

Feast of the Holy Family
December 26, 2021



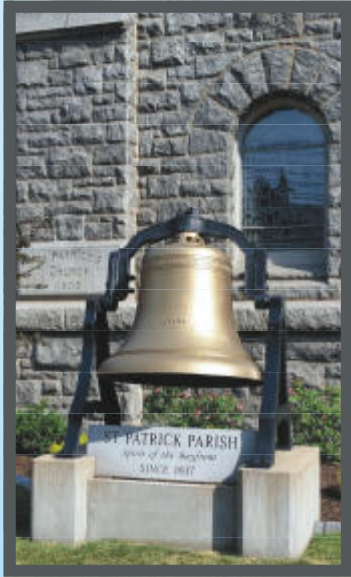
Saint Patrick Parish

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

Pastor—

Monsignor Henry A. Kriegel

Weekend Assistant, In Residence—

Father Michael DeMartinis

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

Website: www.saintpatrickparisherie.org

Office Hours:

Monday-Thursday: 8:00 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. The Book of Sirach is one of the Wisdom Books which consist mostly of poems, proverbs, sayings about right living, etc. This reading is from a longer section which focuses on the respect children owe their parents. The gist of this teaching is that those who honor their parents, even in their old age, will enjoy many blessings from God, including forgiveness of sins and a long and satisfying life. We should remember that the command to honor father and mother is the first of the Ten Commandments focused on what it means to love our neighbors. We all have to struggle with how we honor our families in the midst of the messiness of life.

Our second reading today is from the first Letter of John. Today's excerpt is part of a longer section which focuses on God's love as the primary attribute that makes us children of God. The letter itself is heavily influenced by the Gospel of John, and some of the vocabulary that we find here is also found in the Gospel of John. For example, the prologue of John's Gospel describes the Word coming into the world and the world not knowing him, but who did accept him were given power to become children of God. The author emphasizes that now we are God's children in order to highlight an even greater gift that will come to us at a later time we will all be like God. The remainder of the reading focuses on the confidence we ought to have in God because we keep his commandments. And his commandments are clear: believe in his Son and love one another with the love that God has for us. Finally, the author exhorts us to keep God's commandments so that we can remain in God and he in us. And how does he do this? Through the Holy Spirit.

Our gospel depicts Mary and Joseph bringing Jesus to the temple, fulfilling their Jewish obligation of pilgrimage and he decides to stay in the temple. At the end of Passover, seven or eight days in length, the Holy Family joined a caravan destined for Nazareth, about 65 miles, a journey of several days. John reminds us that Jesus is 12

From the Pastor's Desk continued...

years old, and we might think of him as a boy, but remember that boys were married by the time they were fifteen. This helps to explain why Mary and Joseph were unaware of his absence at first. Luke illustrates the anxiety that filled the hearts of Mary and Joseph when they realize Jesus is not with the caravan, and then they leave to take the dangerous journey to find him. After three days they find him with teachers who are amazed. When they question him, he responds that he **MUST** be about his father's business. Thus, the first words of Jesus in Luke's gospel carry the notion of divine necessity.

Pope Francis has announced that he will visit Canada to help the reconciliation with indigenous peoples. More than 150,000 First Nations children were required to attend state-funded Christian schools from the 19th century until the 1970s in an effort to assimilate them into the country. Up to 60% of the schools were operated by the Catholic Church. Children attending these schools were stripped of the Native languages and culture and forced to convert to Christianity. Widespread abuse has been documented with up to 6,000 deaths reported. Last summer alone, over 1,000 unmarked graves of Indigenous children were discovered at four residential Canadian schools. Indigenous leaders from Canada are traveling to Rome December 17-20 during which time they are slated to meet with Pope Francis. Pope John Paul II visited Canada on three occasions, including a 1987 meeting with Indigenous leaders.

Retired Pope Benedict XVI, age 94, penned an October 2nd letter to a German priest friend in which he thanked him for informing him of the death of a priest friend, noting that he was the closest friend he had. He then continued to write that he is anticipating his own death and joining with his friend in eternity.

We are once again using missalettes for the weekend Masses. They are in the vestibule of the church and at the side entrance. For Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, we have a special program printed with the readings as well as all of the music which we will be using. You will not need a missalette on that day.

Since New Years Day falls on a Saturday this year, it is **NOT** a holyday of obligation. We do not

normally have a Saturday morning Mass during the year and we will not have a Saturday evening Vigil Mass for Sunday. As such, there will not be a Mass here on New Years Day. We will follow the regular Sunday schedule of an 8 AM and a 10:30 AM Mass.

The parish office is closed this week and will re-open on Monday, January 3. I am here all week if there is any type of an emergency.

It's hard to believe that another year has passed. Where does the time go? Each year brings new challenges and new opportunities, and we have to be open to addressing all of them. Our ethnic ancestors who settled in this eastside of Erie and built all of these magnificent churches could never have imagined the day when things would be so different. Today, there are only a handful of ethnic Catholics left on the lower eastside. I am fortunate to serve on the board of BEST—the Bayfront Eastside Task Force—and if you would drive through this lower eastside neighborhood you would readily see how it has been transformed from what was a derelict, drug-ridden center of poverty to what is now a vibrant and vital neighborhood. With the leadership of Erie Insurance and UPMC Hamot, the neighborhood has been completely transformed. It is now home to a broad mix of people: professionals, blue collar, Erie Insurance and UPMC Hamot executives as well as lower income and some people who are trapped in poverty. But working together, if we all lend our talents and gifts, we can continue to transform the neighborhood and once again make it the vibrant, healthy neighborhood it was in years past. Our immigrant ancestors met the challenges that confronted them when they settled in this area, taking back-breaking jobs, struggling to stay afloat but ultimately conquering the challenges. We can do no less.

Why I like retirement: "When is a retiree's bedtime? Two hours after falling asleep on the couch." ... "Among retirees, what is considered formal attire? Tied shoes." ... "Why do retirees count pennies? They are the only ones who have the time." ... "What is a common term for someone who enjoys work and refuses to retire? NUTS." ... "Why are retirees so slow to clean out the basement, attic or garage? Because they know that as soon as they do, one of their adult kids will want to store stuff there." ... "What's the biggest advantage of going back to school as a retiree? If you cut classes, no one calls your parents."



Saint Patrick News



Stewardship

Offertory Collection - 12/12/21	\$ 6,417.00
Online Giving	<u>3,213.00</u>
Total Income	\$ 9,630.00
Retirement Fund for Religious	\$ 4,625.00

Thank you for your generosity!

Due to early publication deadlines the offertory collection for 12/19/21 will be published in the January 2, 2022 bulletin

Pay Pal has been added to the St. Patrick Parish website as a donation option. With live streaming the Masses we have had requests to enhance our website with this option. St. Patrick's has viewers from all over the United States.

We continue to thank those who make special donations to our parish and we pray for those people in whose honor and memory the donations were made:

Sr. Mary Pascal Food Pantry

Donations to the Food Pantry were made in memory of:

- ◆ **Alan Haskins** from Donna Haskins
- ◆ **Clarence & Mary Zielinski** from Robert & Ann Hayes
- ◆ **Thomas F. Costello, Mr. & Mrs. I. Allan McCreadie, Pasquale Camarco** from Charles & Deborah McCreadie
- ◆ **Gertrude & Al Miles** from John & Barbara Miles
- ◆ **Luke** from John & Cynthia Purvis
- ◆ **Deceased members of the Rennie, Shoff families** from Dorothy Rennie
- ◆ **Marge Griffey** from Ron & Karen Rudler
- ◆ **Agnes V. Sharrer** from Patricia Sharrer
- ◆ **Alfred Sokolowski, Nancy Jackson** from Frances Sokolowski

Also donations from:

Chris Antolik, Tim & Teresa Augustyniak, Carol Bloomstine, Ed Chizewick, Paul & Nancy Ditmore, Karen Euliano and Phil & Denise Rewers

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Let us Welcome
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child of
Patrick & Emily (Taccone) Grab
who will be baptized on
December 28, 2021



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

Ministry Schedule Saturday, January 1, 2022

***no New Year's Day Masses or Vigil Mass for Sunday**

Sunday, January 2, 2022 at 8:00 am

Lector: Dan Bergell

Eucharistic Ministers: Bill Gloekler, Kathleen McCabe
Pattie Marchant, **1 NEEDED**

Ushers: Chuck Straub, Joan Maloney, Mike Nies,
David Korn

Sunday, January 2, 2022 at 10:30 am

Lector: Mary Duncan

Eucharistic Ministers: Ed Smith, Megan Gilmore,
Kathleen Pae, Tim Scully

Ushers: Chuck Agresti, Dave Taccone, Jim Wehan,
Randy Pristello, John Purvis, Tom Welch (4)

Offertory Counters: Michele Wheaton, Tim Torrey,
Susan Merski, Mary Frick

Marriage Moments—

Christmas is past, or is it? [Kwanzaa](#) which starts on Dec. 26 is an annual celebration of African-American culture. No matter the color of your skin, the themes of Kwanzaa can deepen your love for each other and continue the joy of Christmas.

Some of the Kwanzaa themes are Unity, Collective Work, Cooperative Economics, Purpose, Creativity, and Faith. <https://www.officialkwanzaawebsite.org/index.html>



NEED PRAYERS?

Please call **Mary Alice Hartwell** at **814-454-5908** 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.



LITURGY INTENTIONS

- Dec. 25** *The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)*
8:00 AM JOHN HARDNER (JEFFREY HARDNER)
10:30 AM KEVIN ANDRZEJEWSKI (NANCY ANDRZEJEWSKI)
- Dec. 26** *The Holy Family of Jesus Mary And Joseph*
8:00 AM HELEN LARocca, ANNIV. OF BIRTH—12/27
(ANGIE KONTUR)
10:30 AM BETTY GAMA (JUDY SHANAHAN, JOHN & BRIDGET SEYBOLDT, JOHN PHILIP, BEN & OSCAR)
- Dec. 27** *Monday, Saint John, Apostle and Evangelist*
NO MASS OR COMMUNION SERVICE
- Dec. 28** *Tuesday*
NO MASS OR COMMUNION SERVICE
- Dec. 29** *Wednesday*
NO MASS OR COMMUNION SERVICE
- Dec. 30** *Thursday,*
NO MASS OR COMMUNION SERVICE
- Dec. 31** *Friday,*
NO MASS OR COMMUNION SERVICE
- Jan. 01** *Saturday, The Octave Day of the Nativity of the Lord, Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God*
NO MASSES
- Jan. 02** *Epiphany of the Lord*
8:00 AM JOAN ANGELOTTI HEUBEL, ANNIV. OF BIRTH
(DAVID F. HEUBEL)
10:30 AM WILLIAM REISER (PAUL & EILEEN BALCZUN)

DATES TO REMEMBER

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

- 12/28** 9:00 AM Food Pantry - PR
12/24 Parish Office and Church will be CLOSED
from end of day on 12/23 - Monday, January 3, 2022

Readings for the Week of December 26, 2021

- Sunday:** Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/Ps 128:1-2, 3,4-5[cf.1]/Col 3;12-21 or 3:12-17/Lk 2:41-52 or 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28/Ps 84:203, 5-6, 9-10 [cf. 5a]/1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24/Lk 2:41-52
- Monday:** 1Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12 [12]/Jn 20:1a, 2-8
- Tuesday:** 1 Jn 1:5—2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7b-8[7]/Mt 2:13-18
- Wednesday:** 1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6 [11a]/Lk 2:22-35
- Thursday:** 1 Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10 [11a]/Lk 2:36-40
- Friday:** 1 Jn 2:8-21/Ps 96:1-2, 11-12, 13 [11a]/Jn 1:1-18
- Saturday** _____
- Next Sunday:** Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 [cf.11]/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12

Advertiser of the Week:

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264 DAYS TO THE 2022 ERIE IRISH FESTIVAL HAPPY WREN'S DAY.



Unless you're an Irish wren. In which case, you might want to stay in your nice warm nest and skip December 26 altogether.

The day after Christmas is a public holiday in Ireland—*Lá Fhéile Stiofáin--St. Stephan's Day*, which is also known as the Day of the Wren, or simply Wren's Day. And how does one celebrate Wren's Day? Well, traditionally, Irish boys would go around hunting wrens with rocks in an attempt to stone them to death or simply kill them from the exhaustion of flying away from boys with stones who are trying to kill them. Then, the boys would decorate the dead wrens with ribbons or colored paper, tie them to a stick, and parade around the town dancing and singing the Wren Boy's Song, which goes something like this: "The wren, the wren, the king of all the birds, On St. Stephan's day was caught in a furze..." And the adults in the town would give them money and treats. (If you look up "furze" in the dictionary, you will find this definition: "gorse").

So why this bizarre behavior? Punishment. St. Stephan was one of the first ordained deacons of the new Christian church and actually a contemporary of Jesus and the apostles. As such, he drew the ire of the many of the local Jews who accused him of blasphemy. The story is that he fled, and hid, but his hiding place was discovered because of an abundance of wrens. He was then stoned to death—the first martyr. But, even though St. Stephan forgave his killers as they were stoning him, the wrens have not been forgiven for the treachery of giving him away. So their punishment in perpetuity, at least in Ireland, is to be stoned to death as well. The poor wren as a symbol of betrayal is so entrenched that it is also said that some Irishmen, attempting to sneak up on an encampment of invading Vikings on St. Stephan's Day in the year 750, were given away by a wren pecking for crumbs on a drum. Why the Vikings had a drum with crumbs on it is a mystery.

To be fair, Irish boys no longer murder wrens each December 26—that fun and festive practice died out in the last century—and the Wren Boys now content themselves with dressing up in costumes which usually include conical straw hats and dancing and singing for coins, with the odd fake wren tied to a stick for good measure.

We hope you had a wonderful Christmas and a wren-free St. Stephan's Day.

Gary and Becky Johnson, Festival Chairs, can be reached at gjohnson@brotolocsouth.com or beckykj@neo.rr.com. Don't leave crumbs on your drum.




*Additional Christmas Flower Offering
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 *Joseph Ciacchini*
 *IHO Roland Ciacchini*
 Patricia Sharrer.....
 Nancy Yochim.....

Special retreat for engaged couples—




Engaged couples are invited to attend an Engagement Encounter this January 28-30, 2022. Engagement Encounter is a restful retreat designed to provide a meaningful environment for deepening the conversations and habits necessary in a happy, holy, and lasting marriage. Here is what a past participant had to say: “I cannot thank you enough for an amazing experience this weekend. My fiancé and I will never forget it and all of the special moments.” Learn more or register at <https://www.eriercd.org/familylifeoffice/ee.html>. We would love to welcome you this January!

The Erie Cursillo Movement is currently planning and accepting candidate applications for a Men’s Cursillo from February 11 to 13, 2022 and a Woman’s Cursillo from April 29 to May 1, 2022.

Applications can be found on the Cursillo Website at eriecursillo.org, calling the Cursillo office at 814-824-1119, or by asking someone you may know who has completed a Cursillo weekend who would be willing to serve as your sponsor.

A Family Perspective—
 Today’s gospel contains this truth about parenting: “but his parents did not know.” One of the reasons parenting is so difficult is because our children don’t tell us everything. If the Holy Family had trouble with their teenager, why do we think it will be easier for us?



10:30 AM SUNDAY MASS IS ON LIVESTREAM OR WEEKLY INSPIRATION.
 Be sure to check out St. Patrick’s web-page to watch St. Patrick’s Sunday, 10:30 AM livestream Mass. Go to saintpatrickparisherie.org Click on “livestream” AT 10:30 AM or “weekly inspiration” to watch the Mass at a later time. The video Masses 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: _____

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HEAD _____ BIRTHDATE: _____
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PLEASE CIRCLE ONE BELOW:

New Registration Change of Address Moving Want Envelopes

PLEASE DROP THIS INFORMATION INTO Offertory Basket or mail to Rectory

Synod: Key Term #3

The infallible belief of the faithful: What is the *sensus fidei fidelium*?

One of the reasons that Pope Francis has been emphasizing synodality is that he wishes to better recognize and utilize all the gifts of all the people in the Church. Most of us know that the Magisterium of the Church (the teaching office of the Church exercised by the Pope and the bishops), under certain conditions, can teach infallibly. But the faithful members of Christ's Church also have a corresponding gift. We can believe infallibly. Ideally these two gifts should inform and reinforce each other.

This gift of the Holy Spirit is called the *sensus fidei fidelium*: The understanding of the Faith by the Faithful. Everyone who is baptized is anointed with the Holy Spirit, and this anointing is strengthened by the Sacrament of Confirmation. By the grace of the Spirit, the People of God as a whole does not err in faith, even when it cannot adequately explain the faith. The more faithful a Christian is – participating in the Sacraments, building their relationship with God, feeling with the heart of the Church – the better of an instinct they will have for the True Faith. When we are open to Him, God gives us an intuition about divine realities. And when the entire People of God manifests a belief of faith or morals, that belief cannot be wrong, because the Holy Spirit would not allow the entire Church to go into error.

The *sensus fidei* cannot be determined by majority vote. History shows that individuals and groups in the Church, whether members of the faithful or bishops, can very easily fall into error and sin. The more separated a person is from God and His Church, the less likely they will be to instinctively recognize the truths of the Faith — and we have all sinned and fallen short (Romans 3:23). However, if the faithful stubbornly cling to some belief or obstinately refuse to accept another, for a long time and in many places, even in the face of opposition and persecution, that should be a sign to the Magisterium of the *sensus fidei* at work.

What is the Synod on Synodality?

Pope Francis has asked the entire world to participate in a synod on the topic "For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, Mission." The central question he asks of everyone is:

A synodal Church, in announcing the Gospel, "journeys together." How is this "journeying together" happening today in our diocese? What steps does the Spirit invite us to take in order to grow in our "journeying together"?

You may be invited to participate in listening sessions at your local parish, or you may wish to give your input online. Participation in a synod should always involve prayer, listening, discussion, and above all, discerning the way that the Holy Spirit is guiding us. Hopefully these questions and answers can help you as you prepare your input.

Series of articles on the synod by Maria Caulfield
Graduate theology student, Franciscan University of Steubenville
Executive Assistant to the Offices of the Vicar General and the Chancery
Diocese of Erie



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