

# OUR LADY OF MERCY CATHOLIC CHURCH



837 Bartlett Road • Harborcreek, Pennsylvania 16421  
[www.ourladyofmercychurch.org](http://www.ourladyofmercychurch.org)

## Mass Schedule

Saturday Evening: 6:00 pm

Sunday: 8:30 & 11:00 am

Weekdays: 8:30 am

Holy Days: 6:00 pm Vigil, 8:30 am

## Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday: 4:30 pm

*We are a Eucharistic,  
Catholic Christian*

*Community of communities  
formed by the Word of God and  
the teachings of the Church.*

*We are empowered by the Holy Spirit  
to live the values of Jesus Christ  
in a prayerful, welcoming,  
and nurturing environment.*

Rectory Office: ..... 899-5342  
Office of Lifelong Faith Formation: ..... 899-6132  
Sperry Hall: ..... 898-3306  
Pastor ..... Msgr. Gerald T. Ritchie  
Pastoral Minister..... Donna Clark  
Director of Office of Lifelong Faith Formation ...Irene Lucas  
Coordinator of Music..... Mary Rose Romeo, S.S.J.  
Permanent Deacon..... John Brophy  
Parish Secretary ..... Sr. Theresa Zoky, OSB  
Youth Minister..... Geri Hadlock

*The Week Ahead*

Monday	11/21	7:00pm	Grief Support Group
Tuesday	11/22	2:00pm	Prayer Shawl
		7:00pm	Taize
Thursday	11/24	9:00am	<b>THANKSGIVING DAY MASS</b>
Saturday	11/26	9:00AM	Legion of Mary
Sunday	11/27		<b>First Sunday of Advent</b>

*Pray For*

Prayers are requested for parishioners **Louise Bencivenga**, and **Don Hatheway, Dan Whitney**, son of Bob Whitney and **Paul Pawlak**, father of Paul Pawlak, Jr. Please keep them, their family and friends in your prayers.

**Prayer Line:** Call Donna Smicker - 899-9108 - 9am-4pm  
 Kathy Lacy - 899-1746 - 4pm-9pm  
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The **Hospital Visitor** for this week is Marilyn Garwig.

**THANKSGIVING LITURGY**

Why not begin Thanksgiving Day by gathering with your Parish Family to give THANKS on this National Holiday? The richness of the Eucharist best expresses our act of giving-thanks ...for that is what the word Eucharist means. The 9 am Liturgy will continue the theme begun at our Parish Feast Day ... for those who WALK WITH THE LORD continue to GROW IN THE LORD.

**CHANGES BEGIN NEXT SUNDAY**

Changes to the spoken parts of the Mass will begin next weekend in all English-speaking churches throughout the world. Here at Our Lady of Mercy, an insert will be placed in the front of our Breaking Bread books that will help us find and pray the new parts. Soon, these new words will become familiar to us once again, but until then, please know that they will be printed in a format easy to follow and learn.

**ERIE DAWN CHRISTMAS TREE**

Once again, Our Lady of Mercy is helping three Erie Dawn Moms and their families at Christmas. A gift tree will be on display in the Gathering Space next weekend, Sat., Nov. 26th and Sun., Nov. 27th. If you or your family would like to buy these families a gift, please take a gift tag and attach it to the wrapped present and return it to the table by Mon., Dec. 5th. Thanks!



**HARBORCREEK COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING SERVICE**

Join with others from Harborcreek to *give thanks*. This year's Community Thanksgiving Service is the Sunday, Nov. 20th at 7:00pm at the South Harbor United Methodist Church on McGill Rd.

*Mass Intentions*

Mon.	11/21	8:30am	Marion Bartnik-Frank & Susan Plizga
Tues.	11/22	8:30 am	Mary Sidun-Ken & Donna Sidun
Wed.	11/23	8:30 am	
Thurs.	11/24	<b>9:00 am</b>	Father James Sperry-Ann Thomas
Fri.	11/25	8:30 am	
Sat.	11/26	8:30 am	Edward Tomczak-James Walczak
		6:00 pm	For Prayer Shawl Recipients and their Families
Sun.	11/27	8:30 am	For the People of Our Lady of Mercy
		11:00 am	Don Holodnak-Ann & Cliff Carlin

*Religious Education*

**Question-of-the-Week** winner for November 7 was **Kylie Rupp**, grade 3, who knew that tradition names St. Peter as the first pope.

**Nick Celebration:** All families are invited to an afternoon of fun, crafts, cookies and games in celebration of St. Nicholas, the patron saint of children. Join us Sunday, Dec. 4 from 4:00-6:00 in Sperry Hall. There is no cost, but families are encouraged to bring a plate of cookies to share. If possible, please RSVP to help us ensure sufficient supplies ([ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org](mailto:ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org) or 899-6132 or on the OLM FaceBook page). However, if you are unable to RSVP, but want to come anyway, know that you are most welcome.

**Long term Substitute Catechist Needed!** One of our catechists on Tues. afternoon is unable to be in the classroom from Thanksgiving to the end of Feb. We need a First Eucharist substitute catechist for Tuesday after school for this three month period. If you can help, please contact Irene at 899-6132.

**Ink Jet Fundraiser:** Please donate used black or color ink jet cartridges to the Religious Education ministry. Your donation of used printer cartridges helps to support our ministry to the children of the parish. Previously refilled and remanufactured cartridges can not be redeemed.

**PRAYERS REQUESTED**

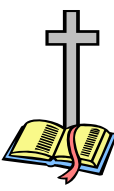
Please keep all of the Women of Cursillo #224 in your prayers. Especially parishoners/team members: **Cheryl Henry** and **Stephenie Dalton** and parishoners/candidates: **Jan Brown, Bonnie Eckendorf, Cathryn Liebel** and **Jayne Suess**.

**GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP**

The Our Lady of Mercy Greif Support group will host this special session **TOMORROW, Monday, Nov. 21 at 7pm**. Session will include prayer and small group sharing. The next monthly meeting is Dec 12th." These sessions are open to anyone – parishioner or non-parishioners. Invite someone you know who may benefit from these sessions.

**TAIZE PRAYER AROUND THE CROSS**

In this season of gratitude, it is a joy to be able to allow our hearts to sing praise and thanks to God for all our blessings. Join us Tuesday, Nov. 22 at 7:00pm in Mary's Chapel for this time of prayer.



**PLAY GROUP**

A number of young mothers have expressed an interest in starting a play group. Informational meeting after all Masses on Dec. 3 & 4. Or Contact Donna Clark at [dclark@ourladyofmercychurch.org](mailto:dclark@ourladyofmercychurch.org) or 899-5342.

**GOING CHRISTMAS SHOPPING? GIVING GIFT CARDS AS STOCKING STUFFERS?**

Would you like to help Our Lady of Mercy at the same time? Then order or purchase gift cards from the OLM SCRIP-Shopping Card Program. Proceeds are used for Our Lady Mercy debt reduction. Questions? Call Peggy Jacquel 725-9869 **Dec. 4th is the deadline to insure delivery for Christmas.**

**ADVENT WREATH REPLACEMENT CANDLES**

Once again, the Lifelong Faith Formation committee will make Advent wreath candle sets available for purchase at \$3.50 after Masses on Nov. 19-20.



LIVING THE WORD

MATTHEW 25:31-46

Jesus said to his disciples: "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit upon his glorious throne, and all the nations will be assembled before him. And he will separate them one from another, as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will place the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. Then the king will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father. Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I



was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me.' Then the righteous will answer him and say, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? When did we see you ill or in prison, and visit you?' And the king will say to them in reply, 'Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of the least brothers of mine, you did for me.' Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you accursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, a stranger and you gave me no welcome, naked and you gave me no clothing, ill and in prison, and you did not care for me.' Then they will answer and say, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or ill or in prison, and not minister to your needs?' He will answer them, 'Amen, I say to you, what you did not do for one of these least ones, you did not do for me.' And these will go off to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life."

Just who gets what?

Ever hear a comment like this: "Oh I used to volunteer at the shelter but I don't agree with all the people they helped, some of them could have found a job." Or "I used to donate to the church, but I want to know exactly where my dollars go." It's the latest trend, self-directed charity. We'll give, but only if we have final say in where our dollars or hours are spent. That's only reasonable, right?

Maybe not. It's easy to get so concerned over who could "undeservedly" benefit that we avoid giving altogether. Or we may delay giving to a pressing need because we're unsure about who is "really needy." In all this effort to be responsible we forget that it is God who receives every gift we give: every dollar we donate to relief funds, every sweater we give to the clothing drive, every hour we spend at the soup kitchen. Each hand that is filled with the gifts of our heart is the hand of God, reaching out to see His children are cared for. He will bless each gift given from a pure heart whoever receives it. Jesus said "whatever you did, you did for me." Can He ever be "undeserving"?

CONTINUED...

LIVING THE WORD, CONTINUED...

In this reading, what criteria does the ruler/judge use to separate the good and evil ones? Those who were brought into the kingdom and those who were excluded asked the same question. What was the question? What was the answer? What truth is being suggested? What does the king say at the end of both judgments? Who are "the least" referred to in this story?

STRENGTHS WORKSHOP SCHEDULED

**Tues., Nov 29 at 6pm.** For this workshop you need to pick up a book and take the online survey before coming to the class. Discover Your Strengths helps people to understand their God-given talents and use them in everyday life. To get a book or if you have Questions contact Donna Clark, 899-5342 or [dclark@ourladyofmercychurch.org](mailto:dclark@ourladyofmercychurch.org).

MEMORIAL MASS

As a community, we gather together for Masses on many different occasions and one of these is our special Mass of Remembrance on **Sat., Dec. 3 at 10am.** All members of Our Lady of Mercy are invited to attend this annual Memorial Mass to support the families of our parish who have lost loved ones during the past year. This special celebration provides each of us an opportunity to share with one another a promise of hope and peace. Immediately following the Mass, a social gathering will be held in Sperry Hall.

MONTHLY BOOK GROUP

All are invited to the monthly Book Group for great conversation, wonderful friends and a glass of wine. We love new members, so don't be shy. Our January title will be **The Botticelli Secret** by **Marina Fiorato.** In December we will meet to watch and discuss a movie.

RECYCLE PHONE BOOKS

Here's an easy way to help the parish pay for the needed music for the coming year: just place your old telephone books under the coat rack in the Gathering Space. Recycling helps the environment and your parish!

CYBERTIPLINE FIGHTS INTERNET CRIMES

The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and other government agencies all work together to fight Internet crimes against children. They've established a "CyberTipline," a reporting mechanism for cases of child sexual exploitation including child pornography, online enticement of children for sex acts, child victims of prostitution, and unsolicited obscene material sent to a child. Reports may be made 24 hours a day, seven days a week - online at [www.cybertipline.com](http://www.cybertipline.com) or by calling (800) 843-5678.

**Family Perspectives:** Families feed the hungry, give drinks to thirsty toddlers and welcome strangers and even estranged relatives into our homes. We clothe children and visit family members who are sick and imprisoned. The routine actions of family life are religious and priestly for we make Christ present in what we do. Family life is Beatitude life.

Weekly Readings

Monday	11/21	Daniel 1:1-6,8-20/Luke 21:1-4
Tuesday	11/22	Daniel 2:31-45/Luke 21:5-11
Wednesday	11/23	Daniel 5:1-6,13-14,16-17,23-28 Luke 21:12-19
Thursday	11/24	Daniel 6:12-28/Luke 21:20-28
Friday	11/25	Daniel 7:2-14/Luke 21:29-33
Saturday	11/26	Daniel 7:15-27/Luke 21:34-36
Sunday	11/27	Isaiah 63:16b-17,19b;64:2-7 1 Corinthians 1:3-9/Mark 13:33-37

Weekly Collection

For the weekend of: November 13, 2011

Envelopes sent:	573
Envelopes used:	194
Amount in envelopes:	\$5,962.00
TOTAL OFFERTORY	\$6,112.00

**\$5,900 is needed weekly to meet Regular Operating Expenses.** This does not include CSA or Mortgage Payment.