

OUR LADY OF MERCY CHURCH

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



MASS SCHEDULE

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

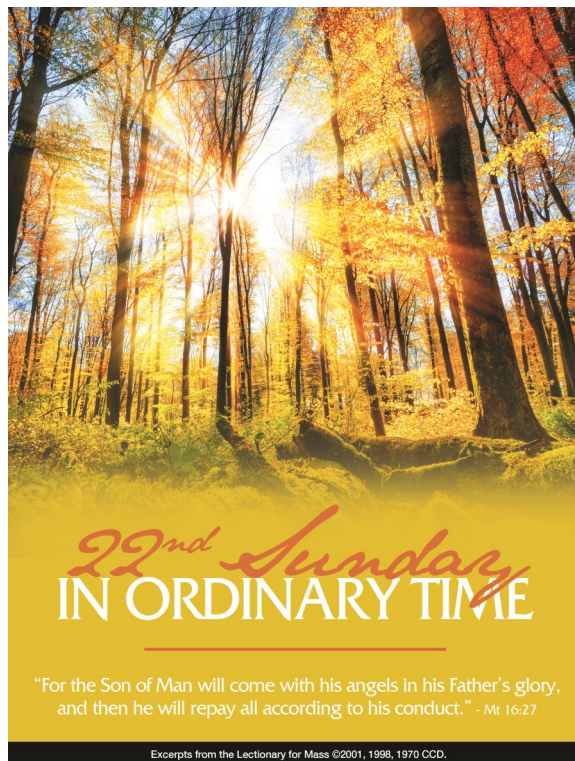
Parish Office: 814-899-5342

Office of Lifelong Faith Formation: 814-899-6132

Fax: 814-898-3306

Email: info@ourladyofmercychurch.org

September 3, 2017



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

Mon. 9/04	9:00 p.m.	MASS
Tue. 9/05	2:00 p.m.	Prayer Shawl
	4:00 p.m.	Rel Ed Gr.3-6
	7:00 p.m.	Pastoral Council Mtg
Wed. 9/06	6:00 p.m.	Gr. 9 Parent./Candidate Mtg
Thur. 9/07	9:00 a.m.	Painting Class
	1:30 a.m.	Meditation
	6:00 p.m.	Gr. 11 Parent./Candidate Mtg
	6:00 p.m.	Prayer Shawl
	6:45 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Fri. 9/08	1:30 p.m.	Legion of Mary
Sat. 9/09	4:30 p.m.	Sacrament of Penance
	7:00 p.m.	Ministry Coordinators Mtg
Sun. 9/10	Men's Night Out Trip	
	9:30 a.m.	Ministry Coordinators Mtg
	9:30 a.m.	Rel Ed Gr. K-2
	12:00 p.m.	Ministry Coordinators Mtg
	12:00 p.m.	Rel Ed Gr. 7 & 8
	12:15 p.m.	Gr. 7 & 8 Parent Mtg

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon. 9/04	9:00 a.m.	
Tue. 9/05	8:30 a.m.	
Wed. 9/06	8:30 a.m.	Dennis Hollarn (Loren & Linda Prichard)
Thur. 9/07	8:30 a.m.	
Fri. 9/08	8:30 a.m.	Jack Kestler (Jim & Carol Perrotto)
Sat. 9/09	8:30 a.m.	
	6:00 p.m.	For the People of OLM
Sun. 9/10	8:30 a.m.	Joe & Theresa Perrotto (Jim & Carol Perrotto)
	11:00 a.m.	Sal Frontino (Pat & Clarence Bogart)

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Mon. 9/04	1 Thes 4:13-18	/	Luke 4:16-20
Tue. 9/05	1 Thes 5:1-6, 9-11	/	Luke 4:31-37
Wed. 9/06	Col 1:1-8	/	Luke 4:38-44
Thur. 9/07	Col 1:9-14	/	Luke 5:1-11
Fri. 9/08	Mi 5:1-4a	/	Matthew 1:1-16
Sat. 9/09	Col 1:21-23	/	Luke 6:1-5
Sun. 9/10	Ez 33:7-9/ Rom 13:8-10/ Matthew 18:15-20		

IN LOVING MEMORY

We remember **Charles Winschel**, father of **Chrissy Saber**.
 Please keep him and his family in your prayers.

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 Geri Gallagher.

REMINDERS

Do We Have Your Latest Contact Information?

If you have moved or have changed your home phone and/or cell phone numbers or email addresses, please update the office. Thank you!

Are You New to the Parish?

Stop by the parish office before or after Mass to see Donna Clark. Pick up the welcome material and a parish picture book. We would also like to take your picture so we can make a supplemental page.

Share Your Info about Those in the Hospital

If you know of a parishioner in the hospital, please call the parish office at 899-5342. The hospitals' records do not always put in the name of the parish for each patient

Parish Office Closed on Labor Day

Due to the Labor Day Holiday, the parish office is closed on **Monday, September 4, 2017.**

THIS SUNDAY'S REFLECTION



Matthew 16:21-27

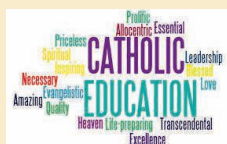
Jeremiah complained to God that he was too young to be a prophet. No matter how much he struggled to avoid the responsibility, God said, "I'm sending you!" Jeremiah had a difficult task because violence and outrage were his message. When all he got in return was scorn and derision, Jeremiah was ready to give up. Yet God's word became like a fire burning in his heart. No matter what price he was asked to pay, Jeremiah had to speak.

Paul knew the high cost of serving God - imprisonment, sickness, loneliness, beatings, and shipwreck. Still, his sacrifice couldn't compare with the price Jesus paid on Calvary. Peter tried to stand in Jesus' way when he faced the cross. He allowed himself to be conformed to the world's values, not God's. If Peter wanted to follow Jesus, he needed to get behind him and share his cross.

Like Jeremiah, Peter, and Paul, we must be willing to give up power, prestige, and possessions if they prevent our serving God. We must do our best to present ourselves as holy and acceptable offerings to God.

For Reflection: What challenge does sacrifice present to me? How has it helped me grow in my Christian service?

© Kay Murdy



Catholic Education Collection September 16-17, 2017

The 2017 Catholic Education Collection will take place on September 16-17. The Catholic Faith has been handed on through twenty-one centuries. We have received this great gift, and we strive to embody it fully in our daily lives. Additionally, we want to hand it on to succeeding generations. Your help is needed to assist in this challenge. Please give generously to this year's Catholic Education Collection. One half of this collection stays here at Our Lady of Mercy Church to help support our own religious education programs.



A multi-denominational campaign is underway across Erie County to boost church attendance. The campaign titled "Take Me To Worship" was developed by Unified Erie's Religiosity Committee whose research indicates that weekly participation in religious services helps reduce violence, drug and alcohol use and the incidence of suicide. Thirty-six Catholic parishes in Erie County are participating in this initiative through October 30.

Over the next several weeks we'll share the committee's findings:

In Erie County, religiosity among youth has been falling in the Pennsylvania Youth Survey, plummeting from a score of 49 in 2005 all the way to 39 in 2011. This is significantly below the state and national average. Help increase Religiosity amongst youth, and bring a child or teen next time you attend!

For more information go to:
TakeMeToWorship.org

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Offertory for the weekend of Aug 27, 2017

Envelopes sent:	389	
Envelopes returned:	109	\$4,419.90
Faith Direct Deposits:	103	\$2,813.00
Loose Change:		\$277.00
TOTAL OFFERTORY:		\$7,509.90

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

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. 9 Home Session

Religious Education Registration

All children including those preparing to celebrate Confirmation in October, must have a parent signature on the appropriate forms before the first day of religious education. If you have not yet registered your child, please visit the Office of Lifelong Faith Formation as soon as possible. **The first day of religious education classes will be Tuesday, September 5.**

The Year of Religious Education Opens with Several Important Parent Meetings:

Sept. 6 – Gr. 9 Parent & Candidate Mtg. at 6:00 p.m.

Sept. 7 – Gr. 11 Parent & Candidate Mtg. at 6:00 p.m.

Sept. 10 – Gr. 7 & 8 Parent Mtg. at 12:15 p.m.

**Gr. 12 Confirmation Interviews will be held on
Sunday, September 17 at 12:15 p.m.**

This interview is required by the Bishop.

Baptismal Preparation Session for Parents

Our semi-annual Baptismal Preparation Session for Parents will be held on Sunday, October 1 at 12:15 p.m. All parents looking forward to the baptism of their child are required by the Diocese of Erie to attend a Baptismal Preparation Session. It is an opportunity to prepare your heart and home for the commitment to raise your child in our Catholic faith. If you are planning to celebrate your child's baptism in the next 6 to 9 months, you will want to consider registering for this session. Register by calling the parish office at 899-5342. If the date and time of this session does not work for your schedule, contact the neighboring Catholic churches to inquire when they hold a class. This session can be attended at any Catholic parish.

Autumn Scripture Study

Join us for a 4 week study of Angels in the Bible. Who are angels? What is their role? What do we believe about angels? **The study will run every Wednesday morning in October from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.** Bring a Bible. If there is an interest in an evening session of this Scripture Study, it can be scheduled. **Contact Irene at ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org or 899-6132 with the best night if you would like an evening session.**

Ministry Leader's Meeting

All Ministry Leaders are asked to attend a brief meeting after all Masses on Sept 9 and 10 to receive guidelines on gathering information about the ministry for new brochures.

Time Remains to Register for Retreat

It's not too late to register for "The Loving Search for God," the Sept. 15-16 retreat conducted by Father William Meninger of Snowmass, Colo. For more information and to register for this retreat go to: www.stgeorgeerie.org/news/weekend-retreat or contact Donna Clark at 814-899-5342. Please register by September 7.

Grief Support Group

Our monthly grief support group meets on Monday, September 18 at 7:00 p.m. (Sessions are held on the third Monday of the month). If you know of someone who is suffering through the loss of a loved one please let them know of this group. We have discussion around a topic that pertains to grief and close with prayer. In addition to this group we also provide one-on-one support. Please contact Donna Clark in the parish office.

Divorce Ministry Program Begins September 6

The Family Life Office of the Diocese of Erie is offering a 12-week program for men and women who have suffered the pain of divorce or separation. The *Catholic's Divorce Survival Guide* (CDSG), also known as *Surviving Divorce*, begins Sept. 6 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at St. Mark Catholic Center, 429 E. Grandview Blvd., Erie. Each week features a 30-minute DVD that covers topics such as shock, denial, anger, forgiveness, the courts, kids, and much more. For more information, contact Chris Hess in the Family Life Office at 814-824-1261 or chess@ErieRCD.org.

Cursillo Opportunities

Looking to enhance your relationship with our Lord? Maybe grow in your faith? Come to a clearer understanding of our church and its traditions? Need to take a few days off from your regular routine, recharge your engines, or take a deep breath? We have the perfect solution. A Cursillo weekend maybe just what you need! Upcoming Cursillos: **Men's October 19-22** and **Women's November 16-19 2017**. For more information or applications call Tim and Norma Lynch at 899-2681 or go to the Cursillo website at eriecursillo.org



Healing Mass September 11 in North East

Father William Kiel, a recently retired priest from the Diocese of Greensburg, will offer a **Mass for Healing** at St. Gregory Church, 48 South Pearl St., North East, on September 11 at 7:00 p.m. All are welcome.

Social Justice Committee News



The weekend of Sept. 30-Oct. 1, we will participate in an "offering of letters" sponsored by Bread for the World. As disciples of Jesus Christ who multiplied bread and fish to feed the hungry and gave his life to feed each of us, we will raise our collective voice to advocate on behalf of the hungry in our midst. See the article in the August issue of *For Mercy Sake* for details.

Scripture Reflection: "Then the king will say to those on his right, "Come, you blessed by my Father. Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food,..." (Mat. 25:34-36)

Painting Class

Painting class resumes September 7 at 9:00 a.m. in Sperry Hall. This class is open to everyone with an interest in painting. Beginners welcome. Questions? Contact Marilyn Garwig 899-4328.

Youth Fundraiser at Frogurtz

Hey **who** doesn't love frozen yogurt? On **September 18** for every person who purchases a treat from Frogurtz at 861 East 38th St. a percentage of sales will go to those attending the National Catholic Youth Conference from our parish! So please support our trip.

OLM Book Group

Join us on **Wednesday, September 20 at 7:00 p.m.** at the home of Kay Kaeberlein, 190 Kraus Drive, to discuss *News of the World* by Paulette Jiles. As the kids go back to school, why not open your own book? Discussing literature as an adult is so much more fun than when we did it in school. Now we get to do it over a glass of wine and there are no tests. Want to read ahead? Our October title will be *Small Great Things* by Jodi Piccolt.

Knights of Columbus Dance September 23

Dance to "The Groove" on **Saturday, September 23** in conjunction with the OLM Feast Day weekend. Complimentary beer and snacks provided. Tickets are \$15 each or (2) for \$25; available in the parish office.

Blessed Sacrament Fall Festival

The Blessed Sacrament Fall Festival is September 17 from 12 noon to 5:00 p.m. at 1626 West 26th Street, Erie. Enjoy theme baskets, bake sale items, Fuhrman's apple cider and delicious cinnamon bread, delicious a la carte food, and kids games.

Top five reasons to join music ministry...

1. **Serving the Lord:** Considering all God does for us, it's just a little giving back to Him.
2. **Serving others:** The assembly really loves it when the choir leads the singing.
3. **Making Friends:** Music ministry is a great way to meet new people and make great friends.
4. **Having Fun:** Yes, we actually enjoy rehearsals! Choir parties are fun, too!
5. **You never know,** the music director might decide to take the choir to Europe to sing!



MUSIC MINISTRY GROUPS

Come and sing in any of the groups of OLM's Music Ministry as often as you like this Fall!

- ◆ **Parish Choir (8:30a.m. Mass)** Rehearsals are on **Thursdays** at 6:45 p.m., beginning **September 7**.
- ◆ **Saturday Ensemble (6:00p.m. Mass)** Rehearsal is at 5:15p.m. before Mass.
- Sunday Ensemble (11:00a.m. Mass)** Rehearsal is at 10:30a.m. before Mass.

Join us! Contact Brandon Vogt before or after Mass... at the parish office... or by email at music@ourladyofmercychurch.org

ESSENTIAL OILS WORKSHOP



In this hands-on workshop the participant will learn about:

- The healing qualities of essential oils
- The safety and effectiveness of using essential oils
- Natural alternatives to keep healthy and safe this summer
- Make a natural pain reliever
- *Cost includes: the book Essential Oils, Ancient Medicine, 3 essential oils, recipes for natural living and informational handouts on various oils

Date: Sunday, October 1, 2017 (NEW DATE)

Time: 2:00 p.m.—6:00 p.m.

Location: Our Lady of Mercy, 837 Bartlett Rd.

Cost: \$75.00*

PLEASE RSVP TO:

Debbie Radomile at 814-397-1176 or Sandi Matts at 814-881-5290

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