

Fourth Sunday of Advent - December 20, 2015



Advent Wreath
St. Patrick

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: Tuesday 8AM—3:30PM

From the Pastor's Desk.....

Today is the Fourth Sunday of Advent and we hear first from the prophet Micah. In the gospels, Jesus says that the last will be first and the least will be the greatest. Such is the fate of Bethlehem, the least of the cities of Judah, but the future birthplace of Israel's Messiah. It was also the birth and coronation place of King David, from whose line the Messiah would come. This prophecy of Micah is cited in Matthew's gospel account in answer to King Herod's question about where the Messiah is to be born. Together with other prophecies, this text kept alive the longing for the coming of Christ, God's anointed who would rule over Israel, establishing peace and ruling his people like a good and faithful shepherd. Remember that Jerusalem had been conquered and the Temple destroyed leaving the people with little hope for the future. These words would have brought great comfort.

The author of Hebrews (unknown) draws a sharp contrast between the once-for-always sacrifice of Christ and the repeated sacrifices of the old law. He notes that sacrifice and offerings of old do not please the Lord.

There are powerful human as well as theological dynamics at work in today's gospel. Luke is clearly demonstrating the power of God at work in and controlling the events that surround Jesus' birth. In Mary's greeting, Elizabeth hears more than the sound of her cousin. Filled with the Holy Spirit, she senses the arrival of her Lord, a title that, in this gospel, Jesus receives even before his birth. Mary's salutation even rouses the child in Elizabeth's womb who seems to leap with joy, establishing an early and intimate link between these two cousins, whose destinies will remain closely aligned. We will soon hear that Zachariah, Elizabeth's husband, was struck dumb because he refused to believe; but Mary is here

presented as THE believer. She trusts completely and totally and because of that faith she is forever blessed.

Christmas Masses will be on Christmas Eve at 5 PM and 9 PM and on Christmas Day at 8 AM and 10:30 AM at St. Patrick's. At St. Hedwig's there will be a Christmas Eve Mass at 4 PM.

Friday of this week is Christmas. The parish office will close at noon on Christmas Eve and will not reopen until Monday, January 4th. I will be here the entire time and if there is any emergency, please feel free to call me on my phone at 454-4032.

Once again, we will tithe 10% of our Christmas collection and make that tithe a gift to St. Martin's Center to help them as they care for the poor and the needy in our area.

I must thank you also for your generosity in taking the stars off our Christmas tree and purchasing gifts for children whose parents cannot provide for them. We participate in this program again with St. Martin's Center. They will supply 1,300 gifts to children this year. Last year at St. Patrick's, we had 75 stars and all were taken. This year we had 150 stars and they were all taken. I think my greatest pride in being your pastor is the way you care for the poor. You finance and staff a weekly Food Pantry that supplies up to 900 families a week with food. We sponsor an overflow Homeless Shelter in February. Last year we hosted 50 people; this year they tell us we will need to host 75 people. In addition, some of you volunteer at Emmaus Soup Kitchen; some of you prepare a Sunday evening dinner for up to 21 men at Saint Patrick's Haven, etc. I feel incredibly proud of the way you respond to Pope Francis' call that we care for the poor and the needy among us. We have an incredibly beautiful church, but the real beauty of Saint Patrick's is its care and

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

concern for the poor.

Next weeks bulletin will contain the insert listing the Christmas flower memorials at both parishes. Thank you for your generosity in this. I also want to thank the parishioners at each parish who take the time and talent to decorate the two churches.

As you know, we get some incredible crowds of people for Christmas Masses, most particularly the Christmas Eve 5 PM Mass. There really isn't even standing room only at that Mass it is so crowded. I only ask that people not send someone from a family to save seats for others. That isn't fair. We need to allow people seats as they come in.

We will also have additional Eucharistic Ministers at that Mass. In addition to the regular ones in the front of church, there will be two additional ministers distributing communion in front of the confessionals in the back of church and two more ministers distributing communion in the balcony.

Music for the 5 PM will include the choir, horn, pipe organ, kettle drums and bagpipes. The 9 PM Christmas Eve and the 10:30 on Christmas will have the same except no bagpipes.

We're finally done this weekend with the 2016 weddings at St. Patrick's. We start off fresh with one on January 2nd and go right back into the cycle. I'm just grateful that so many of our young people want to be married in the church.

I'm in need of additional lectors as well as some Eucharistic Ministers. You can designate what Mass you want to be assigned, but could I ask that you consider helping the parish in this way. I would particularly welcome young people. You are able to do these roles once you have been confirmed. Call the rectory office if interested and someone will contact you to prepare you and show you the process.

Priest: "Do you spend much time wondering about the hereafter?" Old-timer: "I'll say I do. Whenever I find myself in front of the refrigerator with the door open, I have to ask myself 'What am I here after?'"

Saint Hedwig News



*Wesoły Świąt Bożego Narodzenia!
Merry Christmas!*

The unborn prophet cannot speak but he moves his mother to speak for him. She affirms that the unborn Christ is already her Lord. Jesus is Lord from the womb. Since he is the Prince of Peace, this gives credence to the late Mother Teresa's contention that there can be no peace in the world while we are at war with the child in the womb. Every child is a reflection of the Christ-child.



Our Sanctuary Lamp burns this week in loving memory of **Amanda Juchno** requested by the Juchno family.



Our Lady's Shrine Lamp burns in loving memory of **Robert "Bob" Osmer** requested by his wife Pauline.

St. Joseph Shrine Lamp burns in loving memory of **Albert "Micky" Mabie** requested by his wife Charlotte.

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

Due to early publishing deadlines the weekly offertory for 12/13/15 will be reported in the 12/27/15 bulletin.

Masses celebrated at Priest Retirement Home

Deceased St. Hedwig Rosary Society Members (Rosary members), Frances "Pat" Trojanowski (Joe & Mary Lison), Stefania Tyczkowski (Family), Diane Lombardo (Family), Chet Loncki (John & Gretchen Gorski), Peter Joseph Dubowski (Peter & Judy Pentz), Arusiewicz & Zebrowski families (Angie Zebrowski).

Thank You!

Thank you so much for the honor given at the Christmas Party from the parish and our Rosary Society for the acknowledgement of the 51 years as organist of St. Hedwig Parish.

Lou Ann Nowosielski

Saint Hedwig Ministry Schedule

	<u>December 24</u>	<u>December 26</u>
	Thursday	Saturday
	4:00 PM	4:00 PM
Lector	Bobby Sulecki	Tom Kurpiewski
Eucharist	Tom Zielinski	Charlotte Mabie
Ushers	Ray Nowosielski	Ray Nowosielski
	Tom Kurpiewski	Tom Kurpiewski
Altar Server	Charlotte Mabie	Nowosielski family



Saint Patrick News



Nollaig Shona Dhuit!

Celtic – Happy Christmas

Ministry Schedule

Christmas Eve - Thursday December 24, 2015 at 5:00 PM

Lector: Ed Smith

Eucharistic Ministers: Kathy Sertz,
Cyndi Pristello, Shirley Winschel,
Forrest Mischler, Kay Mannino,
Carol Habas, Jay Habas

Greeters: Kathy & Jim Sertz, **2 NEEDED**

Altar Servers: Gemma & Emilio Filippi, Colin Hudson

Ushers: Randy Pristello, Chris Lampe, **6 NEEDED**

Christmas Eve - Thursday December 24, 2015 at 9:00 PM

Lector: Ryan Palm

Eucharistic Ministers: Mary Beth Pinto,
Mary Williams, **1 NEEDED**

Greeters: **2 NEEDED**

Altar Servers: **2 NEEDED**

Ushers: John Purvis, Luke Purvis, **2 NEEDED**

Christmas Day - Friday December 25, 2015 at 8 AM

Lector: Angie Kontur

Eucharistic Ministers: Lynne Long

Greeters: Angie Kontur, **1 NEEDED**

Altar Servers: **1 NEEDED**

Ushers: **4 NEEDED**

Christmas Day - Friday December 25, 2015 at 10:30 AM

Lector: Dario Cipriani

Eucharistic Ministers: Dario Cipriani, Ray Fiorelli,
Charla Leehmuis

Greeters: Charla Leehmuis, Mary Anne Ashworth

Altar Servers: **2 NEEDED**

Ushers: **4 NEEDED**

New Year's Day - Friday January 1, 2016 at 9:00 AM

Eucharistic Minister: Chris Sanner



Christmas at St. Patrick's 2015

Christmas Eve

5:00 PM - FAMILY MASS

Prelude begins at 4:40 pm with bagpipes,
piano, horn, tympani and organ.

9:00 PM - MASS

Prelude begins at 8:25 PM with the
Christmas Choir Cantata

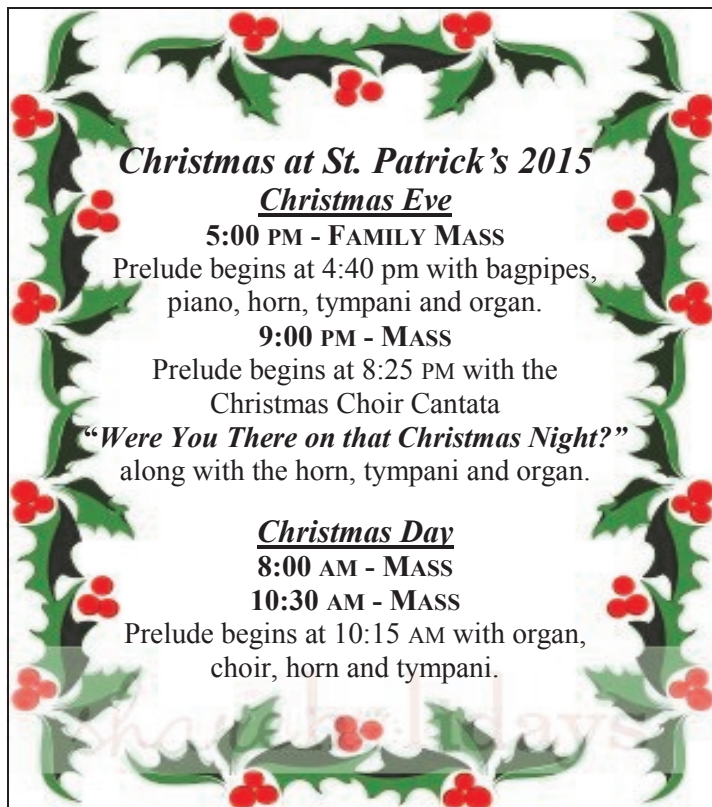
"Were You There on that Christmas Night?"
along with the horn, tympani and organ.

Christmas Day

8:00 AM - MASS

10:30 AM - MASS

Prelude begins at 10:15 AM with organ,
choir, horn and tympani.



Ministry Schedule

Saturday, December 26, 2015 at 5:00 pm

Lector: Mary Pat Schlaudecker

Eucharistic Ministers: Ray Fiorelli, Shirley Winschel,
Kathy Sertz

Greeters: Mary Anne Ashworth, Mary Tellers

Altar Servers: **NEEDED**

Ushers: Chris Lampe, Rob Oligeri, Phil Rewers

Sunday, December 27, 2015 at 10:30 am

Lector: Dario Cipriani

Eucharistic Ministers: Cyndi Pristello, Kathleen Pae,
Michelle Tortorelli

Greeters: **2 NEEDED**

Altar Servers: Juliette Morales, Sarah Pristello

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

Offertory Counters: Dario Cipriani, Donna Cipriani,
Gail Smith

Marriage Moments

(Winter Solstice) The winter solstice brings the longest night of the year. Warm it with candlelight. For some couples, however, dark nights bring depression. If you are among those who are currently struggling in your marriage, turn to the power of prayer as one source.



Family Perspectives

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Mary was excited about her first pregnancy and rushed to tell her cousin. Sadly children are often seen as a liability, "another mouth to feed" or an "obstacle to my career." It is said "Christmas is for children." It is more accurate to say "Christmas is for adults to appreciate the gift of children!"





*The Sanctuary Lamp burns in memory
of Elizabeth Sonntag and
Grandson, Phil Sonntag
from the Masek Family*

LITURGY INTENTIONS

Dec. 19 *Saturday, Vigil: Fourth Sunday of Advent*

4:00 PM TED MIELNIK (IRENE & FAMILY) - ST.H

5:00 PM FRANK MARIELLA, ANNIV. (FAMILY) - ST.P

Dec. 20 *Fourth Sunday of Advent*

8:00 AM MILDRED KRAUCHEN, ANNIV. OF BIRTH
(BILL & BARBARA KRAUCHEN THOMPSON)

10:30 AM BETTY SONNTAG, ANNIV. OF BIRTH - ST.P
(DAVID & LISA DEMARCO)

Dec. 21 *Monday, Saint Peter Canisius, Priest and
Doctor of the Church*

8:00 AM COMMUNION SERVICE

Dec. 22 *Tuesday, Late Advent Weekday*

8:00 AM HELEN ZIELINSKI
(ST. HEDWIG ROSARY SOCIETY)

Dec. 23 *Wednesday, Saint John of Kanty, Priest*

8:00 AM CHARLOTTE NIEWOLAK
(ST. HEDWIG ROSARY SOCIETY)

Dec. 24 *Thursday, Christmas Eve*

4:00 PM JOHN & JEAN GORSKI (JIM & FAMILY) - ST.H

5:00 PM ELIZABETH SONNTAG & GRANDSON, PHIL
SONNTAG - ST.P
(ALEXANDRA & JACQUELINE MASEK)

9:00 PM JOHN & KATHLEEN LOREI - ST.P
(VINNIE & ANN HALUPCZYNSKI)

Dec. 25 *Friday, The Nativity of the Lord*

8:00 AM MILDRED DEDIONISIO (BILL YEZZI) - ST.P

10:30 AM AURELIA "IRISH" ARDERY (FAMILY) - ST.P

Dec. 26 *Saturday, Vigil: The Holy Family of Jesus,
Mary and Joseph*

4:00 PM ALBERT (MICKEY) MABIE - ST.H
(CHARLES MABIE & FAMILY)

5:00 PM TIMOTHY KINDLE (LAMPE FAMILY) - ST.P

Dec. 27 *The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph*

8:00 AM HELEN LARocca, ANNIV. OF BIRTH - ST.P
(ANGIE KONTUR)

10:30 AM NAN HELD - ST.P
(GARY & MARY PASQUALICCHINO)

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

12/19 3:30 PM Confessions - St.H

4:30 PM Confessions - St.P

12/20 NO RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

12/22 11:00 AM Food Pantry - PR

12/23 12:00 PM A.A. - PR

12/24 OFFICE CLOSING AT NOON

12/26-01/03 OFFICE CLOSED

12/26 3:30 PM Confessions - St.H

4:30 PM Confessions - St.P

01/04 OFFICE REOPENS

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 Truck is sponsored this week by
Kathy Alessi

Sr. Mary Pascal Food Pantry

- ◆ In memory of **David Blinzer** from Kay Blinzer
- ◆ In memory of **Jim Fitzgibbon** from Dr. & Mrs. Leo Fitzgibbon
- ◆ In memory of the **Veterans** from Mr. & Mrs. Karl Kelm, Jr.
- ◆ In memory of the **McGraw & Lynch families** from Dr. Mary Lee & Mr. Daniel Lynch
- ◆ In memory of **Geraldine Ciacchini and Dr. Quentin Orlando** from Mr. & Mrs. Q. Gregory Orlando

Also donations from:

Dr. & Mrs. Forrest Mischler, Mary Ellen Demyanovich,
Christa Blose, Mr. & Mrs. John D. Purvis and
Mr. & Mrs. Mark Sargent

A Special Thank You!!!
to **PANERA BREAD** for their generous donations every
week to the Food Pantry.

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. If you know of anyone in a Long Term Care Facility needing conversation or a friendly visit, please contact the Parish Office at 454-8085.

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.



Stewardship

Due to early publishing deadlines, the offertory for the week of 12/13/15 will be published in the 12/27/15 bulletin..

ST. MARTIN'S CENTER SHINING STARS GIFT TREE 2015



NEW PARISHIONER REGISTRATION FORM

☐ Saint Hedwig

☐ Saint Patrick

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____

STREET: _____ CITY: _____ ZIP: _____

E-MAIL: _____ BIRTHDATE: _____

CHILD _____ BIRTHDATE: _____

CHILD _____ BIRTHDATE: _____

PLEASE CIRCLE ONE BELOW:

New Registration

Change of Address

Moving

Want Envelopes

PLEASE DROP THIS INFORMATION INTO Offertory Basket or mail to Rectory

Advertiser of the Week:

We thank **ORLANDO FAMILY DENTISTRY**

3235 West 38th Street, Erie, PA

814-833-8860

For advertising in our parish bulletin.