

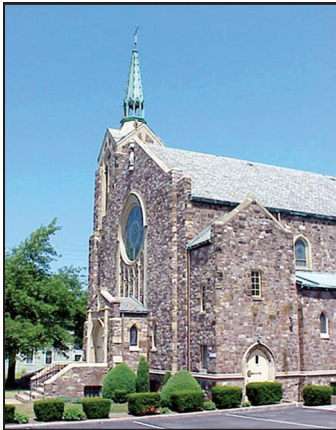
Saint Hedwig & Saint Patrick
Sister Parishes serving the
East Bay Front of Erie
Pastor

Rev. Msgr. Henry A. Kriegel

Saint Hedwig Parish

Established 1910
521 E. 3rd Street
Erie, PA 16507
(814) 454-6232

www.sainthedwigparisherie.org



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

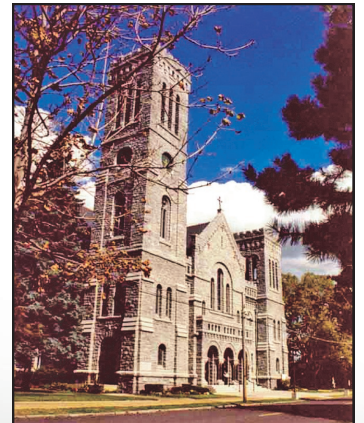
CONFESSIONS

**30 Minutes before each Saturday
Evening Mass or by appointment**

Saint Patrick Parish

Established 1837
130 East 4th Street
Erie, PA 16507
(814) 454-8085

www.saintpatrickparisherie.org





Today is the 3rd Sunday of Advent and we hear our first reading from the prophet Zephaniah. He speaks to his people around 630 BC. When David was king, Israel consisted of 12 tribes, but the nation split in 922

BC. The northern kingdom, called Israel, consisted of ten tribes, and was defeated by the Assyrians in 721 BC. The southern nation, Judah, courted the Assyrians, but then came the prophets Josiah and Zephaniah who call the people back to fidelity to their God. And today's reading is in that context. He is telling them that once they reform and live in fidelity to God, they will no longer have any reason to fear their enemies.

In our second reading, Paul, like Zephaniah, is telling the people to rejoice, knowing that God is with them. For Paul, rejoicing in God always means not just during good times, but also during bad times. He reminds the people not just to pray to God by asking for things, but also to pray in thanksgiving for all they have been given. You will notice that our readings are more and more filled with joy and hope as we get closer to Christmas.

In our gospel, we hear again from John the Baptist who last week proclaimed a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. People are listening and the first crowd to ask what they are to do are his own followers to whom he says they should share their food and clothing. Next are the tax collectors and soldiers who were hated by the people, and John tells them not to collect anything more than what is due. John makes such an impression that many who hear him think he is the Messiah, and John does everything to discourage those ideas. When John speaks of the coming of Christ he speaks of one who will judge everyone, but when Christ actually comes in Luke's gospel, he comes much more to heal, to forgive, to invite people into the kingdom.

Our Christmas schedule is a 4:30 PM Vigil Mass at St. Hedwig's on Christmas Eve and at St. Patrick's a 5 PM and a 9 PM Mass. On Christmas day, there is a 9 AM Mass at St. Hedwig's and a 10:30 PM Mass at St. Patrick's. Please be forewarned that the 5 PM Christmas Eve Mass at St. Patrick's is literally overflowing to the rafters and if you want a seat, it will be necessary for you to get there early. The 9 PM Mass is much more subdued.

There will be two reserved pews at the 5 PM Mass for the 2 families who won them in the raffle at our Irish Festival. I'll do anything to raise money for the church!!!

We will be able to return to St. Patrick's Church next weekend. The sound system we have been using at Cauley is the church sound system and that has to be taken apart and reinstalled in church. Doing this during the week is better than trying to do it on Christmas Eve.

Depending on our schedule we may continue having Mass in the rectory weekday chapel until we can get the carpet cleaned in the church's weekday chapel and everything put back together again.

I'm feeling like a little kid at Christmas with the excitement I'm experiencing anticipating your seeing the church for the first time. I think you're going to be enormously pleased. It is much more than I would have expected, and I'm certainly thrilled with it. I think of what those poor penniless Irish immigrants must have thought when they first saw this magnificent church, and now we get to see it restored to all of its glory.

All of our bills have now been paid for the Irish Festival and I'm thrilled to tell you that the parish netted \$63,000 this year!! That is up from \$36,000 the previous year. I'm grateful to Cal Pifer for his leadership as well as all of the people who volunteered. We are very fortunate that we have so many young people in the parish who are willing to help with the festival. As I mentioned to you, we're going to incur a debt with the restoration largely because we had to do so much work on the exterior and the roof. I estimate our debt will be somewhere between \$200,000 and \$250,000, but we can use the festival proceeds each year to pay that down and have it paid for in less than five years.

For New Year's, there will be a 5:30 PM Vigil Mass at St. Hedwig's and a 9 AM Mass at St. Patrick's on New Year's Day. There will not be a 12:05 PM Mass on New Year's.

Please keep your pledge payments coming as I have to make a monthly \$10,000 payment to the diocese for the first year while the drive goes on and then we'll pay \$50,000 a year plus the interest.

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

Jeff Rouse, the artist who restored the Stations of the Cross and who spoke at our 175th dinner, is here this weekend and trained a small crew of parishioners to clean the Stations. The first thing he did was comment on what a difference with the new lighting. Not only do the Stations pop out at you, but you can very clearly see the canvas painting on the back wall where it was very difficult to see in the past.

Our new lighting panel in the sacristy has several pre-set buttons whereby, for example, we can light just the Stations of the Cross or we can hit one button and light the entire church at once. We will have a setting for the way we dim the lights at Christmas while we sing Silent Night, etc.

Kudos to St. Patrick parishioners Bill & Patty Gloeckler who chaired the very successful recent Barber Center Christmas Ball. Last year's was chaired by Tim & Claire Wachter whose parents, Dick & Mary Beth Wachter, are St. Patrick parishioners. Anything any of us can do to support the incredible good work of the Barber Center is well worth our efforts. This organization provides hope and new life for more people than we will ever know.

There is a new book which features St. Patrick's Church rather prominently: *The Work of William Ginther, Ecclesiastical Architect* by Anthony Valeriano. Ginther designed St. Patrick's Church. The book is available through Amazon.

Some more bulletin bloopers: "Wednesday, the Ladies Society will meet. Mrs. Jones will sing 'Put Me in My Little Bed,' accompanied by the pastor. "Miss Charlotte Mason sang, 'I Will Not Pass This Way Again,' giving obvious pleasure to the congregation." "Please place your donation in the envelope along with the deceased person you want remembered." "Our service tonite will close with 'The Little Drops of Water.' One of the ladies will start quietly, and the rest of the congregation will join in." "The pastor will preach his farewell message after which the choir will sing 'Break Forth With Joy'." "At tonight's evening service, the sermon topic will be 'What is Hell?' Come early and listen to our choir practice."

A Moment of Reflection

Reading I: Zephaniah 3:14-18a

Reading II: Isaiah 12:2-6
Phillipians 4:4-7

Gospel: Luke 3:10-18



So, what should we do? The crowds ask John this question. Tax collectors and soldiers ask him the same question. He responds to all: Share, live justly, live in right relationship. What does this mean for us today? The sharing of gifts is the hallmark of Christmas. For us, as a people of faith, this is our joy of giving. When we share, when we live justly, when we live in right relationship—this is how we preach good news to the people. Besides the things you give each other, what do you want for Christmas this year for your family? What do you want most to give to others?

Holy Trinity Annual Christmas Market

The Christmas market will take place on Friday, December 21st from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. and Saturday, December 22nd from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. If you didn't have a chance to pre-order, don't worry! Stop by and pick up some delicious items for the Christmas holiday - homemade pierogi, Polish sweet breads and nut rolls, blessed opłatki, and homemade cookies.

Some supplies will be limited.

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.



A Family Perspective

Today's gospel tells us to SHARE! This Christmas resist the pressure to give token gifts. Instead, use those funds to give necessities to the poor. If our impoverished brothers and sisters are not on our gift list, we've missed the point of Christmas.



Saint Patrick News

Parish Stewardship: Our offertory for last weekend was **\$4,685.00, and \$660.00 for Religious Retirement.** 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 Restoration Fund** in memory of **Betty Flanagan** by Atty. Mary Alfieri Richmond; The **Food Pantry Truck** is sponsored this week in memory of **Bev Hartigan** from Husband, John; The **Food Pantry** in memory of **Harriet, Evelyn & Eldred Shorts** by Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Doyle.

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 22, 2012 at 5:00 pm

Lector: Jay Habas

Eucharistic Ministers: Carol Habas, Kay Mannino,
Kathy Sertz

Greeters: Tom & Linda Brunner

Altar Servers: **NEEDED**

Ushers: Chris Lampe, Rob Oligeri

Sunday, December 23, 2012 at 10:30 am

Lector: Ed Smith

Eucharistic Ministers: Dario Cipriani, Mary Daly
Michelle Tortorelli

Greeters: Charla Leemhuis, Norann Brugger

Altar Servers: Juliette Morales

Ushers: John Purvis, Luke Purvis,

John Maloney, Randy Pristello

Offertory Counters: Dario Cipriani, Donna Cipriani
Gail Smith

Thank you to everyone who volunteered to fill the vacant ministry slots. We are still in need of greeters and ushers at the 5:00 Mass on Christmas Eve and 1 Eucharistic Minister and 2 ushers at the 9:00 Mass on Christmas Eve. We need an altar server, 2 greeters and 4 ushers at the Christmas Day Mass at 10:30. Please call the office if you can fill any of these spots. 454-8085. Thanks again for any help you may offer.

Saint Hedwig News



We offer our sincerest condolences to the family of **Patricia Ann Buszek** whose funeral was celebrated on December 5. May her soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace, Amen.

Our Sanctuary Lamp burns this week in loving memory of **Richard Moskel** requested by his wife Janice, Our Lady's Shrine Lamp burns for **Poor Souls** 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.

Our offertory for last week was **\$3303.00** and Religious Retirement **\$234.00.** Thank you and God Bless.

Winner of the Rosary Society Christmas Wreath Raffle was Jean Gorski.

Christmas Schedule at St. Hedwig's

Confessions (Sat. Dec. 22) 3:30pm

Christmas Eve Mass 4:30pm

Christmas Day 9:00am

New Year's Eve

(Monday, Dec. 31) 5:30pm

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

Advent

"In His love Christ has filled us with joy...so that when He comes He may find us watching in prayer, our hearts filled with wonder and praise. Like nature, the spiritual life abhors a vacuum. If the spiritual life is not filled with the light and life of the Spirit, it will naturally be filled with the decay of darkness. Prayer, wonder (awe before the Divine), and praise are gifts worth seeking. By their nature, these gifts work to dispel any cloak of sadness and darkness.

Saint Hedwig Ministry Schedule

	<u>December 22</u>	<u>December 23</u>
	Saturday	Sunday
	4:30 PM	9:00 AM
Lector	Ron Helminski	Barb Juchno
Eucharist	Ron Helminski	Sharon Zielinski
Ushers	Nancy Widomski	Art Blum
	Michelle Moskel	Pete Pentz
Altar Servers	Charlotte Mabie	Nick Hayes

LITURGY INTENTIONS**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)**Dec. 17 Monday, Late Advent Weekday****8:00 AM** ANN KRUSZEWICZ
(ST. HEDWIG ROSARY SOCIETY MEMBERS)**Dec. 18 Tuesday, Late Advent Weekday****8:00 AM** FRANK MARIELLA, ANNIV. (FAMILY)**Dec. 19 Wednesday, Late Advent Weekday****8:00 AM** MARTIN MIKESKA (ROSE NIEDZWIECKI)**Dec. 20 Thursday, Late Advent Weekday****8:00 AM** MARIAN BORKOWSKI
(DAUGHTER, PAT ANTONOPLOS)**Dec. 21 Friday, St. Peter Canisius, Priest and Doctor
of the Church****8:00 AM** MILDRED KRAUCHEN, ANNIV. OF BIRTH
BILL & BARBARA (KRAUCHEN) THOMPSON**Dec. 22 Saturday, Vigil: Fourth Sunday of Advent****4:30 PM** JOHN GORSKI (FAMILY) - ST.H**5:00 PM** CHARLOTTE SERTZ (FAMILY) - ST.P**Dec. 23 Fourth Sunday of Advent****9:00 AM** FABIN & ARUSIEWICZ FAMILIES - ST.H
(FABIN CHILDREN)**10:30 AM** BEV HARTIGAN, ANNIV. (EILEEN HAAS)-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**12/15** 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

12/18 11:00 AM Food Pantry - PR**12/19** 12:00 PM A.A. - PR**12/22** 3:30 PM Confessions - St.H

4:30 PM Confessions - St.P



THIRD 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