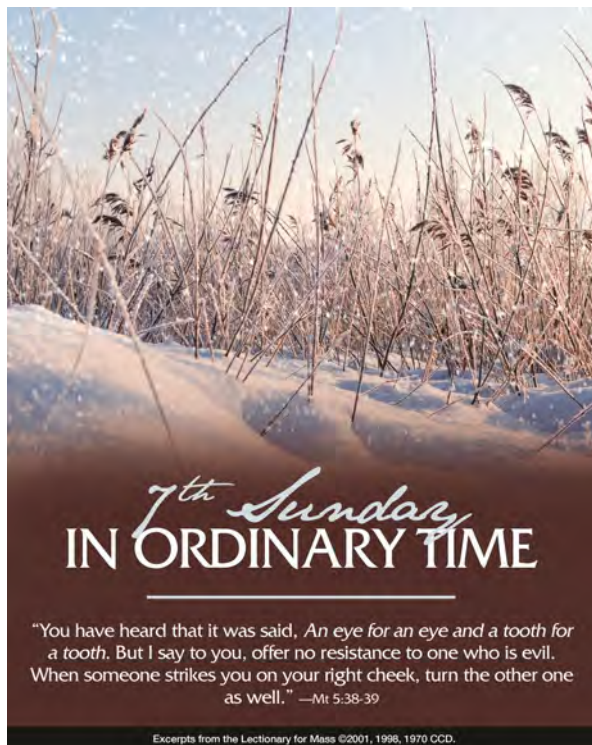


OUR LADY OF MERCY CATHOLIC CHURCH



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

FEBRUARY 19, 2017—SEVENTH 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.....02/20	11:00 am	Meditation
	6:00 pm	Boy Scouts
	7:00 pm	Grief Support Group
Tuesday.....02/21	2:00 pm	Prayer Shawl
	4:00 pm	Rel Ed Gr 3-6
	5:30 pm	Children's Choir Rehearsal
	7:00 pm	Ballroom Dance Class
	7:00 pm	Core Team Meeting
	7:00 pm	LFF Meeting
	7:30 pm	AA
Wednesday...02/22	7:00 pm	RCIA Inquiry Session
Thursday.....02/23	9:00 am	Painting Class
	1:30 pm	Meditation
	6:00 pm	Prayer Shawl
	6:45 pm	Choir Rehearsal
Friday.....02/24	1:30 pm	Legion of Mary
Saturday.....02/25	Mardi Gras Weekend	
	9:00 am	Mardi Gras Set-Up
	10:00 am	AA
	4:30 pm	Sacrament of Penance
Sunday.....02/26	9:30 am	Rel Ed K-2
	11:00 am	CLW
	11:00 am	Baptism—Juhas
	12:00 pm	Mardi Gras



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. 02/20	8:30 am	Robert Jones—Family
Tues. 02/21	8:30 am	Fr. Thomas Kelley
Wed. 02/22	8:30 am	Jack Ryan
Thu. 02/23	8:30 am	Emma & Marilyn Smicker—Family
Fri. 02/24	8:30 am	
Sat. 02/25	8:30 am	
	6:00 pm	Robert Tobin—Ruth Zaksheske
Sun. 02/26	8:30 am	For the People of Our Lady of Mercy
	11:00 am	Dennis Rapp

Religious Education

Question-of-the-Week Winner for the week of Feb. 7 was Colton Wuerstle, grade 2, who knew that the Great Commandment is to love God with all our hearts and to love our neighbor as ourselves.

First Reconciliation Retreat: Reminder, there is a retreat on **Sunday, March 5 from 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.** for all children preparing to celebrate First Reconciliation at OLM this year.

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.*

Pastoral Council Seeking New Members: Every spring the Pastoral Council seeks out parishioners who can help us envision the future of this community. The Pastoral Council engages in the process of pastoral planning and helps to set the direction of the parish community in prayer, leadership, service and pastoral action in consultation with the pastor and staff.

A nominee must be a parishioner who:

- Has been baptized or received into the Roman Catholic Church.
- Is a registered member of Our Lady of Mercy Parish.
- By his or her free and consistent choice, contributes to the betterment of the parish community.

We ask your prayerful consideration in nominating either yourself or another member of the parish community. Look for more information in March.

Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults: Are you an **un-baptized adult who would like to learn more about the Christian faith?** Have you been thinking about the possibility of joining the Catholic Church but need more information? Inquiry Sessions have begun for those who want to explore the Catholic Christian faith. **To learn more, contact Irene Lucas at 899-6132 or ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org. Our next Inquiry Session will take place Wednesday, February 22 at 7:00 p.m. in the Parlor.**

Grief Support Group: The next session is **Monday, February 20 at 7:00 p.m. in the Parlor.** For more information or to arrange one-on-one support, call Donna Clark in the parish office.

24 Hours for the Lord: On March 17-18, the Diocese of Erie will celebrate **24 Hours for the Lord**, an initiative of our Holy Father with an emphasis on adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and the Sacrament of Reconciliation. St. Peter Cathedral, Erie, will have its doors open for the entire 24 hours, with adoration and confession available during that time. As Bishop Lawrence Persico indicated in his statement on immigration [Feb. 3, 2017], this year's 24 Hours for the Lord will be devoted to prayer for peace and unity in our country, as well as for immigrants and refugees, in addition to a prayer for an increase in vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

Reflections



PASTORAL PLANNING: Diocesan Parish Restructuring

This weekend, communities of our diocese will begin a new life. Some will partner and learn to build closer bonds through teamwork and collaboration. Others will merge, one community becoming part of an existing parish community. Each will face change and loss and need our prayers. Each will be challenged. Some may experience for the first time the feeling of being a stranger or an outsider in a new community. Others will be asked to welcome the stranger in their midst.

Let us remember continue to keep in prayer all those who are facing change in their lives due to the parish restructuring in the Diocese of Erie.

PRAYER:

God our refuge, our home is in you. You are greater than any temple, church, or cathedral that can be built by human hands, yet it is in these Houses of Prayer that we meet your Divine Presence. Pour out your Holy Spirit upon all the members of our diocesan family. May we be empowered to unite as one community, committed to serving the needs of our neighbors. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Annual Contribution Statements: Annual contribution statements are available. Please call the parish office at 899-5342 to request your statement. Faith Direct users please go to www.FaithDirect.net for a contribution statement.

Special Thank You! The 2nd and 3rd grade religious education classes want to thank the parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy for their generous donations to the Valentine's Day Bake Sale! We are proud to say we have raised over \$460 for the Food Pantry Freezer Fund! This wouldn't have been possible without you!

Thank you! Beth and Katie Stephenson

Our Neighbors' Place Winter Homeless Shelter: St. John the Baptist church will host the overnight shelter March 1st – 14th. The team is accepting donations of warm clothing, snacks, beverages and monetary support. To volunteer for staffing and meals or to make a donation, 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 with our brothers and sisters in love.

Personal Care Supply Drive: Please fill a bag with personal care products and donate to our Food Pantry. When we gather enough products for our 120 families we can give each a bag of supplies that include shampoo, bar soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, and deodorant. Pick up a shopping list at the display in the Gathering Space.

Chili/Soup Cook-Off & Mardi Gras: February 26 from 12 noon to 3:00 p.m. Join us for our annual Parish Mardi Gras! Enjoy kids and family games, an amazing Chinese Auction, corn hole tournament, kid's craft, and of course, the chance to sample delicious soups and chilies. There is no cost to enjoy the day. Bring a snack to share. We still have room for more cook-off teams. **Please sign up your team at the decorated table in the Gathering Space.**



Want More for your Marriage? A Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend offers couples a chance to get away from distractions and reconnect with each other and their relationship. It's a chance to make a good marriage – GREAT! You will work on ways to communicate better with each other and grow in ways you never knew possible. **The next weekend is March 24-26 in the Pittsburgh Area.** Please visit www.yourmarriageisworthit.org to register or for more information.

Divorced? Separated? Widowed? Transitions, a monthly support group for Separated, Divorced and Widowed persons will meet on **Sunday, February 26 from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at St. Mark Catholic Center, 429 E. Grandview Blvd.** The program includes a short presentation, discussion, followed by refreshments. This month's topic is: "Where is God when I'm hurting?" For more information call 814 – 824-1265 or email at: familylife@erieRCD.org. Visit us at: www.erieRCD.org/transitions.htm

OLM Book Group: Join us in March to discuss A Gentleman In Moscow by Amor Towles.

The Irish Cultural Society of Erie presents the **IRISH HOOLEY** with entertainer Seamus Kennedy, the Rinca Na Tiarna Irish dancers and the Blarney Rubble Band on **Saturday, March 4, at Belle Valley Social Hall.** Tickets are \$20 and available at Tipperary West, 3026 Cherry St. Call 459-5797 for information.

Weekly Readings

- Mon...02/20...Sir 1:1-10/Mk 9:14-29
- Tue...02/21...Sir 2:1-11/Mk 9:30-37
- Wed...02/22...1 Pt 5:1-4/Mt 16:13-19
- Thu...02/23...Sir 5:1-8/Mk 9:41-50
- Fri....02/24...Sir 6:5-17/Mk 10:1-12
- Sat....02/25...Sir 17:1-15/Mk 10:13-16
- Sun...02/26...Is 49:14-15/1 Cor 4:1-5/Mt 6:24-34

Weekly Collection

For the weekend of February 12, 2017

Envelopes Sent:	470
Envelopes Returned:	105 \$4,995.00
Faith Direct Deposits:	100 \$2,787.50
Loose Change:	\$96.00
TOTAL OFFERTORY:	\$7,878.50

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