

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

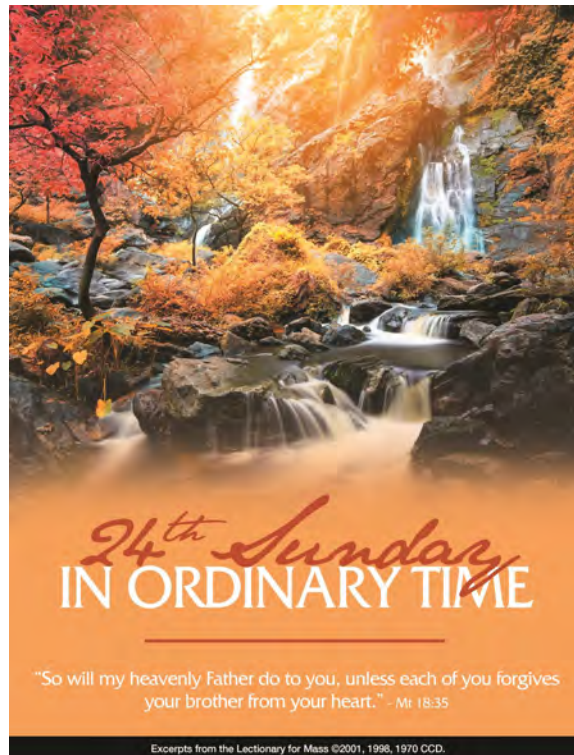
Parish Office: 814-899-5342

Office of Lifelong Faith Formation: 814-899-6132

Fax: 814-898-3306

Email: info@ourladyofmercychurch.org

September 17, 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. 9/18** Youth Fundraiser at Frogurtz
 - 11:00 a.m. Meditation
 - 6:30 p.m. Fruit of the Vine
 - 7:00 p.m. Grief Support Group
- Tue. 9/19**
 - 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
 - 7:00 p.m. Core Team Mtg
 - 7:00 p.m. LFF Mtg
- Wed. 9/20**
 - 8:30 a.m. Food Pantry Distribution
 - 7:00 p.m. OLM Book Group
- Thur. 9/21**
 - 9:00 a.m. Painting Class
 - 1:30 a.m. Meditation
 - 6:00 p.m. Prayer Shawl
 - 6:45 p.m. Choir Rehearsal
- Fri. 9/22** K of C Parish Dance Set-Up
 - 1:30 p.m. Legion of Mary
- Sat. 9/23**
 - 4:30 p.m. Sacrament of Penance
 - 6:00 p.m. NO MASS
 - 7:00 p.m. K of C Parish Dance
- Sun. 9/24** Feast of Our Lady of Mercy
 - 10:30 a.m. ONLY One Sunday Mass
 - 12:15 p.m. Gr. 7 & 8 Youth Event

MASS INTENTIONS

- Mon. 9/18** 8:30 a.m. Mark Hall
- Tue. 9/19** 8:30 a.m.
- Wed. 9/20** 8:30 a.m.
- Thur. 9/21** 8:30 a.m.
- Fri. 9/22** 8:30 a.m.
- Sat. 9/23** 8:30 a.m.
- 6:00 p.m. NO MASS
- Sun. 9/24** 10:30 a.m. For the People of OLM
(Feast of Our Lady of Mercy)

SCRIPTURE READINGS

- Mon. 9/18** 1 Tm 2:1-8 / Luke 7:1-10
- Tue. 9/19** 1 Tm 3:1-13 / Luke 7:11-17
- Wed. 9/20** 1 Tm 3:14-16 / Luke 7:31-35
- Thur. 9/21** Eph 4:1-7, 11-13 / Matthew 9:9-13
- Fri. 9/22** 1 Tm 6:2c-12 / Luke 8:1-3
- Sat. 9/23** 1 Tm 6:13-16 / Luke 8:4-15
- Sun. 9/24** Is 55:6-9/Phil 1:20c-24,27a/ Matthew 20:1-16a

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 Visitors for the week are Tom & Linda Bleil.

OUR LADY OF MERCY PARISH FEAST DAY

Next Sunday, September 24, our Parish Community will celebrate the Feast of our Patron. As is our custom there will be only one Mass next weekend, Sunday at 10:30 a.m. followed by dinner. **Come Celebrate With Us** as this year we will also celebrate the Burning of our Mortgage. While the parish will provide the meats, 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

IN LOVING MEMORY



We remember Jim Sheridan, husband of Lori Sheridan, and Anna Mae Passerotti. Please keep them and their families in your prayers.

THIS SUNDAY'S REFLECTION



Matthew 18:21-35

How many times do I have to forgive? Is seven times enough? Jesus says it is not enough and he illustrates this with a story. A man owed a huge debt to his master and he begged for mercy. The master was moved with pity and forgave him the debt. Later, a fellow servant asked this same man to be forgiven a much smaller debt, yet he refused to release him.

Paul says that we are not our own masters. Both in life and in death we are in partnership with the Lord. God gives us commands, not to restrain us but to teach us the meaning of true freedom. Freedom doesn't mean doing whatever we please. We can't pick and choose which laws we will obey. There are consequences to our actions. When we are angry and hateful, we suffer retaliation. When we are unjust, we suffer injustice. Likewise, if we are loving and compassionate toward our neighbors, God will heal our ills and forgive our sins. Seventy times seven does not exhaust God's mercy toward us.

For Reflection: Can I expect mercy from the Lord if I hold on to grudges? Am I willing to forgive and be forgiven?

© Kay Murdy



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:

According to the 2011 PAYS data, students indicating a higher level of religiosity were less likely to feel depressed or sad most days, to think they are no good at all, to sometimes think life is not worth it, and to be inclined to think that they are a failure.

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: *"We must do what we can so that everyone has something to eat. But we must also remind the powerful of the earth that God will call them to judgment one day, and it will be seen if they truly tried to provide food for him in every person, and if they worked so that the environment would not be destroyed, but could produce this food." (Pope Francis 2015 address to Caritas International)*

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Offertory for the weekend of **September 10, 2017**

Envelopes sent:	389	
Envelopes returned:	133	\$5,335.00
Faith Direct Deposits:	103	\$2,813.00
Loose Change:		\$184.00
TOTAL OFFERTORY:		\$8,332.00

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

Question-Of-The-Week

The contest winner for the week of September 5 was Raegan Andrews, Grade 4, who knew that, in the biblical story of Creation, the first thing that God made was light.

Pray for Our Catechists

On this Catechetical Sunday, we ask God's gracious blessing on all of our catechists as they begin another year of ministry, sharing our precious faith with the youth of this parish family. It is with gratitude and admiration that we entrust them with this sacred ministry.

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.

2017 Rosary March October 8

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

Teenagers Needed for Ministry

We need a few teens to help out every 4 to 5 weeks in the Nursery for the 11:00 a.m. Mass. If you love being around kids this is a good ministry to become involved in. Interested? Contact Donna Clark in the parish office or dclark@ourladyofmercychurch.org.

Grief Support Group

Our monthly grief support group meets on Monday, September 18 at 7:00 p.m. (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.

Annulment Information Sessions

The Diocese of Erie—Office of Tribunal & Matrimonial Concerns, is offering an information session about the process of annulment in the Catholic Church. This session is on **Wednesday, October 25 at 7:00 p.m. at St. Boniface Parish**, 9367 Wattsburg Rd., Erie, PA 16509. Anyone who would like to learn about the annulment process is invited. There will be a short presentation followed by an opportunity to meet one-on-one with a member of the Tribunal staff to ask individual questions and to get the process started. If you have questions call 814-824-1140.

Cursillo Opportunities

Looking to enhance your relationship with our Lord? Maybe grow in your faith? 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.

Healing Mass Scheduled in Erie

The Son of God Prayer Group in Erie is hosting a healing Mass on **Tuesday, October 10 at 6:30 p.m. at Holy Rosary Church**, 2701 East Ave., Erie. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. to provide time to write petitions that will be presented at the offertory procession.

5 Fascinating Tuesdays

Holy Cross Church in Fairview is hosting 5 Fascinating Tuesdays beginning September 26 at 7:00 p.m. where speakers will share their personal experiences with ministry to people on the margins. On September 26, Rev. Lou Vallone of the Diocese of Pittsburgh, presents "Social Justice: The Church's Gift & Challenge." For more information, call Holy Cross at 474-2605.

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.

Harvest Fest

Time for apple cider, pumpkin cookies and crockpots 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 this weekend, 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

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.

Designer Purse Bingo

The Saint Benedict Academy Alumnae Association presents **Designer Purse Bingo on Sunday, October 1 from 12 noon to 4:00 p.m., at the Harborcreek Social Hall, 7275 Buffalo Road.** Food, beer & wine available. Donation of \$25 requested. Only 300 tickets sold. Contact Ann Comstock at 899-0614 ext 2573 or sbaalum@mtstbenedict.org

St. Stanislaus Parish Day

St. Stan's Parish Day is Sunday, October 1 from 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Polish platter dinners available plus a bake sale, Chinese Auction, theme baskets, raffles and children's games. All festivities are at the parish hall located at 520 East 13th Street.

Bourbon Tasting

Love bourbon? Plan to gather with a group of bourbon lovers to sample some very fine bourbons on a Friday night in October. Watch for the date. Probably starting at 6:00 p.m. Bring a dish to share.



YOUTH FUNDRAISER

**Monday, September 18 at Frogurtz
861 East 38th Street**

You can help support our youth on **Monday, September 18 - all day** - with the purchase of a frozen yogurt treat at Frogurtz at 861 East 38th Street. A percentage of sales will go to those youth attending the National Catholic Youth Conference from Our Lady of Mercy.

*If you haven't been to a yogurt bar,
this is your chance to check it out
and enjoy a treat that you create!*



IS LIFE CHALLENGING?

SIGN-UP FOR A SMALL CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY!

**SMALL CHRISTIAN COMMUNITIES ARE ORDINARY PEOPLE HELPING EACH OTHER CONNECT
EVERYDAY LIFE AND FAITH, REGULARLY.**



**Sign-up in the Gathering Space
September 30/ October 1 and October 7/8
after Mass or call Marsha 899-5342 (days) or Dave
602-4622 (evenings)**

**“You know we are all on that journey of faith and it’s just a
whole lot better if we do it together”... Frank C.**

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