

# OUR LADY OF MERCY CHURCH

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



*November 5, 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*

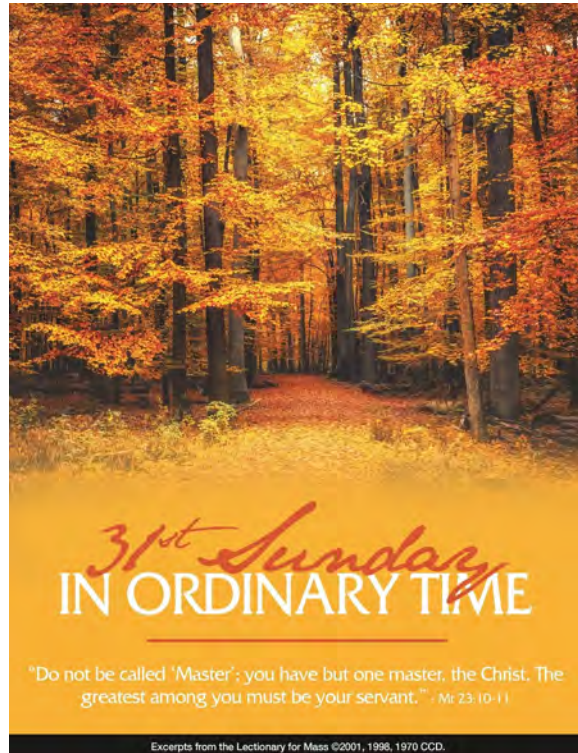
Brandon Vogt, *Director of Liturgy & Music*

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)

<b>Mon. 11/06</b>	11:00 a.m.	Centering Prayer
<b>Tue. 11/07</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.	AGIFT Mtg
	7:00 p.m.	Pastoral Council Mtg
<b>Wed. 11/08</b>	1:00 p.m.	SCC-Diamonds in the Rough
	7:00 p.m.	From Hijab to Jihad Event
	7:00 p.m.	Knights of Columbus
<b>Thur. 11/09</b>	9:00 a.m.	Painting Class
	6:00 p.m.	Prayer Shawl
	6:45 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
<b>Fri. 11/10</b>	1:30 p.m.	Legion of Mary
	6:00 p.m.	Bourbon Tasting
<b>Sat. 11/11</b>	4:30 p.m.	Sacrament of Penance
<b>Sun. 11/12</b>	8:30 a.m.	Gr 9 Rite of Acceptance
	9:30 a.m.	Rel Ed Gr K-2
	9:30 a.m.	Sunday Morning CAFÉ
	11:00 a.m.	Gr 10 Retreat
	11:00 a.m.	Gr 9 Rite of Acceptance
	12:00 p.m.	Rel Ed Gr 7 & 8
	3:00 p.m.	Music Ministry concert

## MASS INTENTIONS

<b>Mon. 11/06</b>	8:30 a.m.	<b>John Goddard</b> ( <i>Patricia Kosobucki</i> )
<b>Tue. 11/07</b>	8:30 a.m.	<b>Margaret Klick</b>
<b>Wed. 11/08</b>	8:30 a.m.	<b>James Boris</b> ( <i>Extein Family</i> )
<b>Thur. 11/09</b>	8:30 a.m.	<b>Lewis Peters</b> ( <i>Flo Voelker</i> )
<b>Fri. 11/10</b>	8:30 a.m.	<b>Theresa Crosby</b> ( <i>Blair Crosby</i> )
<b>Sat. 11/11</b>	8:30 a.m.	
	6:00 p.m.	<b>Anthony Portfilio</b> ( <i>Fruit of the Vine</i> )
<b>Sun. 11/12</b>	8:30 a.m.	<b>For the People of OLM</b>
	11:00 a.m.	<b>Leo Ignasiak</b> ( <i>Liebel Family</i> )

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

<b>Mon. 11/06</b>	Rom 11:29-36 / Luke 14:12-14
<b>Tue. 11/07</b>	Rom 12:5-16b / Luke 14:15-24
<b>Wed. 11/08</b>	Rom 13:8-10 / Luke 14:25-33
<b>Thur. 11/09</b>	Ez 47:1-2,8-9,12/1 Cor 3:9c-11,16-17/ John 2:13-22
<b>Fri. 11/10</b>	Rom 15:14-21 / Luke 16:1-8
<b>Sat. 11/11</b>	Rom 16:3-9,16,22-27/ Luke 16:9-15

## 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 **Geri Extein** at 899-6875  
 The **Hospital Visitors** for the week is Tom and Linda Bleil.

## NEWSLETTER MAILING PARTY

We will be preparing the newsletter for the mail on **Monday, November 13, 2017 at 9:00 a.m. in the Conference Room.** If you can help, contact Irene Lucas at 899-6132 or [ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org](mailto:ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org)

## OLM PARISH OFFICE REMINDER

Due to the Thanksgiving Holiday the content for the **November 19 bulletin is due by November 8.** Content for the **November 26 bulletin is due by November 9.** If you have content for these bulletin please submit by the deadlines.

Due to the Thanksgiving Holiday the parish office will be closed on **November 23 and November 24.**

## THIS SUNDAY'S REFLECTION



**Matthew 23:1-12**

*“They love places of honor...”*

I confess I appreciate being recognized. Which of us does not like a compliment, especially if deep down we suspect it might be true? There is something about us that is worthy of note after all—and someone noticed!

There is a cavernous gap, however, between the simple joy of being affirmed as a person, and the demand to be recognized as someone more worthy than others. The heart of the matter, however, seems not to be the distinctions we love to heap upon ourselves, but the fact that we miss our brother and sisterhood when we do. If we are not brother and sister in Christ, what is it we hope to be in relations to each other?

When titles and honorifics substitute pride for relationship, it is a sad, lonely bargain. There are those who truly deserve the titles, and in the Church we sometimes have a way of multiplying titles and super-stressing honorifics. But the bottom line is that when they distinguish between those who have received the greatest of all dignities in baptism, they bring dishonor to the call to discipleship.

**For Reflection: Am I numbered among those who love places of honor? Is this a healthy appreciation of the gifts I have been given or a dangerous flirtation with false security?**

### Applications Accepted for Diocesan Youth Board

The Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry serves the young church in the Diocese of Erie. Currently, it is accepting applications for the Diocesan Youth Board at <http://www.onthevine.us/2018-diocesan-youth-board-information-and-application/>, and for adult team members at <http://www.onthevine.us/2018-dyb-adult-team-member-application/>. For more information, contact Jennifer Durney, coordinator for the Office of Youth & Young Adult Ministry for the Catholic Diocese of Erie, at [jdurney@ErieRCD.org](mailto:jdurney@ErieRCD.org) or at 814-824-1219.

### Cursillo Opportunities

Looking to enhance your relationship with our Lord? Maybe grow in your faith? A Cursillo weekend may be just what you need! Sign-up now for the **Women's Cursillo 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).

### Community Thanksgiving Service

Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church is hosting the **annual Harborcreek Thanksgiving Service on Sunday, November 19 at 7:00 pm**. Clergy and congregation members from East Erie Assembly of God, Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church, First Presbyterian Church of Harborcreek, Grace Church, Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church, North Harbor Baptist Church, and South Harborcreek United Methodist Church are participating in the service. There will also be a combined choir singing at the service with practice scheduled for 5:30 pm that evening. Those attending are encouraged to bring nonperishable food donations.



### Mass of Remembrance

The annual **Mass of Remembrance is Saturday, December 2 at 10:00 a.m.** The Bereavement Ministry invites all members of Our Lady of Mercy to attend this annual Memorial Mass to support the families of our parish who have lost loved ones during the past year. Please join us for this special celebration.

## FINANCIAL SUPPORT

*Offertory for the weekend of October 29, 2017*

Envelopes sent:	389	
Envelopes returned:	117	<b>\$4,222.67</b>
Faith Direct Deposits:	103	<b>\$2,813.00</b>
Loose Change:		<b>\$290.00</b>
<b>TOTAL OFFERTORY:</b>		<b>\$7,325,67</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 23 was, Will Lunger Grade 3, who knew that we celebrate All Saints Day on Nov. 1.

### 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.**

### Grade 10 Retreat

Candidates in the second year of Confirmation preparation are reminded that they have a mandatory retreat next **Sunday, November 12 at OLM**. The retreat begins with the 11:00 Mass and concludes at 4:30. Lunch will be provided.

### 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."

### Family Service Day Help Available

Are you a senior who could use a bit of help getting your yard cleaned up before winter? **On Saturday, November 18**, volunteer teams from OLM will be fanning out to rake and trim and help in any way needed to help our older parishioners complete their fall yard clean up. If you would like our help or if you know someone who would need our help, **please contact Irene Lucas in her office at 899-6132 or [ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org](mailto:ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org) by Nov. 15.**



### 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.

## The Letters of Stewardship

**E: Enlightenment** – Jesus' example invites us into His light. Living a stewardship way of life helps us to move toward the light.

## Volunteer Driver Wanted For A Ride to Church

A parishioner who lives in the 7000 block of East Lake Road would like a ride to church periodically. If you can help please contact Donna Clark in the parish office or at [dclark@ourladyofmercychurch.org](mailto:dclark@ourladyofmercychurch.org). If we can get a few people who will drive once a month that seems to work out well.

## Counseling Available

Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy are offering their professional skills as counselors for **adults, teens and family counseling**. Counseling meetings are at the church, in a confidential setting. To schedule an appointment contact Donna Clark at 899-5342.

## Caregivers Need Support Too

The Alzheimer's Association in Erie will offer "Empowerment for Caregivers: A Caregiver Conference" on **Friday, November 17 from 8:45 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Erie Art Museum**. The event is free and lunch is included. For more information or to register, contact Debbie at the Alzheimer's Association at 814-456-9200, ext. 5101.

## Library Grand Reopening

If you did not get a chance to see the newly reorganized parish library take a moment to stop in. The shelves are labeled with specific categories so it is easier to find a book that you might be looking for. We thank Theresa Pekelnicky, Ellie Richardson and Pat Urmann for their work on this multi-year project.

## Mission Art Contest Announced

The Mission Office of the Diocese of Erie is happy to announce a Christmas art contest sponsored by the Missionary Childhood Association of the Pontifical Mission Societies.. Twenty-four winners will be selected in this competition. Winning artwork will be displayed at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C., during Advent and Christmas 2018.

Two grand prize winners will be selected and their artwork reproduced as the official Christmas cards of the national director of the Pontifical Mission Societies in the United States. For a registration form, contact the Erie Diocese Mission Office at St. Mark catholic Center at 814-824-1111.

**The deadline for entries is January 1, 2018.**

## Save The Date: Coat & Toy Collection

The warm coat and gently used toy collection is set for **November 18/19.**



## Chance of a Lifetime Sweepstakes

The Our Lady of Mercy Knights of Columbus are selling tickets for the Annual Statewide Chance of a Lifetime Sweepstakes (C.O.A.L.) the weekends of November 5, 12 and 19. Profits from this fundraiser are applied to the cost of Bibles for the Confirmation classes at Our Lady of Mercy. There are 16 major prizes in all. First prize is a 2018 Chevrolet Spark. Other prizes include vacation trips to: Portugal & Spain, a Scandinavian Cruise, Canyonlands tour, California Wine country, Disney World and other vacation trips and cash prizes. Tickets are \$1 each or a book of 8 for \$7. Tickets will be available in the Gathering Space after all Masses and in the office during the week.



## 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. **On November 15** we will meet at the home of Marilyn Garwig, 1320 Boyer Rd. to discuss two books: The Lighthouse Keeper's Daughter by Lenore Skomal and Little Mercies by Heather Gudenkauf. Because the holidays keep us all so busy, rather than read a book in December, we will meet to watch a movie, "The Help".

## 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.

## Music Concert on November 12

Plan on an afternoon of joyful music making on **Sunday, November 12 at 3:00 p.m.** here at OLM. In addition to the Adult and Children's Choirs of Our Lady of Mercy and Holy Cross, we will welcome Brian Kuzmin, Kathy Felong, and nationally recognized liturgical guitarist Steve Petrunak.

## Raffle to Help Veterans and their Families

Raffle tickets are in the parish office for \$1.00 for a handmade patriotic quilt (pictured in the parish office). Second prize is a \$50.00 Tops gift card. Proceeds benefit the local veteran family Christmas project. **The drawing is November 11.** Questions contact Denny or Janet Smith at 899-5495.

## House of Mercy Hosts Techno Bingo

Erie's House of Mercy, a ministry of the Sisters of Mercy, will host a TECHNO bingo with 15 large electronic prizes on **November 11 at the Harborcreek Social Hall, 7275 Buffalo Rd.** Tickets are \$25 each. To purchase tickets, contact Sister Michele Schroeck, RSM, at 814-898-0167.



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

**Wednesday, November 8 at 7:00 p.m.**

**Rev. Timothy Solomon**

Rev. Solomon is returning to OLM. Last autumn, Rev. Solomon offered us a 4 week introduction to Islam which taught us a great deal and left us with many questions. This Wednesday, Rev. Solomon will return with his great sense of humor and dynamic presentation style, to take us through some of the troubling aspects of Islam currently dominating the news. The presentation will last an hour followed by a half hour period for questions.

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

**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*