

Fourth Sunday of Easter
May 3, 2020



Stained Glass Window
St. Patrick Church

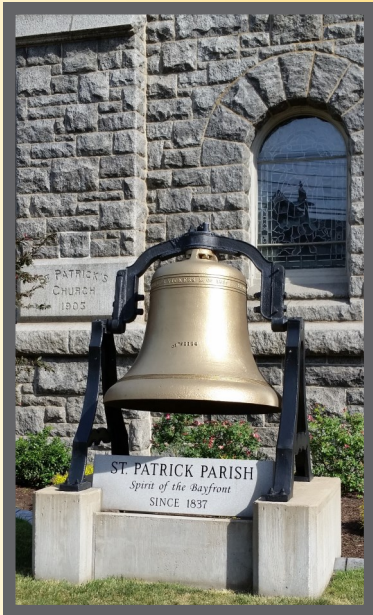
Saint Patrick Parish

Serving the East Bayfront of Erie since 1837

Daily Mass: Monday-Thursday 8 AM

Saturday Vigil Mass: 5 PM

Sunday: 8 AM & 10:30 AM



Saint Patrick Parish

130 East 4th Street
Erie, PA 16507

Monsignor Henry A. Kriegel—Pastor

Janine Carch Sliker—Office Manager

Ann Halupczynski—Director of Finances

Tom Golab—Sacristan

Mark Alloway—Organist, Music Director

Jan Gervasi—Wedding Coordinator

Anne Causgrove—Baptismal Preparation

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Office Hours:

Monday-Thursday: 8:30 AM-4:00 PM

MASS SCHEDULE:

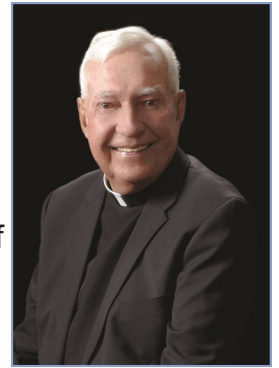
Daily Mass: Monday-Thursday: 8:00 AM (CHAPEL)

Saturday Mass: 5:00 PM

Sunday Mass: 8:00 AM & 10:30 AM

Holy Day Mass: 12:00 PM

From the Pastor's Desk...



Today is the Fourth Sunday of Easter. Peter's speech on Pentecost, like all the speeches in the Acts of the Apostles, centers on Jesus being raised from the dead. At the conclusion of this first discourse, Peter announced that the crucified and risen Jesus is both Lord and Christ. As Lord, Jesus shares divine authority with the Lord God. As Christ, he is the long-awaited anointed descendant of David. After Peter's proclamation and the audience asking, "What are we to do?" shows that Peter has imparted more than information, but has jolted the hearers to an active response. In telling them to repent, Peter calls for conversion of mind, heart, behavior and relationships, as have the prophets of Israel, John the Baptist, and Jesus himself who had told his followers, "that repentance for the forgiveness of sins, would be preached in his name to all the nations, beginning in Jerusalem." (Lk 24:47). Baptism in the name of Jesus is a sign of repentance that brings about the forgiveness that Jesus announced and also imparts the gift of the Holy Spirit to each of the baptized. The baptism, even "to those far off," implies inclusion of Gentiles. The final verse of today's reading notes the numerical increase of believers that will continue as the Lord adds to the number.

The First Letter of Peter, attributed to him, is one of seven New Testament writings commonly designated as "catholic epistles" because they have a catholic or universal message. Much of the letter appears to be baptismal catechesis, hymns and preaching that combine teaching with exhortations, inspiration and encouragement for believers. What Peter is saying is applicable to the baptized in every time and place. In today's reading, Peter uses a Christological hymn to connect believers suffering "for doing what is good" with Christ's own suffering. The hymn alludes to a poem of the prophet Isaiah that describes a suffering servant. He notes that the Christ who suffered provides an example that those who are baptized should also follow in Christ's footsteps, meaning that they walk the path of suffering that he walked. Like Christ, they do not return insult for insult, or threaten those who cause them to

From the Pastor's Desk continued...

suffer. Example and pattern that Chris is, the self-giving suffering that he endured is more than a model to follow. On the cross, he bore our sins in his own body so that we might be free from sin. By his wounds we are healed.

Shepherding was so much a part of daily life in ancient Israel that the image was applied both to God and to Israel's leaders. God is described as the shepherd who cares for his flock while the leaders of Israel were described as either shepherds who justly led the flock or as those who destroyed and scattered it. Using Old Testament imagery, Jesus describes shepherds, thieves and robbers. Only the authentic shepherd, recognized by the flock, calls the sheep by name, leads them and walks ahead of them. In the second segment, Jesus describes himself as "the gate of the sheep." A shepherd would sleep at the opening or gate of the enclosure where the sheep were kept as a guardian for the flock. He "saves" whoever enters through him. It implies rescuing them from danger, providing safety and healing wounds. On a deeper level, typical of John's Gospel, Jesus, the gate for the sheep, brings the flock securely to eternal life, as he tells his audience, "I came that you might have life."

Thursday of this week, May 7th, is the 50th anniversary of my ordination to the priesthood. I was ordained at the cathedral on May 7, 1970 by Bishop Alfred Watson. I spent the first year of my priesthood as assistant at Sacred Heart Parish, Sharon; then 5 years at St. Joseph Parish, Oil City; and then to St. Jude's where I would remain for 21 years, initially as assistant, then as resident when I became editor of the *Lake Shore Visitor*, the diocesan newspaper, and from 1986—1998, as pastor. I then had a very brief assignment at St. Francis in McKean and then 5 years at St. Theresa Parish, Palm Springs, CA; and 5 years at Sacred Heart Parish, Palm Desert, CA. Since 2009, I have been here at St. Patrick's.

As I reflect on these 50 years, my first thought is "where did the time go?" It seems like it flew by, as I'm sure many of you observing golden jubilees of marriage must feel the same way. Secondly, I just feel enormous gratitude that I was chosen for such a gift. It's been an incredible life, sharing in the joys and sorrows of others, trying to teach and preach, providing parish leadership where I would be assigned, etc. I wouldn't trade my life for anything. It's been a pure joy.

As I'm sure you know, we can request retirement at age 70 and can automatically retire at age 75. I'm 77, but I have to tell you, I'm just not yet ready for retirement. I'm having a fun doing what I do, it energizes me each day and you are the easiest group of people I've ever worked with. I've been in some assignments where there were a lot of egos to deal with; I don't have any of that here. You're just an easygoing group, very supportive and participatory and make my life easy. Hopefully my health will continue and I can continue on as pastor here.

A growing number of our priests are continuing in their assignments after the age of 75. We have one pastor who is 83 and still going strong. With the growing shortage of priests, I'm sure Bishop Persico is grateful that so many are continuing in their ministry (I do have job security!!!!).

Gary and Becky Johnson are continuing in their preparations for our Irish Festival on September 18, 19 and 20. Most of the bands have been reserved, several new chairpersons are taking over committees this year (and I'm thrilled that so many of them are younger people stepping up), and all of the permits for closing the streets, etc. have been secured. The Church of the Nativity has already cancelled their May 31st festival; let's hope we will be able to have ours.

OFFERTORY	4-20-20	\$ 7,845.00
CSA PLEDGED		\$75,830.00
CSA PAID		\$55,110.00

OFFERTORY	4-27-20	\$ 6,845.00
CSA PLEDGED		\$76,615.00
CSA PAID		\$56,095.00

Thank you for your ongoing generous support of the parish. You're amazing.

Barb was lying in bed one night. Larry was falling asleep but Barb was in a romantic mood and wanted to talk. "You used to hold my hand when we were dating," she said. Wearily, he reached across, held her hand for a second and tried to get back to sleep. A few moments later, she said, "Then you used to kiss me." Mildly irritated, Larry reached across, gave her a peck on the cheek and settled down to sleep. Thirty seconds later, she said, "Then you used to bite my neck." Angri-ly, Larry threw back the covers and got out of bed. "Where are you going?" Barb asked. "To get my teeth."