

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
January 16, 2022



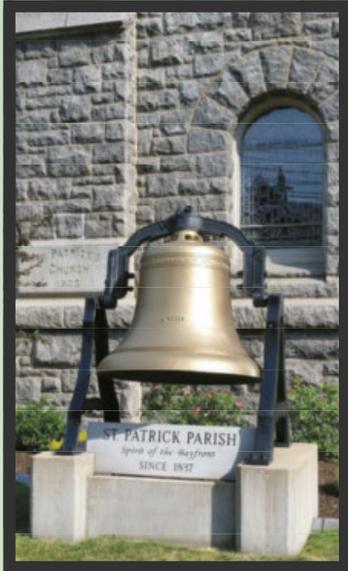
Saint Patrick Parish

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:

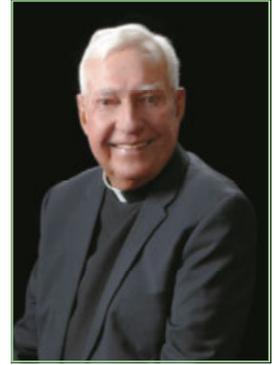
Daily Mass: Monday-Thursday: 8:00 AM (CHAPEL)

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 Second Sunday in Ordinary Time. Today's reading comes from the third part of Isaiah, written after the Babylonian Exile, when a remnant of God's people had begun to return to Judea. The silence to which the prophet refers is the period of the exile, when the people learn that God has abandoned them. But God has decided that now is the time to act and he wants her righteousness to shine like a flaming torch for all to see. God will also give her a new name. In the ancient world, the act of naming was about exerting authority over another or claiming him or her as one's own. Her old names, Forsaken and Desolate, reflect a time when the Israelites broke covenant with God. Now God calls her his "Espoused." With Israel's purity and innocence restored, she can be called God's bride once again.

Our second reading from Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians does not have obvious connections to our first reading or the gospel. First century Corinth was a bustling trade city with a diverse population. The Christian community was quite diverse as well and some of its members thought of themselves as better or more enlightened than others, in part because they possessed spiritual gifts such as prophecy or speaking in tongues. Paul is teaching them that these are gifts of the Holy Spirit. They possess them not because they are special, but because these gifts come from the one Spirit who binds all of their ministries together for the good of all.

Our gospel shows that a typical miracle story has three parts: description of the need, the miracle worker's word or deed, and evidence that the miracle took place. Here the need is a source of humiliation for the families of the bride and groom. They have no wine left! Mary is more involved than the ordinary guest, perhaps this was the wedding of a family member. When she approaches Jesus, he rebukes her with "Woman, how does your concern affect me?" But the story does not end there. He then tells the waiters to fill the water jars reserved for Jewish ritual washing, but he does nothing more. As he serves what is

From the Pastor's Desk continued...

now wine, the headwaiter thinks that the families made an odd choice to serve the best wine when the guests were well imbibed. Each of these jars would have held 20 to 30 gallons water of father, making this a bountiful miracle. It would make the guests think of the messianic banquet that will accompany the future manifestation of God's reign. When Jesus tells his mother that his hour has not yet come, he is telling her that the time for him to shed his blood is not yet, but when he has completed the work the Father has given him to do and then, and only then, will his glory be revealed.

The Diocese has released figures showing that Mass attendance is down about 32% throughout the diocese. The data further reveals that Mass attendance in the diocese has declined 48.6% since 2012. Those are startling figures and call for a concerted effort on the part of the local church to understand the issue and then to see what we do to resolve it.

Much of that is due to Covid, but I honestly believe that a great deal of it has to do with people who simply got comfortable not coming to Mass each week, and most likely won't be back. While the over-all decline in the diocese is listed at 32%; here at St. Patrick's, we are down about 26%. I think you can see if you're here for Mass, or watching it livestream, that there are a lot more empty pews than we used to have. You can also notice that the offertory income is down about 25% which carries ramifications for the long-term in what we can do here.

Right now, we're doing fine financially as we've cut back on some things and are able to meet our ordinary expenses, ie., utilities, salaries, etc. from the offertory income without having to touch our reserves. Where we're going to be in trouble is with the assessments from the diocese. Our assessment for Catholic education alone is over \$104,000. That's on top of an annual assessment for the Catholic Services Appeal in excess of \$100,000, the cathedraticum of about \$38,000. The latter is the assessment every parish pays to the diocese to meet the diocesan expenses. Almost all of our assessments are based on an evaluation of our last three years of income. As such, those assessments will have to come down in the future, not only here at St. Patrick's, but everywhere in the diocese, because attendance as well as income have dropped. In some of our

parishes, the decline in income is much greater than it is here. I wonder if some of our smaller parishes in the small communities down throughout the diocese are actually going to be able to survive all of this. Only time will tell. The people of our diocese are incredibly generous and have usually responded to the needs of the time. But this is a very different reality.

My biggest concern is that once this present generation of Catholics passes on, who is going to fill their shoes? A significant number of our children are not attending Mass, not financially supporting the parishes, not educating their own children in the Catholic faith, and inevitably, things are going to be very different in the not too distant future. The people who filled the pews, supported the parishes, etc. are simply not going to be there. Couple that with the sharp decline in the number of priests and the situation becomes doubly dangerous.

There is no real way of gauging how many people are watching the live-stream Masses. The number of television or computers that are turned on is recorded, but what we don't know is whether one person is watching, an entire family is watching, or a room full of patients in a convalescent home are watching. There are actually too many variables to come to conclusions.

We have closed the 2020/2021 Catholic Service Appeal in the parish. If you recall, our assessment was \$104,000; anything we raise above that remains in the parish. We had pledges of \$129,400 and payments of \$126,000. That means we are able to keep \$24,000 to help with parish expenses. Thank you for your generosity.

When he discovered his wife missing, the husband called the sheriff. After he explained, the sheriff asked, "Height?" "I'm not sure." "Weight?" "Don't know. Not slim, not really fat." "Color of her eyes?" "Sort of brown I think. Never really noticed." "Color of her hair?" "It changes a couple of times a year." "What kind of car was she driving?" "She went in my truck." "What kind of truck was it?" "A 2021 brilliant diesel grey pearlcoat, Ram limited 4x4 with 6.4 liter Hemi V-8 engine ordered with the Ram box bar and bridge option, Moose hide leather, heated and cooled seats, climate control, trailer package with gold hitch, sunroof, DVD with full GPS, 40 channel CB radio, 3 USB ports, custom retracting running boards..." At this point the husband started choking up. "Don't worry," said the sheriff, "we'll find your truck."



Saint Patrick News



Stewardship

Offertory Collection	\$ 13,074.00
Online Giving	<u>3,689.00</u>
Total Income	\$ 16,763.00

Thank you for your generosity!

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

A donation was made in honor of **our grandchildren** from Fred & Theresa Gabler

Donations to the Food Pantry were made in memory of:

- ◆ **Teresa Callaghan** from Michael & Mary Callaghan
- ◆ **Margaret Sheehan Ward** from Jane Carney
- ◆ **Al & Ruth Clancey** from Thomas & Jan Clancey
- ◆ **Albert Clement** from Thomas & Mary Alice Doolin
- ◆ **Barb Czekai** from Karl & Virginia Kelm
- ◆ **Barbara Korn** from David Korn
- ◆ **Peggy & Joe Mans** from Patrick F. Leary & Linda Mans Leary
- ◆ **Murphy & Chesko** families from Patrick Murphy
- ◆ **Mary Nason** from Deborah Musolf
- ◆ **Luke** from John & Cynthia Purvis

Also donations from:

Dennis & Marie Gritzer, Phil & Judy Kelly, Mark Lewis, Kathleen McCabe, Theresa Paluh, Mike & Carol Picheco, and Gloria Walker

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

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.



The Sanctuary Lamp
burns in loving memory of
Jim Kaveney
from the Samsel family

Ministry Schedule

Saturday, January 22, 2022 at 5:00 pm

Lector: *Barbara Brairton*

Eucharistic Ministers: *Barbara Brairton, Kathy Sertz, Diane McCarthy, Ray Fiorelli*

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

Sunday, January 23, 2022 at 8:00 am

Lector: *Lisa Straub*

Eucharistic Ministers: *Lisa Straub, Kathleen McCabe, Noelle Colpoys, 1 NEEDED*

Ushers: *Chuck Straub, John Maloney, Mike Nies, David Korn*

Sunday, January 23, 2022 at 10:30 am

Lector: *Michele Wheaton*

Eucharistic Ministers: *Ed Smith, Tim Scully, Kathleen Pae, Mary Williams*

Ushers: *Chuck Agresti, Dave Taccone, Jim Wehan, Randy Pristello, John Purvis, Tom Welch (4)*
Offertory Counters: *Bill & Cindy Welsh, Michele Wheaton, Tim Torrey, Donna Cipriani*

Volunteers needed to livestream the Sunday 10:30 Mass.

If you are interested, please contact the office at 814-454-8085.

Marriage Moments—

Martin Luther King talked a lot about racial equality. What about equality in Marriage? Are both of you equally good at cooking, mechanical things, sewing, small talk? Probably not. Even though your spouse may have a natural talent for a particular task, try trading chores for a day, just for fun

Food Pantry Director Position

We have an opening for the Director of the Food Pantry. This is a perfect position for a retired person as it only requires a few hours per week and is salaried. It requires being present from 9 - noon every Tuesday when we have Food Pantry, and then some additional time ordering some things. If interested, please contact the parish office for a job description and salary.

LITURGY INTENTIONS

Jan. 15 *Saturday, Vigil: 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time*

5:00 PM JENNIFER JOHNSON (FAMILY)

Jan. 16 *Second Sunday in Ordinary Time*

8:00 AM MARIE CHAMONI

(MARK & CHELSEY WEISENFLUH)

10:30 AM LYNCH FAMILY (MARY LEE LYNCH)

Jan. 17 *Monday, Saint Anthony, Abbott*

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday

8:00 AM NO MASS OR COMMUNION SERVICE

Jan. 18 *Tuesday, Weekday*

8:00 AM JAMES HERDZIK, ANNIV. 1/3 (AMEE HERDZIK)

Jan. 19 *Wednesday, Weekday*

8:00 AM MAX KOLODZIEJCZAK, ANNIV. 1/19 (SISTER, ANN)

Jan. 20 *Thursday, Weekday*

8:00 AM COMMUNION SERVICE

Jan. 21 *Friday, Saint Agnes, Virgin and Martyr*

NO MASS OR COMMUNION SERVICE

Jan. 22 *Saturday, Vigil: 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time*

5:00 PM HERBERT ARTHUR DIETZ

(FRIENDS OF NANCY CHRISTINE ROSSMAN)

Jan. 23 *Third Sunday in Ordinary Time*

8:00 AM ANDREW ADAMS

(MICHAEL & CHERYL STEPHANY)

10:30 AM JUDY KUBANEY (POWELL FAMILY)

DATES TO REMEMBER

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

01/15 4:30 PM Confessions - St.P

01/17 Church and office CLOSED

Martin Luther King, Jr.—Holiday

01/18 9:00 AM Food Pantry - PR

01/19 12:00 PM A.A. - PR

01/22 4:30 PM Confessions - St.P

ATTENTION ST. PATRICK'S "ON-LINE GIVERS"

Donors can pull their own tax statements in Online Giving.

1. Log in to your Online Giving donor account.
2. Click on **"My Online Giving History**. View a detailed History of your past Online Giving.
3. On the right side, click the **"Print"** button.
4. Set your date range from 1/1/2021 to 12/31/2021.
5. Change the report type to **"Full Detail Report (Tax Purposes)"**.
6. Leave the tax filter option checked.
7. Click **"Print"**.
8. Your report will open a new window
9. You will need to export the report to a PDF to print the full report. (To print, click on the PDF link at the top of the screen. This will open the report as a PDF and will let you print the report).

PARISHIONERS WHO USE OFFERTORY ENVELOPES: We will be sending tax statements to you shortly. If you received a statement last year, you are on our list and will receive one this year. If you have not received one, please call the office and we will get one to you. 814-454-8085

243 DAYS TO THE 2022 ERIE IRISH FESTIVAL LOVELY DAY FOR A GUINNESS.



Beer is 7,000 years old. Seven Thousand. It's been around a long, long time. The first evidence of beer was found in a jug dating to 5,000 BC in what is now Iran. And, contrary to popular belief, the oldest profession is not what you think, it's making beer.

Beer making in Ireland only dates back about 5,000 years, to the beginning of Irish agriculture. You see beer is cereal plus water plus yeast. The first beer was probably an accident, soggy grains fermented by naturally occurring yeast that floated in on the breeze. Somewhere in the next 3,000 years it stopped being an accident and became a habit. Fast forward to St. Patrick's time and brewing was in full swing—it's even said the good Saint had his own personal brewer. As they did with whiskey, monks dominated the beer industry. The monks especially fancied beer during lent when they were fasting—they drank a lot of it and called it "liquid bread."

By the 17th century, as the influence of the monks waned under English rule, beer making became a cottage industry. Beer was made by "alewives" and served in an alehouse. Another century, and breweries became big business, none bigger than Guinness. In 1756, 27 year old Arthur Guinness, whose father had brewed beer for an archbishop in the Church of Ireland, opened a small brewery in County Kildare with money left him when the archbishop died. The ale he brewed was a success and a few years later he signed a 9,000 year lease on the vacant St. James Gate Brewery in Dublin (yes, nine thousand years). Arthur put down 100 pounds and paid 45 pounds per month—a hefty enough sum in 1759, it now amounts to about 60 dollars a month for the 4 acre brewery in downtown Dublin. Originally Guinness made ale. He later added the now famous porter, Guinness Stout, and by the turn of the 19th century was only making porter. He also made, with the help of his wife, Olivia, children—21 of them, only 10 of whom survived to adulthood (interestingly, a direct descendent and heir to the Guinness fortune, Tara Browne, became the inspiration for perhaps the greatest Beatle song ever, *A Day In The Life*, when he was killed in a crash in his Lotus Elan in London in 1966).

Today, Guinness is brewed in 49 countries and sold in 150. The largest consumer of Guinness is England, followed by Nigeria which boasts a Guinness-owned brewery, followed by Ireland, followed by the Erie Irish Festival. (Is lying in the church bulletin a mortal sin or just a venial one?) Okay, we may not be #4, but we're trying our best and you can help with that effort when you lift a pint with us this September 16.

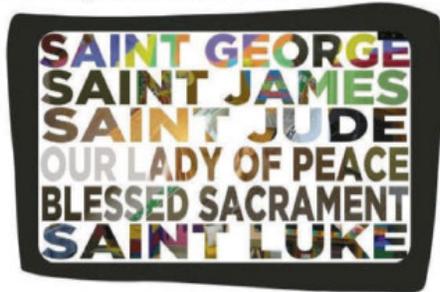
My goodness, my Guinness! Gary and Becky Johnson, Festival Chairs, can be reached at gjohnson@brotolocsouth.com or beckykj@neo.rr.com.



Watch & Share Erie Catholic School System's New Video

We are SO excited to share Erie Catholic's new video

- View at <https://bit.ly/ECSSvideo>
- Watch our video, share with your family and friends #FaithInOurFuture
- A random winner will be selected during Catholic Schools Week and win a school swag item from Milagaro School Uniforms & Goods



Engaged couples: Plan ahead for a happy, healthy marriage—Engaged couples are invited to attend an Engagement Encounter this January 28-30, 2022. Engagement Encounter is a restful retreat designed to provide engaged couples the tools for a happy, holy, and lasting marriage. Here's what folks have loved in the past: Time as a couple to focus on their relationship, a community that prays and has fun together, a non-judgmental atmosphere, the chance to set a good foundation for their marriage, and the opportunity to retreat from busy wedding details and enjoy each other. 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.

Lenten small groups exploring racial justice now open

The Diocese of Erie is offering two separate small group experiences this Lent exploring racial justice, sponsored by the Offices of Social Justice and Life and Faith Formation Parish Support. Those who are looking for Christian community, a place to ask big questions, and a way to explore the Gospel call to work for racial justice are invited to learn more and consider applying by visiting <https://www.eriercd.org/socialjusticelife/racialjustice.html>. Applications are due January 18th. Questions can be directed to the Social Justice and Life Office at SJL@ErieRCD.org.

Knights of Columbus sponsors benefit raffle, dinner

The Knights of Columbus #14437 of St. Andrew Parish, Erie, is sponsoring a 50/50 raffle and a Salisbury steak dinner to benefit Michael Lombardozzi. Mike has been dealing with medical issues and is in need of assistance. Raffle tickets are \$1 each and are for sale after the 11 a.m. Mass or by contacting the Knights (John Skrzypczak at 814-440-9157, Tom Klemm at 814-323-5222, or Pat Nenno at 814-812-4238). The dinner will be held Feb. 6 from noon to 5 p.m. at the Msgr. Gannon Auditorium, 1116 W. 7th St., Erie. Tickets will be 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



January 3, 2022

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I am grateful every day for the resources we have to help spread the Gospel message. Imagine how different our experience of the pandemic would be if we did not have the ability to Zoom or to livestream. It is changing the way we approach so many aspects of our lives.

At the heart of all that communicating is strong content. That's why the Diocese of Erie continues to invest in a team dedicated to providing you with thoughtful publications, social media posts, web resources and more, all designed to help me in my role as shepherd of the Diocese of Erie. Some of it comes right to your mailbox in the form of Faith, an engaging magazine filled with the stories and testimonies of Catholics striving to grow closer to Christ in northwest Pennsylvania. Despite the challenges of the pandemic, we have not missed a beat with this important resource, and in fact, have used it to provide much-needed encouragement and updates.

When I emphasize the need for strong communications, I am thinking first and foremost of you. My work is done in service to Christ and to you. I strive to take full advantage of every tool at our disposal to keep you informed about what is happening with the Catholic Church worldwide, across the United States, and here in northwest Pennsylvania. Do you know why the upcoming Synod on Synodality at the Vatican is important? Are you aware that the US bishops are collaborating on an effort to help American Catholics understand and embrace the church's teaching on the Eucharist over the next three years? And what's the latest on pastoral planning in our diocese?

This year we've reported on all this and more in Faith, in the weekly Diocese of Erie-news, at www.ErieRCD.org and on our social media platforms. Thanks to your generous support, all of it remains available free of charge.

Please consider participating the 2022 Help Spread the Faith collection scheduled for the weekend of January 22nd – 23rd. It's one important way to fulfill Jesus' command to go forth and make disciples of all nations.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+Lawrence T. Persico

The Most Reverend Lawrence T. Persico, JCL
Bishop of Erie



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