

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

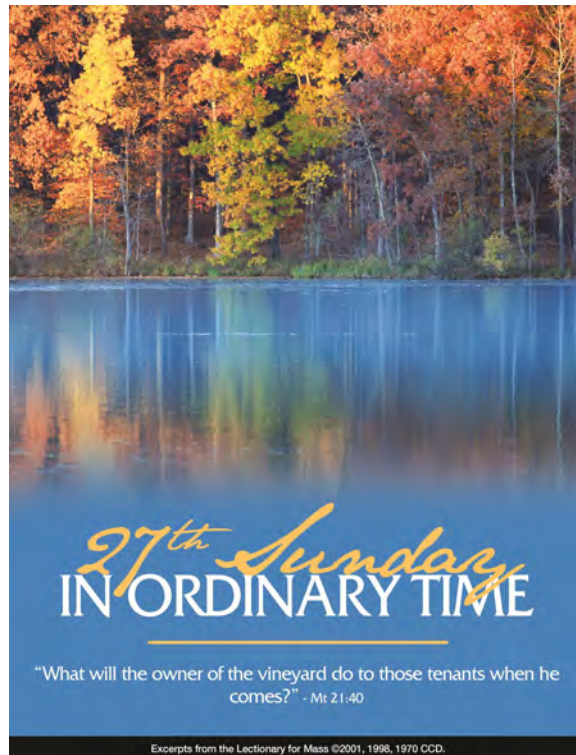
Parish Office: 814-899-5342

Office of Lifelong Faith Formation: 814-899-6132

Fax: 814-898-3306

Email: info@ourladyofmercychurch.org

October 8, 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. 10/09	11:00 a.m.	Centering Prayer
	6:00 p.m.	Taize Prayer
	6:30 p.m.	SCC-Fruit of the Vince
	7:00 p.m.	Q & A w/Pastor
Tue. 10/10	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. 10/11	9:00 a.m.	Scripture Study—Angels
	1:00 p.m.	SCC-Diamonds in the Rough
	3:00 p.m.	Buildings & Grounds Mtg
	6:30 p.m.	AGIFT Mtg
	7:00 p.m.	Knights of Columbus
Thur. 10/12	9:00 a.m.	Painting Class
	6:00 p.m.	Prayer Shawl
	6:45 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Fri. 10/13	1:30 p.m.	Legion of Mary
Sat. 10/14	10:00 a.m.	Confirmation Set-Up
	4:30 p.m.	Sacrament of Penance
Sun. 10/15	9:30 a.m.	Rel Ed Gr. K-2
	9:30 p.m.	Healing Ministry
	11:00 a.m.	Sacrament of Confirmation

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon. 10/09	8:30 a.m.	Joe Ryan
Tue. 10/10	8:30 a.m.	David Ross (Linda Ross)
Wed. 10/04	8:30 a.m.	
Thur. 10/05	8:30 a.m.	Joanne Smith (Liana Paquale)
Fri. 10/06	8:30 a.m.	Lewis Peters (Flo Voelker)
Sat. 10/07	8:30 a.m.	
	6:00 p.m.	Theresa Larson(Family)
Sun. 10/08	8:30 a.m.	Paul DeLuca (Rose Marie DeLuca)
	11:00 a.m.	For the People of OLM

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Mon. 10/09	Jon 1:1–2:2, 11	/	Luke 10:25-37
Tue. 10/10	Jon 3:1-10	/	Luke 10:38-42
Wed. 10/11	Jon 4:1-11	/	Luke 11:1-4
Thur. 10/12	Mal 3:13-20b	/	Luke 11:5-13
Fri. 10/13	Jl 1:13-15; 2:1-2	/	Luke 11:15-26
Sat. 10/14	Jl 4:12-21	/	Luke 11:27-28
Sun. 10/15	Is 25:6-10a/ Phil 4:12-14,19-20 / Mt 22:1-14		

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 Florence Voelker.

IN LOVING MEMORY



We remember Charles Talkish, father of Robert Talkish; and Yolanda DiRaimo.

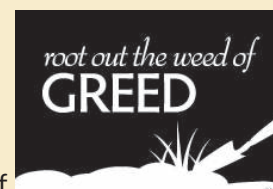
Please keep them and their families in your prayers.

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 21:33-43



God is the rightful owner of the 'vineyard,' the kingdom of peace and justice. God sent numerous messengers to teach the people the truth, but most of them were persecuted and killed. God wanted the people to live fruitful lives, yet the only crop they produced was one of thorns and barbs. Therefore, God allowed them to suffer the consequences. The "hedges" and "walls" of God's protection were removed, and the people were left in an arid wasteland.

Jesus suffered the same fate as the prophets for his fidelity to God's word. Like them, he was arrested, dragged outside the city, and put to death. Because those who rejected him were unproductive vines, the harvest would be handed over to others who would bear good fruit.

Paul suffered in the dark confinement of prison, yet it was God's peace that stood guard over him rather than his jailers. Paul urged the community to not be locked in prisons of fear and anxiety but to fill their minds with things that were honest, pure, admirable, virtuous, and worthy of praise. When they turned to God for mercy, the light of God's grace would shine on them and they would be fruitful and secure. God's peace would be with them, and no matter what they endured, they would be free like Paul.

For Reflection: Is my life fruitful or barren? How can I be a more productive laborer in God's vineyard?

© 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:

Completely Unfamiliar: Of youth surveyed for the 2014 Erie County Youth Religiosity Survey, 20% indicate that not only do they currently never participate in organized religion, but they have never gone at any time. That means one in every five youth in Erie County has no first-hand experience with religion at all.

The Letters of Stewardship

A: Stewardship as a way of life that celebrates the abundance of God.

Grief Support Group

Our monthly grief support group will be October 16 (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.

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.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Offertory for the weekend of **October 1, 2017**

Envelopes sent:	389	
Envelopes returned:	118	\$5,328.00
Faith Direct Deposits:	103	\$2,813.00
Loose Change:		\$213.00
TOTAL OFFERTORY:		\$8,354.00

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

The Question-Of-The-Week Contest Winner

The winner for the week of September 25 was, Emma Skelly, in Kindergarten, who knew that the Church uses green during Ordinary Time.

Confirmation Liturgy

Our Lady of Mercy will celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation next 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

Our Scripture study on angels has begun and will continue every **Wednesday morning of October at 9:00 in the Conference Room**. Even if you missed the first one, you are still welcome to join us.

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.

Parish Retreat

All are invited to a morning of reflection on **Saturday, October 28 beginning with 9:00 a.m. gathering and concluding with lunch at 1:00 p.m.** The title of the retreat will be "Our Shared Pilgrimage: Reflecting on Issues of Justice in Our Time." Dr. Jimmy Menkhaus will present this morning of reflection. Dr. Menkhaus is the chair of Theology at Gannon University. **If you plan to join us, please RSVP to Irene at 899-6132 or ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org by October 26.**

Question about Annulments?

An Annulment Information Session will be held on **Wednesday, October 25, at 7:00 p.m. at St. Boniface Parish** 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.** Questions? Call the Erie Tribunal Office at 814-824-1140.

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.



What's in a Name?

After the recent Retreat given by Fr William Meninger, a Trappist monk, we learned of the ancient tradition of contemplative prayer. He taught that what we are doing in centering Prayer or Christian meditation is really what the early church referred to as contemplative prayer. Quite simply it is "resting in God." We will have **contemplative prayer (centering prayer) on Mondays at 11:00 a.m. and also the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays at 2:00 p.m.**

5 Fascinating Tuesdays

Holy Cross Church in Fairview continues its speakers series "**5 Fascinating Tuesdays**" on **Tuesday, October 10 at 7:00 p.m.** This speakers series offers the personal experiences with ministry to people on the margins. On October 10, the speakers are Brian Stark and Edward Grode and will speak on "Ministering to a City of Refugees." For more info, call Holy Cross at 474-2605.

Spiritual Parish Mission at St. Gregory

St. Gregory Church in North East is hosting Fr. William Rhinehart for a three day spiritual parish mission entitled "**Jesus Transform Us!**" on **October 16, 17 & 18, 2017**. Confessions will be heard every day at 5:15 p.m., Mass at 6:30 p.m., and Anointing of the Sick Tuesday, October 17 after Mass. All are welcome.

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.

Diapers Needed

The Ella Cochran 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.

Harvest Fest

Time for apple cider, pumpkin cookies and crock pots full of soup. **Join us TODAY 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.



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. Want to read ahead? In November we will discuss The Lighthouse Keeper's Daughter by Lenore Skomal.

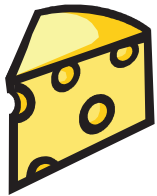
Men's Night Out Event

On Wednesday the 25th of October, we will be having another of our Men's Night Out events. Our featured speaker is our very own Nick Heise! Nick has proven himself to be an excellent public speaker, and will be sharing with us his Faith Journey, Struggles and Triumphs, no doubt sprinkled with Nick's own brand of humor! We will provide Pizza and Sloppy Joes along with Pop, Water and Adult Beverages at 6:00 p.m. followed by Nick's talk at 7:00 p.m. in Sperry Hall. Please confirm your attendance by contacting Tim Fuhrman at knoyle@yahoo.com, or 873-5632, or Phil Legler at plegler@verizon.net, 504-1048. We look forward to seeing you there!

Wills and Estate Planning

Join the Benedictine Sister of Erie and Shaun B. Adrian, of McDonald Illig Attorneys on Wednesday, October 11 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at Mount Saint Benedict Monastery, 6101 East Lake Road, Erie, PA 16511 to explore the topic of **Planning for your Children, Church Benedictine Sisters of Erie and Charities through your Will.** The event is free. Reservations are due by **October 9** to parishioner, Dr. Emma Lee McCloskey, Director of Major and Planned Giving, Benedictine Sisters of Erie, at 899-0614 Ext:2415 or elmccloskey@mtstbenedict.org. Online reservations may also be made at ErieBenedictines.org

Join Us For A
Q & A With Fr. Ritchie
Monday, October 9 at 7:00 p.m.
Informal gathering in the Conference Room



**Wine, Cheese and
Your Questions**



(Feel free to bring a snack to share, if you wish)

This is your opportunity to chat with your pastor about those questions concerning the Bible, the Church, Catholic beliefs, etc. that you have never known how to answer. Every question is worthwhile as we will learn from one another. Whether you have a specific question in mind or just want an opportunity to learn and discuss, bring a friend and join us.



United Way's 2-1-1 Information and Referral Service Now Available

2-1-1 is the social service equivalent of 9-1-1, connecting people in need with the vast array of health, human and social services available in Erie County.

This is a much-needed service in Erie County since the demise of the volunteer-led Erie Hotline. **2-1-1 service** specifically addresses the 2016 Erie County Community Health Improvement Plan which concluded the lack of a central information and referral system as one of the "overarching challenges" impacting the health of Erie County residents.

Think 2-1-1 for social services much like people now think 9-1-1 for emergency services.

CALL 2-1-1

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