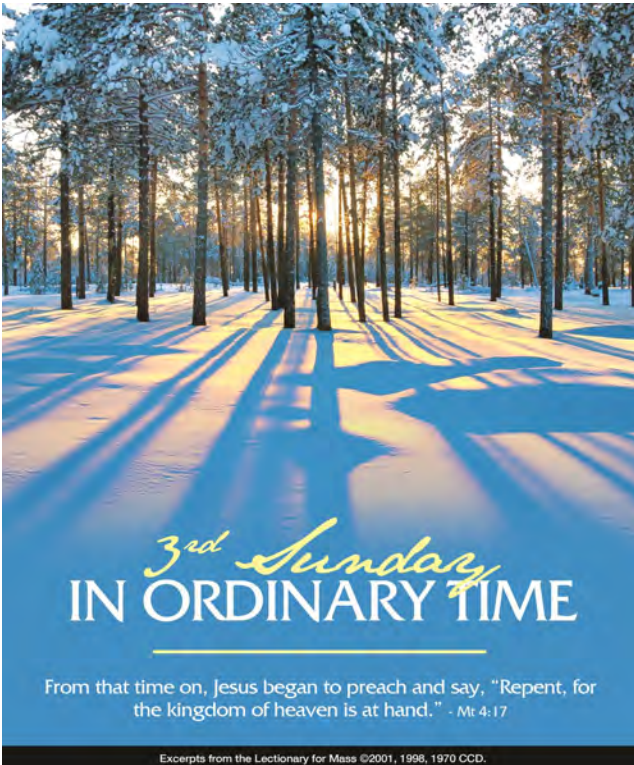


OUR LADY OF MERCY CATHOLIC CHURCH



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

JANUARY 22, 2017—THIRD 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.....01/23	11:00 am	Meditation
	6:00 pm	Boy Scouts
	6:30 pm	Fruit of the Vine
Tuesday.....01/24	2:00 pm	Prayer Shawl
	4:00 pm	Rel Ed Gr 3-6
	5:30 pm	Children's Choir Rehearsal
	8:00 pm	AA
Wednesday...01/25		
Thursday.....01/26	9:00 am	Painting Class
	2:30 pm	Meditation
	6:00 pm	Prayer Shawl
	6:45 pm	Choir Rehearsal
Friday.....01/27	1:30 pm	Legion of Mary
Saturday.....01/28	10:00 am	AA
	4:30 pm	Sacrament of Penance
Sunday.....01/29	9:30 am	RE Family Faith Event
	11:00 am	CLW
	12:15 pm	Youth Event Gr 7 & 8

Pray For...

Jacqueline Holland, mother of Donna Zaksheske;
and Bill Trester, father of Faye Froess.

Please keep them and their families 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 Marilyn Garwig.

Mass Intentions

Mon. 01/23	8:30 am	Donna McCall
Tues. 01/24	8:30 am	Bernard Pastewka
Wed. 01/25	8:30 am	Mabel Holodnak—Eric Jacobs
Thu. 01/26	8:30 am	
Fri. 01/27	8:30 am	Betty McLaughlin
Sat. 01/28	8:30 am	Andrew Payer
	6:00 pm	For the People of Our Lady of Mercy
Sun. 01/29	8:30 am	Stephen Smicker—Smicker Family
	11:00 am	Mary Fedorko—Brandon Vogt

Religious Education

Question-of-the-Week Winner for the week of Jan. 10 was Sophie Bliel, grade 3, who knew that Jesus gave us 8 Beatitudes.

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.*

As we move forward with our Diocesan Pastoral Planning, let us keep our brothers and sisters in transition in prayer.



Loving God, Author of Creation,
your spirit pervades and enriches our world.
Through your Son, who shares our humanity,
you have called us to participate in your divine creativity
and to build the kingdom of God here on earth.
Form us, we pray, as one community
under the leadership of our bishop
to serve all the people of this region in your name.

Inspire us to discover new ways
and structures to spread your Gospel.
Open our eyes to see Christ in others,
especially the poor, the sick and the marginalized.
Empower us to be the hands and feet of Christ
in our parishes and communities.
Help us to welcome all into His embrace.

Guide us in our discernment,
as we pray with Pope Francis
for the vision to see new paths of possibility;
for a spirit of mission that invigorates our every effort;
and for the strength to be unafraid of what is new.
We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Question & Answer with the Pastor: Have questions? We have answers. Our next Question & Answer with Fr. Ritchie will be **Tuesday, January 31 at 7:00 p.m. in the Conference Room.** Bring your questions about the Catholic faith or your friend with questions. Share a glass of wine and a light snack. (Participants are welcome to bring a snack to share.) Enjoy an opportunity to learn about your faith in a relaxed setting directed by the issues that are on your mind.

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

Craft Day Committee Looking for Members: If you would be interested in helping to plan our Craft Days at OLM please contact Teresa Shamburg at 897-8622 or shamtacc@roadrunner.com.

The Cursillo Choir will be at the 6:00 p.m. Mass on Saturday, January 28. Please join our faith community at a reception with light snacks and desserts after Mass. Practice is at 5:00 p.m.

Reflections:
Matthew 4:12-23



“At once they left their nets and followed him.”

In a minute—I’ll be there shortly—Call you later—I’ll get back to you—Not now, I’m too busy. In our relationships as parents, spouses, colleagues, and friends, how often do we use these phrases? It is very easy for us to act with urgency when it comes to our own concerns, while convincing ourselves that what others ask of us is just not as important or pressing.

Imagine Simon, Andrew, James and John along the seashore working as fishermen. Jesus approaches them and say, “Come after me...” They respond, “At once” and “Immediately.” Can we imagine them saying to Jesus, “I’ll get back to you” or “Not now, I’m too busy?” They could not possibly have known what their decision to follow Jesus would require of them, or how it would touch their lives, but still they followed.

In the same way, we are called to put aside our own concerns to follow the Lord.

The apostles had no idea how following Jesus would change their lives, and neither do we. Our faith becomes an adventure. The Lord is always calling. Will we respond immediately and walk to his side?

Reflection: Is faith for me an adventure? Does it fill me with a sense of urgency and anticipation?

©Little Rock Scripture Study

Family Faith Event

Families with children in the Sunday morning religious education program are reminded that there is a Family Faith Event on **Sunday, January 29**. This event, in which the families of the children share a special religious ed experience with their child, takes place from 9:30-10:45 a.m., our normal RE class time. We meet in Sperry Hall. Our theme for this morning of faith formation is Being Church.

Weekly Readings

Mon...01/23...Heb 9:15, 24-28/Mk 3:22-30
 Tue...01/24...Heb 10:1-10/Mk 3:31-35
 Wed...01/25...Acts 22:3-16/Mk 16:15-18
 Thu...01/26...2 Tm 1:1-8/Mk 4:21-25
 Fri....01/27...Heb 10:32-39/Mk 4:26-34
 Sat...01/28...Heb 11:1-2, 8-19/Mk 4:35-41
 Sun...01/29...Zep 2:3, 3:12-13/1 Cor 1:26-31/Mt 5:1-12a

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. To volunteer for the March 1st – 14th session; including 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.

Ministry Commitment: If you missed brining your ministry sign-up sheet to church last week 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. Or check our website.

Mardi Gras: Our parish Mardi Gras/Chili Cook Off will be held on **Sunday, February 26**. We need donations of **NEW** items for our Chinese Auction. If you received 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. **Sign up sheets will appear in the Gathering Space next weekend**. Get your Chili/Soup Cook-Off team together and add your name to the list. If you are not a cook, please sign up for one of the various areas that make our Mardi Gras such a success.



OLM Book Group: Join us on **Wednesday, February 15 at 7:00 p.m.** to discuss **The Boston Girl** by Anita Diamant. 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.

Ministry to the Divorced: If you are looking to start a process of healing after a divorce/separation the Family Life Office is sponsoring a 12-week program starting Wednesday, February 1st from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the library of St. Luke School, 421 E. 38th St., Erie. This ministry is for men and women who have suffered the pain of divorce or separation and are interested in support during the healing process. For more information pick up a brochure on the bulletin tables; visit www.ErieRCD.org/cdsg.htm, or call the Family Life Office at 814-824-1261.

The Divine Mercy Encounter Retreat Program is inviting applications for their upcoming retreat February 10, 11, & 12. The retreat will be held at Saint Joseph Church in Erie. Anyone 16 years of age or older is welcome to apply. To find more information or to apply online, go to www.divinemercyencounter.com

Looking for a way to Simplify? Try electronic giving through **Faith Direct**. Visit our parish website and follow the Faith Direct link. Credit Cards accepted.

Weekly Collection

For the weekend of January 15, 2017

Envelopes Sent: 470
 Envelopes Returned: 122 \$4,511.00
 Faith Direct Deposits: 100 \$2,787.50
 Loose Change: \$157.00
 TOTAL OFFERTORY: \$7,455.50

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