

Third Sunday of Advent  
December 17, 2017



The Advent Wreath  
St. Patrick Church

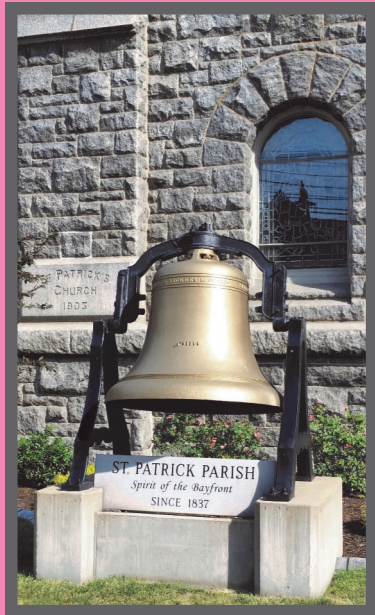
Saint Patrick Parish

*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***

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...***



Written when Israel returned from exile to find the land in ruins, Isaiah's prophecy is directed to a people who long for God to restore both land and people. We're told that the change will only take place through the prophet Isaiah. His audience would clearly see themselves among the poor and broken-hearted, eager for healing. He proclaims a jubilee year, a year of favor as described in Leviticus (25:8-55). Legal norms required the return of property to its original owner, release of slaves and cancellation of debts. The jubilee is based on the covenant between Israel and God that requires a fresh start for those who have suffered loss of land and liberty. The wealthy are to forgive the debts of the poor. It is a call to the entire nation to restore the fortunes of their fellow citizens, creating a new society. The second part of the reading is an apt, joyful response to God's promise.

Paul writes today to remind his people to live always in fidelity to Christ, being patient with one another. Their joy, prayer and thanksgiving should extend to every moment because this is God's will for them. Paul is aware of the difficulties in the community at Thessalonica and he warns that they should not quench the Spirit nor despise prophetic utterances. Rather, they should test them.

Again today we meet John the Baptist as one who leads us to Jesus. His role is very clear to John, the Evangelist. He is the means to introduce Jesus, to testify to the light, give clear witness as to who he is and who he is not. John alone among the gospel authors uses the contrast between light and darkness to signify good and evil. Light radiates to bring knowledge and belief. John is very clear in stating that he is NOT the Christ, that he is not Elijah nor the prophet, most likely referring to Moses whom God promised to raise up. Each of these denials shows that John is not the one the Jews have been waiting for. We're told that he is preparing a straight path

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

in the desert. The roadway is prepared not only for the people, but also so that the Lord may come to them. In the end, the people do not yet understand. According to our author, the people are still lacking the light needed for understanding and faith.

Morgan and Kathy Jacox came to the rectory on December 8th and presented me with a check in the amount of \$432,500 for the restoration of the pipe organ. They are donating the restoration in memory of Morgan's parents, and he wanted to make the presentation that day because December 8th was his father's birthday. I can't begin to express my gratitude to them for this incredibly generous gift. Quite honestly, I don't know how I would have raised the money to restore the 110 year old instrument, but thanks to Morgan and Kathy it is now a reality. Bishop Persico will dedicate the pipe organ in late June.

Ever since becoming a pastor over thirty years ago, I have always closed the parish office for the week between Christmas and New Years. It is a very slow time of the year, it gives the staff a break from the hectic pace that led up to the holiday, and it gives me a break. I will be here the entire time and if there is an emergency, you can reach me at 454-4032.

It has been 18 months since the release of *Building in Truth and Love*, the plan for Catholic schools in the Diocese of Erie. In a recent report, Father Nick Rouch, Vicar for Education, stated that it will take 3-5 years to implement the majority of the recommendations. With regard to enrollment, the consultants warned the diocese that establishing the new system would likely result in the retention of about 80% of the students. In fact, we have retained 93%! Overall, the K-12 enrollment in the diocese is 6,216 which is a 4% decline from the previous year. We are waiting to hear how the other dioceses in Pennsylvania fared. Fr. Rouch also reported that 71% of 8th grade graduates from our Catholic schools enroll in our Catholic high schools. This percentage has been increasing slightly for the past several years. Ninety-three percent of our high school graduates go on to enroll in college. Gannon University received the most of any private or Catholic university.

In another interesting note, at a recent dinner in the rectory with the bishop and a group of priests, Father Scott Jabo, headmaster of Cathedral Prep and Villa Maria Academy, said that 51% of the freshman class at Prep this year came from Erie public schools.

We have a few openings left for a May 10 day trip to Italy. It includes 2 days in Rome, 3 in Sorrento and 5 days in Sicily. Information is available by contacting the parish office.

Bishop Persico recently gave priests an update on the next stage of our Pastoral Planning: life-long faith development. As he noted, this one is the most important of all of them and the most difficult to nail down. With the restructuring of parishes and schools, we were dealing with tangible results. In this phase, things are a bit more fuzzy. The first stage resulted in feedback from the parishes which included statements such as *more collaboration among parish, we must let go of our parish identity programs and work toward a more regional concept, we need to be more welcoming*, etc. The bishop has named a Faith Formation Implementation Team whose job is to transform the recommendations into practical, tangible steps to provide a path through which parishes will be able to begin implementation.

The bishop also noted that a number of people expected the way we handle confirmation would change significantly as we focus on lifelong faith formation. He said that he is giving this issue priority, working on options with key personal, but that it is not a part of the work of the Faith Formation Implementation team.

The response to the stars on the Christmas tree to provide gifts to poor children has been incredible. God bless your generosity.

A delightful angelic little boy was waiting for his mother outside the ladies room of the gas station. He was approached by a man who asked, "Son, can you tell me where the Post Office is?" The little boy replied, "Just go straight down this street two blocks, turn left and it's right there." The man thanked the boy and complimented him on how bright he was and said, "I'm the new pastor in town. If you and your mother come to church on Sunday, I'll show you how to get to heaven." The little boy replied, "You gotta be kidding me. You can't even find the Post Office."





# Saint Patrick News



## Stewardship

Offertory Collection	\$ 8,403.76
Online Giving	<u>1,359.30</u>
Total Income	\$ 9,763.06
Retirement for Religious	\$ 2,491.84

*Thank you for your generosity!*

*The Sanctuary Lamp  
burns in loving memory of  
**Charles & Eleanor Trabold**  
from Dario & Donna Cipriani*



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

In memory of **Norann Brugger** from Bill & Martha Hilbert, Don & Anne Swift and Mary Ann Brugger.

In memory of **Gerard Kienholz** from Kelly Armor, Jeanne & Oscar Schmitt, Brian Cochran & Linda Lloyd, Matt Walts & family, Eric Walts & family, Pat Shells and Pamela Pratt.

### Sr. Mary Pascal Food Pantry

Donations were made in memory of:

- ♦ **William J. & Jane M. Carney** from Gary & Mary Pat Froehlich
- ♦ **George Garfield** from Marilyn Garfield
- ♦ **Helen Oncea** from Yvonne Gersims
- ♦ **Ray Blair, Olive Blair, Tony Buschi, Brian Ault** from Barbara Rothman

Also donations from:

Frank & Christine Altadonna, Mr. & Mrs. Michael Callaghan, Bill & Mary Flanagan, Lawrence & JoElla Gorgacz, Kathleen Horan and Pierre & Kathy McCormick

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

*The Food Pantry is in need of packaged diapers—*



*They can be dropped off at all Masses and left in the vestibule or at the Parish Office. Thank you !!!*

## Ministry Schedule

**Saturday, December 23, 2017 at 5:00 pm**

Lector: Rick Filippi

Eucharistic Ministers: Shirley Winschel,  
Alex Vinesky, Kaleigh Vinesky

Greeters: Mary Anne Ashworth, Mary Tellers

Altar Servers: Emilio & Gemma Filippi

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

**Sunday, December 24, 2017 at 8:00 am**

Lector: Mary Ellen Dahlkemper

Eucharistic Ministers: Tom Golab, Lisa Straub,  
Nancy Andrzejewski

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

**Sunday, December 24, 2017 at 10:30 am**

Lector: Ed Smith

Eucharistic Ministers: Colleen Welch, Ed Smith,  
Kathleen Pae

Greeters: **2 NEEDED**

Altar Servers: Ryan Jubulis, Owen Fetzner

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

## Christmas Ministry Schedule

**Sunday, December 24, 2017 at 5:00 pm**

Lector: Ryan Palm

Eucharistic Ministers: Jay Habas, Carol Habas,  
Ryan Palm, Kay Mannino, Kathy Sertz,  
Joe Schneider, Forrest Mischler

Greeters: Jim & Kathy Sertz, Mary Anne Ashworth,  
**1 NEEDED**

Altar Servers: **2 NEEDED**

Ushers: Phil Rewers, Jim Sertz, Rob Oligeri,  
Chris Lampe, **4 NEEDED**

**Sunday, December 24, 2017 at 9:00 pm**

Lector: Mary Williams

Eucharistic Ministers: Mary Williams, Patty Dailey  
**1 NEEDED**

Greeters: Vinnie & Ann Halupczynski

Ushers: John Purvis, **3 NEEDED**

**Monday, December 25, 2017 at 8:00 am**

Lector: Nick Straub

Eucharistic Ministers: Tom Golab, Lisa Straub,  
Nancy Andrzejewski

Ushers: Dave Korn, **3 NEEDED**

**Monday, December 24, 2017 at 10:30 am**

Lector: Dario Cipriani

Eucharistic Ministers: Ray Fiorelli,  
Dario Cipriani, Michele Wheaton

Greeters: **2 NEEDED**

Ushers: **4 NEEDED**



**LITURGY INTENTIONS****Dec. 16** *Saturday, Vigil: Third Sunday of Advent*5:00 PM FORREST & GERTRUDE SHORTS  
(TOM & SHARON YELKOVICH)**Dec. 17** *Third Sunday of Advent*8:00 AM NICHOLAS KONZEL (RON & PATTY MERSKI)  
10:30 AM ROBERT VITRON  
(TIMOTHY & MARIANNE STEVENSON)**Dec. 18** *Monday, Late Advent Weekday*

8:00 AM FRANK MARIELLA, ANNIV. (FAMILY)

**Dec. 19** *Tuesday, Late Advent Weekday*8:00 AM MARY PAT RINGHAND  
(MARY PAT SCHLAUDECKER)**Dec. 20** *Wednesday, Late Advent Weekday*8:00 AM BERNADINE ZDUNSKI  
(BOB & MARY LOU MARACCI)**Dec. 21** *Thursday, Saint Peter Canisius, Priest and  
Doctor of the Church*

8:00 AM COMMUNION SERVICE

**Dec. 22** *Friday, Late Advent Weekday*

NO MASS OR COMMUNION SERVICE

**Dec. 23** *Saturday, Vigil: Fourth Sunday of Advent*

5:00 PM WANDA HABAS (JAY &amp; CAROL HABAS)

**Dec. 24** *Fourth Sunday of Advent*8:00 AM HELEN LAROCCA, ANNIV. OF BIRTH  
(ANGIE KONTUR)  
10:30 AM JIM HAYES, WEDDING ANNIVERSARY  
(EILEEN BALCZUN HAYES)**Dec. 24** *The Lord of the Nativity, Vigil*5:00 PM GENEVIEVE TACCONE (A FRIEND)  
9:00 PM RICHARD QUADRI  
(VINNIE & ANN HALUPCZYNSKI)**HOMELESS SHELTER**

St Patrick's will again host the overflow homeless shelter at the Church of the Nativity at Front and German Streets. Our week this season will be January 31 - February 7. We have several volunteer opportunities to choose from:

Each night we need one or two people to be present during each shift. The shifts are 6:30 PM - 11:00 PM, 11:00 PM - 3:00 AM and 3:00 AM to 7:30 AM. If you are willing to do one of these shifts for one evening or several evenings and are age 18 or older contact Angie Kontur 434-9653.

Calling all cooks!!! Each evening we serve dinner to anywhere between 40 and 60+ guests. We need volunteers to prepare (in your kitchen or at the church) meals and serve them. If you are a master caterer and can do this all by yourself then you are truly amazing! However, you may want to get together with a couple of friends and make this a group project. If you are interested contact Carm Tellers 873-8539.

This is our 4th year of hosting the shelter. We have been doing this with essentially the same core group of team leaders. We love what we do and we have found it very rewarding and enlightening but we are getting old - at least some of us are. We are looking for individuals who would consider taking the plunge and shadowing us with the thought of stepping into a leadership position in the future. Only requirement is that you have compassion for those who are in need of shelter. For details contact Angie Kontur 434-9653.

And we need funding. Our expenses for operating the shelter for the week average \$6,000 - \$7,000. This includes utilities, trash removal, cleaning service, supplies (you can't believe how much toilet paper we go through) and other needs of our guests that may arise. Please consider making a monetary donation. Any amount will be appreciated.

**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.

**DATES TO REMEMBER**

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

**12/16** 4:30 PM Confessions - St.P  
**12/19** 11:00 AM Food Pantry - PR  
**12/20** 12:00 PM A.A. - PR  
**12/23** 4:30 PM Confessions - St.P

**In-Home Caregiver Needed**

Full-time in-home caregiver needed, if interested, please call Mary at 882-0143

**Marriage Moments—**

Ways to turn your beloved off – Don't let the busyness of Christmas preparations blind you to the gift of your friendship. Don't let shopping or decorating or worries keep you from treasuring the presence of your beloved.



## Have an Irish Christmas

& shop at Saint Patrick's Trinity Gift Shop!

### Spread a little Irish joy this holiday season!

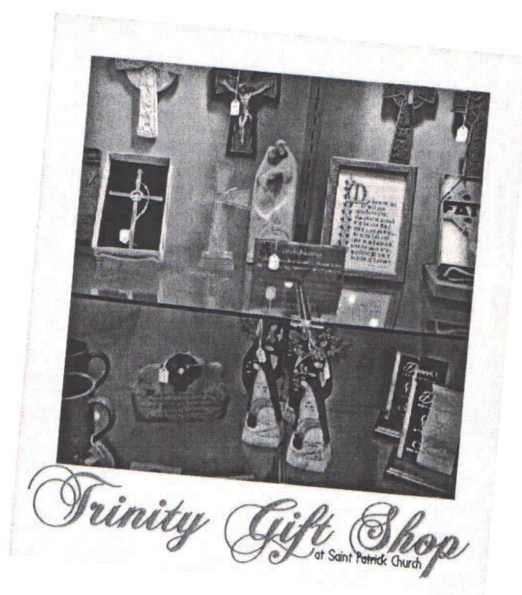
Looking for a unique specialty gift item, we can help you find it! Our store has religious gifts of crucifixes, cards, candles, jewelry, cook books & more! Get a Saint Patrick tee shirt or sweatshirt for any gift!

### *Happy Holidays*

*from your friends at  
Trinity Gift Shop!*

We are located inside at the south east corner of the church, stop by & see us!

We're open before & after  
5:00 PM & 10:30 AM  
weekend masses!



### Feel like spreading Irish luck for the New Year?

Irish gifts of trinity crosses, angels, statues & Irish plaques make great stocking stuffers. The History of Saint Patrick's Church book also makes for a great gift!



*Trinity Gift Shop is open before and after  
Saturday, 5:00 pm and Sunday, 10:30 am Masses*



# St. Martin's Center Shining Stars Christmas Gift Tree 2017



## 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