

OUR LADY OF MERCY CATHOLIC CHURCH



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

JANUARY 15, 2017—SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



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.....01/16	11:00 am	Meditation
	4:00 pm	Food Pantry Board Meeting
	6:00 pm	Boy Scouts
	6:30 pm	Fruit of the Vince
	7:00 pm	Greif Support Group
Tuesday.....01/17	2:00 pm	Prayer Shawl
	4:00 pm	Rel Ed Gr 3-6
	5:30 pm	Children's Choir Rehearsal
	7:00 pm	Core Team Meeting
	7:00 pm	LFF Meeting
	8:00 pm	AA
Wednesday...01/18	8:30 am	Food Pantry Distribution
	7:00 pm	OLM Book Group
Thursday.....01/19	9:00 am	Painting Class
	2:30 pm	Meditation
	6:00 pm	Prayer Shawl
	6:45 pm	Choir Rehearsal
Friday.....01/20	1:30 pm	Legion of Mary
Saturday.....01/21	9:00 am	Day of Reflection
	9:00 am	Craft Day—Cancelled
	10:00 am	AA
	4:30 pm	Sacrament of Penance
Sunday.....01/22	9:30 am	Rel Ed K-2
	11:00 am	CLW
	12:00 pm	Rel Ed Gr 7 & 8



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 Florence Voelker.

Mass Intentions

Mon. 01/16	8:30 am	Frances McCammon—Terry & Larry Miller
Tues. 01/17	8:30 am	David Ross—Linda Ross
Wed. 01/18	8:30 am	Mary Ann Spiegel—Jim Spiegel
Thu. 01/19	8:30 am	Marie Ritchie
Fri. 01/20	8:30 am	
Sat. 01/21	8:30 am	Edward Lubecki
	6:00 pm	Jay Lye—Fred & Kay Kaeberlein
Sun. 01/22	8:30 am	Mark Rutkowski—Joanne & Craig Fournier
	11:00 am	For the People of Our Lady of Mercy

Religious Education

Question-of-the-Week Winner for the week of Jan. 3 was , Ava Froess, grade 4, who knew that the Christmas Season lasts from Dec. 25 to the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, approximately 2 weeks.

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.*

Ministry Commitment

If you missed brining your ministry sign up sheet to church today Jan 14/15 then please submit a form at the display in the **Gathering Space**. Our hope is that everyone participates in at least one ministry in the parish.

Sunday Morning *C*A*F*E*

Gather with us TODAY, Sunday, Jan. 15 from 9:45-10:45 a.m. for another in our Sunday Morning CAFÉ 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 there 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.

Nursery Ministry

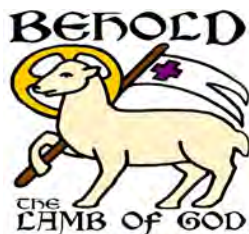
There is a nursery available for the 11:00 a.m. Mass. This adult run nursery allows parents of active toddlers to work once every 7 weeks and have opportunities for spiritual enrichment the other Sundays. If interested please contact Donna Clark.

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.

Reflections: John 1:29-34

"A man is coming after me who ranks ahead of me because he existed before me."



These words of John the Baptist seem like a riddle, Jesus was born after John but is older and ranks ahead of John. In human experience this doesn't make sense. We live by birth order. The older child or the oldest person comes first.

What seems like a simple riddle in reality announces a radical reordering of human existence. Jesus is clearly human and known to John's audience to have been born after John, so John's words mean that Jesus existed before Jesus was born. How is this possible? Jesus is both human and divine. John is revealing that Jesus is the Son of God.

John is also hinting at the radical message that Jesus brings to human existence. The disruption of birth order implied when John says that Jesus "ranks ahead of me..." can be understood on two levels. We willingly rank Jesus ahead of ourselves as the Son of God. On another level Jesus' ministry will make clear that it is not priority of birth that matters but a new understanding of equality and service. We are all created equal in God's image and we are called to serve one another as equals.

Reflection: In Ordinary Time, we contemplate things that are far from ordinary—things like the existence of God, the person of Jesus, and being made in God's image. Who in my life has witnessed to the greatness of God?

©Little Rock Scripture Study

Our Neighbors' Place Winter Homeless Shelter: For the January 18 through February 1 dates at St. John the Baptist church the team is accepting donations of warm clothing, snacks, beverages and monetary support. Volunteer orientation meeting is Sunday, January 15 at 1:00 p.m. in the school cafeteria. To volunteer for the March 1st – 14th session, (staffing, meals, and donations), contact Mary Ellen Lieb at 873-1284 or melieb4@gmail.com or Mary Hoffman at 873-2981 or mymary14@gmail.com. Please consider joining us for this very worthwhile ministry which allows us to walk in the shoes of our faith.

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.

Ministry to the Divorced: If you are looking to start a process of healing the Family Life Office is sponsoring a 12-week program starting Wednesday, February 1 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the library of St. Luke School, 421 E. 38th St., Erie. For more info, visit www.ErieRCD.org/cdsg.htm, or call the Family Life Office at 814-824-1261.

Erie March For Life: People for Life invites you to participate in the Erie March for Life on Saturday, January 21. Gather at the stage in west Perry Square by 10:45 a.m. The March will begin at 11 a.m. and conclude by 12:30 p.m. with a brief program in Perry Square. This is a good opportunity to be a voice for the voiceless and a witness for the sanctity of human life close to home. For more information call (814) 882-1333 or go online to www.peopleforlife.org/january2017..

Special Thanks: Thank you to my parish family for all the prayers and cards I received during my stay in Cleveland and rehab at home. Thank you, Kathy Lacy

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.

Weekly Readings

Mon...01/16...Heb 5:1-10/Mk 2:18-22

Tue...01/17...Heb 6:10-20/Mk 2:23-28

Wed...01/18...Heb 7:1-3, 15-17/Mk 3:1-6

Thu....01/19...Heb 7:25—8:6/Mk 3:7-12

Fri.....01/20...Heb 8:6-13/Mk 3:13-19

Sat....01/21...Heb 9:2-3, 11-14/Mk 3:20-21

Sun...01/22...Is 8:23—9:3/1 Cor 1:10-13, 17/Mt 4:12-23

Weekly Collection

For the weekend of January 8, 2017

Envelopes Sent:	470
Envelopes Returned:	93 \$4,115.00
Faith Direct Deposits:	100 \$2,787.50
Loose Change:	\$104.00
TOTAL OFFERTORY:	\$7,006.50

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

FAQ ABOUT PARISH ALIVE

What is Parish Alive?

Parish Alive is a weekend retreat for adults. It is an opportunity to deepen your relationship with Christ and with the Body of Christ (the Church). It is an opportunity for spiritual renewal.

What Takes Place at a Parish Alive Weekend?

The Parish Alive weekend is full. The schedule is sufficiently diverse to meet the various spiritual needs of the participants. During the 24 hour period that Parish Alive covers, participants will have the opportunity to:

- listen to spiritually challenging talks,
- explore spiritual insights in small groups of other participants,
- enjoy silent time for personal reflection,
- share group prayer in a variety of forms,
- celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation if desired,
- feast on wonderful homemade meals.

Who Can Participate in a Parish Alive Weekend?

Parish Alive is open to any adult (out of high school) parish member and their spouse.

What is the Time? Date? & Location?

Parish Alive 2017 will be held:

Friday, Feb. 17 & Saturday, Feb. 18

Friday night begins with supper at 6:30 and concludes around 10:30 PM

Saturday resumes at 9:00 with breakfast and concludes with the 6:00 Vigil Mass.

The entire weekend takes place at Our Lady of Mercy, except for the overnight hours during which people return home.

How Does Someone Sign-Up?

Participants MUST register prior to the weekend. Space is limited. To register, complete the simple form on the reverse side of this page or on the parish website and submit to the parish office by Feb. 1. Additional registration forms were included in the November issue of For Mercy Sake.

There is no cost for the weekend. It is our gift to you.

PARISH ALIVE

February 17-18, 2017

**Give God 24 hours and God will
renew your spirit, deepen your faith
and strengthen your discipleship.
Join us for prayer, reflection, sharing & renewal.**

Meals are provided.  ***There is no cost.***

***To register, complete the bottom portion of this flier
and return it to the RE Office or in the collection
basket by Feb. 1. Space is limited.***



Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Do you have any special needs? _____

Check All That Apply

☐ Female ☐ Male

☐ Married w/ Spouse ☐ Married alone

☐ Single ☐ Divorced ☐ Separated ☐ Widowed

☐ Catholic ☐ Non-Catholic