

First Sunday of Advent  
December 2, 2018



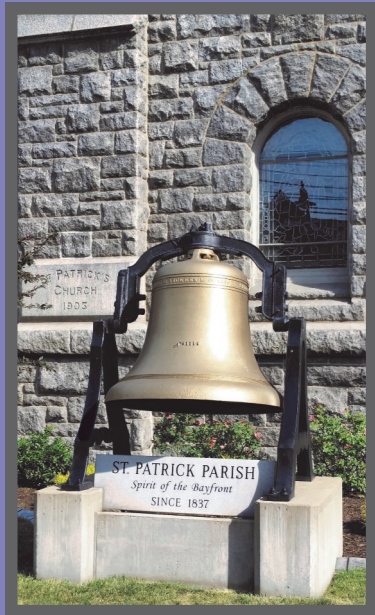
Saint Patrick Parish

*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.saintpatrickparisherie.org](http://www.saintpatrickparisherie.org)

Office Hours:

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

#### **MASS SCHEDULE:**

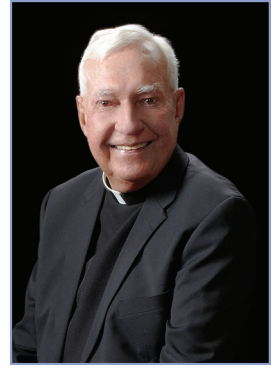
Daily Mass: Monday-Thursday: 8:00 AM (CHAPEL)

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 First Sunday of Advent and the beginning of the new church year. This year we will read our gospels from Luke, my very favorite evangelist. Luke wrote in about the year 85 and addressed his gospel to Roman citizens living in present day Turkey. His audience were not the wealthy and the powerful, but people who struggled, were poor and largely marginalized. Luke gives us the all-forgiving Jesus (his last words on the cross are "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do.") Luke either knew Mary personally or knew someone who knew her because his gospel tells us more about Mary than all of the other gospels combined. Luke is the only author to tell us the story of Jesus born in a manger with shepherds, etc. He's the great story teller who alone gives us poignant stories such as the Prodigal Son, the Good Samaritan, etc. Luke's Jesus is totally powerless and therein lies his power. I ask you to listen carefully to Luke this year and you will gain a new insight into Jesus.

Our first reading presents a text framed in a prophecy for the material and spiritual renewal of Jerusalem, devastated by the long siege by Babylon. The reader feels the tension between the routine of our daily life and the hope for a resolution of all stress in God's plan for humanity. Ever faithful, God does not renege on the promise to grant David a descendant, the Messiah, who "shall do what is right and just in the land."

The second reading begins with a prayer. Paul desires a mature, fraternal love, open to everyone, that would be the finest preparation to meet the Lord when he comes. To live in expectation of his coming does not imply a flight from everyday reality. Paul instead invites us to conduct ourselves in a way pleasing to God.

Today's gospel is part of a discourse about the end of time and the Last Judgment. Jesus announces his return to our world and how we are scheduled to meet him. He borrows images from

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

the prophets: the signs in the sun, moon and stars; the roar of the sea; the anguish that anticipates his arrival. Jesus asks his audience to live in patient expectation when he says their redemption is at hand. The Latin word he uses for redemption, *redemptio*, can also be translated as *ransom*, the buying of freedom from slavery or captivity. What do we hope for in the coming of Christ at Christmas but the liberation of our life from attitudes and unhealthy activities that enslave us in the present. It will be a moment much like the pains of child birth and the impending anguish of death. Our world must pass away before a new world can be born.

A group of ten parishioners accompanied me to a Vicariate meeting with Bishop Persico and the new head of Pastoral Planning for the diocese. We are now in stage 4 of pastoral planning. The first stage was the changes in Catholic schools, now under the direction of the diocese rather than individual parishes. The second stage was the consolidation of parishes with the merging of some into others. The third stage focused on vocations to the priesthood, and, ironically, given the recent Grand Jury report, the number of seminarians for our diocese increased significantly this past year. We are now in stage four: Faith Formation, perhaps the most vital of all stages.

The year 2019 will be focused on "welcoming and belonging" to the church. Parishes are asked to identify one thing they do or would like to do to make people feel welcome in the parish. We cited the dinners which we host at the rectory for all of the bridal couples. We felt this move makes them feel more welcome in the parish. We were also asked to identify one area where the parish is helping people "belong" to the parish. In this area we cited the Volunteer Appreciation Night which we host every Mardi Gras at the Yehl Room at Gannon University. Last year we had over 150 people attend with an open bar and heavy hors d'oeuvres. It is our small way of thanking people for sharing their time and talents and hopefully making them feel even more that they belong to the parish. Some of the members noted the way people stand around and talk after the weekend Masses, noting that in other parishes they run to the parking lot to get out of there as fast as they can. We're also going to explore what we can do

to make new parishioners feel welcome. I send each new parishioner a welcome letter along with a brochure on the church, but we want to explore if there is more we can do. And, finally, we are going to have name tags made for Greeters, Ushers and Eucharistic Ministers thinking it will help us get to know one another better.

Each of the next four years will focus on some aspect of faith development. Year two will focus on our teaching the faith to people of all ages, not just our school children. Year three will focus on Sacramental preparation, how do we encounter Christ in the sacraments and worship. And the final year will focus on service, witnessing to our faith through acts of charity and justice.

Another aspect of the evening was to implement a plan to have trained professionals in various aspects of faith formation. The diocese was called upon to develop standards for the selection, hiring and training of leaders who will then assist parishes. This process should help maintain a consistent faith formation throughout the entire diocese.

We already have much of this process in place. We have sacramental preparation for baptisms, First Communion and Confirmation; we try to have a Scripture class during Lent to help people better understand the scriptures. When it comes to service, I have always said that I have never been in a parish with as profound a social conscience as I experience here. We have more volunteers for the Food Pantry than we can handle, we have a full cadre of volunteers for the Homeless Shelter which we host every February; our parishioners volunteer at St. Patrick's Haven, Emmaus Soup Kitchen, the Neighborhood Art House, St. Martin's Center, etc.

A senior citizen recently shared some wise guidelines for dealing with old age. "Death is the number one killer in the world." "Good health is merely the slowest possible rate at which one can die." "Health nuts are going to feel really stupid someday, lying in the hospital, dying of nothing." "All of us could take a lesson from the weather. It pays no attention to criticism." "In the 60's, people took LSD to make the world weird. Now the world is weird, and people take Prozac to make it normal."





# Saint Patrick News



## Stewardship

Offertory Collection	11/18/18	\$ 7,826.00
Online Giving		<u>1,537.30</u>
Total Income		\$ 9,363.30

Offertory Collection	11/25/18	\$ 7,778.00
Online Giving		<u>1,482.30</u>
Total Income		\$ 9,260.30

*Thank you for your generosity!*

**Support the Retirement Fund for Religious December 8th & 9th** Your support helps provide medications, nursing care and more. Please give to those who have given a lifetime.

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:

## The Restoration Fund

A donation was made in memory of **Marcella Cramer** from Jeff Szumigale, Chuck Harris and the officers and employees of PNC Bank's Wealth Management Department

## Sr. Mary Pascal Food Pantry

- ♦ **Special Intention** from Kathy Fatica
- Donations to the Food Pantry were made in memory of:
- ♦ **Janet Klempay** from Barbara Brairton
- ♦ **Richard Miller** from Tom & Mary Alice Doolin
- ♦ **Helen Kormosh, Joseph R. Kormosh** from Joe Kormosh
- ♦ **Barbara Korn** from David Korn
- ♦ **Richard Miller** from Lynne Miller
- ♦ **Norman Murphy, Ruth Janoski, Ronnie Chesko, Joe Deutsch** from Patrick Murphy
- ♦ **Ed & Helen Wright** from Eugene & Kathleen Polaski
- ♦ **Our Parents** from John & Barbara Reitingier
- ♦ **Mary G. Walker** from Susan Walker Scott

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

## 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.



*The Sanctuary Lamp  
burns in loving memory of  
**Michael P. Dailey**  
from the Joe Canella family*

## Ministry Schedule

**Saturday, December 8, 2018 at 5:00 pm**

Lector: Angie Kontur

Eucharistic Ministers: Kay Mannino,  
Roseanne Brown, Shirley Winschel

Greeters: Bob & Diane Boeh

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

**Sunday, December 9, 2018 at 8:00 am**

Lector: Fred Olds

Eucharistic Ministers: Tom Golab, Kathryn Olds,  
Joe Schneider

Ushers: John Maloney, Dave Korn, Chuck Straub,  
Mike Nies

**Sunday, December 9, 2018 at 10:30 am**

Lector: Mary Williams

Eucharistic Ministers: Mary Williams, Mary Kearney,  
Megan Gilmore

Greeters: Arlene Miller, Tim Donlin

Altar Servers: Juliette Morales

Ushers: Randy Pristello, Dave Wilcox, John Purvis,  
Chuck Agresti

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



If you are interested in becoming part of the **St. Patrick Ministry team of volunteers**, please contact the Parish Office at 454-8085 or email [stpats@neo.rr.com](mailto:stpats@neo.rr.com). The positions of **Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors, Altar Servers, Counters and Greeters** are available. Lectors and EM are especially needed for the 8:00 AM Mass on Sunday.

## The Season of Advent



### LITURGY INTENTIONS

**Dec. 1** *Saturday, Vigil: First Sunday of Advent*

5:00 PM ROBERT VITRON  
(TIMOTHY & MARIANNE STEVENSON)

**Dec. 2** *First Sunday of Advent*

8:00 AM EDWARD SZYMANOWSKI & DEBRA MCINTOSH  
(WIFE & MOTHER, GLORIA SZYMANOWSKI)

10:30 AM SEAN JOHNSON & JEFFREY JOHNSON  
(RICHARD, JEFFREY & GRETCHEN JOHNSON)

**Dec. 3** *Monday, Saint Francis Xavier, Priest*

8:00 AM MASS

**Dec. 4** *Tuesday, Saint John Damascene,  
Priest and Doctor of the Church*

8:00 AM MASS

**Dec. 5** *Wednesday, Advent Weekday*

8:00 AM MASS

**Dec. 6** *Thursday, Saint Nicholas, Bishop*

8:00 AM MASS

**Dec. 7** *Friday, Saint Ambrose, Bishop and  
Doctor of the Church*  
NO MASS OR COMMUNION SERVICE

**Dec. 8** *Saturday, Vigil: Second Sunday of Advent*

9:00 AM IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE  
BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

5:00 PM CHARLENE BURKHOLDER, ANNIV. OF BIRTH  
(FAMILY)

**Dec. 9** *Second Sunday of Advent*

8:00 AM EUGENE AND CLARA KULIG  
(JAY & CAROL HABAS)

10:30 AM MICHAEL J. CUMMINGS (WIFE, DONNA)

### DATES TO REMEMBER

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

**12/01** 4:30 PM Confessions - St.P

**12/04** 11:00 AM Food Pantry - PR

**12/05** 12:00 PM A.A. - PR

**12/08** 4:30 PM Confessions - St.P

### *St. Martin Shining Stars*

- \* Please place gifts in **gift bags**, rather than wrapping them. (Gift bags are easier for transporting)
- \* Please **securely attach** the star to the gift. Place multiple gifts in one bag and attach the star to the outside.
- \* Gift receipts are highly encouraged.
- \* Gift cards are also welcomed.
- \* Return your gifts to the church or parish office no later than

**Wednesday, December 5<sup>th</sup>.**

Thank you!!!

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We will again be hosting the ***Overflow Shelter*** for the homeless ***January 30 -February 6*** at Church of the Nativity social center 109 German St. This is an opportunity for us to live the gospel of Jesus by serving those who are in greatest need, the marginalized, the neglected, those who are unable to provide for themselves the basic necessities of life. We need volunteers, age 18 and over, for the following:

#### **PROVIDE EVENING MEAL FOR 40-60 GUESTS.**

For anyone who is an expert caterer or chef this project can be taken on individually. Most people who have done this formed a group of 2-4 people to do it. Dinner is served at 8:00 PM. If possible we like those who prepare the meal to also serve it but we have volunteers who can do that. Preparation can be done at home or in the kitchen at the facility. There are ovens and stove for heating. If you are interested in doing this call Maureen Beck at 864-8446.

#### **SHIFT VOLUNTEERS**

6:30 PM - 11:00 PM

11:00 PM - 3:00 AM

3:00 AM - 7:30 AM

At least one woman and one man is needed for each shift. Volunteers will be working under the direction of an experienced staff member. If you are interested in working a shift contact Angie Kontur at 434-9653 (call or text) or email [angiekontur@gmail.com](mailto:angiekontur@gmail.com).

### **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 30 to February 6**. 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 greatly appreciate your donations. The response the past few years has been amazing. Thank you for your generosity.



### We can see the light at the end of the tunnel.

A lovely Celtic Cross is planned by the **Irish Cultural Society** for the Grotto on the east side of St. Patrick Church to honor not only the Irish, but all immigrant families who came to Erie to seek a better life for their families and create our rich cultural diversity.

We are coming to the end. Final orders are being taken for the inscribed cobblestones that will surround the Celtic Cross for generations in the heart of Erie's robust business, historical and educational area. We hope to complete orders by December 31<sup>st</sup>.

Last call!!! Please contact Kathleen (864-0375), Eileen (866-1096) or Donna (453-5978) if you are interested in memorializing your family.

### Naughty or nice? Have breakfast with Santa



The Knights of Columbus John Mark Gannon Assembly is sponsoring a breakfast with Santa event **Dec. 8 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at St. Jude the**

**Apostle Parish Center, 606 Lowell Ave., Erie.**

Breakfast includes pancakes, eggs, sausage and drinks. The cost is \$5 for adults, \$3 for children ages 6 to 12, and free for children under age 6.

### Crèche display highlights Advent activities

A tri-parish display of family Nativity sets is scheduled at the social center of **St. Paul Church, 435 W. 16<sup>th</sup> St., Erie, Dec. 8 from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., and Dec. 9 from 10:30 a.m.**



**to 1 p.m.** Advent is a perfect time to contemplate different artist portrayals of crèches, some of them heirlooms. A free will offering will be accepted and will benefit Erie Dawn. For more information, call Kate at 814-454-8732. This event is sponsored by the partnered parishes of Sacred Heart, St. Andrew and St. Paul in Erie.



### 'Follow the Star' concert features Tennessee Backporch

Tennessee Backporch will perform its **"Follow the Star"** concert at **St.**

**Gregory Thaumaturgus Church, 48**

**South Pearl St., North East, Dec. 16 at 4 p.m.**

Also featured will be students from St. Gregory Parish. Admission cost is \$15 for adults and \$5 for students. Tickets are available for purchase at the parish office at 136 West Main St., North East, or by calling 814-725-9691. Tickets also are available at the door.

## 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**





***Sr. Mary Pascal Food Pantry  
2018 Thanksgiving Food Distribution***  
photos by Ann Halupczynski

