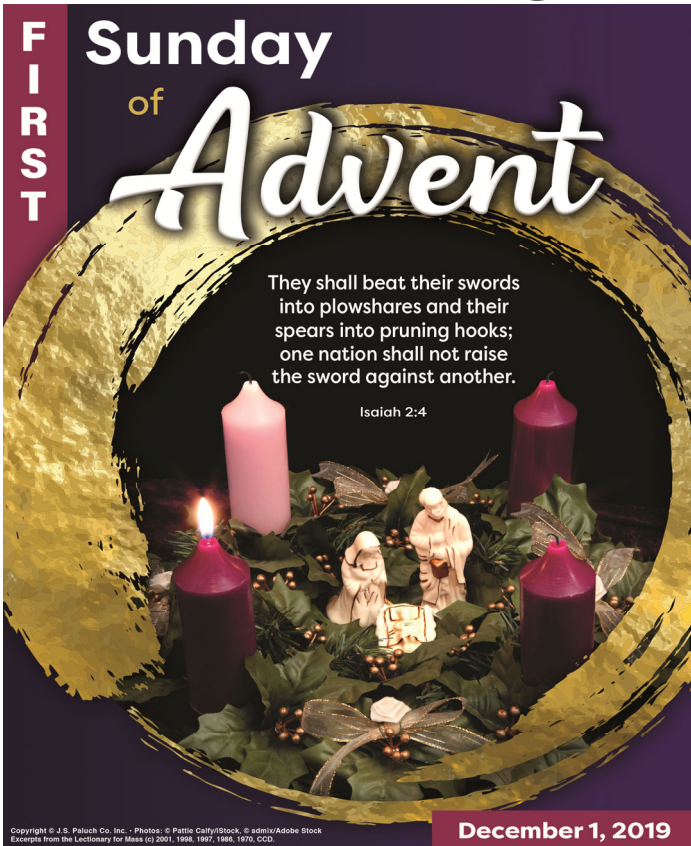


Our Mother of Sorrows Parish

Saint Casimir Church, Saint Ann Church and Holy Family Church

FIRST Sunday of **Advent**



They shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; one nation shall not raise the sword against another.

Isaiah 2:4

December 1, 2019

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**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

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).



Next Saturday, **December 7th**, is our **Annual Parish Christmas Party, The Sno Ball Dinner Dance**, at the Third Street Polish Falcons. 6-10PM. Buffet Dinner. Join us for an evening of good friends, good food and music by The Marvels. Invite your friends and family too! Dinner and 50/50 tickets are now on sale after Mass or in the rectory office. Get your tickets today, the **last day to purchase your tickets is Monday, Dec. 2nd**. See you at *The Sno Ball Dinner Dance!*



Plans are in place to sponsor the Giving Tree for Needy Seniors again this year. **Look for more information soon.** GECAC was extremely grateful for the generosity and support from the parish last year. Many of us saw first-hand how your generosity made such a difference in the lives of many!

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 on **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.



Help us decorate
the church for
Christmas



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, November 30th: Vigil Mass

- 3:30 pm (SC) Confessions
- 4:00 pm (SC) John Prez by wife Charlotte & Family
All Parishioners Living & Deceased

Sunday, December 1st: First Sunday of Advent

- 8:00 am (SC) Carolyn Mikolajczyk by Rosalie Tellers
- 9:30 am (SC) **Latin Mass** Special Intentions of Lisa Baird by Alicia Italiani
- 11:00 am (SC) Helen Pochatko by Mae Palkovic
All Parishioners Living and Deceased

Monday, December 2nd: Advent Weekday

- 7:00 am (HF) Private Intention
- 8:00 am (SC) John Campbell by Rita Schmidt
- 12:05 pm (SA) Marlene Andrascinski by Vento Family

Tuesday, December 3rd: St. Francis Xavier

- 7:00 am (HF) Private Intention
- 8:00 am (SC) Joseph Zielinski by Huzar Club
- 12:05 pm (SA) Officers & Members of the Slovak National Club

Wednesday, December 4th: St. John Damascene

- 7:00 am (HF) Private Intention
- 8:00 am (SC) Fr. Donald Berdis and Living & Deceased of The Berdis Family by Sister Kevin Berdis OSF
- 12:05 pm (SA) Living & Deceased Officers & Members of The Huzar Club

Thursday, December 5th: Advent Weekday

- 7:00 am (HF) Private Intention
- 8:00 am (SC) Living & Deceased of the Walach & Galla Families by Paul & Lisa Galla
- 12:05 pm (SA) Bertha Wernicki by Robert Sosey

Friday, December 6th: First Friday/St. Nicholas

- 7:00 am (HF) Private Intention
- 8:00 am (SC) Brzezicki & Bargielski Families by Rose Marie Bargielski
- 12:05 pm (SA) All the Children (young and old) of Our Parish...Happy St. Nicholas Day!

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

THE SANCTUARY LIGHTS

Holy Family

- 1) Officers & Members of the Slovak National Club
 - 2) Officers & Members of the Fulton Club
- Our Mother of Sorrows: Robert Merski, Sr. and Mildred Merski by The Merski Family

St. Ann's

- 1) Children (young and old) of our Parish, Happy St. Nicholas Day
- 2) Fr. Donald Berdis by Sr. Kevin Berdis, OSF

St. Casimir's

- 1) John Campbell by Rita Schmidt
- 2) Joseph Zielinski by The Huzar Club

OUR BELOVED DEAD

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

THE WEEK AHEAD

Sunday (12/1) First Sunday of Advent. 9AM Confessions (SC). 9:30 AM Latin Mass (SC). Rectory office is closed.

Monday (12/2) Rectory office open 10AM to Noon.

Tuesday (12/3) Rectory office open 10AM to Noon.

Wednesday (12/4) Rectory office is closed.

Thursday (12/5) Rectory office is closed.

First Friday (12/6) Saint Nicholas Day. Rectory office is open 10AM to Noon.

First Saturday (12/7) 3:30PM Confessions and 4PM Vigil Mass (SC). Rectory office is closed. Diocesan Second Collection for Religious Retirement at the 4PM Mass. 6PM Parish Christmas Party .

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 Masses.

MINISTRY SCHEDULES

Saturday Vigil Mass—November 30th

Lector: Loretta Baran
Eucharistic Ministers: Loretta Baran & Brian Martin
Altar Servers: Brian Martin

Sunday Masses—December 1st

8AM Mass

Lector: Dianne Connors
Eucharistic Ministers: Sharon Swigonski & Dianne Connors
Altar Servers: Eileen Ropelewski

11AM Mass

Lector: Michelle Schroeder
Eucharistic Ministers: Karen Mazur & Amy Schroeder
Altar Servers: Karen Mazur & Michelle Schroeder



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Welcome Everyone as we celebrate the Mass for the First Sunday of Advent. Today we bless our Advent Wreath and light the first candle. You may use the following prayer as you light the first candle for your wreath at home: *Almighty and most Powerful God, increase our sense of good for finding an eager welcome for Christ at his coming both at Christmas and the end of time. We pray through Christ our Lord Amen.* †

We distributed food baskets for Thanksgiving through our Food Pantry! Each basket had a complete Thanksgiving Dinner for the needy right here in our own neighborhood and parish. Thank you for helping by using the Poor Box or the blue envelope in your monthly packets for our food pantry. With your continued help we will do the same for Christmas! Stick with us! †We are please to announce the Annual Clothing Distribution Party to be held next Saturday, December 7th, at St. Paul's Center, 453 West 16th St, from 10AM until 2PM. All are invited and welcome to attend. No charge of any kind. Free clothing will be available for men, women, and children. Free toys for children. Free snacks and refreshments. For more information please call **Mr. Tim Nowakowski** at 814-566-6435. Merry Christmas to all! †Best Wishes again to the officers and members of the Slovak National Club. Work continues as they recover and rebuild after that unfortunate fire that hit their club building many months ago. Best wishes and Happy Advent to all at the Slovak National Club. †The members of the Junior Legion of Mary have a *Harvest Basket* that will be given away in a few weeks. 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. †Don't forget to pick up your tickets for our annual Christmas Party next Saturday, December 7th. Invite your family and friends to join you at this fun filled Christmas Party. †This month we take up 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 next 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! †Happy Advent! See you in Church!

FROM THE DESK OF DEACON JERRY

Maintaining Our Vision...As you can imagine, climbing Mount Everest is incredibly hard work. It takes about 2 months to do it, because you must spend at least 6 weeks preparing yourself physically for the final push to the summit. During those 6 weeks, you go through routines in order to allow your body to adjust to the low levels of oxygen at high altitude. You establish a series of camps along the path to the summit, starting with Base Camp, which is at about 17,000 feet. The summit is at over 29,000 feet (well over 8000 meters). The final push to the summit entails an 18-hour round trip from Camp IV to the summit. You leave late at night and climb through the dark to the summit, reaching it around midday if all goes well. Then you climb down quickly so that you can reach Camp IV again before it gets dark. In May of 1996 a tragedy occurred when 2 expedition teams (led by experienced climbers) got caught in a storm, high on the mountain. Both expedition team leaders, as well as 3 team members, died during the storm. John Krakauer, one of the survivors wrote a book "Into thin Air" describing the events surrounding this tragedy. He observed that the 2 expedition teams that encountered trouble violated some of their own rules for climbing. The expedition leaders talked extensively about the need for a turnaround-time rule. The principle was that, if you could not reach the top by one or two o'clock in the afternoon, then you should turn around. On that day some arrived as late as 4:00 in the afternoon. Not only were they descending the summit in darkness they were also met with a snowstorm. Krakauer noted that the expedition leaders were so confident of their abilities and that may have blurred their vision and led them to ignore the turnaround times. He writes that one of the leaders said, "We've got the Big E completely figured out, we've got it totally wired. These days, I'm telling you, we've built a yellow brick road to the summit." Our journey of discipleship as we prepare for the final coming of Christ is similar to climbing a mountain. The work is hard and long and the climb is tedious and requires spiritual conditioning. During the climb we run the risk of getting stuck on the mountain because it is so easy to get caught up in our daily routine that our vision of anything beyond our immediate concerns tends to be blurred. The church gives us the season of Advent to help us to keep our vision. Advent comes from the Latin word *adventus* which means "coming" or "arrival." For us it is the time of year when we specifically look to the coming of Jesus, first in his coming at his birth to bring us salvation and then his final coming, to end our trials on earth and gather us to him in glory. It is a time to evaluate our journey on the mountain of discipleship – to step back and look at our lives and evaluate our priorities. Jesus' warning, "Stay awake!" is not meant to scare us, but rather prepare us by calling us to maintain our vision and make the right choices that prepare us for his coming. Jesus wants us to use the Advent season wisely, not only to prepare for the coming of Christmas, but with prayer, penance and longing for God, to prepare for the coming of Christ, as a baby and as a king. May you have a Blessed Advent and come to know the Peace of Christ!

This week's spiritual exercise: Where in our lives do we feel like we "have it all figured out?" Spend quiet time with Jesus this week asking him for the strength to "stay awake" and maintain our vision on this journey.

FINANCIAL REPORT

**Due to Early Publication Deadlines
there is no current financial
information to report.**

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 13, 2019

Pledged: \$19,869.00 Paid: \$18,824.00

REMEMBER YOUR PARISH IN YOUR WILL.



**Christmas Flower
Offering**

**The last day to turn in your
Christmas Flower Envelopes,
to be included on our annual
listing of donors, is Sunday,
December 8, 2019. Thank you !**

Remember we need your help on December 15th 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, Monica Sorensen, 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 Wieczorek, 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 Wieczorek, 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, Bob Benim, 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.