

The Baptism of the Lord
January 12, 2020



"The Baptism of the Lord"

Stained Glass Window

St. Patrick Church

photo by

Tom Golab

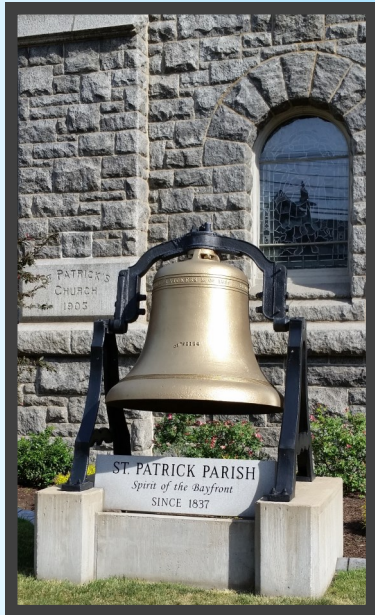
Saint Patrick Parish

Serving the East Bayfront of Erie since 1837

Daily Mass: Monday-Thursday 8 AM

Saturday Vigil Mass: 5 PM

Sunday: 8 AM & 10:30 AM



Saint Patrick Parish

130 East 4th Street
Erie, PA 16507

Monsignor Henry A. Kriegel—Pastor

Janine Carch Sliker—Office Manager

Ann Halupczynski—Director of Finances

Tom Golab—Sacristan

Mark Alloway—Organist, Music Director

Jan Gervasi—Wedding Coordinator

Anne Causgrove—Baptismal Preparation

*Mary Pat Schlaudecker—Archivist,
Genealogy research*

Phone: 814-454-8085

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Email: stpat@neo.rr.com

Website: www.saintpatrickparisherie.org

Office Hours:

Monday-Thursday: 8:30 AM-4:00 PM

MASS SCHEDULE:

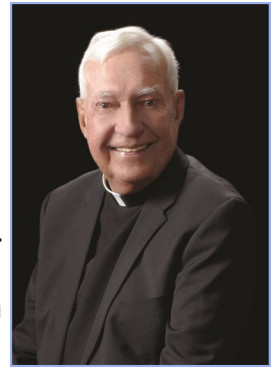
Daily Mass: Monday-Thursday: 8:00 AM (CHAPEL)

Saturday Mass: 5:00 PM

Sunday Mass: 8:00 AM & 10:30 AM

Holy Day Mass: 12:00 PM

From the Pastor's Desk...



Today is the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. In four beautiful poems, the prophet Isaiah describes a mysterious servant whom God chooses and sustains. At times the identity of the servant seems to be an individual, perhaps Isaiah himself or the Messiah to come; at other times it appears to refer to the people as a whole. Whoever the servant will be, he will be the instrument of bringing God's justice to the earth. Today's reading is the first of these servant songs. In the first part of the poem, God presents the servant to an audience that may include both the exiles and the oppressor nations. Though the nations had treated God's people with harsh injustice, the servant will bring about justice in a gentle way. He will act patiently, neither breaking those who are bruised, nor quenching the faint light of those barely surviving. Then God addresses the servant directly, grasping him by the hand. The servant is to be a sign of God's covenant with Israel and at the same time be a light to the nations.

The story of Peter and the Roman centurion Cornelius is a multi-scene drama that begins with Cornelius' vision in Caesarea, followed by Peter's vision in Joppa. Today's reading is from the next scene in which Peter enters Cornelius' house. That Peter, a faithful Jew, would enter the house of the Gentile Cornelius is surprising and unlawful for him. Peter explains, "God has shown me that I should not call any person profane or unclean." Then Peter addresses all of those who are there telling them that God shows no partiality. He relates his own changed understanding and behavior. He explains that after John's preaching of baptism, Jesus himself was baptized. Peter's reference to baptism is the springboard for what will happen in the next drama. All of which prepare the way for the baptism of Cornelius and his household.

The first scene in which the adult Jesus appears in Matthew's Gospel is at the Jordan River. After he calls them to repent, John changes his tone to tell them of a mightier one coming after him. It is at this point that Jesus comes to be baptized. Stunned, John at first refuses, since Jesus has

From the Pastor's Desk continued...

no need to repent, why should he be baptized? In Jesus' first words in Matthew's gospel, he answers that his baptism is to fulfill all righteousness. *Fulfill* and *righteousness* are thematic in Matthew. The entirety of Jesus' life is the fulfillment of God's plan revealed in the Old Testament. His baptism will fulfill all righteousness, meaning that it will manifest the right relationship between God and humanity. Though Jesus has no need to repent, he stands in solidarity with all humanity that does need to repent. Then the heavens open emphasizing the divine presence. The words of the voice recall Isaac, David and Isaiah's suffering servant. These figures foreshadowed God's beloved Son.

As is the case almost everywhere, the church in Belgium released data showing that in the past 10 years, baptisms have decreased by 12 percent, confirmations by 4 percent and marriages by 14 percent.

What I am finding is that fewer and fewer of our young people are being confirmed. Why we do confirmations in 11th grade is beyond my understanding. That is a time when the kids are incredibly busy with school, extracurricular activities, etc. and then we try to impose confirmation classes on them. They are simply opting not to be confirmed. Pope Francis has asked the world's bishops to move confirmation to the day of First Communion, but the American bishops are resisting him and not doing it. Several dioceses out west have done it, but that is about all. Confirmation really belongs with baptism; it was only separated in the 10th century. The Orthodox Christians keep it with baptism. I would guess that about 40% of the couples I marry today at least one of them has not been confirmed.

For the first time in more than three decades, a majority of Americans favor life imprisonment without parole over the death penalty as punishment for murder. Both Pope John Paul II and Pope Benedict XVI strongly condemned the death penalty saying that we have no right to put anyone to death. Not only has Pope Francis reiterated their concern, but he is considering making condemnation of the death penalty part of the catechism of the church.

Renowned Scripture scholar Dominican Father Benedict Viviano of the University of Fribourg, Germany, has put forth a theory that there were

women among the Magi. Matthew's gospel does not ascribe a number, gender or royal status to the Wise Ones from the East. The traditional number of three emerges from the fact that there were three gifts and the idea that the Magi were kings did not emerge until the fifth century. Viviano bases his reasoning on the background story of the Queen of Sheba, with her quest for Israelite royal wisdom and her three gifts fit for a king. For Matthew, the Magi are learned and wise foreigners who come to pay homage to Jesus, whose spiritual power and wisdom surpassed their own. Women's diverse leadership, so rich in spiritual gifts is often viewed as "foreign" by male leaders of the Catholic church.

Parishioner Atty. Andy Sisinni each year writes all the attorneys and judges in town and asks each to donate \$60 to buy gift cards to Walmart which he then gives me to give to St. Martin's Center. This year there were over 90 gift cards, and St. Martin's Center tells me they would not get through the year without them. It's very generous of our attorneys and judges.

There is an envelope in your January packet of envelopes if you wish to make a contribution to help cover the costs of the Homeless Shelter which we will staff for a week in February. That week costs approximately \$7,000, anything you can contribute will greatly help. We pay \$1,000 to the Russian Church of the Nativity for the use of their Social Center; we pay \$750 to the Methodist Alliance which oversees the shelters and moves the cots, etc. every week to a different site. We also this year are going to have an off-duty policeman there every night from 7 PM to 7 AM so that we do not have any of the problems we had last year. Many of the homeless have mental health issues and can easily get out of control, as happened on several occasions last year. I'm grateful to Angie Kontur for her leadership in this.

Nine year old Jeremy's mother asked him what he had learned in Sunday school. "Well, mom, our teacher told us how God sent Moses behind enemy lines on a rescue mission to lead the Israelites out of Egypt. When he got to the Red Sea, he and his engineers built a pontoon bridge and all the people walked to safety. They he used his walkie-talkie to radio headquarters and called in an air strike. They sent in bombers to blow up the bridge and the Israelites were all saved." "Now, Jeremy, is that really what your teacher taught you?" "Well, no, mom, but if I told it the way the teacher did, you'd never believe it."



Saint Patrick News



Stewardship

Offertory Collection Christmas 2019 \$ 31,370.00

Offertory Collection 12/29/2019 \$ 11,055.00

Online Giving 1,836.00

Total Income \$ 12,891.00

Offertory Collection 1/5/22020 \$ 14,428.00

Online Giving 1,836.00

Total Income \$ 16,264.00

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 memory and honor the donations were made:

Sr. Mary Pascal Food Pantry

Donations made to the Food Pantry were made in memory of:

- ♦ **David Thorpe** from Joseph & Kimberly Bohrer
- ♦ **Paul & Norma Causgrove, Mary Ann & John Mahoney** from Paul & Anne Causgrove
- ♦ **Debbie Dahlkemper** from Mary Ellen Dahlkemper
- ♦ **Forrest & Gertrude Shorts** from Judy Freiwald
- ♦ **Richard S. Miller** from Lynne Miller
- ♦ **Jack & Dorothy McManus, Oreste & Luigina Pasquale, Ted & Madeline Hunkle** from Luigi & Sue Ellen Pasquale
- ♦ **Luke** from John & Cynthia Purvis
- ♦ **Our parents & sister** from John & Barbara Reitinger
- ♦ **Jim Kaveney, Andy Samsel** from Michael & Jo-Anne Samsel
- ♦ **Pat & Jack Wilson** from Mark & Susan Sullivan
- ♦ **Vitron & Wenstran families** from Bobbie Vitron
- ♦ **Stephen & Dorothy Batcho, Al & Helen Wolf, Bill Detisch, Sandy Chase** from Gerald & Patricia Wolf

Also donations from:

Daniel Amendola, Barbara Brairton, Ken & Jan Gervasi, James & Melanie Gillespie, Bill & Patty Gloeckler, Dennis & Marie Gritzer, Joanne Homicz, Phil & Judy Kelly, Joe & Heather Kimball, Ken & Pat-tie Marchant, Paul & Deborah Manzi, Joe & Judy Pitetti and Dave & Julie Sanner,

**Special Thank You!!!
to PANERA BREAD &
EDIBLE ARRANGEMENT'S HARBORCREEK**



*The Sanctuary Lamp
burns in loving memory of
Catherine (Kathy) Schley
from Maureen Slupski*

Ministry Schedule

Saturday, January 18, 2019 at 5:00 pm

Lector: Bill Power

Eucharistic Ministers: Carolyn Power, Bill Power,
Alex Vinesky, Kaleigh Vinesky, James Salter

Greeters: Jane Carney, Kathleen Horan

Ushers: Chris Lampe, Rob Oligeri, Phil Rewers,
Jim Sertz

Sunday, January 19, 2019 at 8:00 am

Lector: Lisa Straub

Eucharistic Ministers: Tom Golab, Lisa Straub,
Kathleen McCabe, Barb Fischer

Ushers: John Maloney, Chuck Straub, Mike Nies,
1 NEEDED

Sunday, January 19, 2019 at 10:30 am

Lector: Ed Smith

Eucharistic Ministers: Ed Smith, Kathleen Pae,
Mary Kearney, Candy Bukowski, Colleen Welch

Greeters: Tom & Linda Brunner

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

Offertory Counters: Tom Brunner, Linda Brunner,
Mary Duncan, Deb Slusarz

Welcome New Parishioners

Michael & Mary Mischler

Diane Ahlschlager

Abby Woodell

John & Darlene Williams

James White

Burke & Jane Taft

Richard Adams

Susan Koken Williams & David Williams

Patrick F. Leary & Linda Mans Leary

Kylie Causgrove

Robert Byrd

Megan Rahill

Matthew McCreadie

Joseph Danks

Hayley Bergell

Ashley Kay Buettner

LITURGY INTENTIONS

Jan. 11 *Saturday, Vigil: Baptism of the Lord*

5:00 PM MARY TELLERS (PAT HEASLEY)

Jan. 12 *Baptism of the Lord*

8:00 AM JOAN HEUBEL (FAMILY)

10:30 AM MARILYN LECHNER (BILL & KATHY MASEK)

Jan. 13 *Monday, Weekday*

8:00 AM COMMUNION SERVICE

Jan. 14 *Tuesday, Weekday*

8:00 AM COMMUNION SERVICE

Jan. 15 *Wednesday, Weekday*

8:00 AM COMMUNION SERVICE

Jan. 16 *Thursday, Weekday*

8:00 AM COMMUNION SERVICE

Jan. 17 *Friday, Saint Anthony, Abbot*

NO MASS OR COMMUNION SERVICE

Jan. 18 *Saturday, Vigil: 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time*

5:00 PM EUGENE & CLARA KULIG (JAY & CAROL HABAS)

Jan. 19 *Second Sunday in Ordinary Time*

8:00 AM FOR THE PARISHIONERS OF ST. PATRICK

10:30 AM LARRY BAUMANN (BILL & KATHY MASEK)

DATES TO REMEMBER

St.P=St. Patrick, CP=Chapel, PR=Pascal Room, R=Rectory

01/11 4:30 PM Confessions - St.P

01/14 9:45 AM Food Pantry - PR

01/15 12:00 PM A.A. - PR

01/18 4:30 PM Confessions - St.P

ATTENTION ST. PATRICK'S "ON-LINE GIVERS"

Donors can pull their own tax statements in Online Giving.

1. Log in to your Online Giving donor account.
2. Click on **"My Online Giving History"**. View a detailed History of your past Online Giving.
3. On the right side, click the **"Print"** button.
4. Set your date range from 1/1/2019 to 12/31/2019.
5. Change the report type to **"Full Detail Report (Tax Purposes)"**.
6. Leave the tax filter option checked.
7. Click **"Print"**.
8. Your report will open a new window
9. You will need to export the report to a PDF to print the full report. (To print, click on the PDF link at the top of the screen. This will open the report as a PDF and will let you print the report).

PARISHIONERS WHO USE OFFERTORY ENVELOPES: We will be sending tax statements to you shortly. If you received a statement last year, you are on our list and will receive one this year. If you have not received one, please call the office and we will get one to you. 454-8085



St. Patrick's Parish will be hosting Our Neighbor's Place, the seasonal

homeless shelter, January 29 through February 5 at Church of the Nativity's social center. We are in need of volunteers to staff the shelter. No experience needed! For each shift we must have both men and women volunteers. The shifts are as follows:

1st shift 6:30 PM - 11:00 PM

2nd shift 11:00 PM - 3:00 AM

3rd shift 3:00 AM - 7:30 AM

The hours are awful, the pay is abysmal, but the experience is priceless. Parishioners who have worked the shelter all remark how humbling it was. What better way to get a head start on your Lenten sacrifice than by following the example of Jesus and giving comfort to those in our community who are most in need. To volunteer or to have your questions answered contact Angie Kontur angiekontur@gmail.com or 434-9653 (call or text).

We are in need of volunteers to prepare dinners for the guests at our shelter. We average around 50 guests per night although we have had as many as 60. Most meals have been a joint effort by several men and women who get together and bring in dinner. If you are interested in trying out your culinary skills on an appreciative audience contact Maureen Beck jmb77910@gmail.com or 864-8446

Thank you! Once again, the response to our collection of personal care items for use at the overflow homeless shelter was overwhelming. We sincerely appreciate your generosity.



A Family Perspective—

The words in today's gospel. "This is my beloved, with Him I am pleased," are words every child needs to hear often. Affirmation is important to raise happy and confident children.



If you are disabled and cannot walk to receive communion, please help the Eucharistic Ministers by putting a white stole on the end of the pew, (The stoles are available in the vestibule on the bookshelf.) AND please sit at the end of the pew so you are more visible to the ministers.

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.



Erie March for Life

People for Life invites you to participate in the Erie March for Life on Saturday, January 18. The theme of this year's March is *Undeniably Human, from Day One!*

Gather at the pavilion in west Perry Square by 10:45 a.m. The March will begin at 11a.m. and conclude by 12:30 p.m. with a brief program in Perry Square. This is a perfect opportunity to be a voice for the voiceless and a witness for the value of every human life in our own community. For more information call (814) 882-1333 or go online to www.peopleforlife.life/january2020.

47th Annual Bus Trip to the Washington, DC March for Life

This activity takes about 26 hours.

Leave Erie at 11 p.m., Thursday, January 23, 2020.

March in DC on Friday, January 24.

Return at approximately 1:30 a.m., Saturday, January 25.

Seats are \$55. Inquiries about sponsorships are welcome and encouraged.

Online registration is available.

People for Life has three buses chartered from Anderson Coach & Travel.

See also: www.facebook.com/marchforlifebustrip

START YOUR MARRIAGE WITH ENGAGEMENT ENCOUNTER

Engagement Encounter still has openings for its January 24th through 26th weekend at St. Mark's Catholic Center in Erie. Prepare for your marriage with a weekend you'll never forget. For information or registration please call 814-824-1261 or by email at

familylife@erieRCD.org

Remember, "A wedding is one day, marriage is for a lifetime". **Space is limited; call today to secure your place.**



Surviving Divorce Ministry, a 12-week group to help those who are separated or divorced, will run on Wednesdays from February 12-May 6, 2020 from 6:30 pm-8:00 pm at St. Mark Catholic Center in Erie (cost is \$15 for book/journal). Many topics to begin healing will be addressed through DVD's with experienced presenters and real men and women who have felt the pain of divorce. Please call the Family Life Office, 814-824-1261 or email: familylife@eriercd.org for more information and/or to register.

Advertiser of the Week:

We thank **Ehrman's Allburn Florists**

1620 W 8TH ST. 814-456-6211

www.allburnflorist.com

for advertising in our parish bulletin.



MSGR. KRIEGLER'S HOMILIES ARE ON-LINE IN AUDIO AND VIDEO FORMAT.

Be sure to check out St. Patrick's web-page to listen to Msgr. Kriegel's homilies.

Go to **saintpatrickparisherie.org** Click on "homilies" on the bar to the right. For the audio version just click on the date of the homily you want to hear. The video homilies are available on "You Tube" and can be watched by clicking on the bar that says "You Tube" on that page.

NEW PARISHIONER REGISTRATION FORM

Saint Patrick Parish

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____

STREET: _____ CITY: _____ ZIP: _____

E-MAIL: _____

HEAD _____ BIRTHDATE: _____

SPOUSE _____ 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



Christmas 2019
photos by
Erin Fessler



