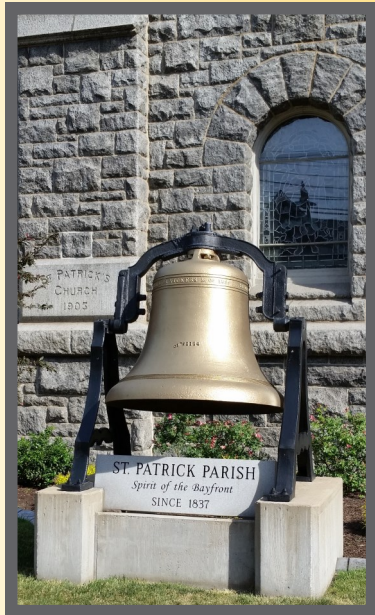


Second Sunday of Easter
April 19, 2020



Easter 2019
St. Patrick Church

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:

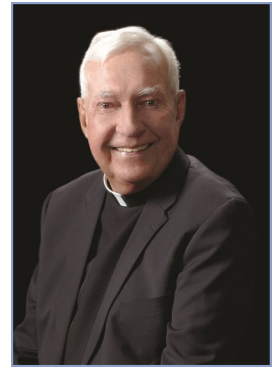
Daily Mass: Monday-Thursday: 8:00 AM (CHAPEL)

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 Second Sunday of Easter. After the Ascension, Jesus' followers were locked in the upper room, awaiting the Spirit that he had promised them. Appearing as tongues of fire on each of their heads, the Spirit comes and they begin to speak in other tongues. By the power of the Spirit, they are able to be faithful to the four essential characteristics of the church: adhering to the teaching of the apostles, communal life, breaking of the bread and prayer together. In Peter's speech, he proclaims the resurrection, a proclamation that is repeated in all the speeches in Acts. Remember that these people were still faithful Jews and so they gathered in the temple area and also celebrated the Lord's Supper in their homes. Praise of God in both temple and home and prayers of the community in threatening circumstances reinforce the communion experienced at the breaking of the bread.

The second reading opens with the phrase, "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ." The word "blessed" echoes Zechariah's Benedictus hymns in Luke (1:68) and the eighteen blessings of Jewish synagogue liturgy. Paul then addresses his readers personally: God's mercy is for us; you have reason for hope. Everything that follows the opening proclamation motivates people to give praise to God who has shown abundant mercy. The reading points to the tangible tension between the present reality of trials and being tested by fire on earth and the awaited inheritance in heaven. Peter explains that the suffering now is only for a short time, but that the future goal of heaven is unending. He notes that Jesus' resurrection required suffering and death, those who have new birth in him must also expect to experience suffering as they look forward to hope in the resurrection.

When Simon Peter and the disciple whom Jesus loved returned from the tomb they remained with the other disciples behind closed and locked doors for fear of the Jews. In today's reading it is evening of the first day of the week when Jesus stands in their midst. He begins with a greeting of peace transforming their fear into joy. He then

From the Pastor's Desk continued...

shows them his hands and his side. Along with the blessing of peace, he gives his disciples a mission from his Father, he gives them the Holy Spirit, God's life-giving and permanent presence. By breathing the Holy Spirit on them, he inaugurates a new creation, comparable to God giving the breath of life into humanity (Genesis 2:7). Empowered by this Spirit, the disciples will continue Jesus' mission of forgiveness, going into the world, no longer fearful behind locked doors. The second time Jesus appears, he speaks only to Thomas so that Thomas moves from doubt to faith.

Congratulations to parishioner Therese Zamboldi who was honored at the recent Prep/Villa Legacy.

The Stations of the Cross and the altars have finally been finished being cleaned and they sparkle. The company who did the cleaning noted that they have cleaned the Stations on a number of occasions, but that they have never been this dirty. All of that is because of the dirt from the restoration of the pipe organ when everyone of those pipes had to come out (after a hundred years) and be restored before being put back together. I wish there were some way we could get up on the ledges and high areas of the church to clean those because I'm sure they are loaded with dust and dirt.

We've had quite an experience getting all of the mold out of the Food Pantry again. Several years ago we hired a company to do the exterior of the church. They were to clean all of the mortar between the bricks, repair any that was damaged, etc. Ever since they touched the chimney above the Food Pantry, we have had endless problems with mold. You may recall an area high on the east wall of the church where we had constant water damage. Everyone said it was coming from the roof and traveling in that area. We then hired Gary James and company, and he went up on the outside wall of the church and pointed out to me that the company had not done that area of the wall, and that was where the water was entering. Once he finished doing it, we repaired the inside and haven't had a problem.

We're making every effort to resolve a zoning issue with the city over the piece of property that we hope to lease from UPMC Hamot. The city will not allow us to construct a building on that

piece of land because of zoning issues. Parishioner and Attorney Chuck Agresti has been working on this for us and it now appears that we will be able to construct a building. He secured variances from both UPMC Hamot and the owner of the other piece of property adjacent to it—Attorney Rick Filippi. Hopefully we can get this resolved soon and put up the building. We simply want a storage building where we can store all of the items for the Irish Festival in an orderly manner. Now they are just stuffed into the rectory garage and every year it is like looking for a needle in the haystack as they try to find things.

The closing of churches for all Masses obviously puts a real financial burden on the parishes who rely on that weekly income to pay their bills. Thanks to your ongoing generosity, we have a reserve that we can tap into and keep going; but I worry that a lot of our parishes live hand to mouth, in other words, they can't go but a few weeks without that income or they are in serious trouble. Let's pray that all of this can soon be resolved.

I always have the bridal couples in for a relaxing evening at the rectory. We have drinks and dinner as an opportunity to make them feel welcome in the parish as well as an opportunity for me to get to know them a bit better so that I don't stand before them as a stranger when I marry them. I had them scheduled for this past week, but we had to delay. Hopefully we can still get them in. I worry about some of the weddings we have scheduled here in the very near future, hoping that bridal couples don't find themselves in a bind.

Thank you for your ongoing generosity during this quarantine. Our CSA assessment this year is \$95,000, and to date, we have over \$67,000 already pledged. You're an incredibly generous group of people.

Our Food Pantry continued during the shutdown as closing it would directly affect the people who are most in need. Many minimum wage people are not even working right now and are in dire straits.

Some thoughts on the coronavirus. "Day 2 without sports. Found a lady sitting on my couch. Apparently she's my wife. She seems nice." "Gas is finally affordable and we can't go anywhere." "Meanwhile in Italy, at DaVinci's Last Supper, everyone has left the table."