

Our Mother of Sorrows Parish

Saint Casimir Church, Saint Ann Church and Holy Family Church



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2023 THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT ~ GAUDETE SUNDAY

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, December 17th: Third Sunday of Advent

Gaudete Sunday

Private (SA) Josephine Reed by Dr. Hal Angeloff

10:30 am (SC) Confessions

11:00am(SC) Barbara J. Juchno by Bob and Karen Mazur

Monday, December 18th: Late Advent Weekday

11:30am (SA) Confessions

12:05pm (SA) David K. Wienczkowski by Barbara Berdis

Tuesday, December 19th: Late Advent Weekday

11:30am (SA) Confessions

12:05pm (SA) Billy King by Melissa King and Families

Wednesday, December 20th: Late Advent Weekday

11:30am (SA) Confessions

12:05pm (SA) Roy Lowrance by H. Lee

Thursday, December 21st: St. Peter Canisius

11:30am (SA) Confessions

12:05pm (SA) Tom Damico by The Juchno Family

Friday, December 22nd: Late Advent Weekday

11:30am (SA) Confessions

12:05pm (SA) David K. Wienczkowski by John and Christine Farnum

Saturday, December 23rd: Late Advent Weekday

Private (SA) Galla and Walach Families by Paul and Lisa Galla

Sunday, December 24th: Fourth Sunday of Advent

Private (SA) No Private Mass Today

10:30 am (SC) Confessions

11:00am(SC) Charles Brower, Anniversary by wife and Family

Sunday, December 24th; Christmas Eve Vigil Mass

4:00pm (SC) Walter F. Baran by sister, Loretta Baran

Monday, December 25th: The Nativity of the Lord

Christmas Day

10:30 am (SC) Confessions

11:00 am (SC) Sandra A. Demchak, Birthday by husband Robert J. Demchak, Sr.

Tuesday, December 26th: Saint Stephen

11:30am (SA) Confessions

12:05pm (SA) For Eternal Salvation of all People by Jean Wroblewski

Wednesday, December 27th: St. John

11:30am (SA) Confessions

12:05pm (SA) David K. Wienczkowski by Sister Kevin Berdis, OSF

THE SANCTUARY LIGHTS

Holy Family

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

St. Ann's

- 1) David K. Wienczkowski by Loving Mother Kay Wienczkowski
- 2) For blessings, guidance and peace for all parishioners and their parishes in the Erie Diocese

St. Casimir's

- 1) All Parishioners, Living and Deceased
- 2) Blessings for a Merry Christmas Season to all

FINANCIAL REPORT—December 10, 2023

Sunday Offertory: \$1,240.80

Immaculate Conception: \$325.00

Religious Retirement: \$411.00

Christmas: \$50.00

Solemnity of Mary: \$5.00

Christmas Flowers: \$30.00

Campaign for Human Development: \$20.00

Oplatki (Christmas Wafers): \$41.00

CATHOLIC SERVICES APPEAL

2023 Goal: \$35,165.00

Pledged: \$7,505.00

Paid: \$7,425.00

Thank you to all who have pledged/paid their support to the 2023 CSA.

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

Thank you for keeping the Home Fires Burning!



Oplatki
Christmas
Wafers

The traditional Christmas Wafer, **Oplatki**, are now available. You may pick them up in the back of St. Casimir's Church after the 11AM Mass. Please place your contribution in an envelope marked Oplatki/Christmas Wafers and simply drop it in the offertory basket. Your generous offering helps cover the cost of making the Christmas wafers available to you.

Thank you.



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

Christmas is on a Monday this year which may create **confusion about what counts toward our obligation to attend Mass on Sunday and the Christmas obligation.** The Christmas Eve vigil Mass does not fulfill the Sunday Mass Obligation for Sunday, December 24. Please plan to attend two Masses: one on Saturday evening or Sunday morning as well as a Christmas Eve Vigil or Christmas Day Mass. Our Sunday Mass will be at 11:00 am on December 24. Masses for Christmas will be on Sunday, December 24 at 4 pm and on Christmas morning at 11:00 am.

Reminder: we will be **decorating the church** for Christmas after the 11:00 mass today. All are welcome to stay and help!

A Special Thank You to the **St Ann's Ladies Guild** for covering the costs of having the outdoor St. Ann's Shrine and Statue Pressure washed and cleaned. They also had the stone on the Northside of the Church pressure washed and cleaned where it was heavily soiled and growing moss.

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.

Who are You?

How would each of us answer the questions posed to John the Baptist in our Gospel: Who are you? What are you?

The answers to the questions posed to John apply to each of us as Christians. By our Baptisms we are called to live our lives as models of Christ, and to be heralds of the good news, we are called to be prophets, voices crying out.

Just as Jesus sent John the Baptist to announce his arrival giving him a role in building up his kingdom - In the same way he has entrusted the defense and expansion of his kingdom to the Church and each one of us. Just as he gave John the honor and responsibility of announcing his coming he gives each one of us the responsibility of spreading his word.

As a prophet John was given the task of awakening the hearts of people and arousing in them the desire to understand Christ when he came. As a prophet he was to shake people out of their complacency.

All of us are like the people in John's time. We get complacent, busy about our earthly affairs and sometimes indifferent to what God is calling us to do. Each year at this time how often do we say or think that Christmas has become so commercialized, so secular, or we ask how can we reclaim it as a holy day for ourselves and our family?

We can start by having the inner vision that enables us to be totally caught up in God's plan, to be that *voice of one crying out in the desert*.

Just like John, we are called to be the prophets of our time, to shake ourselves and others out of our indifferences, to become true witnesses of our faith, to see things as God sees them.

Let us be the ones who cry out in the desert by standing together for the sake of the Gospel, and by raising our voices in defense of the truth. Let us always speak up. That's what prophets do – that is who and what we are.