

**Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
**November 19, 2017**



St. Patrick Church  
photo by  
John Baker

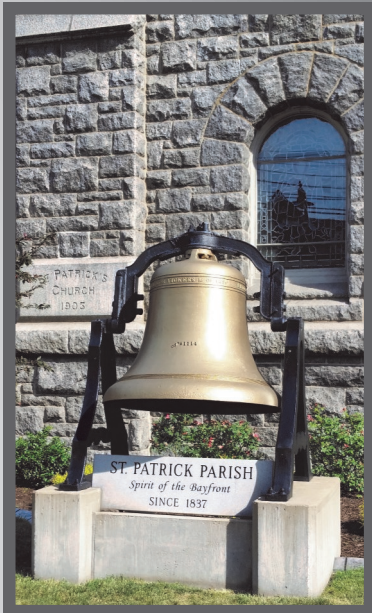
**Saint Patrick Parish**

*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

FAX: 814-459-8685

Email: [stpat@neo.rr.com](mailto:stpat@neo.rr.com)

Website: [www.saintpatrickparish.org](http://www.saintpatrickparish.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 Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time and our first reading from Proverbs is part of the instruction given to King Lemuel by his mother. She warns him of the pitfalls of strong drink, then reminds him to care for the poor and be a champion for the needy. She goes on to describe the kind of woman he should marry. The entire poem is organized by the letters of the Hebrew alphabet, with each verse beginning with a consecutive letter, opening with the first (*aleph*) and concluding with the last (*tav*). It presents the perfect wife as a paragon of goodness worth more than rubies. The poem presents a king and queen united for the benefit of the kingdom. Accomplished as she is, the greatest praise that the worthy wife receives is that she fears the Lord. Though the advice is given to the king, it is intended for all wives. This text is traditionally recited by Jewish men to their wives on Sabbath evenings, and is often part of the funeral services for women.

Paul's Thessalonian community is awaiting the Day of the Lord. In the Jewish tradition, particularly in later prophetic literature, the Day of the Lord refers to the time of God's absolute judgment, a future event in which the power and justice of God will be revealed, with evil conquered and good rewarded. Sometimes the vision includes cosmic upheaval, and other times earthly tribulation. The imagery is not intended to be taken literally, but employs a variety of emotion-filled illustrations to highlight God's power to overcome all evil. When this day will come is unknown, but it will come like a thief in the night.

In Thessalonians, Paul exhorts the community to be prepared for the Day of the Lord by remaining alert and sober. Paired with the parable in today's gospel, we learn that being alert and sober is not a passive stance of simply waiting patiently for the Lord's coming. Preparedness involves working according to one's capability, faithfulness and taking responsibility. In the parable, the master distributes talents, in the Judaism of Jesus' day



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

a talent is a monetary unit of high value. There is a sharp contrast between the first two servants who provide a return on the master's investment, and the third one who is dismissed as wicked. The servant himself uses a word that sums up the reason for his failure: fear. His fear has led him to view the master only as harsh, and to hide all that he received. We must always be on watch that we do not view God with fear.

The parish office will be closed Wednesday, Thursday and Friday for the Thanksgiving holiday. There is no Mass any day. I would gladly have a Mass on Thanksgiving Day, but we tried that several times and only got the regular morning Mass crowd so I'm assuming you're suggesting the pastor get his beauty sleep.

One half of the 211 priests currently in ministry in the neighboring Diocese of Pittsburgh will retire in the next ten years. Catholic population in that diocese has fallen from 753,147 in 2000 to 632,138 today. In that same time period, Mass attendance has fallen by about 40%. In early September a commission appointed by the bishop to study the future structuring of the diocese recommended clustering the diocese's 188 parishes to be merged into 48 groups, with the aim that the parishes in each group will share clergy, resources and ministry. The report noted that most of the churches in that diocese were built by immigrant communities and the demographics have changed dramatically with people moving to the Sun Belt or the suburbs.

The cultural center of the Catholic Church is shifting south. The Northeast is no longer the epicenter of American Catholicism. Immigration from predominantly Catholic countries in Latin America means new Catholic populations are settling in the Southwest. In 1972, roughly 7 in 10 Catholics lived in the Northeast (41 percent) or the Midwest (28 percent). Only about one-third of Catholics lived in the South (13 percent) or the West (18 percent). Today a majority of Catholics now reside in the South (29 percent) or West (25 percent). Currently only about one-fourth (26 percent) of the U. S. Catholic population lives in the Northeast and 20 percent in the Midwest. The number of parishes in the Northeast and the Midwest have fallen by 10 percent since 2000.

In our own diocese we have experienced the pain of this change with the merging of parishes, etc. I do not know of a single diocese in the northeast United States where this downsizing is not taking place. Quite simply, the immigrant population which built most of these churches have now migrated once again. In many cases, they have gone to the suburbs; in others they have migrated to the south. I spoke in a parish in Charlotte, NC a few years ago that has 12,000 families!!!! The parishes in the southeast and southwest continue to build, while we experience closure and merger.

We have to remember that change is a constant in our lives; it's in everything around us and the church is not to be spared. Remember that the Church in Jerusalem (the earliest church in all of Christianity) had to die before the Church of Rome could be born.

After Thanksgiving we will once again have a Christmas tree in the church vestibule with "Shining Stars" on it. Each star gives the sex, age and gift request for a disadvantaged child's Christmas gift. This project is done through St. Martin's Center, and you have supported it over the past 4 years with incredible gifts for some of these children. If you take a star, be sure to save it and tape it on the outside of the gift so that St. Martin's Center will know who it belongs to when they have the Christmas party for the children. It is a great opportunity for we who have to share some of it with those who have not.

Ralph & Edna were patients in a mental hospital. One day while they were walking past the swimming pool, Ralph suddenly jumped in the deep end. He sank to the bottom and Edna promptly jumped in to save him. She swam to the bottom and pulled him out. When the Director became aware of Edna's heroic act, she immediately ordered her to be discharged from the hospital as she was now considered mentally stable. She went to Edna and said, "Edna, I have good news and bad news. The good news is that you're being discharged since you were rationally able to respond to a crisis, and your act shows that you have a sound mind. The bad news is that Ralph hung himself in the bathroom with his bathrobe belt right after you saved him, and he's dead." Edna replied, "Ralph didn't hang himself. I put him there to dry? How soon can I go home?"



# Saint Patrick News



## Stewardship

Due to early publication deadlines the offertory for 11/12 will be published in the 11/26 bulletin.



*The Sanctuary Lamp  
burns in loving memory of  
**Paul Holmes**  
from Candela family*

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:

## Sr. Mary Pascal Food Pantry

Donations were made in memory of:

- ♦ **Carol & Debra Donnelly** from Patricia Donnelly
- ♦ **The Vets** from Karl & Virginia Kelm
- ♦ **Joe & Edna McCarthy** from Gary & Mary McMahon
- ♦ **Norman Murphy, Ruth Janoski, Ronnie Chesko, Joe Deutsch** from Patrick Murphy
- ♦ **John & Ludwika Nakoski**
- ♦ **Bob Osmer** from Pauline Osmer
- ♦ **Virgil Kerr** from Jim & Kathy Sertz
- ♦ **Alfred Sokolowski** from Frances Sokolowski

Also donations from:

William & Patricia Gloeker, John Godish, Jay & Carol Habas, Steven & Kelly Karns, Jeffrey & Lori Kaveney, Dr. Forrest & Shirley Mischler, John & Cynthia Purvis,

**Special Thank You!!!  
to PANERA BREAD &  
HABORCREEK EDIBLE ARRANGEMENTS**

## 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.



*Our sincere condolences to the family and friends of Norann Brugger who passed away last week, Norann was one of our Hospitality Greeters at the 10:30 AM Sunday Mass. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family.*

Let Us *Welcome*

**Luciana Genevieve Williams**

child of

Matthew & Amy (Schulz) Williams  
&

**Dylan Marie Lynch**

child of

Daniel & Karen (Ruppel) Lynch  
who will be baptized  
after the 10:30 AM Liturgy on Sunday



## Ministry Schedule

**Saturday, November 25, 2017 at 5:00 pm**

Lector: Youth Lector

Eucharistic Ministers:

**HOST:** Kathy Sertz, Patty Dailey, Kay Mannino

**CUP:** Ray Fiorelli, Shirley Winschel

Greeters: Mary Anne Ashworth, Mary Tellers

Altar Servers: **NEEDED**

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

**Sunday, November 26, 2017 at 8:00 am**

Lector: Nick Straub ,

Eucharistic Ministers: Tom Golab, Lisa Straub,  
Joe Schneider

Ushers: John Maloney, Dave Korn, Chuck Straub,  
**NEEDED**

**Sunday, November 26, 2017 at 10:30 am**

Lector: Dario Cipriani

Eucharistic Ministers:

**HOST:** Dario Cipriani, Kathleen Pae,  
Forrest Mischler

**CUP:** Cyndi Pristello, Colleen Welch

Greeters: Arlene Miller, Tim Donlin

Altar Servers: Juliette Morales, Sarah Pristello

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

Offertory Counters: Bill Welsh, Cindy Welsh,  
Tim Donlin, Kay Sauers

## Bishop's Breakfast collection for Christmas

Celebrate the "Season of Giving" by providing gently used or new items for distribution at the annual Christmas gathering of the Bishop's Breakfast. Donations will be accepted through Dec. 5 and may include blankets, hats, socks, gloves and clothing for adult men and women. Other needed items are men's boxer shorts (all sizes) and \$5 gift cards to McDonald's or Tim Horton's. To contribute, contact Jen-nie Hagerty at [jhagerty94@gmail.com](mailto:jhagerty94@gmail.com) or Mary Therese Riley at [mrtriley1@verizon.net](mailto:mrtriley1@verizon.net). The Bishop's Breakfast provides thousands of warm meals to those in need throughout the year.

**LITURGY INTENTIONS****Nov. 18** *Saturday, Vigil: 33<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time*5:00 PM FORREST & GERTRUDE SHORTS  
(SHARON & TOM YELKOVICH)**Nov. 19** *Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time*8:00 AM FERDINAND CHAMONI  
(MARK & CHELSEY WEISENFLUH)

10:30 AM BILL WHIPPLE, JR. (JAY &amp; CAROL HABAS)

**Nov. 20** *Monday, Weekday*8:00 AM ROBERT & ELEANOR WEISENFLUH,  
WEDDING ANNIV. (MARK WEISENFLUH)**Nov. 21** *Tuesday, The Presentation of the Blessed  
Virgin Mary*8:00 AM BERNADINE ZDUNSKI  
(BOB & MARY LOU MARACCI)**Nov. 22** *Wednesday, Saint Cecilia, Virgin and Martyr*

NO MASS OR COMMUNION SERVICE

**Nov. 23** *Thursday, Thanksgiving Day*

NO MASS OR COMMUNION SERVICE

**Nov. 24** *Friday, Saint Andrew Dung-Lac, Priest, and  
Companions and Martyrs*

NO MASS OR COMMUNION SERVICE

**Nov. 25** *Saturday, Vigil: Our Lord Jesus Christ,  
King of the Universe*

5:00 PM MARGARET MOORE (TOM &amp; MICHELE RIDGE)

**Nov. 26** *Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe*

8:00 AM JOHN PAPE (VERA PAPE)

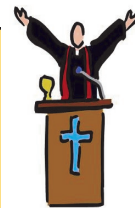
10:30 AM TYLER TOALE (DIANA &amp; SUSAN BROOKS)

**DATES TO REMEMBER**St.P=St. Patrick, HR=Holy Rosary  
CP=Chapel, PR=Pascal Room, R=Rectory**11/18** 4:30 PM Confessions - St.P**11/21** 11:00 AM Food Pantry - PR**11/22** 12:00 PM A.A. - PR**11/22 - 11/24 OFFICE CLOSED— THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY****11/25** 4:30 PM Confessions - St.P**COLLECTION OF PERSONAL CARE ITEMS FOR  
THE OVERFLOW HOMELESS SHELTER.**

St. Patrick's Parish will be hosting the overflow homeless shelter at the Russian Church of the Nativity Social Center from January 31 to February 7. We are collecting personal hygiene toiletry items (shampoo, bath products, toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, razors, shaving cream, combs, brushes, feminine hygiene products & hand sanitizers), as well as cough drops, lip balm and hand warmers. PLEASE NOTE THAT THESE ARE THE ONLY ITEMS WE CAN ACCEPT. Collection bins will be located in the church's main entrance at each mass during the months of November and December. Items can also be dropped off on the rectory's side porch. In addition, monetary donations are needed. We appreciate your donations. The response the past few years has been amazing. Thank you for your generosity.

**MSGR. KRIEGEL'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](http://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**





## Prayer - Planning - Possibilities



### Update on the **LIFELONG FAITH FORMATION** initiative in pastoral planning

#### *A letter from Bishop Persico:*

As you know, we have implemented the first two initiatives of the pastoral plan: school and parish restructuring. I realize we are still dealing with significant changes in our parishes and schools, and that it will remain an ongoing challenge. But I am very impressed with the progress I have seen, and have every confidence that the important work we are doing is strengthening us for today and for tomorrow.

We've begun work on two other initiatives, creating a culture of vocations and reorganizing office responsibilities at St. Mark Catholic Center to ensure we can respond to today's needs in the most efficient way. Efforts on each of the pastoral planning initiatives will be ongoing.

Last spring, we unveiled the preliminary recommendations of the fifth pastoral planning task force, those having to do with lifelong faith formation.

There is no doubt this is the most important component of planning. Dealing with logistics and resources was and will continue to be necessary. But all of that is a means of preparing us to focus on renewing ourselves, growing as disciples in Christ and reaching out to others.

Admittedly, this is also the most challenging component. Almost every aspect of parish life is touched by faith formation, from religious education and family life to service and worship. Progress in this area also will require continued commitment. But the Faith Forma-

tion Implementation Team has reviewed your feedback and is carving out a tangible plan for the diocese.

As we work on the next steps, I thought it was important for you to receive this update. We know the Holy Spirit has guided us to this point, and I am very excited about all that is being developed.

I want you to understand we really are talking about a new era in the life of the Diocese of Erie. We will be working directly with pastors and with parishes to discover new ways to empower both clergy and laity. A new director of lifelong faith formation will soon be hired to help shape the effort, which will include ongoing discussions and training with clergy, parish staff and volunteers on the local, regional and diocesan level.

What we will put into place will be designed to renew parishioners and parish life well beyond our current configuration of pastors and parishes. Please be sure to visit our planning website at [www.ErieRCD.org/planning.htm](http://www.ErieRCD.org/planning.htm), where we will continue to post information about the progress that is being made in our planning for lifelong faith formation.

Sincerely,

The Most Rev. Lawrence T. Persico  
Bishop of Erie



*We asked...and you responded*

### HIGHLIGHTS OF THE FEEDBACK REGARDING FAITH FORMATION

After the Faith Formation Task Force unveiled its recommendations, pastors, religious educators, parish groups and individuals had several weeks over the summer during which they were invited to offer feedback on the recommendations.

We received more than 100 responses, many of which were submitted as the result of a group effort. The insights were shared with the Faith Formation Implementation Team, and will remain an important resource as the plan is developed. Here are some of the kinds of comments that were received:

- ... "More **collaboration** between parishes."
- ... "We must let go of our 'parish identity' programs and work towards a **more regional concept**."
- ... "We need to be **more welcoming** as a whole."
- ... "We need to provide **family catechesis programs**."
- ... "We need **more technology** in parishes."

### MEET THE FAITH FORMATION IMPLEMENTATION TEAM

The Faith Formation Task Force, which worked for two years under the direction of Sister Phyllis Schleicher, OSB, submitted its recommendations to Bishop Persico last spring. After his review and further refinement, the preliminary recommendations were unveiled at vicariate meetings in Erie, Hermitage and St. Marys, and can be found at [www.ErieRCD.org/planning.htm](http://www.ErieRCD.org/planning.htm).

With the task force's work complete, Bishop Persico named a Faith Formation Implementation Team. The team's job is to transform the recommendations into practical, tangible steps, providing a pathway through which parishes will be able to begin implementation.

#### TEAM MEMBERS

**The Most Rev. Lawrence Persico** Bishop of Erie/Chair  
**Msgr. Edward Lohse** Vicar General  
**Father Nicholas Rouch** Vicar for Education  
**Deacon Marty Eisert** Pastoral Planning Chair  
**Greg Baker** Campus Minister, Mercyhurst University  
**Mary Ann Nicholls** Pastoral Associate,  
St. Catherine of Siena, DuBois  
**Michele Smith** Religious Education Leader,  
St. Callistus, Kane  
**Anne-Marie Welsh** Director of Communications

### FOUR KEY AREAS OF FOCUS

As the team considers implementation, here are four areas of encounter where the six recommendations of the Faith Formation Task Force will be lived out in a practical way:



- 1. Community welcoming and belonging**, providing an environment conducive to growth in discipleship and evangelization.
- 2. Catechesis**, defined as imparting the faith. It must embrace people of all ages.
- 3. Sacramental preparation** as part of a continuum that supports lifelong faith formation.
- 4. Service** as a key way in which we live out all that we have experienced through the sacraments, through catechesis and through our communal life.

To review the original recommendations, please visit [www.ErieRCD.org/planning.htm](http://www.ErieRCD.org/planning.htm).

### WHAT ABOUT CONFIRMATION?

A number of people expected that the way we handle confirmation would change significantly as we focus on lifelong faith formation. While Bishop Persico is giving this topic priority, working on options with key personnel, it is not a part of the work of the Faith Formation Implementation Team.

### WHAT ARE THE NEXT STEPS?

Now that the implementation team has begun considering the many aspects involved in faith formation, it is time to hire a new director of lifelong faith formation. Working with the Faith Formation Implementation Team, this person will help shape a comprehensive plan that provides parishes with an array of options as they seek renewal. We expect to begin recruiting for this key position before the end of December.

Bishop Persico has said he wants this person to be willing to "roll up his or her sleeves and get down in the trenches." The director also will weigh in on the best way to fill positions in the Office of Religious Education that have been vacant for several months. The implementation team expects that the new director will spend a great deal of time meeting with pastors, parish staff and volunteers, continuing to listen and integrating ideas that will make sense on parish, regional and diocesan levels.

The Faith Formation Implementation Team also plans to collaborate with the Presbyteral Council, continuing to listen and to uncover the most helpful and practical ways to renew parish life.