

# The Feast of the Holy Family

## December 31, 2017



## 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:**

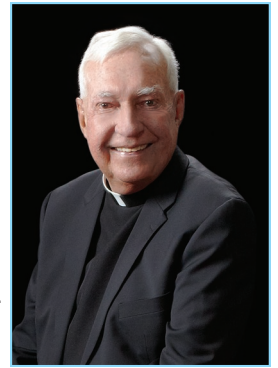
Daily Mass: Monday-Thursday: 8:00 AM (CHAPEL)

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 Feast of the Holy Family. Sirach, also called Ecclesiasticus, was writing in Hebrew around 200 BC by Jesus Ben Sirā, a teacher who wrote to instruct young men in living wisely. Sirach advises on practical aspects of daily living. Today he explains how to live in fear of the Lord in family relationships. The benefits of living in wise relationships and showing reverence and obedience to parents is founded on reverence and obedience to God.

Beginning with Abel, the author of Hebrews presents people from the Old Testament who are models of faith in God. Today's reading centers on the faith of Abraham, whose saga extends from Genesis 12-25. It draws on three episodes in Abraham's story to illustrate his great faith. In the first example God calls him to "go forth." Since he does not know where he is going, he must trust God. The second example comes from chapter 15. There, after initially questioning God, he believed that his elderly, barren wife would conceive a son as God promised. In the third test, a severe one, Abraham is asked to sacrifice his son, Isaac, the child of the promise. Although the sacrifice was not completed, Abraham has indeed made a true offering by his obedience. The reading goes inside Abraham's mind: if God could bring life to the barren Sarah, he reasoned, when he was as good as dead, couldn't God also raise his son Isaac from the dead?

Mary and Joseph are fulfilling the law of Moses as they travel from Galilee to Jerusalem. They bring the offering expected of their social class: two turtle doves or two pigeons. In the temple they meet Simeon and Anna. Simeon was awaiting the consolation of Israel, a reference to the Messiah, since the Holy Spirit had revealed that Simeon wouldn't die until he had seen the Messiah. The account, which began with the humble family, faithful to their Jewish tradition, concludes on a similar note. They have fulfilled everything expected of them and they return to their home to

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

nurture and raise the child.

I apologize for all of the variety of readings today. I have no idea why the liturgists muddy up the water they way they do.

New Years Day is NOT a holyday of obligation this year. When a holyday falls on Friday or Monday, the obligation to attend Mass is dispensed. Holydays are one of the most confusing things we have in the church today, and very, very few people attend Mass on the holydays.

Unfortunately, I'm going to be leaving you for a little while. On January 3rd, I'm going in to have my right knee replaced, and the doctor tells me I will be out for the following 3 weekends. After the surgery, I'm going somewhere for rehab. I'm only doing that because I'm alone here and this just makes it easier for me and for everyone. I will take enough rehab to be able to get around on my own and then will come home and continue with more rehab until I'm fully back on my feet. For years, the doctor has told me I spend way too much time on my knees in prayer; but I wouldn't listen!!!!!! Believe that and I have a bridge I can sell you cheap.

I'm grateful to Father Tom Fialkowski who will cover the parish the first two weekends of January. Tom is a longtime Cathedral Prep teacher and swimming coach and then became pastor of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish where he retired from. Covering the parish the third weekend in January will be Father Jason Mitchell. Jason is on the faculty at Gannon University and normally helps out at the cathedral.

Once overwhelmingly Catholic Ireland is now facing a dramatically different future. Archbishop Diarmuid Martin, the archbishop of Dublin, recently told his diocese that they will see a 70% drop in the number of priests by the year 2030. There would just be 111 priests to minister to Dublin's 199 parishes. He noted that fifty-seven percent of priests currently serving are over the age of 60 and this is predicted to increase to 75% by 2030. Other research, he noted, predict a drop in Mass attendance by 33%. He noted that the survey reveals that the fastest growing cohort in the Irish population today is people who claim to

have no religion. They are also among the youngest. Their number increased by more than 70% between 2011 and 2016 and they now number 481,388. They are now the second largest category in Ireland at 10 percent of the population with an average age of 34.

I noted in an earlier bulletin that we are experiencing a problem with scheduling weddings here. St. Patrick's and the cathedral are the two most popular places for weddings. In the past we have accepted wedding reservations from non-parishioners but the problem we're now facing is that we have grown so much as a parish that we can no longer accept both non-parishioners and then accept reservations from our own parishioners. We're fast approaching a thousand families and, if you look around at Mass, many of those people are young. As such, we are limiting weddings to people who have been a registered and active parishioner of one year before they can make a reservation. I really dislike doing this, but we have to give priority to our own people

An added complication with Saturday weddings is that many families delay a funeral until Saturday so that more family members can be there. As such, we often end up having a Saturday 10 AM funeral, a 2 PM wedding and then the Saturday evening Vigil Mass at 5 PM.

We have received a new chasuble in honor of Terry & Linda Pfeffer's 50th wedding anniversary.

A ventriloquist is touring Sweden, and one night he's doing a show in a small fishing town. With his dummy on his knee, he starts going through his usual dumb blonde jokes. Suddenly, a blonde woman in the fourth row stands on her chair and starts shouting, "I've heard enough of your stupid blonde jokes. What makes you think you can stereotype Swedish blonde women that way? What does the color of a woman's hair have to do with her worth as a human being? It's men like you who keep women like me from being respected at work and in the community. It's people like you who make others think that all blondes are dumb. You and your kind perpetuate discrimination against not only blondes, but women in general, and all in the name of humor." The embarrassed ventriloquist begins to apologize, and the blonde yells, "You stay out of this. I'm talking to that idiot on your lap."



# Saint Patrick News



## Stewardship

Offertory Collection 12/17/17	\$ 8,163.85
Online Giving	<u>1,619.30</u>
Total Income	\$ 9,783.15

*Thank you for your generosity!*

Due to early publication deadlines and the Christmas and New Year Holidays the offertory for December 24, 2017, December 31, 2017 and January 7, 2018 will be published in the January 14, 2018 bulletin.

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:

## Sr. Mary Pascal Food Pantry

Donations were made in memory of:

- ♦ **Jim & Mary Ann Mahoney, Marty Schaaf** from Paul & Anne Causgrove
- ♦ **John & Marjorie DeBias** from Kevin & Margaret Cohick
- ♦ **Clarence & Lucille Peterson** from Leo & Jane Fitzgibbon
- ♦ **Veronica Humenay** from Eugene & Louise Humenay
- ♦ **Greg Shabbick** from Bill & Patty Jackson
- ♦ **Grace Dalton** from Deborah Musolff
- ♦ **Howard & Dorothy Bailey & son, Dennis** from Patricia Schmidt

Also donations from:

Judy Emling, Bill & Mary Flanagan,  
William & Patricia Gloekler, Lawrence & JoElla  
Gorgacz, Jay & Carol Habas and  
Steven & Kelly Karns

**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 !!!*



*The Sanctuary Lamp  
burns in loving memory of  
**David T. Blinzler**  
from Mary Beth Kingston*

## Ministry Schedule

**Saturday, January 6, 2018 at 5:00 pm**

Lector: Mary Beth Pinto

Eucharistic Ministers: Mary Beth Pinto,  
Shirley Winschel, Kathy Sertz

Greeters: Phil & Judy Kelly

Altar Servers: Collin & Ryan Hudson

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

**Sunday, January 7, 2018 at 8:00 am**

Lector: Nick Straub

Eucharistic Ministers: Tom Golab, Lisa Straub,  
Nancy Andrzejewski

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

**Sunday, January 7, 2018 at 10:30 am**

Lector: Mary Duncan

Eucharistic Ministers: Colleen Welch,  
Charla Leemhuis, Kathleen Pae

Greeters: Tom & Linda Brunner

Altar Servers: **NEEDED**

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

Offertory Counters: Tom Brunner, Linda Brunner,  
Mary Duncan, Deb Slusarz



## 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.

*Athbhliain faoi mhaise duit!*  
Irish Gaelic—Happy New Year!

### LITURGY INTENTIONS

**Dec. 30** *Saturday, Vigil: The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph*

5:00 PM JIM WILKINSON FAMILY  
(DAVID & DARLENE WILKINSON)

**Dec. 31** *The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph*

8:00 AM MILDRED KRAUCHEN, ANNIV. OF BIRTH  
(BILL & BARBARA KRAUCHEN THOMPSON)

10:30 AM JOHN & BESSIE WEBER FAMILY

**Jan. 1** *Monday, Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God*

NO MASS OR COMMUNION SERVICE

**Jan. 2** *Tuesday, Saints Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors of the Church*

NO MASS OF COMMUNION SERVICE

**Jan. 3** *Wednesday, Christmas Weekday*

8:00 AM COMMUNION SERVICE

**Jan. 4** *Thursday, Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious*

8:00 AM COMMUNION SERVICE

**Jan. 5** *Friday, Saint John Neuman*

NO MASS OR COMMUNION SERVICE

**Jan. 6** *Saturday, Vigil: The Epiphany of the Lord*

5:00 PM JIM KAVENEY (FAMILY)

**Jan. 7** *The Epiphany of the Lord*

8:00 AM FRANK LAROCCA, ANNIV. (ANGIE KONTUR)

10:30 AM JOHN LAWRENCE FATICA  
(CHUCK & WENDY WEBER)

### 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.



### **Céad Míle Fáilte!**

As the 2018 St. Patrick's Day parade chair, I'd like to introduce myself! I'm Debra

Slusarz, a recent inductee to the Knights & Ladies of St. Patrick, Class of 2017. I am pleased to invite you to be a part of our 41st Annual St. Patrick's Parade Day, themed "A Day in Ireland." It's just around the corner on Saturday, March 10th, 2018 at 2:00pm!

We're in the planning process, our pot o' gold is beaming with a rainbow full of vibrant colors for Spring in Erie! We are looking for Sponsors and Advertisers! If you are interested in learning more about the Irish Sponsorship opportunities or would consider placing an advertisement in our Irish program, please send an email to: [ErieStPatricksParade@yahoo.com](mailto:ErieStPatricksParade@yahoo.com). The advertisements of your organization, business or personal contribution will be featured in our Irish program! We proudly distribute this program along the streets of Downtown Erie and reach thousands from our community!

Thanks a million, Deb Slusarz | Lady of St. Patrick '17

### DATES TO REMEMBER

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

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

**01/01-01/02** OFFICE CLOSED

**01/02** 11:00 AM Food Pantry - PR

**01/03** 12:00 PM A.A. - PR

**01/06** 4:30 PM Confessions - St.P

## Erie parishes host 'Festival of Lessons and Carols'

The parish communities of *St. John the Baptist and Holy Rosary* in Erie invite everyone to "A Festival of Lessons and Carols" Jan. 4 at 7 p.m. at St. John the Baptist Church, 509 E. 26th St. The event is a service of Scripture and song that dates to the late 19th century. Those in attendance will hear nine short Scripture readings and then listen to music. A light reception will follow.



## Mark the date for Baldwin Wallace/McDowell High School choral concert

The Baldwin Wallace University Choir, of Berea, Ohio, will perform a choral concert at St. Peter Cathedral, Erie, on Jan. 5 at 7 p.m. with Erie's McDowell High School Chorus. The conductor of the Baldwin Wallace Choir is Dr. Dirk Gardner; the McDowell Chorus is under the direction of Leslie Weber. The public is welcome. A free-will offering will be taken. For more information, call Bill Herring at St. Peter Cathedral at 814-453-6677, ext. 8.

## People for Life—

People for Life's *40th Annual Pro-Life Breakfast* will be held on Saturday, January 13, 2018 at the Erie Bayfront Convention Center at 9 a.m.

Tickets on-sale now:

Regular Price...\$16.00, Ages 3-12...\$8.00

Under 3... Free, Last day to get tickets: January 9

Reservations are required. Payments can be mailed to People for Life; P.O. Box 1126; Erie, PA 16512. For more information or to pay by credit card, call: (814) 882-1333 or go online to:

[www.peopleforlife.life/january2018](http://www.peopleforlife.life/january2018)

Special guest speaker will be Ann McElhinney, journalist, movie producer and director, and best selling author. Ann is the coauthor, with her husband Phelim McAleer, of *Gosnell: The Untold Story*.

January 18-20... *45th Annual Bus Trip to the March for Life* in Washington, DC

For more information or to pay by credit card, call: (814) 882-1333 or go online to:

[www.peopleforlife.life/january2018](http://www.peopleforlife.life/january2018)

Saturday, January 24, 2018...*Erie March for Life* at the Pavilion in Perry Square, downtown Erie at 11:00 a.m.

## Rabbi to speak at Benedictine monastery

The Benedictine Sisters of Erie will host Rabbi Emily Losben-Ostrov of Erie's Temple Anshe Hessed as the presenter of "Judaism Today: A Modern Look at an Ancient Faith," on Jan. 24 at 7 p.m. at Mount Saint Benedict Monastery, 6101 East Lake Road, Erie. The event is free and open to the public. For further information about this or other events in the community's Enrichment Series, contact Sister Stephanie Schmidt, OSB, at [formation@mtstbenedict.org](mailto:formation@mtstbenedict.org) or at 814-899-0614, ext. 2511.

## Consider Engagement Encounter!



Planning your marriage in 2018? An engagement Encounter is scheduled for January 26th through the 28th at St. Mark Catholic Center in Erie. EE satisfies diocesan requirements for marriage in the church. Space is limited, so please register early by calling 814-824-1261 or by email at [familylife@erieRCD.org/ee.htm](mailto:familylife@erieRCD.org/ee.htm) for more information or to register. Remember, "A wedding is one day, but a marriage is for a lifetime." Catholic and interfaith couples are encouraged to attend.



## Open House Jan. 28 at Erie Catholic Schools

Erie Catholic School System invites you to join us for open house at all six schools on **Sunday, January 28<sup>th</sup> from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.** (Schedule below). See how our school communities combine Gospel values and great learning experiences to help each child realize their true potential, in and out of the classroom. Enjoy school tours, meet teachers, students and parents, and enter a drawing at each school to win a \$500 scholarship! Visit us at [www.ErieCatholic.org](http://www.ErieCatholic.org) to learn more.

### Sunday, January 28:

#### 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Our Lady of Peace School

St. George School

St. Jude School

#### 12:30 to 3:30 p.m.

Blessed Sacrament

St. James School

St. Luke School

## Additional Christmas Flower Memorials



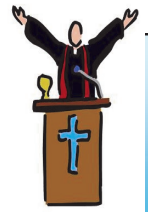
**Received from...**

**In Memory Of / In Honor Of...**

Chris & Lesley Allen.....	IMO Mark Allen
Mr. & Mrs. John Bauman.....	IMO Linda Bauman Callaghan
Tammy Birkmire.....	IMO Sandy Birkmire, Tim Birkmire, Jr.
Fred & Theresa Gabler.....	IMO Clyde & Alice Garity, Fred & Dorothy Gabler, Gina Garity,
.....	Sarah Miniaci
Yvonne Gersims.....	IMO Howard Gersims, Sandra Lee Gersims, Kathryn Miller,
.....	James Miller, Mitchell Hallett
Mr. & Mrs. Karl Kelm, Jr.....	
Matt & Abby Lechner.....	IMO Robert Gallo
John & Irene Nemergut.....	IMO Nemergut & Winiarczyk
Michele & Tom Ridge.....	IMO Margaret & Howard Moore, Laura & Tom Ridge

### MSGR. KRIEGL'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**

### Advertiser of the Week:

We thank ***Ehrman's Allburn Florists***  
1620 W 8th St., Erie PA 16505 814-456-6211  
[www.allburnflorist.com](http://www.allburnflorist.com)  
For advertising in our parish bulletin.