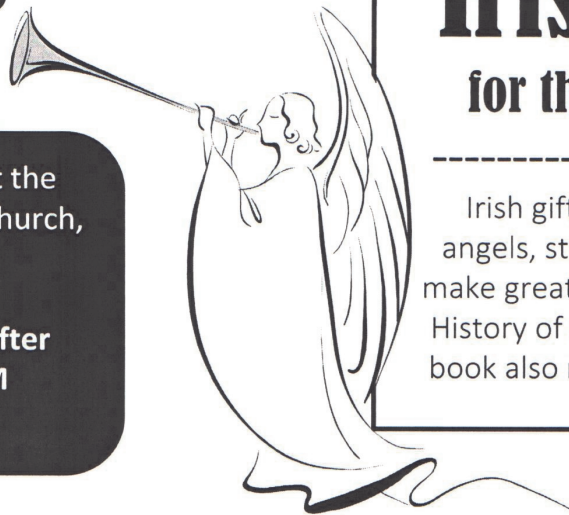
We are located inside at the south east corner of the church, stop by & see us!

**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!



**LITURGY INTENTIONS****Dec. 7** *Saturday, Vigil: Second Sunday of Advent*4:30 PM ROBERT T. NIEDZWIECKI, ANNIV. - ST.H  
(MOM & FAMILY)

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

**Dec. 8** *Second Sunday of Advent*

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

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

10:30 AM PAUL & NORMA CAUSGROVE - ST.P  
(PAUL CAUSGROVE)**Dec. 9** *Monday, The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary*

8:00 AM COMMUNION SERVICE

**Dec. 10** *Tuesday, Advent Weekday*

8:00 AM HELEN LARocca (MARY PAT SCHLAUDECKER)

**Dec. 11** *Wednesday, Advent Weekday*

8:00 AM CECILIA MESSINA, ANNIV. OF BIRTH (FAMILY)

**Dec. 12** *Thursday, Our Lady of Guadalupe*

8:00 AM COMMUNION SERVICE

**Dec. 13** *Friday, Saint Lucy, Virgin and Martyr*

8:00 AM STAWNIAK FAMILY (DAUGHTER, ROSE)

**Dec. 14** *Saturday, Vigil: Third Sunday of Advent*

4:30 PM RICHARD MOSKEL, ANNIV. (WIFE, JANICE)-ST.H

5:00 PM ELIZABETH WARD (FAMILY) - ST.P

**Dec. 15** *Third Sunday of Advent*

8:00 AM TESSIE KOLODZIEJCZAK (DAUGHTER, ANN)-ST.H

9:00 AM THEODORE WIDOMSKI - ST.H  
(RICK & RON BOLLA)

10:30 AM SOPHIE L. CRABB - 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=Rectory, CV=Convent

**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

**12/10** 11:00 AM Food Pantry - PR**12/11** 12:00 PM A.A. - PR**12/14** 3:30 PM Confessions - St.H

4:30 PM Confessions - St.P

**12/15** 9:00 AM Rel. Ed K-Grade 6 - Holy Rosary

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

**A Moment of Reflection**

Reading I: Isaiah 11:1-10

Reading II: Romans 15:4-9

Gospel: Matthew 3:1-12



This Sunday we hear John the Baptist cry out in the desert, calling us to promote the justice and peace that is the hallmark of the kingdom of God. Pope Paul VI said, "If you want peace, work for justice." This includes the difficult work of standing in solidarity with poor, working to correct unjust systems, and maintaining the dignity of every life. At Thanksgiving and in the season of Advent we witness the generosity of so many people in the way of food and gifts for our local poor. But what happens the rest of the year? What are we doing to get at the root of poverty? Social action involves walking on two feet: one foot is charity; the other is justice.

**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 Rectory**