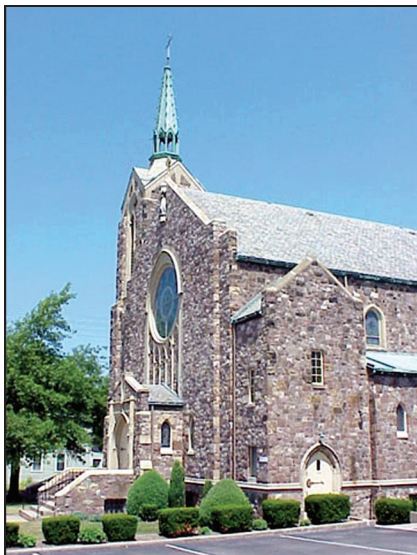


# *Saint Hedwig Saint Patrick*

*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**

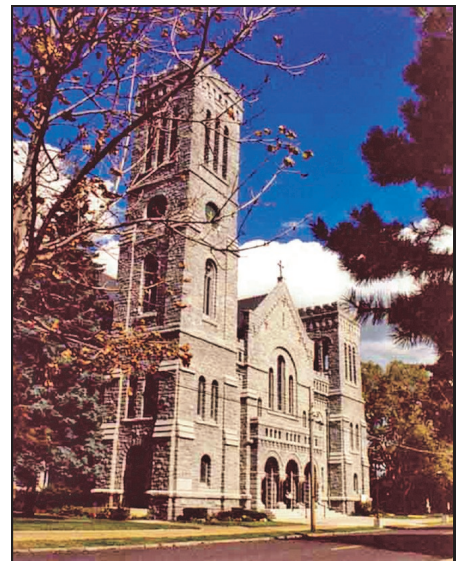
**Holy Day**

**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.***



Today is the Third Sunday of Advent and we hear first from the prophet Isaiah. This marvelous poetry was addressed to a people in exile who were experiencing the destruction of their temple and their nations. But these

soothing words are addressed to all who seek peace and justice. Today is also called Gaudete Sunday ("gaudete" means "rejoice"), and in the past the priest wore pink vestments. In that context, Isaiah announces the arrival of our God and all nature responds. This is one of those incredibly comforting passages in Scripture. Read it and reflect on it.

Our second reading from the Letter of James is the only time we read from him this year as he asks us to sound a note of patience. Our first reading spoke of future realities as if they were now; and James is tempering our enthusiasm with a call for patience using the image of the farmer patiently waiting for spring. Even in the darkness of winter, the farmer knows that spring will eventually come. James' audience anticipated the second coming of Christ during its lifetime and the delay caused a great crisis of faith for some. James urges them to imitate the patient farmer. This particular letter is not included in the Protestant Bible as it is called the "Catholic Epistle." Much of it is about the hierarchical structure of the church which was rejected by the Protestants at the time of the Reformation.

Our gospel is from Matthew and we hear of John in prison sending emissaries to Jesus to see if he is the Chosen One. Jesus responds by quoting Isaiah, verses that John would know well. He is saying that if these signs are the retinue of the Messiah, then surely the Messiah is here. John's disciples depart satisfied that Jesus is the Chosen One. The second part of the gospel is even more remarkable because nowhere else does Jesus speak of anyone as highly as he does of John. His voice is filled with indignation and disappointment as he asks rhetorical questions "What did you go out to see?" and "Why did you go out?" It is clearly obvious that Jesus has a great deal of affection and love for his cousin. He never heaps such praise on another person in all four of the gospels.

Christian baptism rates are falling in the United States and the number of Catholic baptisms has

dropped by more than 20% in the past 40 years. From over 1 million in 1970, the number of Catholic baptisms dropped to 793,103 in 2001. In 1970, 29% of all births in the U. S. resulted in a Catholic baptism; by 2010 that figure had fallen to 20%. The decline in baptisms has been attributed to an overall decline in religious affiliation, as well as a sharp increase in the number of religiously mixed marriages. The trend in declining number of baptisms runs parallel to a similar decline in the number of marriages solemnized in Catholic churches.

I'm looking for someone to take pictures at the Christmas Eve 5 PM Mass. Anyone interested? Also please remember that we ask that you not send someone early to sit on the end of a pew and reserve that pew. That is simply not fair to others who come early. Ushers will seat people in those seats. .

Bishop Persico has asked churches in the city to open facilities to accommodate the homeless during the cold winter months, but we do not have a facility. Our neighbors at the Russian Church of the Nativity are opening their Parish Center February 12-23 for the homeless and are looking for volunteers, hopefully from St. Patrick's and St. Hedwig's to help. Volunteers are needed to make/serve meals each night for about 40 people. Volunteers are also needed to take shifts overseeing the Center from 7-11 PM, 11 PM—3 AM and 3 AM—7 AM each night. Volunteers will have a training session and will be supervised the entire time. What a marvelous way for us to care for the most vulnerable in our midst. If interested, contact Daria Devlin at 460-5387 or [daria@churchofthenativity.net](mailto:daria@churchofthenativity.net).

Cal Pifer, Dennis Michalski and I met recently with the owners of Scullys, the Tap House and Sullivans to see if we can work together to bring the Irish Festival downtown. They are so happy about the concept that they are bending over backwards to help us make it happen. In fact, we will save a great deal of money because we do not have to provide security. Downtown Erie will do that, they will also give us a huge tent and a stage. We will be able to block the entire block of East Fourth Street from French to Holland because Ron & Rick Filippi are going to provide free parking for anyone who lives or parks in the

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

area. They are also donating the fencing that we will put up to secure the area. We will tent the parking lot behind the rectory and that will be the area for food. The other bars will help Calimari's with food preparation. It also gives us an opportunity to showcase the church. There is more than enough parking in the area. Last year we had slightly less than 15,000 people at the festival and if we can get that many people into downtown Erie, it benefits all of us.

Payments on pledges for our restoration of St. Patrick's Church continue to come in at a very regular rate. To date, we had pledges of \$1,125,511 and payments of \$804,140 with a balance to come in of \$321,445. Once we had the needed pledges, we had borrowed \$680,000 from the diocese to proceed with the project. We have been paying the diocese back at the rate of \$10,000 + interest each month and that balance is now down to \$580,000.

As I mentioned earlier, we have installed a security camera along the west aisle of the church and the image is beamed into a monitor in the main office of the church so that we can see when people are viewing or saying the Stations of the Cross. Someone recently broke a finger off one of the statues in the 5th Station, and we just can't take a chance of damage to these. They are much too valuable. For some reason, some people feel a need to kiss and hug the Stations and they do irreparable damage.

"The ultimate aim should be that the gospel as preached in each culture, will create a new synthesis. If we allow doubts and fears to dampen our courage, instead of being creative we will remain comfortable and make no progress. In this case, we will not take an active part in historical processes, but become mere onlookers as the Church gradually stagnates." *Pope Francis in The Joyful Gospel, his new encyclical.*

Do you know what would have happened if there had been Three Wise Women instead of Three Wise Men. The women would have: asked directions, arrived on time, helped deliver the baby, cleaned the stable, made a casserole and brought practical gifts (like diapers).

## Saint Hedwig News



Our Sanctuary Lamp burns this week in loving memory of **Robert Niedzwiecki** requested by grandchildren, Our Lady's Shrine Lamp burns in loving memory of **Peter Wernicki** and St. Joseph Shrine Lamp burns in loving memory of **Miedy & Rose Plizga** requested by Peter & Judie Pentz. Please remember in your prayers those in the hospital, nursing care and the homebound.

Our offertory for last week was **\$1,328.00; \$297.00** for Religious Retirement; **\$215.00** for Christmas Flowers; **\$118.00** for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. Thank you and God bless.

### Thank You!

We would like to thank the St. Hedwig Rosary Society for the wonderful gift of **\$6,000.00** which is the result of the generosity of the Rosary Society members and friends of St. Hedwig Parish.

### Fuel & Heat Envelopes

To help defray heating costs, the envelopes are in the packets of envelopes you receive. Your generosity is appreciated.

### Oplatki - Christmas Wafers

Oplatki will be available before and after Mass in the vestibule.

### *Christmas Schedule at St. Hedwig's*

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



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

### *Pray the Rosary Daily*

### St. Hedwig Ministry Schedule

	<u>December 21</u>	<u>December 22</u>
	Saturday	Sunday
	4:30 PM	9:00 AM
Lectors	Dolly Bargielski	Art Blum
Eucharist	Dolly Bargielski	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 last weekend was **\$7,937.32**, and **\$700.00** from online giving for a total of **\$8,639.32**. **Religious Retirement donations were \$1,398.00**. 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 **Daphine & Vincent (Jimmy) Arduini & Norene Miller** from daughter & sister, Gloria Szymanowski; The **Food Pantry Truck** is sponsored this week in memory of **Joe Kohler, Jo Johnson & Bud Johnson** from Gary & Becky Johnson; The **Food Pantry** is sponsored in memory of **Barbara Korn** from Patrick & Barbara Rooney; in memory of **Dr. Bertl M. Weber** from William J. Carney; in memory of her **Grandparents** from Laura Reiting; in memory of **George Zack, John & Barry Jacquel, & Gary King** from Mrs. Phyllis Zack; in memory of **Deceased Family Members** from Kathleen & Eugene Polaski; in memory of **Deceased Saint Joseph Sisters & Associates** from Yvonne Gersims; in memory of **Mom's Birthday** from Barbara & John Reiting; in memory of **Jack Parris** from Rosemarie McMahon; also donations from Carrie & Joseph LaFuria, Kathleen Horan, Dr. & Mrs. Forrest Mischler, Nancy Yochim, Rev. Leon Muroski, Fr. Thomas Hoderny, the Holy Rosary Eastside Faith Foundation and Marquette Saving Bank.

## Ministry Schedule

**Saturday, December 21, 2013 at 5:00 pm**

Lector: Lynne Long

Eucharistic Ministers: Ray Fiorelli, Kay Mannino,  
Shirley Winschel

Greeters: Jane Carney, Kathleen Horan

Altar Servers: Brendan Humphrey

Ushers: Chris Lampe, Rob Oligeri, Phil Rewers

**Sunday, December 22, 2013 at 10:30 am**

Lector: Gary Drapcho

Eucharistic Ministers: Forrest Mischler,  
Mary Kearney, Charla Leemhuis

Greeters: Arlene Miller, Tim Donlin

Altar Servers: Juliette Morales, Logan Kearney

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

Offertory Counters: Bill Welsh, Cindy Welsh,  
Tim Donlin

**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 4:30 pm 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 10:10 am with organ and choir. Also trumpet and tympani.**

For all your Christmas shopping needs be sure to visit the **Trinity Gift Shop** located in the south east corner of the church! The store has religious gifts of crucifixes, cards, statues and rosary beads. We also have candles, jewelry, cookbooks, tee shirts, sweatshirts and lots of Irish items such as trinity crosses, angels, statues, plaques and small items for stocking stuffers! Also available—the book written by Msgr. Kriegel—The History of St. Patrick's. Stop in today and see for yourself!



## A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE:

The question put to Jesus in today's gospel is also put to us today: "Are you the one?" Are you the one who will give guidance to the children in your life or must they look to TV sitcoms, Face Book, videos or music lyrics for direction? Are you the one? Will you be the one?



**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.



**LITURGY INTENTIONS****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

(RAYMOND SMITH &amp; ERIC SONNTAG)

**Dec. 16** *Monday, Advent Weekday*

8:00 AM COMMUNION SERVICE

**Dec. 17** *Tuesday, Late Advent Weekday*

8:00 AM CHESTER LONCKI (HELEN DUBOWSKI)

**Dec. 18** *Wednesday, Late Advent Weekday*

8:00 AM FRANK MARIELLA, ANNIV. (FAMILY)

**Dec. 19** *Thursday, Late Advent Weekday*

8:00 AM TOM RENNELS (MARCELLA &amp; AL CRAMER)

**Dec. 20** *Friday, Late Advent Weekday*

8:00 AM ROBERT R. PURZYCKI (HARRIET PURZYCKI)

**Dec. 21** *Saturday, Vigil: Fourth Sunday of Advent*

4:30 PM JOHN GORSKI (FAMILY) - ST.H

5:00 PM MILDRED KRAUCHEN, ANNIV OF BIRTH - ST.P  
(BILL & BARBARA KRAUCHEN THOMPSON)**Dec. 22** *Fourth Sunday of Advent*

8:00 AM FORREST &amp; GERTRUDE SHORTS (FAMILY)-ST.H

9:00 AM ROBERT NIEDEWIECKI (WIFE &amp; CHILDREN)-ST.P

10:30 AM BEV HARTIGAN, ANNIV.(HUSBAND, JOHN)-ST.P

**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

**12/14** 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

**12/17** 11:00 AM Food Pantry - PR**12/18** 12:00 PM A.A. - PR**12/21** 3:30 PM Confessions - St.H

4:30 PM Confessions - St.P

**12/22** NO RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES**A Moment of Reflection**

Reading I: Isaiah 35:1-6a,10

Reading II: James 5:7-10

Gospel: Matthew 11:2-11



This Sunday our Scriptures place before us the image of Jesus, Messiah. When John sends his disciples to inquire about Jesus and his message, Jesus tells them that seeing should be believing: Look at the new life being given to the blind, the lame, the deaf, the poor, the dead. Jesus was not about bringing down a nation, but rather he was about building up the kingdom. We are the ones who give a face to the Messiah in our time, who point to his coming. How challenged are you to witness to Christ in the many value issues we face in our culture and society today?

## Ten days until Christmas!

**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