

OUR LADY OF MERCY CHURCH

837 Bartlett Road • Harborcreek, PA 16421 • www.ourladyofmercychurch.org



October 15, 2017

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*

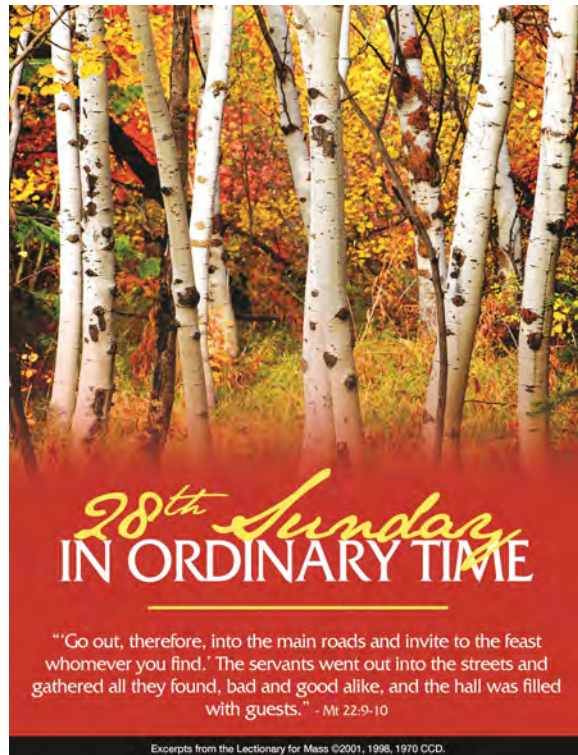
Brandon Vogt, *Director of Liturgy & Music*

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

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. 10/16** 11:00 a.m. Centering Prayer
 7:00 p.m. Grief Support Group
- Tue. 10/17** 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. 10/18** **Cursillo (Set-Up)**
 8:30 p.m. **Food Pantry Distribution**
 9:00 a.m. Scripture Study—Angels
 1:00 p.m. SCC-Diamonds in the Rough
 2:00 p.m. Contemplative Prayer
 7:00 p.m. OLM Book Group
- Thur. 10/19** **Cursillo (Men's)**
 9:00 a.m. Painting Class
 6:00 p.m. Prayer Shawl
 6:45 p.m. Choir Rehearsal
- Fri. 10/20** 1:30 p.m. Legion of Mary
- Sat. 10/21** **Cursillo (Men's)**
 4:30 p.m. Sacrament of Penance
- Sun. 10/22** **Cursillo (Men's)**
Library Grand Re-Opening
 9:30 a.m. Rel Ed Gr. K-2
 9:45 a.m. First Eucharist Parent Mtg
 12:00 p.m. Rel Ed Gr. 7 & 8

MASS INTENTIONS

- Mon. 10/16** 8:30 a.m. **Maureen Cudicio** (*Bill Beckman*)
- Tue. 10/17** 8:30 a.m.
- Wed. 10/18** 8:30 a.m. **Sister Adrienne & Sister Aloysius**
 (*Extein Family*)
- Thur. 10/19** 8:30 a.m. **Dennis Hollarn**
 (*Gwen & Rick Woznicki*)
- Fri. 10/20** 8:30 a.m.
- Sat. 10/21** 8:30 a.m.
 6:00 p.m. **Doris & Ray Shade** (*Daughters*)
- Sun. 10/22** 8:30 a.m. **For the People of OLM**

SCRIPTURE READINGS

- Mon. 10/16** Rom 1:1-7 / Luke 11:29-32
- Tue. 10/17** Rom 1:16-25 / Luke 11:37-41
- Wed. 10/18** 2 Tm 4:10-17b / Luke 10:1-9
- Thur. 10/19** Rom 3:21-30 / Luke 11:47-54
- Fri. 10/20** Rom 4:1-8 / Luke 12:1-7
- Sat. 10/21** Rom 4:13, 16-18 / Luke 12:8-12
- Sun. 10/22** Is 45:1, 4-6 / 1 Thes 1:1-5b / Mt 22:15-21

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 Marilyn Garwig.

IN LOVING MEMORY



We remember Vernetta Coe, sister of Barb Mottern. Please keep her and her family 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 22:1-14

God is a loving host who prepares a banquet and sets a table of rich food and choice wines. Like guests of honor, the people are called and anointed with God's grace. Their cups overflow with God's blessings.

Paul knew what it was to have abundance and what it was to be brought low. These very circumstances taught him the lessons he needed to learn. Whether he was full or hungry free or imprisoned, Paul was grateful for the gifts he had received. He prayed for all who shared his hardships, knowing the rich storehouse they had in Christ: "God will supply your needs fully."

Jesus is both host and bridegroom at the wedding feast. "Come to the feast; everything is ready!" Though all were invited, some ignored the invitation. They were too busy to answer the call. They were too preoccupied with the things of this world to be concerned about the next world. If they refused to answer the call, the banquet would be filled by others. If they come to the banquet unprepared, not properly dressed in their baptismal garments, others would take their place. As Christ's spouse, we must be faithful to our call and come to the banquet he has set for us.

For Reflection: *Have I Joined the banquet, or do I choose to remain outside? How well have I cared for the garment of salvation I have been given?*

© 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:

Be Encouraged: Most youth participate in religion because they want to! Of youth surveyed for the 2014 Erie County Youth Religiosity Survey who said that they already participate in organized religion one or more hours a week, 73% said they go because they want to go. The other 27% said that they are told/expected to go. Within that same group, 92% said they like it enough that they would invite a friend. That means that 19% of kids who are told or expected to go still like it enough to invite a friend! Great job youth and children's volunteers!

For more information go to:

TakeMeToWorship.org

Grief Support Group

Our monthly grief support group meets on **Monday, October 16 at 7:00 p.m. in the Parlor.** (Group meetings are held on 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 at 899-5342.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Offertory for the weekend of **October 8, 2017**

Envelopes sent:	389	
Envelopes returned:	126	\$4,581.00
Faith Direct Deposits:	103	\$2,813.00
Loose Change:		\$225.00
TOTAL OFFERTORY:		\$7,619.00

\$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 October 2 was, Sam Camillo, Grade 2, who knew that the Holy Spirit is the Third Person of the Blessed Trinity.

Confirmation Liturgy

Our Lady of Mercy will celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation TODAY, October 15 at the 11:00 a.m. liturgy. Today, our parish community celebrates the Sacrament of Confirmation. Please remember all of our confirmandi in your prayers, especially your prayer pals as they receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Grade 4, 5 & 6 Retreat

Reminder, the Grade 4, 5 & 6 retreat is **Tuesday, October 24 from 4:00-7:00 p.m. Supper is provided.**

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 mornings, 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.

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 Menkhous will present this morning of reflection. Dr. Menkhous 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.**

From Hijab to Jihad and Beyond: The Challenge of Interfacing with Islam

Rev. Tim Solomon will return to OLM on **Wednesday, November 8 at 7:00 p.m.** with a follow-up to his 4 week program last October. We were left with a great deal of information but even more questions about Islam and the rise of Islamic fundamentalism. Rev. Solomon will help us better understand what we are seeing in the news and how we, Christians with values often at odds with what we hear, can best respond to this unfolding situation. The program will last an hour with a half hour for questions to follow. **The event is free.**

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

This year, **World Mission Sunday** will be acknowledged and celebrated in parishes and dioceses around the world on the weekend of October 21-22.



Our Holy Father Pope Francis continues to call our attention to the missionary heart of the Christian community by inviting our response to the vast and pressing needs of others throughout the world. Mission is at the heart of our Christian faith, and we can be witnesses to that faith by acknowledging Jesus Christ in every neighbor we meet.

I invite all of us in the diocese of Erie, therefore, to view **World Mission Sunday** as a special moment of encounter with our neighbors throughout the world. As we continue to see and learn about the daily struggles of people in other countries, let us remember, also, those clergy, religious and lay leaders who give so generously of their lives by bringing Christ to our neighbors throughout the world.

Today, I ask you to support their efforts through your prayers and financial generosity as you are able. I thank you and assure you of my prayers as we all work together to serve Our Lord as we serve one another.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+Lawrence T. Persico

The Most Reverend Lawrence T. Persico, JCL

Special Thank You

The family of Anna Mae Passerotti would like to thank the entire OLM Family for their kindness, love and prayers during a difficult time. A heartfelt thank you to the gracious Funeral Dinner Ministry that provided food and comfort to our family and friends at the luncheon. To Brandon and the choir for lifting us up in song and prayer. And to Father Ritchie, your homily touched our hearts deeply. Thanks to all for honoring our mother. Sincerely, Tracy, Toni, Rich and Tina Passerotti

What's in a Name?

After the recent Retreat given by Fr William Menger, 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 of the month at 2:00 p.m.**

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.



Teenagers Needed for Ministry.

We need a few teens to help out every 4 to 5 weeks in the nursery for the 11:00AM 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.

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 Piccolt. 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

Join us on **Wednesday, October, 25 at 6:00 p.m.** when 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. Nick's talk begins 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!

Fresh Evergreen Wreaths

Fresh evergreen wreaths are available for sale to benefit the Mercy Center for Women. Cost \$25. **Deadline to order October 29.** Contact Sue Haynes at 440-5696 or smh5548@aol.com

Mount Carmel Annual Fall Lunch & Auction

Sunday, October 22 from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. at Scheffner Hall, 1531 East Grandview Blvd. Tickets are \$7.00 in advance (not guaranteed at the door), and includes lunch and entertainment by the Flagship City Chorus plus a Chinese auction, dessert auction, and raffles. For tickets, call or text Michele at 814- 602-8107.

Social Justice Committee News



October is Respect Life month. With that in mind, the Social Justice Committee of OLM will focus on three important areas identified in Catholic Social Teachings as critical to the Gospel mandate to recognize the sanctity of every human life. We will begin with the life of the unborn, and then highlight capital punishment and euthanasia/end of life issues in the coming months. Each week, this corner will offer a Scripture quote, a statement from the Pope or Bishops, a social fact, for you to ponder.

“God loves each human life from the instant of his or her conception and entrusts this gift to the protection of a mother and father.” (U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops) Throughout Scripture God affirms the value of every human life.

Jeremiah 1:5 “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations.”

The Letters of Stewardship

B: Stewardship as a way of life that celebrates all blessings we receive from God.

New Member Welcome

Have you joined the parish in the last year? The stewardship committee is hosting a breakfast on **Sunday, October 29 at 9:45 a.m. in Sperry Hall** for you to meet other new and current parishioners and to have your picture taken for our parish picture directory. Please let us know if you can come. RSVP to dclark@ourladyofmercychurch.org.



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.

Music Recital of Songs from the Jewish Faith

“Traditional Sounds of the High Holidays”—a music recital from the Jewish faith—will be presented at St. Peter Cathedral on **Sunday, October 22 at 4:00 p.m.** Soloists include Daniel Cabinillas, music director at St. George Parish, and John Myers, member and soloist at St. Paul Episcopal Church. The organist will be Bruce Gingrich, music director at First Methodist Church. Music selections will include: “Sim Shalom,” “Shalom Rav,” “Sh’ma Koleinu,” “Avinu Malkeinu,” “Yigdal” and more. **This program of sacred music is free and open to public.**

Take Me to Worship comes to the Diocese of Erie August 15—October 30, 2017

Positive things happen when families come to Church

- Less violence
- Less drug and alcohol use
- Less chance of suicide

take me to
worship.org

*Welcome!
We're glad
you're here!*

This campaign encourages families of all kinds to return to Church or begin attending Church regularly to see positive things happen!

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