

Fifth Sunday of Lent  
March 29, 2020



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*

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Office Hours:

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

#### **MASS SCHEDULE:**

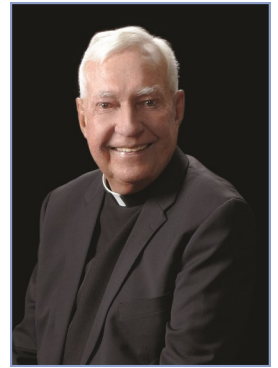
Daily Mass: Monday-Thursday: 8:00 AM (CHAPEL)

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 Fifth Sunday in Lent. Ezekiel was a prophet during the exile in Babylon. His tasks ranged from chastising and correcting to comforting and offering hope. He fills his prophecies with striking imagery and dramatic visions that open up new ways of pondering the great mysteries of God, life and the future. In today's reading God speaks to the humiliated and mournful exiles. The valley is filled with bones, symbolic of the exiles themselves, dried up and without hope. But God promises to open their graves and that they will rise from them. The final verse in today's reading continues to offer hope-filled assurance today; what God has promised will be fulfilled.

In the first verse of the reading from Romans, Paul contrasts living in the flesh with living in the spirit. He does so using terms that have more than one meaning. Jesus is described as living in the flesh, similar to what we hear in John's gospel which means simply being fully human. At other times, flesh has a negative connotation, indicative of a person's orientation toward sin. Sins of the flesh are often interpreted as sins of a sexual nature; but Paul gives it a much wider meaning. They include rivalry and jealousy and other selfish actions and attitudes. Here it means not submitting to the last of God. Those who live in the flesh do not belong to Christ, and are dead because of sin. Paul also uses spirit in a variety of ways, sometimes referring to the human spirit; other times to the Spirit of God.

The account of Lazarus is filled with human emotion. In the first scene, Jesus is at a distance from Bethany. When Jesus gets word of Lazarus' death, his first words reveal the divine purpose underlying his friend's illness and death: the glory of God and his Son. Delaying his return for two days, he begins journeying through Samaria. His disciples try to talk him out of this because of the danger. Jesus uses the moment to teach them that if they walk with him, he will be the light that will prevent them from stumbling. The disciples do not understand anything he is saying. Then he encounters Martha who tells him of her disappointment that he did not prevent her brother's

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

death, but also professes her confidence that God will do whatever he asks. As she professes faith in a resurrection of the last day (one that was just beginning to emerge in Judaism), Jesus tells her that he is the Resurrection and the life. As we hear Martha profess her faith, she becomes one who has not seen and has believed. He then encounters Mary who falls at his feet weeping. Finally, he goes to Lazarus and frees him from death.

One in four ordinations to priesthood in Europe this year took place in Poland. Around 350 priests have been ordained annually in Poland in the last few years, representing 26% of the total number in Europe. At the same time, 73 priests left the priesthood in Poland in the past year, exactly one-half of the European total. While 90% of Poles declare themselves to be Catholic, church attendance among the younger generation is falling in Poland at the fastest rate in the world. Only 26% of those below the age of 40 go to church every Sunday compared to 55% of those over the age of 40.

The annual Catholic Services Appeal continues in the Diocese of Erie, and I'm hoping you will review the information I sent you and determine whether you are able to help with this appeal. Our assessment this year is \$95,000, up from \$87,000 last year (and that is because our revenue continues to increase each year). Any money we raise above and beyond the assessment remains in the parish.

UPMC Hamot has approved our plans for a storage building on the piece of property which we are securing from them. The contractor hopes to begin construction in April. I've asked Gary and Becky Johnson to design the interior as they know what storage space they need. The building is 24' x 36' so this is going to give us a good deal of storage space. As the festival continues to grow, we have been purchasing kitchen equipment so we don't have to keep renting it but our problem is storing it. This will solve that problem. We have secured a 25 year lease from UPMC Hamot at \$1 per year. I'm grateful for their willingness to allow us the use of this property.

As you know, ordinations to the priesthood will be held at St. Patrick's on May 29. They are being held here because of the extensive renovations going on at the cathedral. This is the first time in

127 years that ordinations will be held at St. Patrick's. Being ordained are Kevin Holland of Our Lady of Peace Parish and Joseph Petrone of St. Joseph, Bread of Life Parish. Prior to 1893 when the present cathedral was opened, the second St. Patrick's church, located where the rectory is now located, served as the pro-cathedral of the diocese from the establishment of the diocese in 1852 until the dedication of the cathedral in 1893. All ordinations to priesthood were held here during that period of time, so there is an historical context in which this is taking place. I'm grateful to Bishop Persico for choosing St. Patrick's; this is an incredible honor for the parish.

A combined meeting of the Finance Council and the Parish Council last week accomplished a number of things. We were prepared to accept a land lease from Hamot and vote to approve \$32,000 for a storage building, but all of that is up in the air until we resolve some zoning issues. They voted to have a professional team come in to church and clean the Stations and all three altars at a cost of almost \$9,000. That is expensive, but they are filthy from the pipe organ restoration, and we really can't let them deteriorate. We have to be particularly concerned about the Stations as they are so delicate and are now almost 120 years old. They acknowledged the gift of an East Sixth Street apartment house to the parish. That building is being sold and the money will be put in our account at the Catholic Foundation. They approved bids for a new heating system for the first floor of the rectory, heard a report on the recent Homeless Shelter and voted to give Emmaus Soup Kitchen \$2,000 out of the excess monies we have in our Food Pantry account. That is because of your ongoing generosity. They also discussed the upcoming ordinations to the priesthood which will be held at St. Patrick's on May 29, for the first time since 1893. Mark Alloway and the choir are working already on the music for the ceremony. In addition to the bishop there will be approximately 50—60 priests participating in the ceremony. They will vest in the rectory and process to church.

Some random thoughts. "When I was a child, I thought 'nap time' was a punishment. Now as a grown up, it feels like a small vacation." ..... "The biggest lie I tell myself is, 'I don't need to write it down. I'll remember it.'" ..... "If God wanted me to touch my toes, he would have put them on my knees." ..... "Why do I press one for English when you're just gonna transfer me to someone who I can't understand anyway?"





# Saint Patrick News



## EFFECTIVE WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18<sup>th</sup>

all Masses and Church activities were cancelled until further notice. If you have any questions or concerns the office will remain open with limited hours and the Rectory is **CLOSED** to the public. All current and scheduled Mass intentions will be rescheduled. The Food Pantry will remain open with new procedures to follow. Thank you!

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:

- ♦ **Paul Corbett** from Richard & Margaret Bonniger
- ♦ **Capt. Wm. and Lillian McDonald** from Jane Carney
- ♦ **Bobby Wheeler** from Paul & Anne Causgrove
- ♦ John & Marjorie DeBias from Kevin & Margaret Cohick
- ♦ **"Pudge" Williams** from Mary Ellen Demyanovich
- ♦ **James, Carol, and Debra Donnelly** from Patricia Donnelly
- ♦ **Murphy & Chesko families** from Patrick Murphy
- ♦ **Winiarczyk & Nemergut families** from John & Irene Nemergut
- ♦ **Diane Bernard** from Eugene & Kathleen Polaski
- ♦ **Nansi Janes** from Phil & Denise Rewers
- ♦ **Steven Moretti** from Mark & Susan Sullivan

Also donations from:

Barbara Abbott & Roddy James, Victoria Abbott, Janice Cole, Bill & Patty Gloekler, Phil & Judy Kelly, Mr. & Mrs. Ken Kierzek, Bernard & Judy Poignard and Matthew & Kimberly Yaw

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

## Marriage Moments—

With all the talk about Covid-19, perhaps our marriage vows can teach us how to unite the human family. "...for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, until death do us part." How can we continue to love and care for our world family who are suffering? Who is my neighbor?



*The Sanctuary Lamp  
burns in loving memory of  
**Jonathan Jecino**  
from the Candela family*

## 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.



## St. Patrick Church ~ Stations of the Cross

The Stations of the Cross in St. Patrick's Church are unique in the entire world. There is another set – in St. Anthony's Chapel in Pittsburgh – but they are smaller and much less detailed than are these. The Stations were hand carved in Munich, Germany, in 1892 and 1893. Each Station is made from two pieces of hickory wood. When they were created, they were life-size which shows you how much we have grown in the past 130 years. Father Peter Cauley commissioned them at a cost of \$600 each. An engraved plaque is located at the base of each one telling who donated it. Today they are insured for \$4.6 million. There are two additional unique features to the Stations. You will notice tears in the eyes of many of the statues. We only discovered these when we put new lighting in during the church restoration in 2012. Secondly, if you go to the Fourth Station, you will notice that the Roman soldier is not wearing a traditional Roman military hat, but, instead, is adorned with a Bavarian hat which would have been worn in Munich at that time. The Stations were then put into storage until Father Cauley could find an architect to design St. Patrick's Church around them. The church was built between 1903 and 1906.

Written by Msgr. Henry Kriegel

This week the bulletin will feature the first nine Stations of the Cross.



## THE FIRST STATION *Jesus is condemned to die.*

*Lord Jesus, you stand before Pilate, unfairly judged and now condemned. Yet there is little you can do. You are at the mercy of others, and no mercy is shown. Still, you do not respond by condemning Pilate of the Jewish leaders who falsely accused you. You seem to understand the fear and weakness that is driving both the crowds and Pilate.*

**Lord, there have been times in my life when I, too, have been judged by others who didn't know the truth. Worse yet, I have been guilty of judging others. Give me, Lord, your strength to endure the harsh words and unjust judgement of others. Also, help me to see others through your eyes, for if I see them as you do, I will learn to pray for them, rather than judge them. Amen**

## THE SECOND STATION *Jesus carries his cross.*

*Lord Jesus, the cross you were forced to carry was more than a piece of wood. It was the means of our salvation. You did not seek it out, though you chose to carry it, because you saw the good that would come from it. You carried, not for your self, but for me.*

**Lord, often times I think that to carry my own cross means to bear the small of the large struggles in my life. It means so much more. The cross I am called to carry is Christianity itself. At times, it can truly be a burden, but it is also the means of my salvation. And, as with your cross, it can be the means of salvation for others also; for my Christianity, well lived, can bring others to you and to life eternal. Give me, Lord, the strength to carry the cross of my faith for the salvation of all. Amen**



## THE THIRD STATION *Jesus falls the first time.*

*Lord Jesus, you know this fall is not the end. You may have tripped and stumbled, or just lost your balance, but you will get back up again. Still, it is hard. Your family, friends and follows are watching. You didn't want to fall in front of them. You didn't want them to see you weak. For you, it's not a matter of pride. It is concern for them and for what they are feeling. You are their leader, their teacher, and their hope. It is for them that you force yourself back to your feet and continue on.*

**Lord, when I fall, it is often my pride that is hurt the most. I don't like people to see my weakness. I don't want them to think less of me. I don't like being embarrassed. When I fall, and I will fall, give me the grace to put it into perspective and maintain my self-respect. Allow me to learn from it and grow stronger because of it. Grant that I will always have the fortitude to get up and continue on. Amen**





## THE FOURTH STATION

### *Jesus meets his mother.*

*Lord Jesus, as you come face to face with your mother, you see such terrible pain in her eyes. Although you have been unjustly condemned, you still regret the suffering that she must endure because of your trials. And yet, even in the midst of your pain and hers, you find strength in your mother's love.*

**Lord, I know that I have caused other people to suffer, sometimes through my own fault, sometimes through no fault of my own. Still, I regret it. Help me to find strength in your love for me. Help me to show that love to others, especially those who need my love and forgiveness in their lives. Amen**



## THE FIFTH STATION

### **Simon helps Jesus carry his cross.**

*Lord Jesus, how thankful you must have been for Simon's help. That awful cross must have seemed to weigh twice as much, as when you first lifted it. Your strength is slipping, but with Simon's added strength, you are able to carry on.*

**Lord, sometimes I struggle with things that simply won't go away and grow heavier with each passing day. Help me to realize that our heavenly Father did not put me on this planet alone. God has surrounded me with family and friends, people I can turn to for help when I need it. Grant me the humility I need to turn to them and to see them for the gift they are in my life and prompt me to thank them for who they are and to thank God each day for them. Amen**



## THE SIXTH STATION

### **Veronica wipes the face of Jesus.**

*Lord Jesus, who was this woman, Veronica? There seems to be no mention of her anywhere, except in the tradition of these Stations. Was she a devoted follower of yours, or was she simply a woman who saw someone in need and responded with kindness? Does it really matter? She will always be remembered for this simple act of charity.*

**Lord, each and every day I am given opportunities to reach out and help someone. It may be someone I know well, or someone I have never met. Help me to recognize those moments and to act as Veronica did. To wipe the face of another may not seem important, but to show them true respect is a gift beyond value. Lord, let me see and show the worth of each of my brothers and sisters. Amen**







## THE SEVENTH STATION

*Jesus falls the second time.*

*Lord Jesus, it happened again. As you lie on the ground, it seems, at first, as if you have failed. You have fallen once more. You are not strong enough to bear the weight of your Cross. But your fail is not a failure; it is but a sign of your humanity, and your determination to get back up and continue is a sign of your divinity.*

**Lord, it seems as if I fall often, and when I perceive that fall as failure, I defeat myself. Help me to see it as no more than a reminder that I too am human; and help me, Lord, to find in the grace of my baptism, the spark of your divinity, so that I, like you, may have the fortitude to get back up and continue my journey. Amen**

## THE EIGHTH STATION

*Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem.*

*Lord Jesus, you look into the eyes of these women, and realize that they are crying for you, when they should be crying for themselves and for their children. You have begun something that cannot be stopped. You have begun change and there will be those who will violently oppose your change, or any change. You wish that it could be otherwise, but you know the struggle has just begun.*

**Lord, I am comfortable with my faith. I don't want to be challenged. I don't want change. Yet, in my heart of hearts, I know that without change, there is no life. Give me, Lord, the courage to change those things in my life that would keep me from growing closer to you; and grant me, also, the patience to accept those around me who are struggling with change in their lives. Amen**



## THE NINTH STATION

*Jesus fall the third time.*

*Lord Jesus does it end here? As you fall yet again you must have wondered "Is this as far as I can go? Is this where it ends?" while at the same time wondering "Will this ever end? How much further must I go?" You are weak from the torture you endured at the hands of the soldiers, distraught as you face your death, and fearful for your followers. You pray to your Father for strength.*

**Lord, there are times when life just seems to be more that I can handle; times when it seems like the whole world is against me. I lose friends and family. I cry myself through the struggles of my marriage. I see long years of work still ahead of me. I wonder if I can go on. In those darkest moments Lord, give me your strength. Show me that I must go on. There are still things you would have me do for your glory, for my benefit, and for the benefit of my brothers and sisters. Thank you, Lord, for your inspiration and your grace. Amen**

