

# *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**

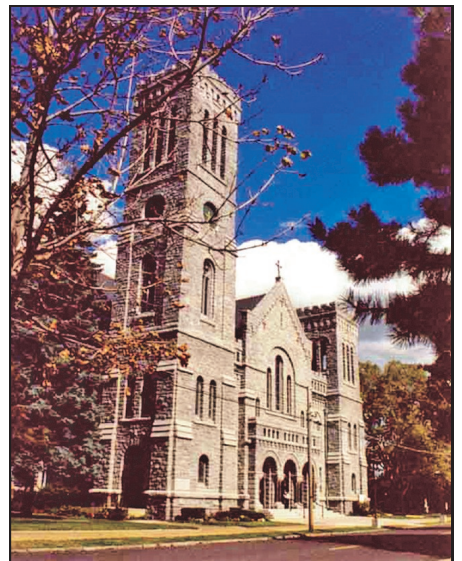
**Holy Day**

**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 Second Sunday of Advent and our first reading is from the Prophet Baruch, a scribe of Jeremiah. The setting is the Babylonian Exile when the Israelites were taken from

Israel to Babylon. Notice that the author speaks of Jerusalem being in "mourning and misery," because its inhabitants are not there. Baruch writes to give them hope. Because the people understood that God would protect them from their enemies, they face a great crisis of faith, and Baruch assures them that they will return and that God has not forgotten them.

Our second reading comes from Paul's letter to the Philippians and again, our theme is hope. Paul is imprisoned but his letter is filled with hope. Why? Because God "who began the good work in you will continue to complete it until the day of Christ Jesus." Like Baruch, Paul does not let his suffering lessen his confidence that God is and will remain faithful.

Our gospel begins the story of Jesus' public ministry by placing Jesus within the political and religious setting of his day. As the Jesus story will unfold, many of these political and religious figures will try to get to him. For example, Herod will kill John the Baptist and would love to kill Jesus. The high priest, Caiaphas, will be head of the Sanhedrin which will condemn Jesus. But none of these obstacles will be able to prevent Jesus from doing what he came to accomplish. Next, Luke introduces John the Baptist who will prepare the way for Jesus by calling people to a baptism of repentance. In describing Jesus, Luke quotes Isaiah "Every valley shall be filled and every mountain and hill shall be made low." These words are known as Second Isaiah and takes place again during the Babylonian Exile. Like Baruch, he assures the people that God has not abandoned them.

It is extremely difficult for us to get into the spirit of Advent with all of the commercial emphasis on Christmas. We try to hold off on our Christmas jubilation and use these days as a time of longing, of waiting for the coming promise. But we are so surrounded by Christmas music, gift buying, etc. that it's tough for us to try to stay in the Advent mode. By the time we start to sing the Christmas carols on Christmas, we're actually tired of them because we've been hearing them since Thanksgiving.

A reminder of our Christmas schedule. There will be a 4:30 PM Christmas Eve Mass at St. Hedwig's and a 5 PM and a 9 PM at St. Patrick's. On Christmas Day, there is a 9 AM at St. Hedwig's and a 10:30 AM at St. Patrick's.

The parish office will close at noon on Christmas Eve and not reopen until the day after New Year's. I will be here in case of emergencies or funerals. You can also reach me at home at 454-4032.

We're continuing to be ahead of schedule with the church and I'm growing in my optimism that we will be able to return to church for the week-end of December 22 & 23. This will not only make our transition much easier but it will give the parish an opportunity to see the restoration without all of the hoopla that will be part of the Christmas Eve 5 PM Mass.

The marble flooring in the sanctuary is being laid and is absolutely beautiful. It is bordered with a green marble as well as a section of green marble underneath the altar. One change that will have to come because of this new flooring is that we won't be able to use the church for things like concerts or passion plays, etc. because the altar will no longer be able to be moved. It will have to stay where it is. Because of its weight, moving it could crack the marble tiles.

We've also removed the handicap access that has been in front of the Blessed Mother altar because there is another handicap access into the weekday chapel and anyone can simply come through the doors from the chapel into the main sanctuary.

We're now down to the finishing touches such as clean up, faux painting the radiator covers to look like marble, etc. The floor in the southwest tower was sagging two inches in the center and has now been stabilized. Large sections of the marble wall in there had cracked or broken because of the way the tower is settling and those have been replaced and are being faux painted to appear to match the marble that is already there.

We have also purchased a large carpet for the vestibule that should absorb much of the salt, snow, etc. that gets dragged in during the winter to hopefully save the aisle carpets.

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

Cardinal Sean O'Malley, the archbishop of Boston closed 55 parishes 5 years ago and just recently announced that he is downsizing even more from the present 288 parishes into 135 cluster parishes. One fifth of the archdiocese's 420 priests are 65 or older, and the church expects its number of active priests to fall under 200 in less than 10 years! The clusters will consist of four parishes, each of which will retain its legal identity, be run by one priest and merged staff and councils. At the present time, 4 out of 10 Boston parishes cannot pay their bills and Mass attendance is at an all time low of 16%.

I think what they forget is that each parish has its own unique personality and to try to impose one parish council on 4 different personalities won't work. I know just working with the two parishes I have that they are each different and unique and each needs its own Finance & Parish Council. The Finance Council of St. Hedwig's wouldn't be interested in the finances of St. Patrick's and vice versa. Once you start to tamper with the unique personality of a parish, you run the risk of destroying it. Besides, asking one priest to staff 4 parishes is insane. We keep trying to solve all of these problems by going around the real issues that need to be addressed. We're starting to deny people the sacraments and access to a priest. Why can't we pull back, study what the causes of all of this are and then act upon the causes rather than acting on the results. Why are there so few vocations, why are people not going to Church? These approaches are not going to solve things.

A few minutes before services started, Satan appeared at the front of church and everyone ran for the entrance except one old man who sat there very calmly. Satan asks him, "Do you know who I am?" The man replied, "Sure do." "Aren't you afraid?" asked Satan. "Nope, sure ain't," he replied. "Don't you realize I can kill you in a second?" asked Satan. "Don't doubt it for a minute," calmly replied the old man. "Don't you know I can cause you pain and agony for eternity," asked Satan. "Sure do," replied the old man. "And you're still not afraid?" asked Satan again. "Nope," he calmly replied. A frustrated Satan asked him why he was not afraid, to which the old man calmly replied, "Been married to your sister for the past 48 years!"



## Saint Patrick News

**Parish Stewardship:** Our offertory for last weekend was **\$5,680.00**. Thank you for your generosity. Please be sure to mark the outside of your offertory envelope with the amount you are donating to ensure our records are accurate for your tax purposes.

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** in memory of **John & Barb Jacquell & George Zack**, from Phyllis Zack.

**The Trinity Gift Shop** is in need of some volunteers. Alice Daub does a remarkable job managing the gift shop, but she needs some help. The gift shop is open before and after Mass on Saturday and Sunday. Choose your day and volunteer a few hours one day a month. If interested please call Alice at 814-725-1802. Thanks!



### Ministry Schedule

#### **Saturday, December 15, 2012 at 5:00 pm**

**Lector:** Kathleen Haslett

**Eucharistic Ministers:** Ray Fiorelli, Kay Mannino,  
Shirley Winschel

**Greeters:** Judy Kelly, Kathleen Horan

**Altar Servers:** **Needed**

**Ushers:** Chris Lampe, Rob Oligeri

#### **Sunday, December 16, 2012 at 10:30 am**

**Lector:** Alex Wheaton

**Eucharistic Ministers:** Michele Wheaton,  
Cyndi Pristello, Patty Dailey

**Greeters:** Gail Arneman, Mary Alice Hartwell

**Altar Servers:** Mary Pristello, Anna Pristello

**Ushers:** Paul Balczun, Jim Wehan, Tom Welch  
Randy Pristello

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

*Thank you to everyone who has volunteered for the various ministries that needed to be filled for Christmas. We are still in need of two ushers at both Masses on Christmas Eve as well as one Eucharistic Minister, altar servers, greeters and ushers on Christmas Day.*



# Saint Hedwig News



Our Sanctuary Lamp burns this week for **Ted Mielnik** requested by Irene and family, Our Lady's Shrine Lamp burns in loving memory of **Albert "Micky" Mabie** requested by his wife Charlotte, St. Joseph Shrine Lamp burns in loving memory of **Richard Dombkowski** requested by Charlotte Niewolak. Remember in your prayers those in the hospital, nursing care and the homebound.

Our offertory for last week was \$1,389.00 . Thank you and God bless.

## St. Hedwig Rosary Society Christmas Party

We would like to thank the Rosary Society for the wonderful gift to St. Hedwig's of \$7,000.00 which was presented to Msgr. Kriegel at their Annual Christmas Party. Thank you ladies of the Rosary Society and thank all of you for your support of St. Hedwig's. Also we don't want to forget the people who attended our Christmas Party, all who donated gifts, the Polish Falcons Club and those who worked so hard to make it an enjoyable afternoon.

## 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.

## Volunteer needed...

We are in need of an usher for Sunday Mass. If you are interested, please call the Parish Office 454-6232.

## Christmas Schedule at St. Hedwig's

<i>Confessions (Sat. Dec. 22)</i>	<i>3:30pm</i>
<i>Christmas Eve Mass</i>	<i>4:30pm</i>
<i>Christmas Day</i>	<i>9:00am</i>
<i>New Year's Eve</i>	<i>5:30pm</i>



Fr. John Santor will hear confessions on Saturday, December 22nd at 3:30pm.

## Christmas Concert

**Follow the Star....**Tennessee Backporch & Sam Hyman at Our Lady of Mercy Church, 837 Bartlett Rd., Harborcreek, Pa. on Sunday, December 16th at 7:30pm. Tickets \$10.00 at Our Lady of Mercy Church office or at the door.

## 3rd Street Polish Falcons

Serving their delicious fish and pierogi dinners and more... every Friday from 4 until 7pm. Take-outs available.

## Cancer Support Group

The group is led by Deacon Tom Matusiak who was a cancer caregiver. They meet on the 3rd Thursday of each month at St. Mark Catholic Center, 429 E. Grandview Blvd. Erie at 7pm until 8:15pm. For more information email Deacon Tom at [deacontom@holytrinity.org](mailto:deacontom@holytrinity.org) or at Holy Trinity Church 456-0671.

## Advent

Christ comes to us in many ways. Some years ago, a book was published entitled "Sometimes God Has a Kid's Face". The book talked about runaways and castaways in New York who came to Covenant House, angry, hurt, in need of help and hope. The book made the point that what we do for others, we do for Christ. There is a place for Christmas parties, the colored lights, the tree and the opening of presents. There must be an opening of my heart's door to other people. Turn the emphasis from an effort to enjoy happiness into an effort to give happiness to another.

*Pray the Rosary*

## Saint Hedwig Ministry Schedule

	December 15	December 16
	Saturday	Sunday
	4:30 PM	9:00 AM
Lector	Dave Widomski	Peter Pentz
Eucharist	Dave Widomski	Tom Zielinski
Ushers	Nancy Widomski	Art Blum
	Michelle Moskel	Pete Pentz
Altar Servers	Portia & Yvonne	Charlotte Mabie
	Nowosielski	Amanda Juchno

**LITURGY INTENTIONS****Dec. 08** *Saturday, Vigil, 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. - ST. P  
(FRED BARRY)**Dec. 10** *Monday, Advent Weekday*

8:00 AM RAYMOND RUFFLE, SR. (HELEN ZIELINSKI)

**Dec. 11** *Tuesday, St. Damasus I, Pope*

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

**Dec. 12** *Wednesday, Our Lady of Guadalupe*8:00 AM EMILIO & ANGELINE ABBATO & DECEASED  
FAMILY MEMBERS (THE FAMILY)**Dec. 13** *Thursday, St. Lucy, Virgin and Martyr*

8:00 AM COMMUNION SERVICE

**Dec. 14** *Friday, St. John of the Cross, Priest & Doctor  
of the Church*

8:00 AM SIGMUND GORSKI (MR. &amp; MRS. JOHN GORSKI)

**Dec. 15** *Saturday, Vigil: Third Sunday of Advent*4:30 PM RICHARD MOSKEL, ANNIV. - ST.H  
(WIFE, JANICE)5:00 PM EDWARD SZYMANOWSKI - ST.P  
& DEBRA (SZYMANOWSKI) MCINTOSH  
(WIFE & MOTHER, GLORIA)**Dec. 16** *Third Sunday of Advent*

9:00 AM DOROTHY WITKOWSKI (JUDY PENTZ) - ST.H

10:30 AM FLORENCE LAPLACA - ST.P  
(MR. & MRS. TONY VIGANO)**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**12/08** 3:30 PM Confessions - St.H

4:30 PM Confessions - St.P

**12/09** 9:00 AM Rel. Ed. K thru 6 - Holy Rosary**12/11** 11:00 AM Food Pantry - PR**12/12** 12:00 PM A.A. - PR

7:00 PM RCIA - R

**12/15** 3:30 PM Confessions - St.H

4:30 PM Confessions - St.P

**12/16** 9:00 AM Rel. Ed. K thru 6 - Holy Rosary

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

***A Moment of Reflection***

Reading I: Baruch 5:1-9

Reading II: Psalm 126:1-6

Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11



Gospel: Luke 3:1-6

Speaking to the exiled people in Babylon, Baruch tells them that they have lost their freedom because of their infidelity to God, but he also promises them a joy-filled future. Paul encourages the Philippians to continue to be preparing for the second coming. In Luke's Gospel, he has John the Baptist telling the people to prepare for God's salvation. Advent is a time for prayerful listening. How are you waiting, preparing, and observing this Advent? What "good work" do you pray that God "complete" in you?

***Second Sunday of Advent*****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**