

# OUR LADY OF MERCY CHURCH

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



## MASS SCHEDULE

*July 23, 2017*

Saturday Vigil: **6:00 p.m.**

Sunday: **8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.**

Weekday: **8:30 a.m.**

Holy Day of Obligation: **8:30 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.**

## PARISH STAFF

Msgr. Gerald T. Ritchie, *Pastor*

Donna Clark, *Pastoral Minister*

Irene Lucas, *Director of Lifelong Faith Formation*

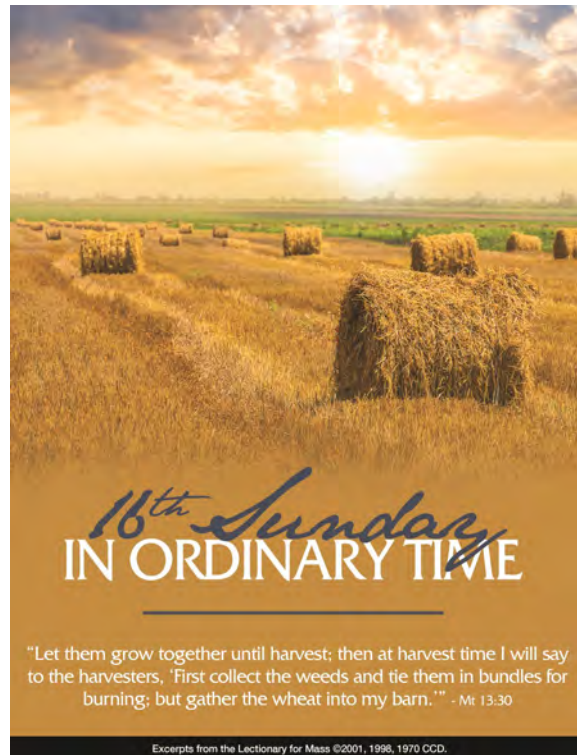
Brandon Vogt, *Director of Liturgy & Music*

Marsha MacKinnon McKinley, *Admin. Assistant*

Geri Hadlock, *Youth Minister*

Kirk Mientkiewicz, *Maintenance Coordinator*

Andrea Maille, *Lifelong Faith Formation Secretary*



## CONTACT INFORMATION

Parish Office: 814-899-5342

Office of Lifelong Faith Formation: 814-899-6132

Fax: 814-898-3306

Email: [info@ourladyofmercychurch.org](mailto:info@ourladyofmercychurch.org)

## MISSION STATEMENT

*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.*

## THE WEEK AHEAD

For a complete calendar of events, please visit  
[ourladyofmercychurch.org/calendar](http://ourladyofmercychurch.org/calendar)

<b>Mon. 7/24</b>	6:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Fruit of the Vine Women's Summer Scripture Study
<b>Tue. 7/25</b>		
<b>Wed. 7/26</b>		
<b>Thur. 7/27</b>	8:30 a.m. 9:00 a.m.	<b>Communion Service (NO MASS)</b> Painting Class
<b>Fri. 7/28</b>	8:30 a.m. 1:30 p.m.	<b>Communion Service (NO MASS)</b> Legion of Mary
<b>Sat. 7/29</b>	4:30 p.m.	Sacrament of Penance
<b>Sun. 7/30</b>	8:30 a.m.	Baptism—Still

## MASS INTENTIONS

<b>Mon. 7/24</b>	8:30 a.m.	<b>Sam Garwig (Garwig Family)</b>
<b>Tue. 7/25</b>	8:30 a.m.	
<b>Wed. 7/26</b>	8:30 a.m.	
<b>Thur. 7/27</b>	8:30 a.m.	<b>Communion Service</b>
<b>Fri. 7/28</b>	8:30 a.m.	<b>Communion Service</b>
<b>Sat. 7/29</b>	8:30 a.m.	<b>Floyd Brochey</b> <i>(David &amp; Peggy Jacquel)</i>
	6:00 p.m.	<b>Doris &amp; Ray Shade (Daughters)</b>
<b>Sun. 7/30</b>	8:30 a.m.	<b>For the People of OLM</b>
	11:00 a.m.	<b>Sal Frontino (Baycrete Readi Mix)</b>

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

<b>Mon. 7/24</b>	Ex 14:5-18	/	Matthew 12:38-42
<b>Tue. 7/25</b>	2 Cor 4:7-15	/	Matthew 20:20-28
<b>Wed. 7/26</b>	Ex 16:1-5,9-15	/	Matthew 13:1-9
<b>Thur. 7/27</b>	Ex 19:1-2,9-11,16-20b/	/	Matthew 13:10-17
<b>Fri. 7/28</b>	Ex 20:1-17	/	Matthew 13:18-23
<b>Sat. 7/29</b>	Ex 24:3-8	/	Matthew 13:24-30
<b>Sun. 7/30</b>	1 Kgs 3:5, 7-12/ Rom 8:28-30/Mt 13:44-52		



## PRAYER LINE

9:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m. Call **Donna Smicker** at 899-9108

4:00 p.m.—9:00 p.m. Call **Gerri Extein** at 899-6875

The **Hospital Visitor** for the week is Esther Pohl.

## FROM THE PARISH OFFICE

### **Newsletter Mailing Party:**

We will be preparing the newsletter for the mail at 9:00 am Tuesday, August 8 in the Conference Room. If you can help, please call Irene at 899-6132 or email [ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org](mailto:ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org)

### **Hearing Assisted Devices Available**

For those who have some difficulty hearing Mass, hearing assisted devices are available. Contact Donna Clark in the parish office.

### **When Should Young Adults Join the Parish Apart from their Parents?**

Generally young adults move away from home after schooling and they should join the local parish where they are attending Mass. If young adults are still at home after schooling then they should consider registering on their own. Young adults usually stay registered in the parish under their parents while they are away at college.

### **Traveling for the Summer?**

Please consider using Faith Direct, our e-giving program, to ensure your donations to support our parish community go uninterrupted. To sign up go to our parish website and click on the Faith Direct button.

## THIS SUNDAY'S REFLECTION



**Matthew 13:24-43**

The psalmist had no shortage of adjectives to describe God, who is good and forgiving, slow to anger, and abounding in kindness and fidelity. God is the source of justice and governs with mercy. God's power is revealed to believers and unbelievers alike. This gives us good ground for hope when we meet obstacles in our lives.

Jesus knew that we cannot avoid difficulties and problems. Just when we think that we have pulled up all the weeds of doubt and despair, a new crop comes along to give us misery. Jesus said that all we need is a little faith, about the size of a mustard seed or a grain of yeast. Though our faith seems inadequate it will grow within us.

Paul knew from experience that God's Spirit helps us when we are weak. When we are unable to pray, the Spirit prays within us, interceding to the God who understands our minds and hearts. There may be impediments that stunt our spiritual growth, but with faith our lives will become fruitful.

**For Reflection: What are the weeds of dissension that have been sown in my home or community? Where have I seen "mustard seed faith" in action?**

©Kay Murdy

## Mission Cooperative

On July 29 & 30, Sr. Teresia Muendi, an Assumption Sister of Nairobi (ASN), will be speaking at all Masses. Sister will be making an appeal to help the ASN with their ongoing mission throughout Kenya. The mission of the ASN is to respond to the needs of the poor, the disenfranchised, the underprivileged and marginalized. Their missionary activities include care of the sick, including HIV/Aids clients, the education of street children, orphans and the abused. Their works with family pastoral ministries and community development continue to eradicate poverty, and empower these families both spiritually and socially. **Sr. Muendi will be asking for your support to enable the Assumption Sisters to continue their ministries. Please be generous in your support. See insert in this bulletin for more details.**

## 2017 Annual Diocesan Wedding Anniversary Celebrations

Celebration Liturgies for couples celebrating 25, 50, 60 and more years of marriage in 2017 will be held at St. Jude the Apostle, Erie on **Aug. 13, 2017 at 2:00 p.m.** To register, please contact your parish office or register online at [www.erieRCD.org/anniv/htm](http://www.erieRCD.org/anniv/htm).



## OLM Book Group

Join us on **Wednesday, Aug. 16** to discuss **The Mermaid Chair** by Sue Monk Kidd. What could be better than to share a summer evening sipping wine, talking about books and enjoying the company of fun women? Newcomers are always welcome.

## 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](mailto:ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org)

## Save The Date: Rosary March October 8, 2017

Please mark Sunday, October 8 on your calendar for the Rosary March to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the appearance of our Blessed Mother to the three children in Fatima, Portugal in 1917. The Rosary March begins at 2:00 p.m. at Saint Peter Cathedral. Bishop Persico will give the homily at the church following the march. The march is sponsored by the World Apostolate of Fatima.

## FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Offertory for the weekend of July 16, 2017

Envelopes sent:	389	
Envelopes returned:	113	\$4,292.00
Faith Direct Deposits:	103	\$2,813.00
Loose Change:		\$213.00
<b>TOTAL OFFERTORY:</b>		<b>\$7,318.00</b>

**\$7,136** is needed to meet our regular operating expenses.  
(This does not include our CSA or Mortgage Payment)

## Women's Summer Scripture Study

Our 3rd annual Women's Summer Scripture Study will conclude this Monday, July 24 as we reflect on the witness of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Even if you have not come to any prior evening, you are still welcome to join us at the home of Irene, 1019 Bartlett Rd. at 7:00 p.m.

## Catechists Needed

It is time to start thinking about the coming year of religious education. We need a few volunteers to teach our youth about the love of God and to inspire them with our Catholic faith. Catechists must be practicing Catholics able to provide appropriate clearances and willing to instruct youth in accord with the beliefs and practices of the Church. Training will be provided. If you are interested, call Irene at 899-6132.

Aid	Sunday Morning
Gr. 1	Sunday Morning
Gr. 6	Tuesday after school
Gr. 7 & 8	Sunday afternoon

## Religious Education Registration

Registration for the upcoming year of Religious Education classes will take place after all Masses the weekend of Aug. 12-13. All children must be registered prior to the start of class. Children must be registered every year; participation in the program last year does not mean an automatic registration in the coming year. For details, see the August issue of For Mercy Sake or the parish website.

## Children's Worship Bulletin

Just because school is out does not mean that our children can not continue to learn about Jesus. Parents and grandparents are encouraged to pick up a Children's Worship Bulletin each week on the bulletin tables. It contains games and puzzles to encourage young children to think about the Sunday readings.

## Sunset Beach Mass

Mark your calendar for our annual Sunset Beach Mass at 7:00 p.m. on Sunday, August 20 at Glinodo Conference Center. Bring your own lawn chairs and a plate of cookies to share. This is the Mass of the day.



## 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 cannot be redeemed.**

## Save the Date for Senior Outreach Day

Mark your calendars for the Mercy Hilltop Center Senior Outreach Day at the Presque Isle Rotary Pavilion Sept. 27 from 9:15 a.m. to 3 p.m. This is a free event and is sponsored by Highmark Blue Cross/Blue Shield. Tickets are available at the Mercy Hilltop Center, 444 E. Grandview Blvd., Erie, or by calling 814-824-2214. Registration is required. Additional information will be published in August.



## What is Stewardship?

Watching over the many gifts GOD has bestowed on us and overall commitment to do his work and help others.



## Daily Email Encouragement for those Who Are Grieving

Receive an encouraging email message every day for a year. These short messages will inspire you and provide practical information as you grieve the loss of your loved one. Sign up at [Griefshare.org](http://Griefshare.org).

## Counseling Help Available

Individual and family counseling will be available from an experienced professional counselor. This parishioner will offer her gifts to Our Lady of Mercy faith community in a professional, respectful, and compassionate environment. The counselor will offer three meetings with each person. If four or more sessions are needed then we ask that a person make a small love donation to the church. Counseling meetings are at the church, in a confidential setting. To schedule an appointment contact Donna Clark, 899-5342.

## The Loving Search for God

Fr. William Meninger, a Trappist monk from Snowmass, Colorado will share with us what he has learned from studying the book The Cloud of Unknowing. He will guide us to an elevated sense of love, insight and experience of God. **September 15, 4:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. and Saturday, Sept 16 from 8:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.** Hosted at Mount Saint Benedict Monastery on East Lake Road. The cost is \$95.00 and is limited to 120 participants. To register by August 15, go to <https://membership.faiithdirect.net/events/details/782>. For more information to go: [www.stgeorgeerie.org/news/weekend-retreat](http://www.stgeorgeerie.org/news/weekend-retreat) or contact Donna Clark.

## No Time for a Retreat?

Too many demands on your life to get away for a silent retreat? Could you make a retreat if it were only 3 minutes long and you could do it at home? Check out [www.loyolapress.com/3-minute-retreat-daily-online-prayer](http://www.loyolapress.com/3-minute-retreat-daily-online-prayer) for a mini-retreat with music, scripture, reflection and prayer. Sign up and have a new 3-minute retreat emailed to you daily.

## Catholic Divorce Survival Guide – Save The Date

Will host another 12 week session for helping to heal the wounds of Divorce. Sessions will start Wednesday, September 6 at 6:30 p.m. and run for 12 weeks at St. Mark Catholic Center on Grandview Blvd. For more information or to register call 814-824-1250 or send an email to [familylife@erieRCD.org](mailto:familylife@erieRCD.org)

## Divorced & Separated Ministry

Our Lady of Mercy has a ministry to the divorcee and separated. This one-on-one ministry allows those experiencing divorce or separation to talk to another person who has been through it. This person can provide support during a difficult time. Contact Donna Clark.

## Women's Luncheon

Join a fun loving group of ladies who live alone on Monday, July 24 at 1:00 p.m. for lunch at the Harborview Grill, 3730 Harbor Ridge Trail, Erie, PA 16510—just off Depot Rd. We share stories and laugh most of the time. For more information contact Donna Clark.

## Sister Parish Day

Our Lady of Mercy will host the diocesan Sister Parish Day on Saturday, August 12 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. It is a wonderful opportunity to learn about the Sister Parish Ministry in our diocese and in Mexico. The event is free, but registration is requested to ensure enough food for lunch. If you wish to participate, contact Irene Lucas at 899-6132 or [ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org](mailto:ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org).

## Men's Night Out/K of C Baseball Excursion

The 5th annual men's bus trip to see the American League Champion Cleveland Indians is Sunday, September 10. The Tribe takes on the Baltimore Orioles. The trip is open to parish men age 21 and over. The cost of \$37 per person includes transportation aboard a school bus, game ticket, complimentary refreshments and lunch aboard the bus. Reservations must be received by Monday, July 31. The bus will leave the church parking lot at 9:45 a.m. immediately following 8:30 a.m. Mass. The trip is open to the first 41 men who sign up. Checks payable to: "Phil Legler" and mail to Phil Legler, 3989 Magnolia Blossom Dr., Erie, Pa 16510. If you have questions call Phil at 504-1048.

## Knights of Columbus Dance September 23

The Knights of Columbus are sponsoring a dance on Saturday, September 23 in conjunction with the OLM Feast Day weekend. The band "The Groove" - Erie's most popular band will be providing the entertainment from 7:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. in the Gym. Complimentary beer and setups will be provided. Tickets will go on sale in the Gathering Space after all the Masses beginning on July 30th and for the next two Sunday. Tickets will also be available for purchase during the week in the parish office. The ticket price is \$15 or (2) for \$25. Please note (4) tickets max to parishioners. After August 13, tickets will be made available to the public through the parish office. If any parishioners require additional tickets they can also be purchased at this time. If you need more information contact Co-Chairs Frank Kaleta and Phil Legler.

## Parish Quilt

New parish families are encouraged to decorate a quilt square for our parish quilt that hangs on the back wall of the Worship Space. You may find a square in the basket on the table next to classroom #1. After you decorate your family square please return it to the parish office.

## St. Paul Italian Festival

August 11-13 at the parish, located at 453 W. 16th St., Erie. Free trolley shuttle service available from the Erie Central Mall. A pasta fagioli dinner will be available after Friday's Mass, with music provided by Daniel Cabanillas with Lindsay Vendetti. Sunday Mass at 11 a.m. with Bishop Lawrence Persico officiating, followed by a procession with the Virgin Mary statue. Sunday's spaghetti dinner will be served from noon to 6 p.m.

## Pastoral Council Setting Goals for the Parish

This past year the Pastoral Council read through Pope Francis' Encyclical "The Joy of the Gospel." Then the members of the council considered areas of parish life in which we were doing well and those that needed improvement based on the concepts presented in the document. One particular area chosen to develop was reaching out to the disenfranchised. Below is the detail of this goal.

Our Lady of Mercy reaches out to the disenfranchised and helps people continue their spiritual journey. Objectives:



1. Spend time praying for those who have been hurt by the church or are struggling with their faith journey.
  - ◆ Include an intention in the prayers of the faithful regularly.
  - ◆ Create a prayer card and ask our community to include this in their personal prayers. Ask church committees and ministries to pray this prayer at the start of their meetings.
2. Educate the community on the importance of reaching out to the disenfranchised
  - ◆ Use the homily, bulletin and newsletter to educate
3. Create an evangelization team that will enliven the community to reach out to the disenfranchised.
  - ◆ After a period of prayer, invite those who are interested to form an Evangelization team.
  - ◆ The team will educate itself with various resources.
  - ◆ The team will educate others on how to reach out to the disenfranchised.
4. Create small brochures with information about how to reconnect with a faith community. Make these available at the time of the festival and place on bulletin boards in the Hall.
5. Set up a gathering in a neutral place that will allow people to have an open discussion about what keeps them from a faith community; that allows people to express their hurt and/or

Our next step is to form a committee that will implement this goal. If reaching out to the disenfranchised stirs something in your heart, then perhaps God is calling you to this new endeavor. If so contact Donna Clark in the parish office at 899-5342 or [dclark@ourladyofmercychurch.org](mailto:dclark@ourladyofmercychurch.org).

Members of the council this past year are: Paul Barko, Darrell Garwig, Nicholas Heise, Peggy Jacquel, Marge LeFaiver, Philip Legler, Margy Luniewski, Bill Matrogran, Nancy Mowery, Mike Royer, Karen Sweeney, Dan Szczesny. In the fall Peggy and Mike will complete their terms and Katie Stephenson will join the council.



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