

Our Mother of Sorrows Parish

Saint Casimir Church, Saint Ann Church and Holy Family Church

December 15, 2019

THIRD SUNDAY of Advent

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Jesus said,
"Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind regain their sight,
the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear,
the dead are raised, and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them."
Matthew 11:4-5

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).

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.



Thank you one and all for your contribution to our Giving Tree this year. Your gifts will be given to the many elderly individuals, who live right here in our neighborhood. Your gift will give them a very Merry Christmas. The gifts will be picked up today, Sunday, December 15th, and distributed to the individuals in time for Christmas. Once again you have out done yourselves! Thank you for making some ones Christmas merry and bright. Merry Christmas to one and all!

Today is the Day we need your help! Plan to share the Christmas Spirit with us today, Sunday, December 15th, after the 11AM Mass. Stay and help decorate the church for Christmas! Everyone is welcome! Help is needed to place wreaths, fluff and set up trees, hang garland and arrange the Nativity. A light lunch will be provided.



Looking for a wonderful Christmas gift, maybe a stocking stuffer? Look no farther..Our MONTHLY LOTTERY TICKETS are available and make great gifts for everyone on your list. Our Mother of Sorrows Parish sponsors the monthly lottery tickets. \$5.00 per ticket for a month of possible winning. The winning number is based on the 7PM Pick 3 PA Lottery Drawing Number. You can win \$50 or \$100! Tickets are available in our churches and at the rectory office. See ticket for full details. Pick yours up today!

🎄 Thank you to everyone who worked so hard to make our annual Parish Christmas Party "The Sno Ball" and wonderful success. From the committee members, ticket sellers, parishioners, family and friends! We had a great time, delicious buffet, marvelous music, and a lot of fun talking and dancing the night away. Same time next year! *Thanks again!*

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

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
All Parishioners Living & Deceased

Monday, December 16th: Advent Weekday

- 7:00 am (HF) Private Intention
- 8:00 am (SC) All Parishioners Living & Deceased
- 12:05 pm (SA) Bertha Wiernicki by Karen Dodson

Tuesday, December 17th: Late Advent Weekday

- 7:00 am (HF) Private Intention
- 8:00 am (SC) All Soul's Day Intentions
- 12:05 pm (SA) Living & Deceased of the Galla & Walach Families by Paul & Lisa Galla

Wednesday, December 18th: Late Advent Weekday

- 7:00 am (HF) Private Intention
- 8:00 am (SC) Sister Vivian SSJ by Mickey Pohl and Family
- 12:05 pm (SA) John Niebauer by Skip & Sue Tenney

Thursday, December 19th: Late Advent Weekday

- 7:00 am (HF) Private Intention
- 8:00 am (SC) John Campbell by Campbell Family
- 12:05 pm (SA) All Parishioners Living & Deceased

Friday, December 20th: Late Advent Weekday

- 7:00 am (HF) Private Intention
- 8:00 am (SC) Helena Roman by Linda Foerber
- 12:05 pm (SA) Johanna Berdis by Larry Berdis

Saturday, December 21st: Vigil Mass

- 3:30 pm (SC) Confessions
- 4:00 pm (SC) Doris & Michael Kuhar by Jerry and Denise Sobrowski
All Parishioners Living & Deceased

Sunday, December 22nd: Fourth Sunday of Advent

- 8:00 am (SC) Deceased members of the Szabo & Tomczak Families by Lou Szabo
- 9:30 am (SC) *Latin Mass*
The Soul needs of Catharine Ann,
all Living & Deceased Members of the Cerami,
Pillitteri, Howard and Kearney Families by Dr. Cerami
- 11:00 am (SC) Ted Mazur, Jr. by Mrs. Prez and Family

THE SANCTUARY LIGHTS

Holy Family

- 1) Johanna Berdis by Larry Berdis
- 2) Living & Deceased of The Berdis Family
Our Mother of Sorrows: Robert Merski, Sr. and Mildred Merski by The Merski Family

St. Ann's

- 1) Joseph Pochatko by Family
- 2) Charles Chase by Family

St. Casimir's

- 1) John Campbell by Campbell Family
- 2) Living & Deceased of The Slovak National Club

OUR BELOVED DEAD

Kenneth Cotter,
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 (12/15) Third Sunday of Advent. 9AM Confessions (SC). 9:30 AM Latin Mass (SC). Rectory office is closed.

Monday (12/16) Rectory office open 10AM to Noon.

Tuesday (12/17) Rectory office open 10AM to Noon.

Wednesday (12/18) Rectory office is closed.

Thursday (12/19) Rectory office is closed.

Friday (12/20) Rectory office is open 10AM to Noon.

Saturday (12/21) 3:30PM Confessions and 4PM Vigil Mass (SC). Rectory office is closed.

Sunday (12/22) Fourth Sunday of Advent. 9AM Confessions (SC). 9:30 AM Latin Mass (SC). Rectory office is closed.

MINISTRY SCHEDULES

Saturday Vigil Mass—December 14th

Lector: Rod Showers
Eucharistic Ministers: Tom Duska & Loretta Baran
Altar Servers: Tom Duska

Sunday Masses—December 15th

8AM Mass
Lector: Eileen Ropelewski
Eucharistic Ministers: Sharon Swigonski
Altar Servers: Eileen Ropelewski

11AM Mass
Lector: Brian Martin
Eucharistic Ministers: Kim Walkiewicz & Janet Schroeder
Altar Servers: Karen Mazur



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Welcome Everyone as we celebrate the Mass for the Third Sunday of Advent, Gaudete Sunday. The Liturgical Color today is Old Rose. Today we light the third candle of our Advent Wreath. You may use the following prayer as you light the third candle of your wreath at home: *Almighty and most Powerful God, may we your people who look forward to the birth of your divine Son experience the joy through Christ our Lord. Amen! Come, Lord Jesus! 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 packet we may purchase \$16.00 worth of food for just \$1.00. For each dollar you give to the food pantry we purchase \$16.00 worth of food for the poor and needy of our area. Thank you for your generosity! Stick with us! †The members of the Junior Legion of Mary gave away a *Harvest Basket!* The proceeds will be used by the Legion to pay for some of their projects. The name of the lucky winner will be announced from the pulpit today. †Last weekend we took 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 our parish and the Erie Diocese. The special collection was taken up last 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. †This week the overnight shelter for the homeless continues at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 643 West 17th St. until December 18th. The shelter moves to the Russian Orthodox Church of the Nativity Community Center, 109 German St. from December 18th to January 2nd. Supper and Breakfast the following morning is also served. Spread the word! Just show up! †Please pray for the peaceful repose of the souls of **Mr. Robert Benim, Mrs. Monica Sorensen, and Mr. Kenneth Cotter** and all who died in the last few weeks! May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace. †Thanks for all your help! Happy Advent! Enjoy the mild weather! Come, Lord Jesus!

FROM THE DESK OF DEACON JERRY

Come Home for Christmas - Celebrate the Holy Family... Pastoral Council has been planning special activities for the Feast of the Holy Family this year. In addition to the Mass that will be celebrated at Holy Family Church on the Feast Day, there will be other activities over the weekend as well such as gatherings and receptions at the Holy Family School. Many of the specific details were unavailable at the time of the deadline for this bulletin. Please look for more information to be announced at our Masses as well as in next week's bulletin. A very special thanks to **Bob Merski** for suggesting and organizing this event.

➔ **NOTE:** The 11:00 Sunday Mass on the Feast of the Holy Family is moved to Holy Family Church and will **start at 11:30 am.**

Gaudete Sunday... Today is Gaudete Sunday or the third Sunday of Advent. The name comes from the Introit for Gaudete Sunday, in both the Traditional Latin Mass and the Novus Ordo, which is taken from Philippians 4:4,5: *Gaudete in Domino semper*, or "rejoice in the Lord always." Like Lent, Advent is a penitential season, so purple vestments are normally worn. But on Gaudete Sunday, having passed the midpoint of Advent, the Church, in anticipation of the coming of the Lord lightens the mood a little, and the rose vestments may be worn. For the same reason of lightening the mood, the third candle of the Advent wreath, which is first lit on Gaudete Sunday, is traditionally rose-colored.

Take the Time to Rejoice!... Advent is a season of preparation. It's not uncommon for all of us to hear the word "preparation" and think of the decorations, parties and everything else we want to get done. For that matter Advent can be a whirlwind of "to-do lists" and events to attend where we may wind up having only passing thoughts of the Incarnation – the birth of Christ. We must be intentional about taking time to "unplug" and reflect on the implications of Advent. We must take a "time-out" so that we are attentive to what the Holy Spirit is revealing in our hearts and minds about a God who loves us so deeply that he humbled himself to become one of us born as a baby in Bethlehem. Today as we celebrate Gaudete Sunday we take a time-out from everything else to simply rejoice!. The rose candle on our Advent wreath signifies our joy because our God draws near. In our first reading today Isaiah prophesies that the Messiah will be the one who will bring hope of healing to the blind, deaf and lame. Our psalm even gives praise for God's faithfulness, and adds to Isaiah's list the hungry, the oppressed, and orphans and widows. In today's Gospel Jesus tells John the Baptist's disciples, *go and tell John what you hear and see*, he is confirming these attributes, while revealing the Messiah is in our midst. Imagine how John must have been filled with joy when his disciples confirmed that Jesus is the *one who is to come*. We are filled with joy when we see and hear the healing and transformative works of God taking place all around us. The Messiah is with us and we are joyful. As we draw near to the close of Advent we are reminded this joy is intended to be shared. It is still not too late to take the time to do it!

This week's spiritual exercise: Take a "time-out" and reflect on the readings for this Sunday. Where in our lives have we have we been touched by the "one who is to come"? What are we joyful for? How will we share that joy with others?

FINANCIAL REPORT

Sunday, November 24, 2019

4:00 PM Mass \$1,172.00

8:00 AM Mass \$462.93

Latin Mass \$563.00

11:00AM Mass \$339.00

Candles \$35.75

TOTAL \$2,572.68

Don't forget your parish in your year end giving!

CATHOLIC SERVICES APPEAL 2019

ATTENTION...CSA contributions given on or after Tuesday, December 4, 2019 may NOT be reflected on the December CSA notification you receive from the Diocese. Please ***rest assured*** that your contribution has been posted to your account. *Please do not call the rectory office!*

CSA 2019 as of November 25, 2019

Pledged: \$19,929.00 Paid: \$19,004.00

REMEMBER YOUR PARISH IN YOUR WILL.

Thank you to each and everyone, our parishioners, our friends, our benefactors, our family for the deep devotion to Our Mother of Sorrows Parish for your continued love, support and generosity. As you consider your year end donations/gifts don't forget to include your beloved parish.



Thanks for keeping our home fires burning!

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 Draszkievicz, 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 McMahon, 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.