

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

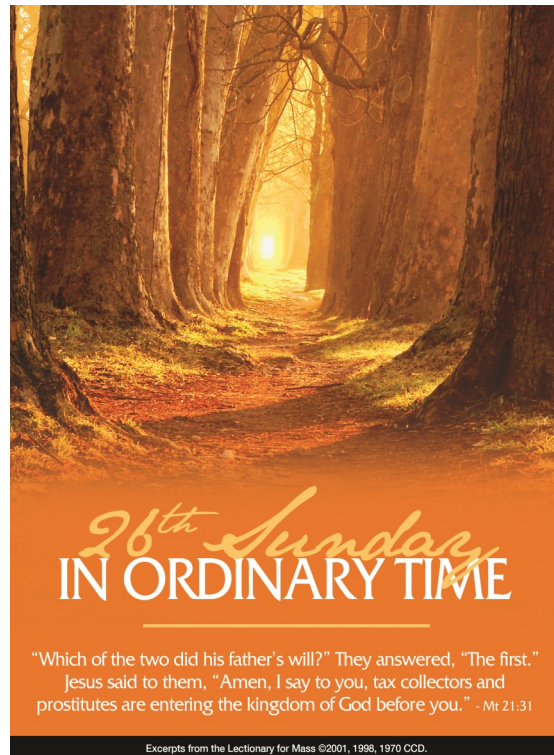
Parish Office: 814-899-5342

Office of Lifelong Faith Formation: 814-899-6132

Fax: 814-898-3306

Email: info@ourladyofmercychurch.org

October 1, 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. 10/02	11:00 a.m.	Centering Prayer
	7:00 p.m.	Pastoral Facilitator Mtg
Tue. 10/03	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.	Pastoral Council Mtg
Wed. 10/04	9:00 a.m.	Scripture Study—Angels
	1:00 p.m.	SCC-Diamonds in the Rough
Thur. 10/05	9:00 a.m.	Painting Class
	6:00 p.m.	Prayer Shawl
	6:45 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Fri. 10/06	1:30 p.m.	Legion of Mary
Sat. 10/07	4:30 p.m.	Sacrament of Penance
Sun. 10/08	Library Open House	
	9:30 a.m.	Rel Ed Gr. K-2
	12:00 p.m.	Harvest Fest Family Event
	12:00 p.m.	Rel Ed Gr. 7 & 8
	1:30 p.m.	Confirmation Practice

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon. 10/02	8:30 a.m.	Floyd Brochey (<i>Denise & Mike Roth</i>)
Tue. 10/03	8:30 a.m.	Maureen Cudicio (<i>Bill Beckman</i>)
Wed. 10/04	8:30 a.m.	Joan Spiegel (<i>Spiegel Family</i>)
Thur. 10/05	8:30 a.m.	
Fri. 10/06	8:30 a.m.	Robert Jones (<i>Barb Jones</i>)
Sat. 10/07	8:30 a.m.	
	6:00 p.m.	Florence Reske (<i>Reske Family</i>)
Sun. 10/08	8:30 a.m.	Jack Kestler (<i>Sophia</i>)
	11:00 a.m.	For the People of OLM

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Mon. 10/02	Zec 8:1-8	/	Matthew 18:1-5
Tue. 10/03	Zec 8:20-23	/	Luke 9:51-56
Wed. 10/04	Neh 2:1-8	/	Luke 9:57-62
Thur. 10/05	Neh 8:1-4a,5-6,7b-12/		Luke 10:1-12
Fri. 10/06	Bar 1:15-22	/	Luke 10:13-16
Sat. 10/07	Bar 4:5-12,27-29	/	Luke 10:17-24
Sun. 10/08	Is 5:1-7/ Phil 4:6-9	/	Matthew 21:33-43

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 **Andrea Maille**.

QUESTION ABOUT ANNULMENTS?

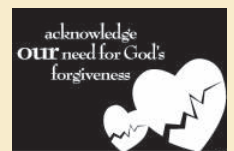
Staff members from the Diocese of Erie Tribunal Office will conduct an **Annulment Information Session** on **Wednesday, October 25**, at **St. Boniface Parish, Erie** at **7:00 p.m.** to explain the process of petitioning for a Declaration of Nullity (Annulment). **Those who have been divorced and wish 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.

THIS SUNDAY'S REFLECTION

Matthew 21:28-32



It is easy to blame others for our problems. "It's not fair!" we complain. Sometimes we even blame God: "The Lord's way is not fair." But God challenges us, "Is it my way that is unfair, or are not your ways unfair?"

Paul urged the community to stop their quarreling and be united in spirit. The love and compassion they showed one another would make his joy complete. Paul could think of no better example to follow than Christ, who emptied himself of his glory and became a servant to all. Because Jesus suffered the humiliation of the cross, God exalted him, giving him the name above all names: Jesus Christ is Lord!

Jesus' own life and death showed the importance of obedience to God's ways. Jesus told his followers a story of a man who had two sons. The father asked the elder son to go work in his vineyard. "I'm on my way, sir," he said. But he never went. Then the father asked the younger son the same thing. The boy refused but later regretted his behavior and went to work, even though he didn't want to do it. Jesus asked, "Which of these sons did what the father wanted?" We would probably say, "neither one." Jesus said that actions speak louder than words. Repentant sinners were getting into the kingdom of God before the self righteous who only gave lip service.

For Reflection: Am I obedient to God's will even when it is hard? Do I blame God and others for my problems, or do I take personal responsibility?

© 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:

Window of Opportunity: Of youth surveyed for the 2014 Erie County Youth Religiosity Survey, 14% said that they never participate in religion, but they used to. The majority of these youth said they stopped attending between the ages of 9 and 14, with a significant number leaving between the ages of 10 and 12. That means efforts to engage both parents of youth and youth themselves need to exist within that window of opportunity.



Father Patrick J. McCormick of Cross Catholic Outreach will be visiting our parish next weekend to speak at all the Masses on behalf of the poor in developing countries. Cross Catholic Outreach was founded to create a meaningful link between parishes in America and the priests and nuns working in the Church overseas in the Caribbean, Africa, Asia, Central and South America. Father McCormick, born and raised in Erie, PA, was ordained a priest for the Archdiocese of Atlanta in 1968. He joined the U.S. Navy in 1990 as an active duty chaplain and served around the world before joining Cross Catholic in 2013.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Offertory for the weekend of **September 24, 2017**

Envelopes sent:	389	
Envelopes returned:	99	\$3,415.80
Faith Direct Deposits:	103	\$2,813.00
Loose Change:		\$192.00
TOTAL OFFERTORY:		\$6,420.80

\$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 18 was, Ava Moore, Grade 4, who knew that the archangels are Gabriel, Raphael and Michael.

Confirmation Penance Service and Practice

Confirmation candidates, their sponsors and families are reminded that they have a **Penance Service this evening, October 1 at 6:00 p.m.** Confirmation Practice will be held next Sunday, October 8 at 1:30. p.m.

Confirmation Liturgy

Our Lady of Mercy will celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation on Sunday, October 15 at the 11:00 a.m. liturgy. Please remember your Prayer Pal during these final weeks of preparation for the Sacrament.

First Eucharist Parent Meeting

There will be a very important meeting for parents of children preparing to celebrate First Eucharist in May. The meeting will be held on Sunday, October 22 from 9:45-10:45 a.m. in the Conference Room.

Autumn Scripture Study

Join us this Wednesday 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.

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.

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.

Special Thank You

My family and I would like to thank everyone that prepared and donated food for the luncheon following my husband, Jim Sheridan's funeral. Your prayers, generosity and expressions of love have helped us through this difficult time. Thank you, Lori, Jake, Erin & Amy Sheridan

Centering Prayer Introductory Program

Join Fr. Brian Vossler on **Saturday, October 21, 2017** from **9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.** for this **Centering/Contemplative Prayer** program at **St. George Church**, 5145 Peach Street, Erie, PA 16509. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. Questions contact St. George Church at 814-864-0622.

OCTOBER 2017

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Oct 2	Andrew Stroker	18
Oct 2	Jimmy Lucas	17
Oct 3	Allison Dorosch	17
Oct 4	Aidan McLaughlin	13
Oct 4	Jacob Ramalho	14
Oct 5	Andrew Dalton	18
Oct 7	Emma Skelly	6
Oct 8	Cody Smith	15
Oct 8	Casey Smith	15
Oct 12	Domonic Viscuso	17
Oct 13	Julia Chludzinski	9
Oct 13	Parker Nguyen	11
Oct 18	Alex Moore	11
Oct 20	Ryan Smith	18
Oct 21	Lillian Festa	7
Oct 22	Anthony Viscuso	14
Oct 23	Jacob R zodkiewicz	11
Oct 23	Alex Nowak	17
Oct 25	Matthew Dorosch	15
Oct 29	Logan Buczynski	15
Oct 30	Zachary Suranofsky	15
Oct 31	Zoe Redford	8
Oct 31	Kevin Juhas	1



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, October 18 at 7:00 p.m.** at the home of Sue Haynes, 602 Bartlett Rd., to discuss Small Great Things by Jodi Piccoult. As the nights grow longer and the days grow cooler, autumn is a perfect season to curl up with a good book and to gather in warm conversation about them. New members are always welcome. There is no need to commit to every month.

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.

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.

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**. Contact Donna Clark in the parish office.

Family Service Day

Jesus calls all of us to serve our sisters and brothers. We admire those who go on mission trips to serve the needs of others around the country. But, there are those in need in our own community. **On Saturday, November 18, OLM will host a Family Service Day to help the elderly or those with physical limitations in our community to rake leaves and prepare their yards for the coming winter.** This is a family event. Parents and children are asked to sign up as a team. If you are willing and able to participate, please contact Irene at 899-6132 or ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org by October 29. The number of volunteer teams will determine the number of people we can assist.

TAIZÉ PRAYER

MONDAY, OCTOBER 9 6:00 P.M.

Please consider spending some time in simple, quiet and contemplative prayer for peace and healing.

When you come to Prayer, you will arrive in a dimly lit church. Once inside, your gaze will be drawn towards the illuminated altar area with its icons and many candles. The sweet aroma of incense reminds us that our prayers are lifted heavenward.

Please come and bring a friend to these beautiful services. Take the time to rest in God. There is no need to leave behind your worries or your troubles, nor should you forget the burdens of the world. Rather, bring it all to Jesus in prayer. You won't regret it.



HARVEST FEST 2017



Sunday, October 8
Noon – 2 pm in Sperry Hall
Fun, Food, and Fellowship for Everyone

***Pumpkins, Crafts, Cookie Decorating & Games**

**Enjoy a warm bowl of homemade soup and
baked goods with family and friends.**



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