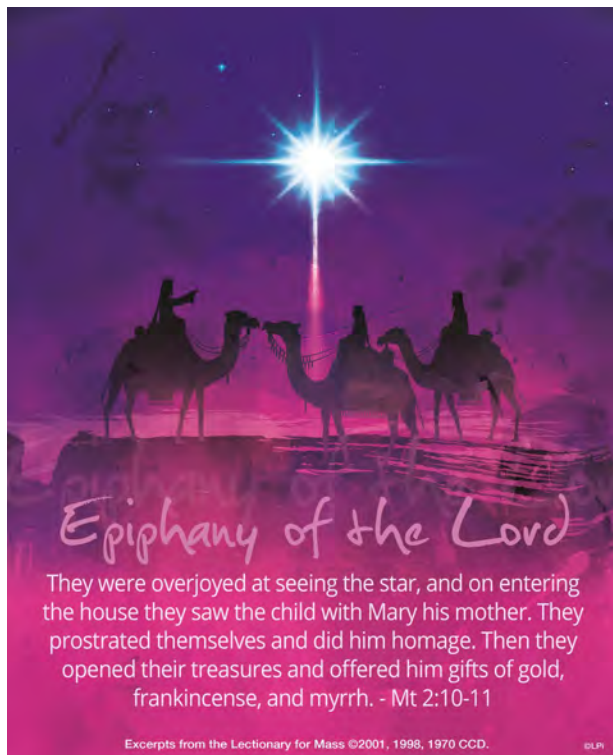


OUR LADY OF MERCY CATHOLIC CHURCH



837 Bartlett Road • Harborcreek, Pennsylvania 16421
www.ourladyofmercychurch.org

JANUARY 8, 2017—THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD



Mass Schedule

Saturday Evening: 6:00 p.m.
Sunday: 8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.
Weekdays & Saturdays: 8:30 a.m.
Holy Days: 8:30 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday: 4:30 p.m.

Parish 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 Lifelong Faith Formation..... Irene Lucas
Director of Liturgy and Music..... Brandon Vogt
Administrative Assistant..... Marsha MacKinnon McKinley
Youth Minister..... Geri Hadlock

The Week Ahead

Monday.....01/09	11:00 am	Meditation
	6:00 pm	Boy Scouts
	7:00 pm	Pastoral Facilitator Meeting
Tuesday.....01/10	2:00 pm	Prayer Shawl
	4:00 pm	Rel Ed Gr 3-6
	5:30 pm	Children's Choir Rehearsal
	6:00 pm	Sister Parish Com Mtg
	7:00 pm	Tech Committee Meeting
	8:00 pm	AA
Wednesday...01/11	6:30 pm	AGIFT Meeting
Thursday.....01/12	9:00 am	Painting Class
	2:30 pm	Meditation
	6:00 pm	Prayer Shawl
	6:45 pm	Choir Rehearsal
	7:00 pm	Centering Prayer
Friday.....01/13	1:30 pm	Legion of Mary
Saturday.....01/14	10:00 am	AA
	4:30 pm	Sacrament of Penance
Sunday.....01/15		Ministry Commitment
	9:30 am	Healing Ministry
	9:30 am	Rel Ed K-2
	9:30 am	Sunday CAFE
	11:00 am	CLW
	12:00 pm	Rel Ed Gr 7 & 8

Please Pray for:

Jay Lye, son of John and Barb Lye.

Please keep him and his family in your prayers.



Prayer Line:

Call Donna Smicker at 899-9108 (9 a.m. - 4 p.m.)

OR Gerri Extein at 899-6875 (4 p.m. - 9 p.m.)

The **Hospital Visitor** this week is Andrea Maille.

Mass Intentions

Mon. 01/09	8:30 am	Msgr. G. Carlton Ritchie
Tues. 01/10	8:30 am	Sam Garwig—Liana Pasquale
Wed. 01/11	8:30 am	Lewis Peters—Loren & Linda Prichard
Thu. 01/12	8:30 am	Margaret Gross—Family
Fri. 01/13	8:30 am	
Sat. 01/14	8:30 am	Joseph Lagner
	6:00 pm	Joanne Smith—Liana Pasquale
Sun. 01/15	8:30 am	For The People of Our Lady of Mercy
	11:00 am	Sal Frontino—Ann Marie Brkic

Religious Education

Question-of-the-Week Winner for the week of Dec. 27 was Will Lunger, grade 2, who knew that Jesus was born in Bethlehem.

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.*

Sunday Morning *C*A*F*E*

Gather with us on Sunday, Jan. 15 from 9:45-10:45 a.m. for another in our Sunday Morning CAFE series. Joe Yochim will present "Building a Domestic Church: Raising Faithful Children in a Secular World." We want our children and grandchildren to grow into adults solid in their faith, confident in God's love, and committed to the Church. But, we struggle to nurture those seeds in a secular world that counters so much of our efforts. Joe Yochim, a father of 7 ranging in age from 10 years to 6 months and preparing for ordination to the permanent diaconate in May, will give us the tools to build our homes into a domestic church and to foster the faith life of our children and grandchildren.

Day of Reflection

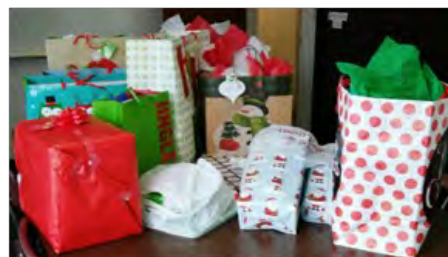
You are invited to a morning of reflection directed by Fr. John Jacquel on Saturday, January 21 from 9:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Lunch will be provided. The event is free and open to all parish members. Please RSVP to the Office of Lifelong Faith Formation 899-6132 or ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org by Jan. 18 to help us plan for food and space.

Question Box

Do you have questions about the Catholic Church or your faith? Are their terms you do not know, practices you don't understand, teachings you would like clarified? **Place your questions in the wooden box in the Gathering Space before Jan. 22** and Fr. Ritchie will answer it in the newsletter "For Mercy Sake". This is a great opportunity to learn from one another.

Thank You!

The Blended Case Management team of Sarah Reed Children's Center would like to extend a heartfelt thank you for the congregation's participation with our Giving Tree for the third year in a row! Thanks to your generosity, we were able to provide gifts to each of our BCM clients. The kids were so excited to receive such wonderfully thoughtful gifts! We are very touched by your willingness to give and appreciate your help in brightening the holiday season of our 58 families! Thank you!



Reflections: Matthew 2:1-12



Through Jesus, the light from heaven shines on all people. At times, despair and doubt cloud our vision. We feel poor and afflicted, with no one to help us. "Rise up in Splendor!" God proclaims. "Your light has come!" The light of the Lord pierces the gloom and illuminates God's sons and daughters. They have come from near and far, north and south, east and west. Each person has a unique gift that no one else can bring. Yet God cannot be outdone in generosity. Through Christ we are co-heirs, members of his Body, and sharers of the ancient promises. All has been fulfilled in this new day of the Lord.

We are on a journey together, yearning for someone beyond the limits of this earth. But the one we seek can only be seen with eyes of faith. When we enter the household of faith, God is revealed in our midst. It is an "epiphany," a manifestation of "Emmanuel," the one who has been with us all along the way. With Mary his mother, the apostles, the prophets, the martyrs, the angels, and the whole company of heaven, we sing an unending hymn of praise, "Lord, every nation on earth will adore you."

For Reflection: *How has Christ been revealed to me today? Can I help others see his presence?*

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Special Thanks: Thank you to the Knights of Columbus for their generous donation to the Music Ministry, allowing us to purchase some much needed new equipment!

For Mercy Sake Newsletter Deadline: Items for the February issue of the parish newsletter must be submitted no later than January 22. Newsletter articles can be emailed to ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org or brought to the Office of Lifelong Faith Formation.

Grief Support : January 16 is our monthly grief support group at 7:00 p.m. in the Parlor. Sharing with others who have also lost loved ones is a help on the healing journey.

Update on the Freezer Fund: We have been receiving money consistently for the freezer fund from a variety of sources. Total donations to date are \$16,970. Total needed \$24,000. Weather has been uncooperative which has caused a delay in getting the freezer operational. We hope to have it up and running in January. We have 3 chest freezers and one upright freezer available for those interested. Contact Donna Clark if you would like a freezer in exchange for a donation to the freezer fund.



Meditation: There are three different times to connect to a meditation session. Each Monday at 11:00 a.m. (Centering Prayer), and Thursday at 2:30 p.m. (Guided Meditation) and the second Thursday of the month, **January 12 at 7:00 p.m.** (Centering Prayer). For more information contact Donna Clark.

Ministry Commitment: Take some time this week to fill out the ministry sign up sheet that you received. Bring your filled out sheet with you to Mass next weekend, January 14/15 to be placed in the basket during the preparation of the gifts. Our hope is that everyone participates in at least one ministry in the parish.

Mardi Gras: Our parish Mardi Gras/Chili Cook-Off will be held on Sunday, February 26. This may seem like a long time off, but those who make it happen are already beginning to plan. **We need some new volunteers to coordinate various activities this year.** In particular, we are looking for someone to coordinate the Children's Game Area. If you are willing and able to help make this Mardi Gras a success, please contact Irene Lucas at 899-6132 or ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org. We also need donations of **NEW** items for our Chinese Auction. If you receive any unwanted gifts this Christmas, please consider donating them to our Mardi Gras. Donations for the Chinese Auction can be brought to the Office of Lifelong Faith Formation.



OLM Book Group: Join us on **Wednesday, January 18 at 7:00 p.m.** at the home of Irene, 1019 Bartlett Rd. to discuss **Fingersmith** by Sarah Waters. Winter is the perfect season to cuddle up with a great book before the fire or in PJs under the covers. And a book group with great ladies is a perfect excuse to get out of the house on these cold, dark winter nights. Want to read ahead? Our February book will be **The Boston Girl** by Anita Diamant.

Engagement Encounter: The next EE will be held January 27th through 29th in Erie at St. Mark Catholic Center. Space is limited and early registrations are encouraged. Call the Family Life Office for details at 814-824-1261 or by email at: familylife@erieRCD.org. Also, you may register on line at www.erieRCD.org/ee.htm. Remember, "A wedding is one day, but marriage is for a lifetime."

Please join us TODAY, January 8, at 3:00 p.m. for our 2nd Annual Epiphany Concert featuring the entire Music Ministry.

Weekly Readings

Mon...01/09...Is 42:1-4, 6-7/Eph 3:2-3a,5-6/Mt 3:13-17
 Tue...01/10...Heb 2:5-12/Mk 1:21-28
 Wed...01/11...Heb 2:14-18/Mk 1:29-39
 Thu...01/12...Heb 3:7-14/Mk 1:40-45
 Fri....01/13...Heb 4:1-5, 11/Mk 2:1-12
 Sat....01/14...Heb 4:12-16/Mk 2:13-17
 Sun...01/15...Is 49:3, 5-6/1 Cor 1:1-3/Jn 1:29-34

Weekly Collection

For the weekend of January 1, 2017

Envelopes Sent: 470
 Envelopes Returned: 93 \$4,184.00
 Faith Direct Deposits: 100 \$2,787.50
 Loose Change: \$169.00
 TOTAL OFFERTORY: \$7,140.50

\$7,136 is needed weekly to meet Regular Operating Expenses.
 This does not include CSA or Mortgage Payment.

Join us

Sunday, Jan. 15

from 9:45-10:45

@ the OLM



CAFÉ

Continuing Adult Faith Enrichment

Joe Yochim

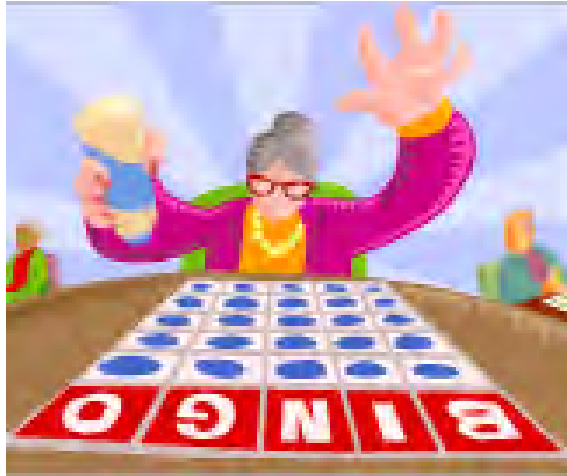
Building the Domestic Church:

Raising Faithful Children in a Secular World

We want our children and grandchildren to grow into adults solid in their faith, confident in God's love, committed to the Church. But, we struggle to nurture those seeds in a secular world that counters so much of our efforts. Joe Yochim will give us the tools to build our homes into a domestic church and to foster the faith life of our children and grandchildren.

Joe Yochim is the proud father of 7 children ranging in age from 10 years to 6 months. He is in his final year of preparation for ordination to the permanent diaconate.

Youth Mission Trip Fundraiser
Prize Basket Bingo
\$20.00 for 20 Games



At St. James Place
2622 Buffalo Rd.

Saturday, February 11, 2016

12:00 PM—4:00 PM

Doors Open at 11:30 AM

Food and Games of Chance available for purchase

**Tickets available after all Masses in the
Gathering Space January 21st and 22nd
by mission team members.**