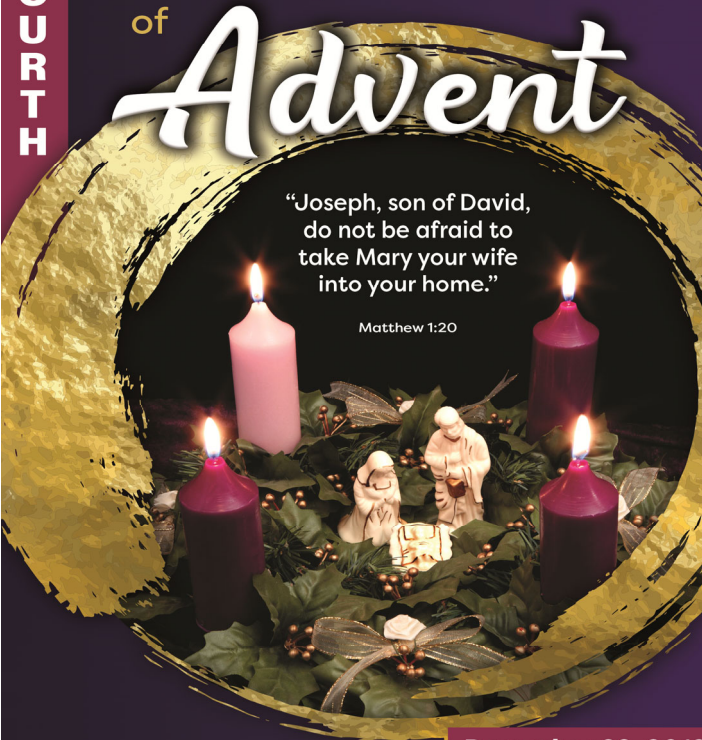


Our Mother of Sorrows Parish

Saint Casimir Church, Saint Ann Church and Holy Family Church

FOURTH Sunday of **Advent**

"Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home."
Matthew 1:20



December 22, 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).

Today Is Born Our Savior, Christ The Lord



Wishing you a Blessed and Merry Christmas



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Christmas Mass Schedule

All Masses will be at St. Casimir's
Tuesday, December 24th, Vigil Masses
4:00 and 9:00 PM

Midnight Mass, December 25th, will be the
Latin Mass with Fr. Power

Wednesday, December 25th, Christmas Day
8:00, 9:30 (Latin) and 11:00 AM

Last chance to get your traditional **CHRISTMAS WAFERS, THE OPLATKI**. 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. If any are left you may obtain Oplatki in the back of St. Casimir's Church or at the rectory office during regular office hours. **Wesołych Świąt Bożego Narodzenia**



Sunday, December 29th—Feast of The Holy Family, Jesus, Mary and Joseph. Join us at **11:30AM** for Mass at Holy Family Church. All are welcome.

MASSES FOR THE WEEKSaturday, 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

Monday, December 23rd: Late Advent Weekday

- 7:00 am (HF) No Mass
 8:00 am (SC) Daniel A. Ropelewski, Birthday by Sisters and Brother
 12:05 pm (SA) Marlene Andrascik by Marlene Figurski

Tuesday, December 24th: Late Advent/Christmas Eve*No Morning Masses Today*

- 4:00pm (SC) Dale & Monica Sorensen and Bob & Audrey Dietz by Their Families
 9:00pm (SC) Michael & Helen Ropelewski by Daughters and Son

Wednesday, December 25th: Christmas Day*The Nativity of the Lord*

- Midnight (SC) **Latin Mass:** For all members of the Latin Mass Community
 8:00 am (SC) Living & Deceased of the Berdis Family
 9:30 am (SC) **Latin Mass**
 Living & Deceased of the Latin Mass Community
 11:00 am (SC) Living & Deceased of the Merski Family by Tim and Cathy Merski

Thursday, December 26th: St. Stephen

- 7:00 am (HF) No Mass
 8:00 am (SC) Stephen Ropelewski, Birthday by Ropelewski Family
 12:05 pm (SA) Bob Jurino by Wife and Son

Friday, December 27th: St. John

- 7:00 am (HF) No Mass
 8:00 am (SC) Evelyn Turowski by daughter Janet
 12:05 pm (SA) Cieslak & Lewis Families by Ed & Linda Cieslak

Saturday, December 28th: Holy Innocents/Vigil Mass

- 3:30 pm (SC) Confessions
 4:00 pm (SC) John Wisniewski by Sister-in-Law Angie
 All Parishioners Living & Deceased

Sunday, December 29th: Feast of the Holy Family

- 8:00 am (SC) Marie Dzuricky by Mike & Linda Kuzma
 9:30 am (SC) **Latin Mass**
 John Campbell by Latin Mass Community
 11:00 am (SC) NO Mass
 → 11:30 am (HF) *Feast of The Holy Family*
 Living & Deceased Relatives and Friends of The Berdis Family

THE SANCTUARY LIGHTSHoly Family

- 1) Living & Deceased of the Berdis Family
 - 2) Living & Deceased of the Galla & Walach Families by Paul & Lisa Galla
- Our Mother of Sorrows: Robert Merski, Sr. and Mildred Merski by The Merski Family

St. Ann's

- 1) Johanna Berdis by Larry Berdis
- 2) Living & Deceased of the Merski Family

St. Casimir's

- 1) Ted Mazur, Jr. by Charlotte Prez and Family
- 2) Joe & Mary Pohl by son Mickey and Family

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

Monday (12/23) Rectory office open 10AM to Noon.

Please watch Mass Schedule for our Christmas Masses.

Tuesday (12/24) Christmas Eve. Rectory office closed. No Morning Masses.

Wednesday (12/25) Christmas Day. Merry Christmas. Rectory office is closed.

Thursday (12/26) Rectory office is closed.

Friday (12/27) Rectory office is closed.

Saturday (12/28) 3:30PM Confessions and 4PM Vigil Mass (SC). Rectory office is closed.

Sunday (12/29) Feast of the Holy Family. 9AM Confessions (SC). 9:30 AM Latin Mass (SC). No 11AM Mass today only. 11:30AM Mass at Holy Family. Rectory office is closed.

MINISTRY SCHEDULESSaturday Vigil Mass—December 21st

Lector: Kathy Mays
 Eucharistic Ministers: Eric & Maureen Fink
 Altar Servers: Loretta Baran and Kyle Jackson

Sunday Masses—December 22nd8AM Mass

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

11AM Mass

Lector: Russell Robison
 Eucharistic Ministers: Karen Mazur & Amy Schroeder
 Altar Servers: Cameron Schroeder



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Welcome Everyone as we celebrate the Mass for the Fourth Sunday of Advent, Last Sunday of Advent, and Christmas, the Birthday of Our Lord. Today we light the fourth candle of our Advent Wreath. You may use the following prayer as you light the first candle for your wreath at home: *Almighty and most Powerful God, fill our hearts with love and as you revealed yourself to us by the message of an angel now lead us to his suffering and death to the miracle of the Resurrection. 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 packets 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! † Merry Christmas Everybody! † On December 8th 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, the Sisters of Mercy and all orders who have served in our parish and the Erie Diocese. The special second collection was taken up the weekend of December 7th & 8th 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. Thank you for all you do for our retired, ill, and elderly Sisters and religious order priests and brothers. † 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 the Russian Orthodox Church of the Nativity Community Center, 109 German St. 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, Mrs. Bertha** 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. ❄️ Wishing all of you the love Jesus, Mary, and Joseph had on the first Christmas night. May you and your loved ones share the peace and joy of that love with one another. You and your family will share in my Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Masses. ❄️ Thanks for all of your help! Happy Advent! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! Peace and Joy!

FROM THE DESK OF DEACON JERRY

Thank You! Thanks once again for your overwhelming support of our Giving Tree - the tags on the tree were gone within a week. What a fitting testimony to the kindness, love, and generosity that is the very heart of our parish. GECAC is making sure the gifts are delivered to the seniors, making their Christmas brighter all because of you! A special thanks to **Karen and Bob Mazur** for handling all the details!

Come Home for Christmas - Celebrate the Holy Family...All are invited to a School and Parish Reunion for Holy Family, St. Ann, St. Casimir, and Spirit of Christ. It will be held on December 28th in the Holy Family Gym, 1153 East 9th Street from 5:00-9:00 PM. There will be food, refreshments and music, so please come and enjoy friends and fellowship in the old neighborhood and see the good work we are doing as one parish today! No cost to attend! For information or to volunteer please call or text 490-2194 or email ErieEastsideCatholic@gmail.com. A very special thanks to **Bob Merski** for all his hard work 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**. **Do Not Be Afraid!...** “Do not be afraid.” With those four words – repeated again and again by the archangel Gabriel, our hope of heaven was born. Gabriel told Joseph to not give into these fears of what others might say, think or do. Previously, Gabriel had spoken these similar words of reassurance to Zechariah when he received news of his wife’s miraculous pregnancy. Gabriel would utter these words again, telling Mary, *Do not be afraid*, for she has *found favor with God*. After Jesus’ birth, these same words would be used to beckon the shepherds to come in from the fields, following the light of the star, to adore at the Christ child’s crib. “Do not be afraid.” These same words are spoken to us each time we face life’s challenges, difficult decisions or even our own sinfulness. Jesus being born among us means we no longer have to be afraid – either to live or to die, for he truly is Emmanuel, “God with us.” A living, breathing sign of God’s love and protection and a personal, undeniable sign of His commitment to each one of us. As we prepare for Christmas let us remember that the greatest gift isn’t the one we will find under the tree. The greatest gift of Christmas would be wrapped in swaddling clothes not ribbons, and he would one day be found on the tree of the cross – born to die that we might live. May your hearts be filled with the humble peace and glory of our newborn Savior this Christmas Season and always!

This week’s spiritual exercise: Reflect on what our biggest fears in life are. Take them to Jesus and listen. What is he telling us?

FINANCIAL REPORT

Sunday, December 1, 2019

4:00 PM Mass \$1,513.00

8:00 AM Mass \$1,062.65

Latin Mass \$577.11

11:00AM Mass \$790.50

Candles \$42.78

TOTAL \$3,986.04

CATHOLIC SERVICES APPEAL 2019

☛ **REMINDER** any CSA contributions received on or after December 4, 2019 may **NOT** be reflected in the CSA notification you receive from the Diocese in December. *PLEASE don't panic...you may rest assured your contribution has been posted to your account.* **PLEASE DO NOT CALL THE RECTORY** regarding your contribution made on or after December 4th! Thank you. Helen Gangemi, Bookkeeper

CSA 2019 as of December 4, 2019

Pledged: \$20,170.00 Paid: \$19,270.00

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!

2019 Year End Contribution Statements will be available on or after Jan. 27th. Please sign up to receive your statement.

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.