

# OUR LADY OF MERCY CHURCH

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



*October 22, 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*

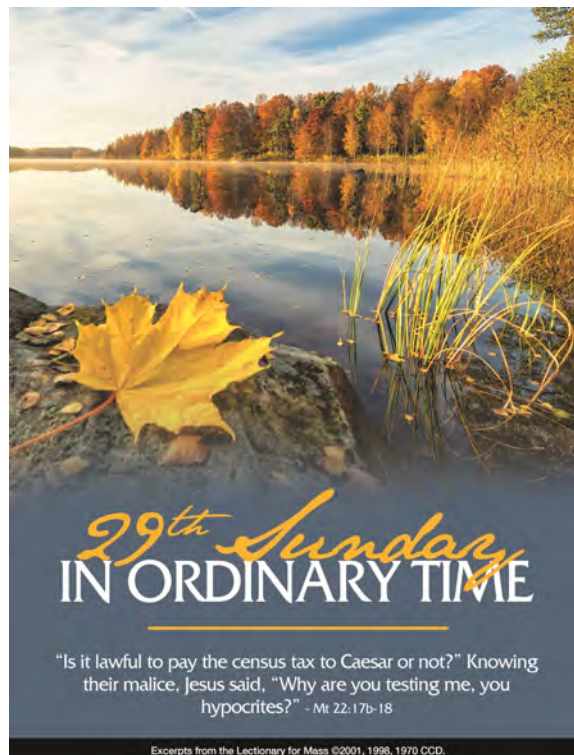
Brandon Vogt, *Director of Liturgy & Music*

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](mailto: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](http://ourladyofmercychurch.org/calendar)

- Mon. 10/23** 11:00 a.m. Centering Prayer  
 6:30 p.m. Fruit of the Vine
- Tue. 10/24** 9:30 a.m. SCC- Steel Magnolias  
 2:00 p.m. Prayer Shawl  
 4:00 p.m. Rel Ed Gr. 3  
 4:00 p.m. Grades 4-6 Retreat
- Wed. 10/25** 9:00 a.m. Scripture Study—Angels  
 1:00 p.m. SCC-Diamonds in the Rough  
 5:00 p.m. Men’s Night Out
- Thur. 10/26** 9:00 a.m. Painting Class  
 6:00 p.m. Prayer Shawl  
 6:45 p.m. Choir Rehearsal  
 7:00 p.m. Tech Committee Mtg
- Fri. 10/27** 1:30 p.m. Legion of Mary  
 7:00 p.m. PF & Core Team Retreat
- Sat. 10/28** 9:00 a.m. Parish Leadership Retreat  
 4:30 p.m. Sacrament of Penance  
 6:00 p.m. Gr. 11 Rite of Presentation
- Sun. 10/29** **Gr. 11 Rite of Presentation**  
**Gr. 7 & 8 Youth Event**  
 9:30 a.m. Rel Ed Gr. K-2  
 9:45 a.m. New Member Welcome Event  
 12:15 p.m. Candidate/Sponsor Mtg

## MASS INTENTIONS

- Mon. 10/23** 8:30 a.m.
- Tue. 10/24** 8:30 a.m.
- Wed. 10/25** 8:30 a.m. **Jim Bucklin** (*Lorraine Bucklin*)
- Thur. 10/26** 8:30 a.m.
- Fri. 10/27** 8:30 a.m. **John & Josephine Cain**  
 (*Pat & Rog Urmann*)
- Sat. 10/28** 8:30 a.m.  
 6:00 p.m. **Thomas Berdis Sr.** (*Family*)
- Sun. 10/29** 8:30 a.m. **Margaret Rathers**  
 11:00 a.m. **For the People of OLM**

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

- Mon. 10/23** Rom 4:20-25 / Luke 12:13-21
- Tue. 10/24** Rom 5:12,15b,17-19,20b-21/Luke 12:35-38
- Wed. 10/25** Rom 6:12-18 / Luke 12:39-48
- Thur. 10/26** Rom 6:19-23 / Luke 12:49-53
- Fri. 10/27** Rom 7:18-25a / Luke 12:54-59
- Sat. 10/28** Eph 2:19-22 / Luke 6:12-16
- Sun. 10/29** Ex 22:20-26/1 Thes 1:5c-10 / Mt 22:34-40

## 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 Geri Gallagher.

## DEAR PARISHIONERS:

**Cross Catholic Outreach** wishes to thank you for the welcome you extended to Father Patrick McCormick on our recent visit to your parish. On behalf of the poorest of the poor, we thank you for having shared in their lives. May our Lord continue to bless all of you for your love and support.

*Yours in Christ, Jim Cavner—Cross Catholic/President*

## NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The deadline to submit items for the November issue of *For Mercy Sake* is TODAY, October 22.

Email items to [ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org](mailto:ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org).

## THIS SUNDAY'S REFLECTION



*Matthew 22:15-21*

It is God who calls us by name and arms us with gifts. It is God who grasps us by the hand and empowers us when we are weak. It is God who closes the gates of tyranny and oppression. The reign of earthly monarchs is limited by the borders of their kingdoms. They must submit themselves to the One who rules the universe: “I am the Lord and there is no other.”

Paul knew that he belonged to God and that everything he did depended on God. His preaching the gospel was not a matter of mere words: the Holy Spirit gave him the conviction that moved hearts to hear and accept God’s word.

Jesus was sent by God to lead the people to God’s kingdom of truth and justice. While legitimate governments had their rights, God’s power surpassed human sovereignty. “Give to Caesar what is Caesar’s,” he told his followers. Taxes? Obedience? Loyalty? “Yes,” Jesus said, and then he reminded them to “give to God what rightfully belongs to God.”

God invites us to be citizens of two worlds: an earthly and heavenly kingdom. God has given us responsibilities in each domain. God does not expect us to assume this extraordinary task on our own. The call and the grace come from God. By laboring in love, we continue to prove our faith and show constancy in our hope in Jesus Christ.

*For Reflection: What do I have that belongs to God? My life? My family? My possessions? Can I give these to God, knowing that they are not really mine but God’s?*

© 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:

*Since according to research, participating in organized religion plays a role in protecting youth from problem behaviors, it is important for our religious organization to not only maintain but even to possibly increase our youth programs, our efforts to grow youth participation within the organization, and helping parents to increase their children's participation within the organization.*

For more information go to:

**TakeMeToWorship.org**

### Questions 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.

## FINANCIAL SUPPORT

*Offertory for the weekend of October 15, 2017*

Envelopes sent:	389	
Envelopes returned:	105	<b>\$3,827.00</b>
Faith Direct Deposits:	103	<b>\$2,813.00</b>
Loose Change:		<b>\$621.00</b>
<b>TOTAL OFFERTORY:</b>		<b>\$7,261.00</b>

**\$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 9 was, Isabella Tylman, Grade 1, who knew that Bishop Lawrence Persico is the leader of our diocese.

### Grade 4, 5 & 6 Retreat

**Tuesday, October 24**, is our annual retreat for religious ed youth in grades 4, 5 & 6. It will be held from 4:00-7:00 with games, crafts and prayer. Supper will be provided. If any parents can help with supper at 5:30 p.m. contact Irene at 899-6132 or [ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org](mailto:ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org)

### Candidate/Sponsor Meeting

Grade 11 Confirmation candidates are reminded that there is a very important meeting for them and the person they are asking to serve as their sponsor. **The meeting will be held next Sunday, October 29 in Sperry Hall at 12:15 p.m.**

### 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](mailto:ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org)**

### Family Faith Event

Families with children in Kindergarten—Gr. 2 Sunday morning religious education class are reminded of our **Family Faith Event on Sunday, November 5**. This is a day for the entire family. All children should be accompanied by at least one parent or other adult. Brothers and sisters are welcome. The event will run from 9:30-10:45 p.m. in Sperry Hall.

### 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.**

### 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 can not be redeemed.*

## 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.

*A quote from Pope John Paul II, in keeping with respect life month and defending the unborn:*

*"America you are beautiful... and blessed.... The ultimate test of your greatness is the way you treat every human being, but especially the weakest and most defenseless. If you want equal justice for all and true freedom and lasting peace, then America, defend life."*

### New Member Welcome

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



### The Letters of Stewardship

C: Stewardship as a way of life calls us to compassion. Compassion for ourselves as well as others.

### 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 of the month at 2:00 p.m.**

### 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. Interested? Contact Donna Clark in the parish office.

### Free Vets Tailgate Party

The Vets Tailgate party at Mercyhurst University is Saturday, November 4 at 10:30 a.m. This BBQ style picnic is free to Veterans and their families. Tickets to the game are also free. For reservations contact Dr. Karen Morahan 814-450-243.

### 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](mailto:ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org) by October 29.** The number of volunteer teams will determine the number of people we can assist.



### OLM Book Group

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. 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! 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 [knoye@yahoo.com](mailto:knoye@yahoo.com), or 873-5632, or Phil Legler at [plegler@verizon.net](mailto:plegler@verizon.net), 504-1048. We look forward to seeing you there!

### Sunday Morning \*C\*A\*F\*E\*

Join us on Sunday, November 12 for a cup of fresh brewed coffee, home baked treats and a challenging presentation by Mary Hoffman and Mary Ellen Leib. After retiring from a career in special education, Mary and Mary Ellen continued their dedication to serve in the name of Christ. They minister as co-directors of Our Neighbors' Place, a winter overflow shelter sponsored by Community Shelter Services. Many members of Our Lady of Mercy have assisted with this ministry. This is an opportunity to learn more about this important Erie outreach to those on the streets. "When I was homeless, you sheltered me."

### Bourbon Night

Love Bourbon? Come to a bourbon tasting night on **Friday, November 10 at 6:00 p.m.** Bring your favorite bourbon, a dish to share a finely tuned palate. Don't drink bourbon? Come anyway for the fellowship and bring the beverage of your choice. Meet in the Conference Room.

### 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](mailto:smh5548@aol.com)

## Our Lady of Mercy Library Grand Reopening

**GRAND  
REOPENING**

Take a peek at our parish library. It is now easier to browse through the books to find something inspirational.

The categories are clearly marked on each shelf or you may use a reference book if you know only the author or title.

We express great gratitude to Theresa Pekelnicky for spending many hours over the last 4 years to catalog each item and reorganize our parish library so things are easier to find.

**Grand Reopening**  
**Sunday, October 22, 2017**



Mark your calendars and spread the word for...

# My Heart Shall Sing



**a concert featuring**  
**the adult and children's choirs**  
**of Our Lady of Mercy and Holy Cross Churches,**

**Brian Kuzmin** from Our Lady of Peace,

**Kathy Felong** from Holy Cross,

**Brittany Barko** and **Brandon Vogt** from OLM

with special guest **Stephen Petrunak**

Steve is a nationally known and respected liturgical guitarist who was nominated for a *Dove Music Award*, and was recently named President of the National Association of Pastoral Musicians (NPM)

**Sunday, November 12**

**3:00 p.m.**

followed by a light reception  
at

**Our Lady of Mercy Church**

*A free-will offering will be taken to benefit  
NPM's Mark Kulyk Fund for Music Ministry*

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