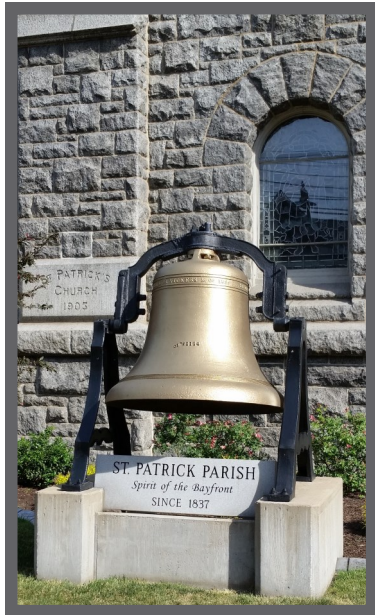


Fifth Sunday of Easter
May 10, 2020



Mary's Altar
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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Website: www.saintpatrickparisherie.org

Office Hours:

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

MASS SCHEDULE:

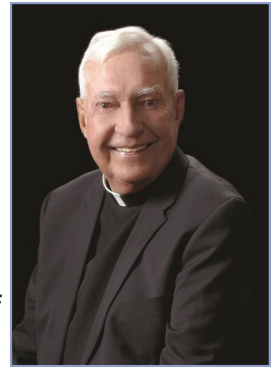
Daily Mass: Monday-Thursday: 8:00 AM (CHAPEL)

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 Fifth Sunday of Easter. We see an early church described in Acts as of one heart and mind. Besides their common belief in Jesus, the first believers in Jerusalem shared their Jewish heritage, the tradition of caring for those in need and a common language. As the church grew, its membership became more diverse, eventually comprising Samaritans and Gentiles, people with different backgrounds and different languages. Today's reading describes the challenges that arose because of that, particularly a conflict between Hebrews and Hellenists. Hebrews refers to Palestinian Jews who spoke Aramaic and were the earliest followers of Jesus. Hellenists may refer either to Greek-speaking Gentile Christians or to Jews who spoke only Greek. The Torah clearly outlined the need to care for widows and orphans, etc. and the disciples expand this mandate to include all Christians. They choose seven men, all bearing Greek names to fulfill this directive. Two of them, Philip and Stephen, will share in the apostle's mission of preaching; Stephen would even be the first to shed his life for the faith. The conflict between the two groups results in a widening of services and extension of the gospel.

Paul uses imagery of stones to develop his teaching about Christ and his church. As he uses the stone motif, he gives ancient texts new meaning. First, he develops the stone symbol from Isaiah in which God lays a cornerstone in Zion. God has made the people of Jerusalem chosen and precious. Paul shows Christ himself as the chosen stone, even through rejected. Paul exhorts the people united to Christ also to become living stones for God to build into a spiritual house. He then draws on Psalm 118 in which the rejected stone refers to the people of Israel. Peter gives new significance to the cornerstone, now understood to be Christ. United with him, the people become a temple of living stones.

At the Last Supper, Jesus prepared his disciples for his impending passion through a long and intimate farewell discourse. He reminds them of his earlier instructions and promises, gives them

From the Pastor's Desk continued...

guidance for their future, and draws them more deeply into relationship with him, his Father and with one another. They are understandably troubled and advises them to move from troubled hearts to believing. This belief is more than adherence to a set of creeds than it is a personal trust and fidelity, the kind of believing Jesus always showed to his Father. He responds to the confusion of Thomas and the request of Philip, both of whom speak not only for themselves, but for the group. When they say they do not know the way, he responds with the familiar "I AM" found frequently in John: I am the Bread of Life, light of the world, good shepherd. He is the way, the path, the means, the source and the pattern that leads to both truth and life. Jesus is the way to the Father. He includes not only those who are present, but those who will come later.

Fifty years ago today I celebrated my First Mass. We were ordained on Ascension Thursday and the next morning I celebrated Mass at the convent at Holy Rosary in Johnsonburg for the Sisters of St. Joseph who were stationed there, and then that Sunday celebrated my First Mass at Holy Rosary Church.

In those days, seminary training was not what it is today. We had no classes in preaching, none in business administration and only one semester of training us how to celebrate Mass. We had a rather cranky old priest at the seminary who was in charge of teaching us how to celebrate Mass, and he didn't buy the new way of celebrating Mass facing the people. I was trained to celebrate Mass facing the altar and so that first day of a public mass was a bit confusing. I remember a few years ago a group of us were in Rome and I had permission to celebrate Mass at the altar of St. Joseph in St. Peter's Basilica. That altar is just to the left of the main altar, and that day I had to celebrate Mass facing the altar, and it was equally confusing as I had never done that before.

As you may know, we have installed two cameras in church so that we can live cast the Sunday 10:30 AM Mass. This has been particularly well received with the church closed. Over 1,500 people have watched each week.. There is a computer in the church sacristy (behind the altar) and someone needs to operate that to change the cameras, etc. during the Mass. Presently, Tom Golab, our sacristan, is doing this, but I would like to find a few volunteers who would be willing to

be trained how to operate the computer so that we can rotate—if I could get 4 volunteers, then each one would only need to do it once a month. Also, in case of sickness or some other factor, we have others to fall back on. If you are interested in helping with this, contact the parish office, and when we get some volunteers together, we'll set up a time to train people.

The Vatican annual report on the number of Catholics, religious, clergy, etc. has just been published and it shows that the number of Women Religious fell 7.5 percent in the past five years. Europe showed a decrease of 7 percent in the number of priests in 2018 alone. At the same time, the number of priests in Africa showed a 14.5% increase and Asia an 11 % increase

What is misleading about these figures is that, while the number of baptized Catholics increased to 1.33 billion, there is no real way of knowing what percentage of those who have been baptized are actually practicing their faith. In South America, for example, most of the countries register upwards of 75% Catholic, while less than 10 percent are practicing. In our own country, only about 25% of Catholics attend Mass on a regular weekly basis while up to about 34% attend on at least a monthly basis. That means that well over half of the baptized Catholics in the United States are not really practicing their faith. Yet, their numbers continue to be included in this statistical data. In once Catholic Ireland, less than 12% of people now attend Mass; Poland is experiencing the largest drop in Mass attendance anywhere in Europe.

Two elderly ladies had been friends for many decades. Over the years, they had shared all kinds of activities and adventures. Lately, their activities had been limited to meeting a few times a week to play cards. One day, they were playing cards when one looked at the other and said, "Now don't get mad at me. I know we've been friends for a long time, but I just can't think of your name. I've thought and thought, but I can't remember it. What is your name?" Her friend glared at her. For at least a few minutes she just stared and finally she said, "How soon do you need to know?"

OFFERTORY	5-3-20	\$10,915.00
CSA Pledged		\$77,990.00
CSA Paid		\$57,820.00
CSA Assessment		\$95,000.00