

Our Mother of Sorrows Parish

Saint Casimir Church, Saint Ann Church and Holy Family Church



SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2023 FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, February 26th: First Sunday of Lent

Private (SA) Billy King by Melissa King and Families

10:30 am (SC) Confessions

11:00 am (SC) Mary and Joe Pohl by Mickey Pohl

Monday, February 27th: St. Gregory of Narek

11:30am (SA) Confessions

12:05pm (SA) Norman Borczon by G. Palmer

Tuesday, February 28th: Lenten Weekday

11:30am (SA) Confessions

12:05pm (SA) Gloria, Birthday, Anthony Rigazzi and Living and Deceased Family by Jean Wroblewski

Wednesday, March 1st: Lenten Weekday

11:30am (SA) Confessions

12:05pm (SA) Harriet Gallagher by The Theresa Juchno Family

Thursday, March 2nd: Lenten Weekday

11:30am (SA) Confessions

12:05pm (SA) In memory of William Palkovic, Anniversary March 4th by wife Delphine and Family

First Friday, March 3rd: St. Katharine Drexel

A Day of Abstinence

11:30am (SA) Confessions

12:05pm (SA) Mikolaj Wodecki, Anniversary by daughter Caroline Larson

First Saturday, March 4th: Saint Casimir

8:30am (SA) Confessions

9:00am (SA) Lottie Bubrzyk by Diane Niebauer

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

Sunday, March 5th: Second Sunday of Lent

Private (SA) The deceased Loved Ones of Janet Turowski

10:30 am (SC) Confessions

11:00 am (SC) Father Daniel Prez by Sundy Family

Monday, March 6th: Lenten Weekday

11:30am (SA) Confessions

12:05pm (SA) Sally and Theodore R zodkiewicz by Daughters and Families

Tuesday, March 7th: St. Perpetua and Felicity

11:30am (SA) Confessions

12:05pm (SA) Theodore Visosky, Birthday March 5th by Christine Visosky

Wednesday, March 8th: Saint John of God

11:30am (SA) Confessions

12:05pm (SA) Lucia Lee by H. Lee

THE SANCTUARY LIGHTS

Holy Family

1) Galla & Walach Family by Paul & Lisa Galla

2) Habas, Kulig & Laszewski Families by Kulig Estate

Our Mother of Sorrows: Robert Merski, Sr. and Mildred Merski by The Merski Family

St. Ann's

1) For all parishioners Living and Deceased

2) Rev. James T. O'Hara and Rev. Ron Gmerek

St. Casimir's

1) The Ropelewski Family by Estate

2) Health and Healing for all Shut-ins and Sick

FINANCIAL REPORT

Sunday, February 19, 2023

Offertory: \$883.50

Expenses

February Maintenance and Repairs: \$1,972.27

CATHOLIC SERVICES APPEAL

2023 Goal: \$35,165.00

Pledged: \$1,335.00 Paid: \$505.00

The 2023 Catholic Services Appeal began on February 19, 2023, Commitment Sunday and we are off the a slow start. Please make your pledge today.

PLEASE USE OUR CORRECT ADDRESS!

The Parish Office address is
630 Hess Ave., Erie, PA 16503.

The mail slot is on the south side of St. Casimir's Church right at the end of the handicap ramp. All mail and other correspondence is to be addressed to and mailed to or dropped off at 630 Hess Ave. Office hours are by appointment only.

GECAC "Feed the Poor Campaign" - food donations will be collected, at our parish, on March 5th and 12th, 2023. Please place your donations in the back of Saint Casimir's Church. Items requested are gift cards and non-perishable food items. Bags are available in the back of church. These items will be distributed to seniors, families and individuals in need throughout Erie County prior to Easter Sunday. Thank you for your continued love and support.



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

Pastoral planning regarding parish restructuring continues deanery by deanery. Bishop Persico and the diocesan pastoral planning core team are now prepared to meet with parish leadership in five deaneries. The gathering for the **East and West Deaneries** will be held on Thursday, March 30 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at a place to be determined. Our parish team has been invited to attend and I will keep you up-to-date as things develop.

Along with reduced mass attendance and the priest shortage, many parishes in the diocese, including our own are facing financial challenges. For example, our parish needs approximately **\$17,200 each month** to meet operating costs for our three churches and their accompanying properties. This includes wages, benefits, utilities, taxes, maintenance, office and church expenses etc. Considering that I do not take a salary from the parish and we do not have a full-time priest this number could be much higher. To meet these expenses, we currently can expect **on average to receive \$7,500** in offertory income each month. This includes in person, mail-in and on-line giving. Similar to other parishes in our situation we have been able to remain operational by drawing on our cash reserves and the occasional donations and other sources of serendipitous income we receive over the course of the year. Not included in the \$17,200 is the annual cost of \$18,000 for our insurances and the approximately \$12,000 each year in diocesan assessments. While we do not have any bank debt, over the course of the last 25 years we have accumulated \$400,000 in arrears for our diocesan assessments. Again, we are not alone, many parishes in the diocese as well as our own Deanery are in the same situation. Please continue to pray for our parish and diocese that the Holy Spirit will continue to guide us as we face the future and address our challenges.

Congratulation to **Nicholas Walters** on making the Dean's List for the 2022 fall semester at St. Vincent College. We are all proud of you! Nicholas is the son of Tom and Lisa Walters.

The St. Luke Knights of Columbus Council 11229 is sponsoring Lenten fish dinners on March 3, 10 and 17, from 5 to 7 p.m. at St. Luke Café, 421 East 38th St., Erie. Take out is available. For more information call Marty Drabic at 814.460.6338.

Our Lady of Mercy Parish in Harborcreek is hosting a free multimedia presentation, *Eucharistic Miracles*, by neuropsychologist Dr. Jaci Phillips on March 8 at Our Lady of Mercy Church, 837 Barlett Rd., Harborcreek. The event begins after 5:30 p.m. Mass, with soup being served at 6:10 p.m. Jaci will begin her presentation at 6:45 p.m. All are welcome.

The **Eighth Annual Catholic Women's Conference** is less than one month away! Be a part of it! The name 1:38 Women is based on the theme of Luke 1:38: "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." The conference will be held on Saturday, March 25, at St. Jude Parish, 2801 West 6th Street, from 8:00 am to 12:30 pm. The women from our diocese will gather to pray, reflect, and be inspired. The program consists of our amazing speaker, Laurel Phelps, and Mass with Bishop Persico. You will enjoy two of our life-giving Sacraments: Holy Eucharist and Reconciliation. The event is \$20, College Students \$10, High School Students \$5, and Religious FREE. For more information or to register visit www.1:38women.com or call (814) 455-7364.

Our time in the dessert ... We enter the first Sunday of Lent with the story of Jesus in the desert. Lent is also our time in the desert where we face out temptations head-on. Our Gospel for today gives us three survival lessons for the desert.

The first lesson deals with temptation itself. Just as Jesus was in today's Gospel, tempted to disobey God's will, so are we. As disciples of Christ all of us experience temptation and it comes in many forms. On the surface we may be tempted to do or not do something but most likely most of us experience minor temptations (lies, minor cheating, etc.) that creep into our identities and begin the process of leading us away from being the person God wants us to be.

The second lesson is that the devil is real. The reason the Spirit led Jesus into the desert in the first place, was to be tempted by the devil." (The forty days of Lent correspond to this forty-day sojourn of Christ in the desert.) We don't fully understand the nuts and bolts of how the devil influences things, but the Church has always taught that his influence is real. The devil is dead-set against Christ and his kingdom and he would be willing to sing a Gregorian Chant just to get us over to his side.

The third lesson is the most important one. The devil wages an all-out attack on Jesus and does the same to us by appealing to our desire for comfort and pleasure ("Turn those stones into jelly donuts"), our desire for recognition ("Do a swan dive off the top of the temple; that will impress them"), or our desire for greatness ("Just do it and I'll make you rich and powerful").

That is where our prayer, fasting, and almsgiving come in. In this season of Lent we realize that we are not in the desert alone, rather Jesus knows what we are going through and is walking by our side every step of the way. Sometimes it becomes easy to just view our Lenten sacrifices as giving up something and depriving ourselves for a period of time. But Lent is not just about what we are called to give up. It is also about what we are called to take up. It is about coming to grips with who we are as baptized disciples of Christ.

Most of us will get out of the desert OK, yet the temptations will still come and the devil will continue his work long after this season of Lent has passed. If we have grown through this time in the desert we be able to resist his work and remain committed to be the type of people God has created us to be.