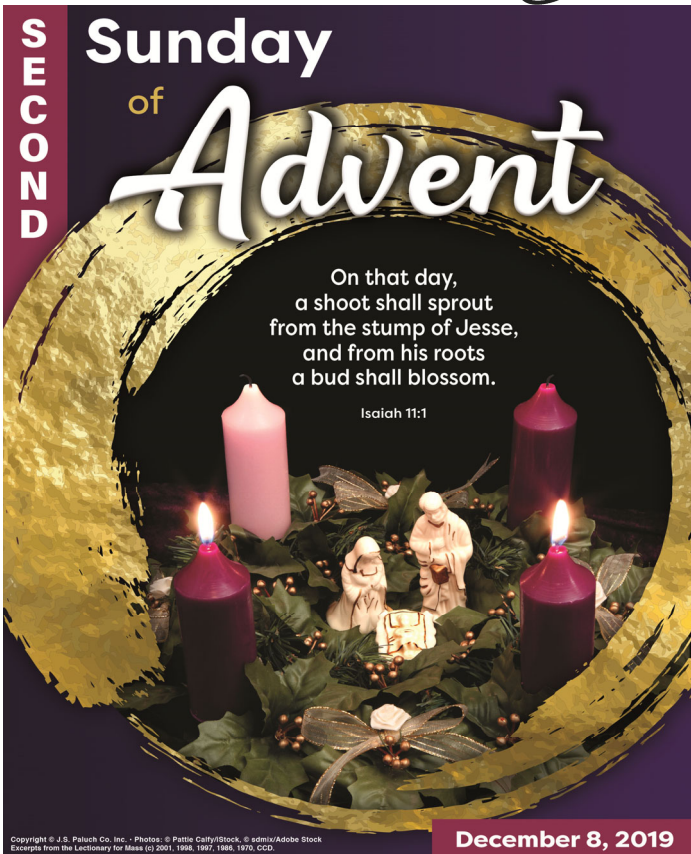


# Our Mother of Sorrows Parish

Saint Casimir Church, Saint Ann Church and Holy Family Church

**SECOND** Sunday of Advent

On that day,  
a shoot shall sprout  
from the stump of Jesse,  
and from his roots  
a bud shall blossom.  
Isaiah 11:1



December 8, 2019

Copyright © J.S. Paluch Co. Inc. - Photos: © Patti Cally/Stock, © admil/Adobe Stock  
Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass (c) 2001, 1998, 1997, 1986, 1970, CCO.

Our Mother of Sorrows Parish  
Rectory/Business Office  
913 Fulton St. \* Erie, PA 16503  
814-452-4832 phone  
814-453-2275 fax  
Website: [www.motherofsorrowerie.org](http://www.motherofsorrowerie.org)

Saint Casimir Church  
629 Hess Ave. \* Erie, PA 16503  
Saint Ann Church  
921 East Ave. \* Erie, PA 16503  
Holy Family Church  
913 Fulton St. \* Erie, PA 16503

PASTOR: Father James T. O'Hara  
DEACON ASSISTANT: Deacon Jerome T. Sobrowski  
ASSISTING: Msgr. Gerald Koos (Retired); Msgr. Robert Smith (Retired); Father Jerry Priscaro (St. Ann), Father Joseph Gregorek (Retired).

The traditional **CHRISTMAS WAFERS, THE OPLATKI**, are blessed and available for you to pick up. Your **generous** offering helps cover the cost of preparing and making the wafers available for you. Please place your contribution in a plain envelope marked Oplatki/Christmas Wafers. You may also obtain Oplatki in the back of St. Casimir's Church or at the rectory office during regular office hours.



Second Collection for Religious Retirement at all weekend Masses. Please be a generous as possible. Thank you!



**The giving Tree is UP in the back to St. Casimir's Church!** Please pick your ornament or two off the Giving Tree to help the many elderly individuals, who live right here in our neighborhood. Your gift will give them a very Merry Christmas. No Names will be provided just items they wish for, such as gift cards, a warm blanket, pajamas, slippers, etc. Please take one or maybe two ornaments off the tree. Instructions may be found next to the tree. Thank you!

**We Need Your Help!** Plan to share the Christmas Spirit in Our Mother of Sorrows Parish Community. Anyone who is willing and able to help decorate the church for Christmas is welcome to stay after the 11:00 am Mass next **Sunday, December 15**. Help is needed to place wreaths, fluff and set up trees, hang garland and arrange the Nativity. A light lunch will be provided.



**Immaculate Conception Novena** (Feast day: December 8) O God, who by the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, did prepare a worthy dwelling place for you Son, We beseech You that, as by the foreseen death of this, Your Son, you did preserve Her from all stain, So too You would permit us, purified through Her intercession, to come unto You. Through the same Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, world without end. Amen

**MASSES FOR THE WEEK**

**Saturday, December 7th: First Saturday/Vigil Mass**

- 8:30 am (SA) Confessions
- 9:00 am (SA) Our Blessed Mother
- 3:30 pm (SC) Confessions
- 4:00 pm (SC) Nellie Tompkins, Anniversary by Jean Deniziak  
All Parishioners Living & Deceased

**Sunday, December 8th: Second Sunday of Advent**

- 8:00 am (SC) Chuck Brower, birthday by Family  
Donald Wiertel by Ropelewski Family
- 9:30 am (SC) **Latin Mass** All Parishioners Living and Deceased
- 11:00 am (SC) Ted Mazur by The Mazur Family

**Monday, December 9th:**

**Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

- 7:00 am (HF) Private Intention
- 8:00 am (SC) Donald Wiertel, Birthday by Ropelewski Family
- 12:05 pm (SA) All Parishioners Living & Deceased

**Tuesday, December 10th: Advent Weekday**

- 7:00 am (HF) Private Intention
- 8:00 am (SC) Stephania Zielinski by Dr. Teresa Gilewski
- 12:05 pm (SA) Elizabeth Hart, Anniversary by The Hart Family

**Wednesday, December 11th: St. Damasus I**

- 7:00 am (HF) Private Intention
- 8:00 am (SC) John Campbell by Children & Grandchildren
- 12:05 pm (SA) Fr. Donald Berdis and Deceased Members of the Berdis Family by Sister Kevin Berdis, OSF

**Thursday, December 12th: Lady of Guadalupe**

- 7:00 am (HF) Private Intention
- 8:00 am (SC) Special Intention by Carol
- 12:05 pm (SA) Bertha Wernicki by Marsha & Robert Sosey

**Friday, December 13th: St. Lucy**

- 7:00 am (HF) Private Intention
- 8:00 am (SC) Wanda Habas by husband Joseph Habas
- 12:05 pm (SA) Johanna Berdis by Dr. Tony Berdis

**Saturday, December 14th: Vigil Mass**

- 3:30 pm (SC) Confessions
- 4:00 pm (SC) Edwin Ropiecki, Anniversary by Delphine Palkovic and Family  
All Parishioners Living & Deceased

**Sunday, December 15th: Third Sunday of Advent**

- 8:00 am (SC) Edwin Ropelewski, Anniversary by Sisters and Brother
- 9:30 am (SC) **Latin Mass** Owen Farnen (Feast) by Victor and Ruth Kowalski
- 11:00 am (SC) Marlene Andrascik by Vento Family

**THE SANCTUARY LIGHTS**

**Holy Family**

- 1) Deceased Principals of Holy Family School
- 2) Sister Marcella Dugan, SSJ of Holy Family School  
Our Mother of Sorrows: Robert Merski, Sr. and Mildred Merski by The Merski Family

**St. Ann's**

- 1) Sister Vivian, SSJ by Mickey Pohl and Family
- 2) Living & Deceased Sisters of Saint Joseph

**St. Casimir's**

- 1) Living & Deceased Sisters of Nazareth
- 2) Living & Deceased Sisters of Saint Francis

**OUR BELOVED DEAD**

Bob Benim, Monica Sorensen,  
Service Men and Women, Parishioners,  
Friends and Benefactors  
*Our deepest sympathy to the families and friends of the deceased.  
May they rest in peace.*

**THE WEEK AHEAD**

**Sunday (12/8) Second Sunday of Advent.** 9AM Confessions (SC). 9:30 AM Latin Mass (SC). Rectory office is closed. Diocesan Second Collection for Religious Retirement at all Masses.

**Monday (12/9) Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Not a Holyday of Obligation.** Rectory office open 10AM to Noon.

**Tuesday (12/10)** Rectory office open 10AM to Noon.

**Wednesday (12/11)** Rectory office is closed.

**Thursday (12/12) Our Lady of Guadalupe.** Rectory office is closed.

**Friday (12/13)** Rectory office is open 10AM to Noon.

**Saturday (12/14)** 3:30PM Confessions and 4PM Vigil Mass (SC). Rectory office is closed.

**Sunday (12/15) Third Sunday of Advent.** 9AM Confessions (SC). 9:30 AM Latin Mass (SC). Rectory office is closed. Decorating the church for Christmas after the 11:00 Mass. All are welcome.

**MINISTRY SCHEDULES**

**Saturday Vigil Mass—December 7th**

Lector: Paul Roman  
Eucharistic Ministers: Eric and Maureen Fink  
Altar Servers: Loretta Baran

**Sunday Masses—December 8th**

**8AM Mass**

Lector: Christopher Krill  
Eucharistic Ministers: Mike Kuzma & Dianne Connors  
Altar Servers: Eileen Ropelewski

**11AM Mass**

Lector: Karen Mazur  
Eucharistic Ministers: Kim Walkiewicz & Janet Schroeder  
Altar Servers: Cameron Schroeder



### ***FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK***

Welcome Everyone as we celebrate the Mass for the Second Sunday of Advent. Today we light the second candle on our Advent Wreath. You may use the following prayer as you light the second candle for your wreath at home: *Almighty and most Powerful God, open our hearts in welcome! Remove the things that hinder us from receiving Christ with joy. Let us share his joy and wisdom and become one with him as he comes with glory forever and ever. Amen.* †Thank you for your help with the food baskets at Thanksgiving and Christmas. By using the Poor Box or the blue envelope in your monthly packets we may purchase \$16.00 worth of food for just \$1.00. With your continued help we will do the same for Christmas. Stick with us! †We are pleased to announce the Annual Clothing Distribution Party to be held on Saturday, December 7th, at St. Paul's Center, 453 West 16th St, from 10AM-2PM. All are welcome to attend. No charge of any kind. Free clothing, toys and refreshments will be available. Merry Christmas to all! †Today, December 8th is traditionally the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of Our Blessed Mother. The feast has been transferred this year because it falls on Sunday. Masses for the Immaculate Conception will be celebrated on Monday, December 9th at 8AM at St. Casimir's and 12:05PM at St. Ann's with Confessions at St. Ann's beginning at 11:30AM. O Mary conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee! †The members of the Junior Legion of Mary have a *Harvest Basket* that will be given away soon. The proceeds will be used by the Legion to pay for some of their projects. Tickets are \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00. Pick up your tickets today. †Today we take up the collection for the Retired, Elderly, and ill Sisters and religious order Priests and Brothers in the United States. Financial aid will be given to the School Sisters of St. Francis, Sisters of Nazareth, Sisters of St. Joseph, and all orders who have served in the Erie Diocese. A special second collection will be taken up this weekend but please use the special envelope included with your monthly packet. The Sisters who are able continue their prayer ministry while retired. They will remember you and your intentions as they are able. Please be as generous as possible. †Young people interested in the Sacraments of First Holy Communion or Confirmation should consult with **Deacon Jerry Sobrowski** as soon as possible. Classes are now in progress but you may be able to join them. †Confessions will be heard at St. Ann's Wednesday evening December 4th from 5-7PM. We will leave the lights on for you! †This week the overnight shelter for the homeless will be at Holy Trinity Lutheran church, 643 W. 17th St. until December 18th. Supper and Breakfast the following morning is also served. Just show up! †Thanks for all of your help! Happy Advent! Come, Lord Jesus!

### ***FROM THE DESK OF DEACON JERRY***

**The Advent Wreath...** Advent, which begins the Church's new liturgical year, began last Sunday, December 1. Advent encompasses the four Sundays and weekdays leading up to the celebration of Christmas. The Advent season is a time of preparation for our hearts and minds for the anniversary of the Lord's birth on Christmas. The use of the wreath and candles during Advent are a longstanding Catholic tradition that was originally adopted by Christians in the Middle Ages as part of their spiritual preparation for Christmas. The wreath and candles are full of symbolism tied to the Christmas season. The wreath itself, which is made of various evergreens, signifies continuous life. The circle of the wreath, which has no beginning or end, symbolizes the eternity of God, the immortality of the soul, and the everlasting life we find in Christ. The four candles used, three purple and one pink, mark the Sundays of Advent before Christmas. The purple candles are reminders that this should be a time of prayer and sacrifice to prepare us for the second coming of Christ. On the third Sunday, the pink candle is lit to announce Gaudete Sunday, a Sunday of rejoicing for Christ is coming near. With the lighting of that candle, the light has won out over the darkness (three candles lit vs. the one that remains unlit). Various meanings have been assigned to the four candles. One interpretation has each candle representing 4000 years, the Biblical time between Adam and Eve and the coming of Christ. In another interpretation, the first candle represents the patriarchs, the second the prophets, the third reminds us of John the Baptist, and the fourth of Mary, the mother of Jesus. They have also been described as the prophets' candle, the Bethlehem Candle, the shepherds' candle, and the angels' candle. A fifth white candle in the center representing Christ is sometimes used. It is lit on Christmas Eve as a remembrance of Christ coming into the world. In many places all the other candles of the wreath are removed and replaced with white candles on Christmas. The Advent Wreath serves as a powerful visual reminder to us of the holiness of the season. The light of the candles invite us to quiet ourselves during this busy time and reflect on the true meaning of Christmas.

**The One Who is Coming...** In this week's Gospel Reading and next week's, we are invited to consider John the Baptist and his relationship to Jesus. This week, Matthew describes the work and preaching of John the Baptist. John makes very clear that his relationship to the Messiah yet to come (Jesus) is one of service and subservience: ". . . the one who is coming after me is mightier than I. I am not worthy to carry his sandals" (Matthew 3:11). The One who follows John, the One to whom John points, is the Son who comes to reconcile us, finally and forever, to the Father. He himself is the kingdom of heaven at hand. And he, too, tells us to repent – and to follow him. John's preaching of the coming of the Lord is a key theme of the Advent season. As John's message prepared the way for Jesus in the first century, we, too, are called to prepare ourselves for Jesus' coming. We all are called to respond to John's message by our own repentance and to reform our lives. We are also called to be prophets of Christ, who announce by our lives, as John did, the coming of the Lord.

**This week's spiritual exercise:** Advent is a short season and often overlooked in the middle of all the preparations for Christmas. Take some time to stop and partake in the tranquility and peace of this beautiful season. In silent reflection ask ourselves: Where do we have the opportunity to announce the coming of the Messiah? How will we do it?

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

**Sunday, November 17, 2019**

4:00 PM Mass \$1,376.00

8:00 AM Mass \$481.00

Latin Mass \$981.38

11:00AM Mass \$900.65

Candles \$48.00

**TOTAL \$3,787.03**

**CATHOLIC SERVICES APPEAL 2019**

Every donation helps us reach our goal! Big or little it all counts! Help us grow our numbers. If you have not done so please make your commitment today! The CSA envelopes are in your monthly packet or envelopes are available in the back of the Churches for those who wish to place their contribution in the Sunday collection. Thanks again!

***CSA 2019 as of November 19, 2019***

***Pledged: \$19,879.00 Paid: \$18,934.00***



**Christmas Flower Offering**

Today is the last day to turn in your Christmas Flower Envelopes, to be included on our annual listing of donors.

*Thank you to everyone who has generously donated to our Christmas Flowers, our church will be beautiful! Merry Christmas on and all.*

Remember next Sunday, December 15th, we need your help to help decorate the church for Christmas. Plan on staying after the 11AM Mass. The more the merrier!

**INFORMATION UPDATE or NEW PARISHIONER-REQUEST FORM**

*You may also use this form to update your telephone numbers, address, name, etc.*

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone & Cell \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

New Registration  Want Envelopes

Change of Name

Change of Address  Change in Phone Numbers

*Please drop this information into the Collection Basket, or send into the rectory office. Thank you.*

**PRAY FOR OUR SICK AND SHUT-INS**

Bishop Emeritus Donald Trautman, Father Jim O'Hara, Msgr. Gerald Koos, Fr. Joseph Gregorek, Fr. John Santor, Msgr. Robert Smith, Deacon Glen Kuzma, Deacon Dennis Kudlak, Pat & Gene Maciak, John Maciak, Anne Goodrich, Tom Duska, Sr., Kay Majersky, Maryann Marchant, Karen Antonio, Theresa Juchno, Theresa Zaborowski, Victoria Vargo, Lynn Clint, Sr. Rose Kuzma, Audrey Draskiewicz, Theresa Reisenweber, Janice Schroeder, Walter Burenko, Jr., Margaret Kuzma, Jim Berdis, Jr. Susan Spadaccio, Eileen Ropelewski, Andrew G., Catherine Jankowski, Margaret Cermak, Robert and Karen Mazur, Thomas Kaiser, Raymond Wasielewski, Mike Lucas, Jennifer Galla, Diane Pavlik, Linda Krause, Douglas B. (father) and Douglas B. (son), Elizabeth Sliska, Gregory Wright, Tom Duska, II, Frances Birchard, Mary Ann Palkovic, Thomas Sisca, Fritz Gingenbach, Marlene Lucas, Mary Lou Wiczorek, Robert Jaskiewicz, Anne Marie Ropelewski, Lucille Rovnak, Simon de la Guerra, Carol Krysiak, Kathy Newhouse, Alice Bock, Lorena Derks, Dawn Statton, Cindy Stasiewski, Dr. Richard Cerami, Peyton Madura, Judy Marini, Austin M., Rose Gray, Lottie Carter, Agnes Priscaro, Jean Benedict, Jerry Jeroski, Linda Kuzma, Geraldine Tomczak, Mary Wierzbicki, Mary Lepkowski, Michelle Spath, Michael Wiczorek, Dolores Campbell, Paul Martin, Sr., Dolores Osiecki, Betty Miller, William Brennan, Sr. Rose Rovnak, OSF, Sr. Margaret Rovnak, OSF, Dorothy Wright, Jerry Hoydic, Grace Guelcher, Ann Winschel, Marianne Nicholl, Marie Jurino, Joe Habas, Dolores Causgrove, Patricia Mazzaresse, Michael Ryan, Anne Marie Wykoff, Joanne Nelson, Evelyn Buczynski, Jim Heubel, Al Ropelewski, Eugeniusz Szczepura, Fr. John Murray C.Ss.R., The Wienczkowski Family, Eileen Fulton, Jane Singleton, Eloise Conley, Lorraine Oster, Al Klugiewicz, The Clara Jong Family, Thomas Lucas, Rose Kowalski, Rosemarie Dzialo, Mark McMahan, Lillian Kolbas, Joyce Mueck, Carol Reynolds-Wolfe, John Wolfe, Leokadia Bajek, Walter Zaborowski, Louise Grolemond, Margaret Barabas, Dannielle Bizzarro, Ed Hart, Hank and Dorothy Oldach, Sister Grace Cermak, and all others in need of our prayers. Pray for all of them!

*Please call in with names that should be added or removed from this list. Remember you are our only source of information, hospital, nursing homes, etc. do not provide us with any information. Thank you.*

**PRAY FOR OUR MEMBERS IN THE MILITARY**

Rev. Joseph Campbell (South Korea), Austin Agnello (in Sicily), Sterling and Connor Vahey, Nicole and Jamie Keller (in Iraq), David Hawkins, Nick Torres (in Afghanistan), Bryan Spadaccio, Jennifer Smolinsky, Gregory Merski, Thomas Kaiser, Daniel Kidd (in Hawaii), and David Kraut  
*Please call-in with names to be added or removed from this list or change in location.  
Thank you for your service to our country.*