

# OUR LADY OF MERCY CHURCH

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

*September 24, 2017—Feast of Our Lady of Mercy*



## 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. 9/25</b>	11:00 a.m.	Meditation
<b>Tue. 9/26</b>	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
	6:00 p.m.	Sister Parish Committee Mtg
<b>Wed. 9/27</b>	1:00 p.m.	SCC-Diamonds in the Rough
<b>Thur. 9/28</b>	9:00 a.m.	Painting Class
	1:30 a.m.	Meditation
	3:00 p.m.	Social Justice Committee
	6:00 p.m.	Prayer Shawl
	6:45 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
<b>Fri. 9/29</b>	1:30 p.m.	Legion of Mary
<b>Sat. 9/30</b>	<b>SCC Sign-Up Weekend</b>	
	4:30 p.m.	Sacrament of Penance
<b>Sun. 10/01</b>	<b>SCC Sign-Up Weekend</b>	
	<b>Casserole Club Drop-Off</b>	
	<b>Monthly Food Pantry Collection</b>	
	9:30 a.m.	Healing Ministry
	9:30 a.m.	Rel Ed Gr. K-2
	9:45 a.m.	First Reconciliation Parent Mtg
	12:00 p.m.	Baptismal Prep Session
	12:15 p.m.	Gr. 7 & 8 Youth Event
	2:00 p.m.	Essential Oils
	6:00 p.m.	Confirmation Penance Service

## MASS INTENTIONS

<b>Mon. 9/25</b>	8:30 a.m.	<b>Rod Haynes</b> ( <i>Sue Haynes</i> )
<b>Tue. 9/26</b>	8:30 a.m.	<b>Thomas Berdis Sr.</b> ( <i>Berdis Family</i> )
<b>Wed. 9/27</b>	8:30 a.m.	<b>Ruth Extein</b> ( <i>Extein Family</i> )
<b>Thur. 9/28</b>	8:30 a.m.	<b>David Ross</b> ( <i>Linda Ross</i> )
<b>Fri. 9/29</b>	8:30 a.m.	<b>Dennis Carrel</b>
<b>Sat. 9/30</b>	8:30 a.m.	
	6:00 p.m.	<b>Leonard (Moe) Majewski</b> ( <i>Bruce &amp; Audrey Kazmaier</i> )
<b>Sun. 10/01</b>	8:30 a.m.	<b>For the People of OLM</b>

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

<b>Mon. 9/25</b>	Ezr 1:1-6	/	Luke 8:16-18
<b>Tue. 9/26</b>	Ezr 6:7-8,12b,14-20	/	Luke 8:19-21
<b>Wed. 9/27</b>	Ezr 9:5-9	/	Luke 9:1-6
<b>Thur. 9/28</b>	Hg 1:1-8	/	Luke 9:7-9
<b>Fri. 9/29</b>	Dn 7:9-10, 13-14	/	John 1:47-51
<b>Sat. 9/30</b>	Zec 2:5-9, 14-15a	/	Luke 9:43b-45
<b>Sun. 10/01</b>	Ez 18:25-28/Phil 2:1-11/ Matthew 21:28-32		

## 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.

## QUESTION ABOUT ANNULMENTS?

Staff members from the Diocese of Erie Tribunal Office will conduct an Annulment Information Session on Wednesday, October 25, at St. Boniface Parish, Erie at 7:00 p.m. to explain the process of petitioning for a Declaration of Nullity (Annulment). **Those who have been divorced and wish to remarry in the Catholic Church are encouraged to attend.** Please feel free to call the Erie Tribunal Office at 814-824-1140 with any questions.

## NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The deadline to submit items for the November issue of *For Mercy Sake* is October 22. Email items to Irene Lucas at [ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org](mailto:ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org).

## THIS SUNDAY'S REFLECTION



*Matthew 20:1-16a*

Paul was in prison facing the death penalty. Instead of complaining about his ill-treatment, he tried to conduct himself in a way worthy of the gospel so that others might follow his example. Isaiah warned God’s people to forsake their sinful thoughts and ways and turn to God, whose thoughts and ways were higher than theirs.

Jesus told a story about God’s benevolence. An owner of an estate needed workers for his vineyard, and the laborers, anxious to work, agreed to the usual daily wage. At midmorning, the master saw men standing around because no one had hired them. In his compassion he gave them work to do. Being a generous man, he agreed to pay them whatever was fair. Late in the day, he hired other workers as well. At the end of the day, the landowner paid each laborer a full day’s pay. The first group protested that they had worked all day in the hot sun, while the last only worked a short time. So why were they paid the same wages? The landowner’s answer was surprising. They agreed to the pay, so he did them no injustice. He was free to do as he wished. Then he asked them a pointed question: “Are you envious because I am generous?”

*For Reflection: Am I jealous when others get what I think I deserve? Can I offer them the mercy what I wish for myself?*

© 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:

*A teenager is 14.4% more likely to get mostly A's in school if they participate in organized religion once or more a week versus if they never participate in organized religion.*

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:** According to the United Nation's report published last week, the number of hungry people around the world increased last year from 795 million to 815 million.

### FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Offertory for the weekend of **September 17, 2017**

Envelopes sent:	389	
Envelopes returned:	110	\$5,313.92
Faith Direct Deposits:	103	\$2,813.00
Loose Change:		\$197.00
<b>TOTAL OFFERTORY:</b>		<b>\$8,323.92</b>

\$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 11 was, Amelia Bernatowicz, Grade 2, who knew that Baptism is the first Sacrament that a person celebrates.

### 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](mailto:ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org) or 899-6132 with best night if you would like an evening session.**

### Question Box

**Do you have a question about the Catholic faith that you would like to see answered in the next issue of *For Mercy Sake*?** Place your question in the wooden box in the Gathering Space and Fr. Ritchie will answer it in the upcoming newsletter.

### Question & Answer With the Pastor

Join us for a casual conversation around your questions about Catholic teaching or practices, the Bible or prayer, changes in Church life or events in the news, or any other faith question on your mind. **Our autumn Question & Answer With Fr. Ritchie will be on Monday, October 9 at 7:00 p.m. in the Conference Room.** Feel free to bring a friend with Catholic questions. We will provide drinks and light snacks. Anyone who would like is welcome to bring finger food to share.





## Diocesan Policies Regarding Child Protection

The Diocese of Erie, along with all dioceses of the United States, has policies and procedures in place to address the national problem of child abuse and to aid in creating safe environments. The diocese is committed to ongoing screening and training of paid or volunteer persons who have regular contact with our children and youth under the age of 18. It is committed to the yearly inservicing and training of our children, youth and parents regarding touching-safety and safe environment. To see what the Diocese of Erie is doing to keep children and youth safe, go to this website:

<http://www.eriercd.org/protectyouth.htm>. For more information, contact Mrs. Cindy Zemcik at the diocesan offices at 814-824-1195.

## Diocesan Code of Conduct

The Diocese of Erie is committed to protecting the children and youth who are entrusted to its care and to ensuring that those in ministry with our young people are in right relationship with the children/youth receiving services. To share in the ministry of Christ is a great privilege as well as a tremendous responsibility. The privilege is the joy of sharing in the mission of Jesus Himself. The responsibility is acting in a way that conforms to the attitude and actions of Christ. In this spirit, the diocese has issued a ministerial Code of Conduct, which can be accessed at [http://www.eriercd.org/pdf/code\\_of\\_conduct.pdf](http://www.eriercd.org/pdf/code_of_conduct.pdf). The code is included in the diocesan Policy for the Protection of Children, which also includes mandates for creating safe environments. To read the policy, go to <http://www.eriercd.org/pdf/protectionpolicy.pdf>. For more information; contact Mrs. Cindy Zemcik at the diocesan offices at 814-824-1195.

## Meditation Sessions

We continue to hold regular meditation sessions on Mondays at 11:00 a.m. in Mary's Chapel. A new time is being added on the first and third Wednesdays at 2:00 p.m. also in Mary's Chapel. Instruction provided. Questions contact Donna Clark.

## Teenagers Needed

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](mailto:dclark@ourladyofmercychurch.org).

## 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](http://CatholicFamilyFest.com)

## OLM Book Group

Join us on Wednesday, October 18 at 7:00 p.m. to discuss Small Great Things by Jodi Piccolt. 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.

## 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.

## 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](http://eriecursillo.org).

## Food Pantry Needs Diapers

The food pantry is in need of all sizes of diapers. We understand that is a bigger expense for donations but we are truly grateful for your generosity.

## 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.

## Save The Date: Men's Night Out

The next Men's Night Out is on Wednesday, October 25 at 6:00 p.m., speaker at 7:00 p.m. Details to follow.

# October 2017

Sunday		Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday		Saturday																						
1 8:30 & 11:00 AM MASS Casserole Club DROP OFF Monthly Food Pantry Collection Offering of Letters SCC Sign-up Weekend 9:30 AM Healing Ministry 9:30 AM Rel Ed Gr. Kg-2 9:45 AM First Reconciliation Parent Meeting 12:00 PM Baptismal Prep Session 12:00 PM Rel. Ed. Gr. 7 & 8 2:00 PM Essential Oils Info Session 6:00 PM Confirmation Penance Service	2 8:30 AM Mass 11:00 AM Meditation 7:00 PM Pastoral Facilitator Mtg.	3 8:30 AM Mass 9:30 AM SCC-Steel Magnolias 2:00 PM Prayer Shawl 4:00 PM Rel Ed Gr. 3-6 5:30 PM Children's Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM Pastoral Council Meeting 7:30 PM AA	4 8:30 AM Mass 9:00 AM Scripture Study - Angels 1:00 PM SCC- Diamonds in the Rough	5 8:30 AM Mass 9:00 AM Painting Class 6:00 PM Prayer Shawl 6:45 PM Choir Rehearsal	6 8:30 AM Mass 1:30 PM Legion of Mary	7 8:30 AM Mass 10:00 AM AA 4:30 PM Sacrament of Penance 6:00 PM MASS 7:00 PM Parish Alive Reunion	8 8:30 & 11:00 AM MASS Library Open House (tent) 9:30 AM Rel Ed Gr. Kg-2 12:00 PM Harvest Family Fest 12:00 PM Rel. Ed. Gr. 7 & 8 1:30 PM Confirmation Practice	9 8:30 AM Mass 11:00 AM Meditation 6:00 PM Taize Prayer 6:30 PM Fruit of the Vine (SCC) 7:00 PM Q&A w/ Pastor	10 8:30 AM Mass 9:30 AM SCC-Steel Magnolias 2:00 PM Prayer Shawl 4:00 PM Rel Ed Gr. 3-6 5:30 PM Children's Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM AA	11 8:30 AM Mass 9:00 AM Scripture Study - Angels 1:00 PM SCC- Diamonds in the Rough 3:00 PM Buildings & Grounds Mtg. 6:30 PM AGIFT Meeting 7:00 PM Knights of Columbus	12 8:30 AM Mass 9:00 AM Painting Class 6:00 PM Prayer Shawl 6:45 PM Choir Rehearsal	13 8:30 AM Mass 1:30 PM Legion of Mary 3:00 PM Hall Rental Mowrey Tentative	14 8:30 AM Mass 9:00 AM Cursillo Planning Mtg 10:00 AM AA up 4:30 PM Sacrament of Penance 6:00 PM MASS	15 8:30 & 11:00 AM MASS 9:30 AM Healing Ministry 9:30 AM Rel Ed Gr. Kg-2 11:00 AM SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION	16 8:30 AM Mass 11:00 AM Meditation 7:00 PM Grief Support Group	17 8:30 AM Mass 9:30 AM SCC-Steel Magnolias 2:00 PM Prayer Shawl 4:00 PM Rel Ed Gr. 3-6 5:30 PM Children's Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM Core Team Mtg. 7:00 PM LFF Mtg. 7:30 PM AA	18 Cursillo (Set-Up) 8:30 AM FOOD PANTRY DISTRIBUTION 8:30 AM Mass 9:00 AM Scripture Study - Angels Rough 2:00 PM Meditation 7:00 PM OLM BOOK GROUP	19 CURSILLO (mens) 8:30 AM Mass 9:00 AM Painting Class 6:00 PM Prayer Shawl 6:45 PM Choir Rehearsal	20 CURSILLO (mens) 8:30 AM Mass 1:30 PM Legion of Mary	21 CURSILLO (mens) 8:30 AM Mass 10:00 AM AA 4:30 PM Sacrament of Penance 6:00 PM MASS	22 8:30 & 11:00 AM MASS CURSILLO (mens) 9:30 AM Rel Ed Gr. Kg-2 9:45 AM First Eucharist Parent Meeting 12:00 PM Rel. Ed. Gr. 7 & 8	23 8:30 AM Mass 11:00 AM Meditation 6:30 PM Fruit of the Vine (SCC) 9:45 AM First Eucharist Parent Meeting 12:00 PM Rel. Ed. Gr. 7 & 8	24 8:30 AM Mass 9:30 AM SCC-Steel Magnolias 2:00 PM Prayer Shawl 4:00 PM Grades 4-6 Retreat 4:00 PM Rel Ed Gr. 3 5:30 PM Children's Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM AA	25 8:30 AM Mass 9:00 AM Scripture Study - Angels Rough 5:00 PM Men's Night Out	26 8:30 AM Mass 9:00 AM Painting Class 6:00 PM Prayer Shawl 6:45 PM Choir Rehearsal	27 8:30 AM Mass 1:30 PM Legion of Mary 6:00 PM Bourbon Tasting	28 8:30 AM Mass 9:00 AM Parish Leadership Retreat 10:00 AM AA 4:30 PM Sacrament of Penance 6:00 PM Gr. 11 Rite of Presentation 6:00 PM MASS	29 8:30 & 11:00 AM MASS Gr. 11 Rite of Presentation Gr.7 & 8 Youth Event 9:30 AM Rel Ed Gr. Kg-2 9:45 AM New Member Welcome Event	30 8:30 AM Mass 11:00 AM Meditation	31 8:30 AM Mass 9:30 AM SCC-Steel Magnolias 2:00 PM Prayer Shawl 7:30 PM AA	1 All Saints Day 8:30 AM MASS (Holy Day) 1:00 PM SCC- Diamonds in the Rough 7:00 PM MASS (Holy Day)	2 All Souls Day 8:30 AM Mass 9:00 AM Painting Class 6:00 PM Prayer Shawl 6:45 PM Choir Rehearsal	3 8:30 AM Mass 1:30 PM Legion of Mary	4 8:30 AM Mass 10:00 AM AA 4:30 PM Sacrament of Penance 6:00 PM MASS



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