

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.**

September 10, 2017

PARISH STAFF

Msgr. Gerald T. Ritchie, *Pastor*

Donna Clark, *Pastoral Minister*

Irene Lucas, *Director of Lifelong Faith Formation*

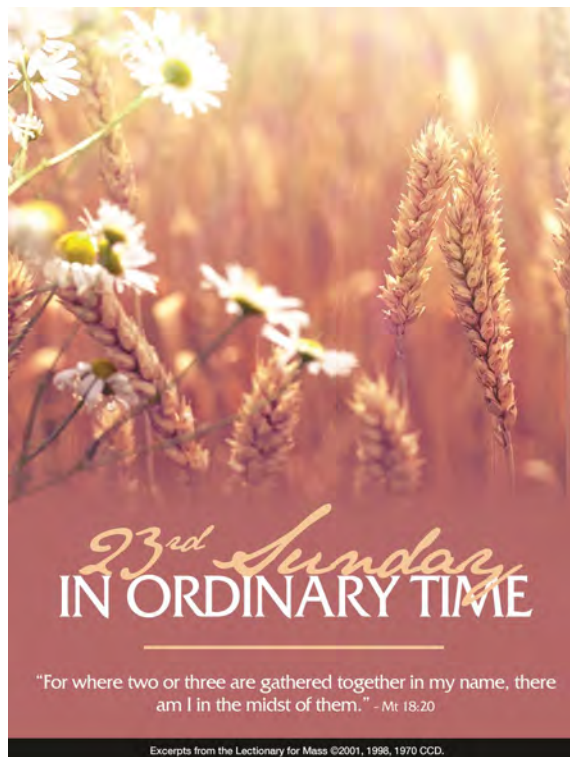
Brandon Vogt, *Director of Liturgy & Music*

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

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. 9/11	11:00 a.m.	Meditation
	6:30 p.m.	Fall PF/Core Team Potluck
	6:30 p.m.	Stewardship Meeting
Tue. 9/12	9:30 a.m.	SCC– Steel Magnolias
	2:00 p.m.	Prayer Shawl
	4:00 p.m.	Rel Ed Gr.3-6
	5:30 p.m.	Children's Choir Rehearsal
Wed. 9/13	3:00 p.m.	Buildings & Grounds Mtg
	6:30 p.m.	AGIFT Mtg
	7:00 p.m.	Knights of Columbus
Thur. 9/14	9:00 a.m.	Painting Class
	1:30 a.m.	Meditation
	6:00 p.m.	Prayer Shawl
	6:45 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Fri. 9/15	1:30 p.m.	Legion of Mary
Sat. 9/16	4:30 p.m.	Sacrament of Penance
Sun. 9/17	8:00 a.m.	Pre-Cana
	9:30 a.m.	Rel Ed Gr. K-2
	9:30 a.m.	Healing Ministry
	12:00 p.m.	Rel Ed Gr. 7 & 8
	12:15 p.m.	Gr. 12 Interviews

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon. 9/11	8:30 a.m.	
Tue. 9/12	8:30 a.m.	Maureen Cudicio (<i>Deidre Bender</i>)
Wed. 9/13	8:30 a.m.	Mabel Holodnak (<i>Dougherty family</i>)
Thur. 9/14	8:30 a.m.	
Fri. 9/15	8:30 a.m.	Diane Gerlach (<i>Frank Gerlach</i>)
Sat. 9/16	8:30 a.m.	
	6:00 p.m.	Betty Healy (<i>Barb Jones</i>)
Sun. 9/17	8:30 a.m.	For the People of OLM
	11:00 a.m.	All Deceased Members of the Spiegel Family

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Mon. 9/11	Col 1:24–2:3	/	Luke 6:6–11
Tue. 9/12	Col 2:6–15	/	Luke 6:12–19
Wed. 9/13	Col 3:1–11	/	Luke 6:20–26
Thur. 9/14	Nm 21:4b–9	/	Phil 2:6–11
Fri. 9/15	1 Tm 1:1–2, 12–14	/	John 19:25–27
Sat. 9/16	1 Tm 1:15–17	/	Luke 6:43–49
Sun. 9/17	Sir 27:30–28:7/ Rom 14:7–9/ Mt 18:21–35		

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 Donna Smicker.

REMINDERS

Do We Have Your Latest Contact Information?

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

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.

Consider Faith Direct

As you prepare for the end of summer and the start of a busy fall, consider enrolling in eGiving through Faith Direct so that your gift can reach us even when you cannot. Visit www.faithdirect.net and use our church code: PA647. Thank you for supporting our parish.

THIS SUNDAY'S REFLECTION

Matthew 18:15-20



Ezekiel was a prophet, one who spoke for God, which was no easy task. People didn't want to hear that they were on the path to destruction. But Ezekiel had an obligation to point them in the right direction. If the prophet didn't warn them of their misdeeds, God would hold him accountable. If they refused to change their ways, the prophet would not be liable for the consequences.

Paul said that we have a responsibility to God and one another. If we hold others accountable for their wrongdoings, we need to take stock of our own actions. Are we unfaithful, murderous, thieving, or greedy? Paul said that love was the unifying principle behind God's commands. Love never did wrong to anyone. That's why it is the fulfillment of all the laws.

Jesus said that love is not the avoidance or denial of reality. The welfare of the community depended on being able to confront one another when there was an offense. With genuine love, a person should accept correction. Otherwise, that individual probably wouldn't listen to the church, which has the power to "bind and loose." When we hold someone's sins against them, we are keeping them bound. When we forgive, we are setting them, and ourselves, free. Jesus is in our midst when we gather in love and forgiveness.

For Reflection: Do I accept guidance from others? Am I able to forgive when wronged?

© Kay Murdy

Catholic Education Collection September 16-17, 2017



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I would like to take this opportunity to ask for your generosity to the annual Catholic Education Collection, which will be conducted in our parishes during the weekend of September 16-17.

As our diocese continues the pastoral planning process, I firmly believe that faith formation is at the heart of the renewal for our parishes, school and ministries. We are committed to lifelong faith formation which assists, children, young adults, parents and seniors. Your gift helps finance many continuing education programs for teachers and lay ministers and fosters creative adult faith formation experiences. It benefits children in Catholic schools and in religious education.

Half of the funds raised from this collection remain in your parish to be used for important education and formation ministries. The other half supports educational initiatives throughout the diocese, as well as the Catholic University of America in Washington, DC.

Thank you for all you have done and continue to do. I am truly appreciative of your generosity. Be assured of my prayers for you and your families. With every best wish, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+Lawrence T. Persico

The Most Reverend Lawrence T. Persico, JCL



IN LOVING MEMORY

We remember **Helen Hemmis**,
mother of **Chris Kaschak**; and **Raymond**
Angelo, father of **Mike** and **Jeff Angelo**.

Please keep them and their families
in your prayers.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Offertory for the weekend of September 3, 2017

Envelopes sent:	389	
Envelopes returned:	112	\$5,047.00
Faith Direct Deposits:	103	\$2,813.00
Loose Change:		\$291.00
TOTAL OFFERTORY:		\$8,151.00

\$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.

Grade 12 Confirmation Interviews

Gr. 12 Confirmation interviews will be held on **Sunday, September 17 at 12:15 p.m.** **This interview is required by the Bishop.**

First Reconciliation Parent Meeting

Parents of children in the First Reconciliation class have an important meeting on **Sunday, October 1 at 9:45 a.m.** in Sperry Hall.

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 9:00-10:30 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 best night if you would like an evening session.**

Essential Oils Workshop

Learn about the healing qualities of essential oils and make a pain reliever for personal use as part of this hands-on workshop on **Sunday, October 1 (New Date) from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at Our Lady of Mercy Church.** The workshop fee of \$75.00 includes 3 essential oils, the book *Essential Oils, Ancient Medicine*, recipes for natural living and informational handouts on various oils. RSVP to: Debbie Radomile at 814-397-1176 or Sandi Matts at 814-881-5290.



Harvest Fest

Time for apple cider, pumpkin cookies and crock pots full of soup. **Join us Sunday, October 8 at 12 noon as we celebrate the blessings of autumn with homemade soups, crafts and games for the kids and fellowship for all.** We need people willing to bring in a crockpot of homemade soup for all to sample. A sign-up list will be in the Gathering Space beginning Sept. 17, if you are willing to cook. Those not donating soup are asked to bring a pumpkin-themed dessert to share.

Family Fest '17

Come out to Family Fest '17 on Sunday, October 15, 2017 from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Erie Bayfront Convention Center. Enjoy keynote speaker Greg Willits, break-out sessions, and more. Registration includes all festivities and food. \$10 per person or \$40 per family. Register at CatholicFamilyFest.com



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, 66% of students that attend religious activities one time per month or more said that their parents tell them on a frequent basis they are proud of them for something they have done, compared with 52% of students who never attend religious activities.

For more information go to:

TakeMeToWorship.org

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.

Fast Fact: Fully funding the poverty safety-net would not significantly impact the nation's debt. International poverty-focused development assistance is less than half of one percent of the national budget. Domestic nutrition programs comprise less than three percent of the federal budget.

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.

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? We have the perfect solution. A Cursillo weekend may be 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.





Our Lady of Mercy's
PARISH
FEAST DAY
Community Mass *and*
Mortgage Burning

Through your generosity and sacrifice, our mortgage has been paid in full!
This is a significant and exciting time in the life of our community
because it represents a time of completeness and a fulfilling of God's promise
that God's grace is sufficient to meet all of our needs." (2 Corinthians 12:9)

Sunday, September 24

**Feast Day Mass
And Mortgage Burning
10:30 a.m.**

**Followed by a dinner
In Sperry Hall**

(This is the only Mass at OLM this weekend.)

Please bring a dish to share
for the dinner according to your last name:

A-G *Casserole or Fruit*
H-O *Salad or Appetizer*
P-Z *Dessert or Snack*

Gluten-free items are welcome. The Parish will provide meats.



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