

Our Mother of Sorrows Parish

Saint Casimir Church, Saint Ann Church and Holy Family Church



SUNDAY, MARCH 19, 2023 FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT ~ LAETARE SUNDAY

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, March 19th: Fourth Sunday of Lent

Private (SA) John Ropelewski by Dr. Hal Angeloff
10:30 am (SC) Confessions
11:00 am (SC) Barbara J. Juchno, Birthday by Theresa Juchno

Monday, March 20th: St. Joseph, spouse of Virgin Mary

11:30am (SA) Confessions
12:05pm (SA) William and Eva Jant by Daughters

Tuesday, March 21st: Lenten Weekday

11:30am (SA) Confessions
12:05pm (SA) In memory of Jean Deniziak by Joe and Holly Guzowski

Wednesday, March 22nd: Lenten Weekday

11:30am (SA) Confessions
12:05pm (SA) Angela Helsley, Birthday, March 25th by son, Kevin Helsley

Thursday, March 23rd: St. Turibius of Mogrovejo

11:30am (SA) Confessions
12:05pm (SA) Georgianna Hartman by Nieces

Friday, March 24th: Lenten Weekday/ A Day of Abstinence

11:00am (SA) Eucharistic Adoration
11:30am (SA) Confessions
12:05pm (SA) Roy Lowrance by H. Lee
12:30pm (SA) Eucharistic Adoration
1:00pm (SA) Stations of the Cross followed with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament

Saturday, March 25th: The Annunciation of the Lord

Private (SA) The Deceased Members of The Ropelewski Family

Sunday, March 26th: Fifth Sunday of Lent

Private (SA) Billy King by Melissa King and Families
10:30 am (SC) Confessions
11:00 am (SC) Barbara J. Juchno by Bob & Karen Mazur

Monday, March 27th: Lenten Weekday

11:30am (SA) Confessions
12:05pm (SA) Helena Maciejczyk, Anniversary by Christine Visosky

Tuesday, March 28th: Lenten Weekday

11:30am (SA) Confessions
12:05pm (SA) Stephen Waterford by H. Lee

Wednesday, March 29th: Lenten Weekday

11:30am (SA) Confessions
12:05pm (SA) Joseph Pochatko by Family

Thursday, March 30th: Lenten Weekday

11:30am (SA) Confessions
12:05pm (SA) Tippy Pohl by Mickey Pohl

THE SANCTUARY LIGHTS

Holy Family

1) Galla & Walach Family by Paul & Lisa Galla
2) Habas, Kulig & Laszewski Families by Kulig Estate
Our Mother of Sorrows: Robert Merski, Sr. and Mildred Merski by The Merski Family

St. Ann's

1) For all parishioners Living and Deceased
2) Rev. James T. O'Hara and Rev. Ron Gmerek

St. Casimir's

1) Barbara J. Juchno, Birthday by Ann Juchno
2) Health and Healing for all Shut-ins and Sick

FINANCIAL REPORT

Sunday, March 12, 2023

Offertory: \$1,899.00

Easter Flowers: \$143.00

Expenses

March—National Fuel: \$4,788.81

CATHOLIC SERVICES APPEAL

2023 Goal: \$35,165.00

Pledged: \$5,537.00

Paid: \$3,437.00

The 2023 Catholic Services Appeal is well under way. Thank you to all who have pledged/paid their support to the 2023 CSA.

Please issue a **SEPARATE** check for your CSA.

PLEASE USE OUR CORRECT ADDRESS!

**The Parish Office address is
630 Hess Ave., Erie, PA 16503.**

The mail slot is on the south side of St. Casimir's Church right at the end of the handicap ramp. All mail and other correspondence is to be addressed to and mailed to or dropped off at 630 Hess Ave. Office hours are by appointment only.

GECAC "Feed The Poor Campaign"

Thank you to all who generously donated to the Feed the Poor Campaign. Your kindness will help make many families have a blessed and happy Easter. *Thank you!*

EASTER FLOWER DONATIONS

The deadline for Easter Flower Envelopes to be included in the listing of donors is Sunday, March 26, 2023.



**OUR MOTHER OF SORROWS PARISH MAILING ADDRESS: 630 Hess Ave., Erie, PA 16503
814-452-4832 phone**

Website: www.motherofsorrowerie.org

**Saint Casimir Church, 630 Hess Ave., Saint Ann Church, 931 East Ave.,
Holy Family Church, 913 Fulton St. * Erie, PA 16503**

DEACON ADMINISTRATOR: Rev. Mr. Jerome T. Sobrowski

From the Desk of Deacon Jerry

Raffle tickets for the benefit of **St. Mark Seminary Auxiliary** will be on sale after Mass **today**. One ticket is \$1, 6 tickets for \$5, or 12 tickets for \$10. The top prize is \$1000. Your generosity supports the seminarians in many ways throughout the year. Please pray for more vocations and for all the priests in our Diocese and the young men in the seminary now.

The annual **St. Mark Seminary Auxiliary Card Party** will take place on April 20 at 6 p.m. in the St. Mark Catholic Center gym, 429 E. Grandview Blvd., Erie. A light meal will be served and there will be many prizes. The event generally sells out, so call Betsy before April 10 for reservations at 814.504.2720.

The Bethany Retreat Center in Frenchville is hosting a **spring retreat on spirituality and art**. Interested in connecting your faith with the process of making art? Register for the spring session of *Spirituality and Art: All Verdant Greening* offered March 24 to 26 at Bethany Retreat Center, 1031 Germania R., Frenchville. The spiritual approach to creating art does not focus on producing an outcome/product but rather is about the sacred creating and re-creating of our inner selves and our awareness of such verdant greening through deep reflection on the art.

A reflection on the sacrament of reconciliation by Ronda Chervin: “The sacrament of confession is perhaps the least understood and most scorned by those outside the Church, and often resented by those within. “If God knows you are sorry, why go tell a priest?” one hears repeatedly. . . . Using the analogy of human love, we can go more deeply into the logic attending contrition and forgiveness. When two people are in love, every sensibility in them is heightened. A person previously smug and self-satisfied finds himself full of sorrow when he sees how his thoughtless actions have wounded his loved one. He longs to change. He cannot stand the fact that whereas his heart is full of love, the long-engrained habits of his character bring him to act in unloving ways. Rather than let the woman he loves think that he doesn’t care, or that he will never change, he rushes eagerly to say that he is sorry. He doesn’t just *feel* sorry, he also needs to tell her that he is sorry—to make a definite disavowal of his act. Even this does not satisfy him. He needs to know that she accepts his sorrow and, most of all, that his act did not destroy the bond of love irrevocably. The spoken words, “I forgive you,” are the seal of this reunion. For a human being, with all his insecurities, it would never be sufficient merely to feel sorrow and to assume forgiveness. One suffering from guilt cannot merely say, “If she loves me, of course she will forgive me.” Part of his sorrow is the recognition that his act may really have destroyed something which only he can build up again. Just as the unloving act was a distinct concrete moment, so the act of reconciliation must be a definite moment. Furthermore, the one who has been unloving must truly will to be his better self in the future. Otherwise, he would be proclaiming by his misdeed that he really does not care. In sin, we turn away from trust in Christ’s love and providence in favor of frantically chasing what we think to be our happiness. For example, when one despairs that God really cares about one’s future and will send the needed love, one tends to embrace fleeting pleasures. In fact, since Christ continually offers us love and guarantees our final happiness, it is a rejection of this love when we try to grab it for ourselves in ways contrary to his will. Our greed for an immediate satisfaction we could procure through our own powers blinds us to his love, which offers us true happiness as a gift. [In confession,] sorrow for sin seeks a definite verbal expression. . . . The grace (divine love) in the words of absolution and the deeds of penance reseal the bond between I and Thou.” Ronda Chervin is a convert from Judaism, professor of philosophy and theology, and author of over fifty books.

Reminder: The **Eighth Annual Catholic Women’s Conference** will be held on Saturday, March 25, at St. Jude Parish, 2801 West 6th Street, from 8:00 am to 12:30 pm. The event is \$20, College Students \$10, High School Students \$5, and Religious FREE. For more information or to register visit www.1:38women.com or call (814) 455-7364.

Living as Children of the Light ... In our Gospel today the blind man cured by Jesus moves from seeing Jesus just as a prophet to finally becoming a believer in Jesus as the Promised One. This conversion process is in stark contrast to Pharisees, who felt their power and status were being undermined by this preacher known as Jesus the Nazarene.

In the end, Jesus points to the blindness of the Pharisees. This sort of blindness, frankly, is much harder to cure than physical blindness. It can manifest itself as blindness to the needs of those around us, especially the most marginalized and powerless in our midst. It can be blindness toward a lonely neighbor or a struggling friend or family member or a stressed-out spouse. It is blindness to the need to see as God sees, and not as humankind sees.

To see as God sees requires that we live as Saint Paul’s challenges us in our first reading as children of light. Easier said than done!

As children of the light we are called to love and care for one another and to love and care for our earthly home. We are not called to like everybody, which is humanly impossible, but we are called to love everyone, which is possible, because God said it is our job to do so.

Too often today in our polarized world, we think that if we don’t like someone’s political affiliation, religious beliefs or moral standards, that means we don’t have to love them. Quite the contrary; it is our loving example, and not our brilliantly crafted arguments, that bring others to Christ. That, after all, is what it means to be a good and faithful steward of the Lord. Our job therefore as children of light is to avoid the blindness of the Pharisees and to bring others to the Light of all Lights – Jesus Christ.

Where in our lives has the blindness of the Pharisees manifested itself? What do we need to change so that we see as God sees?