

# OUR LADY OF MERCY CHURCH

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

*November 19, 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](http://ourladyofmercychurch.org/calendar)

- Mon. 11/20** 11:00 a.m. Centering Prayer  
7:00 p.m. Grief Support Group
- Tue. 11/21** 9:30 a.m. SCC- Steel Magnolias  
2:00 p.m. Prayer Shawl  
4:00 p.m. Rel Ed Gr 3-6  
7:00 p.m. Core Team Mtg
- Wed. 11/22** 1:00 p.m. SCC-Diamonds in the Rough
- Thur. 11/23** Thanksgiving Day  
Parish Office Closed  
9:00 a.m. Thanksgiving Day Mass
- Fri. 11/24** Parish Office Closed  
1:30 p.m. Legion of Mary
- Sat. 11/25** 4:30 p.m. Sacrament of Penance
- Sun. 11/26** Feast of Christ The King



Wishing all a Happy Thanksgiving. This Thursday we will gather with family and friends to “Give Thanks” for the many blessings that are ours as a nation and as individuals. As a Parish Community we will gather on Thanksgiving Day at 9:00 a.m. to thank “Him from whom all blessings flow.”

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

## MASS INTENTIONS

- Mon. 11/20** 8:30 a.m. All Deceased Members of the Legion of Mary
- Tue. 11/21** 8:30 a.m. Jim Bucklin (*Lorraine Bucklin*)
- Wed. 11/22** 8:30 a.m. Richard Henry (*Candy Henry*)
- Thur. 11/23** 9:00 a.m. For the People of OLM
- Fri. 11/24** 8:30 a.m.
- Sat. 11/25** 8:30 a.m. Thomas Liebel (*Liebel Family*)  
6:00 p.m. Doris & Ray Shade (*Daughters*)
- Sun. 11/26** 8:30 a.m. For the People of OLM  
11:00 a.m. Al Buffalari (*Al Buffalari Jr.*)

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

- Mon. 11/20** 1 Mc 1:10-15,41-43,54-57,62-63/ Lk 18:35-43
- Tue. 11/21** 2 Mc 6:18-31 / Luke 19:1-10
- Wed. 11/22** 2 Mc 7:1, 20-31 / Luke 19:11-28
- Thur. 11/23** 2 Mc 2:15-29 / Luke 19:41-44
- Fri. 11/24** 1 Mc 4:36-37,52-59 / Luke 19:45-48
- Sat. 11/25** 1 Mc 6:1-13 / Luke 20:27-40
- Sun. 11/26** Ez 34:11-12,15-17 1 Cor 15:20-26 28/  
Mt 25:31-46

## 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.

## THIS SUNDAY'S REFLECTION



Matthew 25:14-30

God’s faithfulness is akin to a marriage relationship that lasts forever. A human example of fidelity is the “proverbial” wife. She is an unending prize, worth more than any treasure one might seek. She is a “vine” that nourishes those she loves with the fruit of her labors. She works untiringly in love and service to the unfortunate. Physical beauty is fleeting, but inner beauty is a treasure to be prized. It is everlasting and does not fade.

Paul warns us that we need to be untiring in our labors as well. We must be prepared for the day of the Lord that will come when least expected. Although no one can predict the time of the Lord’s arrival, we are not left in the dark. We are children of light who keep awake and alert, ready for his coming whenever he appears.

Jesus tells us that he will come back to judge the church. He is like a man who went on a long journey to a far country, entrusting his servants to carry on his work. When he returned, he expected them to make an accounting. Were they good stewards of their time, talents and treasure or did they bury them? If Gods’ gifts were used for the common good, God’s servants would share their master’s joy. If they did not invest wisely, they would find no place in God’s reign.

**For Reflection: Do I use my gifts to benefit others? Am I wisely using the time given to me?**

© Kay Murdy



**Congratulations To:**

Jacob and Colleen Hordych on the baptism of their daughter, **Lydia Margaret**.

Scott and Ashley Burick on the baptism of their son, **Liam Silas**.

Lisa Clement on the baptism of her daughter, **Julia Anne**.

Jessica and Somath Inthavong on the baptism of their daughter, **Kenslie Grace**.

*May God bless these parents in their commitment*

**IN LOVING MEMORY**



We remember Ruth Zaksheske, mother of Sandra Sweet and sister-in-law of Robert Zaksheske. Please keep her and her family in your prayers.



**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.

**The Letter's of Stewardship**

**F: Favor** As a child of God we enjoy God's favor and have been "blessed in Christ with every spiritual blessing in heaven." (Ephesians 1:3)

**FINANCIAL SUPPORT**

*Offertory for the weekend of November 12, 2017*

Envelopes sent:	389	
Envelopes returned:	144	\$5,342.00
Faith Direct Deposits:	103	\$2,813.00
Loose Change:		\$199.00
<b>TOTAL OFFERTORY:</b>		<b>\$8,354.00</b>

**Community Thanksgiving Service**

Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church is hosting the **annual Harborcreek Thanksgiving Service TODAY, 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.



**Order Scrip Now for Christmas**

Need a stocking stuffer? Order gift cards for Christmas stockings from the SCRIP Program. Pick up your order form from the Scrip table after Mass or pick one up in the parish office. **Orders must be placed no later than December 10 for guaranteed delivery before Christmas.**

**Teen Help Needed**

If you love to baby sit we could use you in the Nursery about once a month during the 11:00 a.m. Mass. If you are interested please Donna Clark at 899-5342 or [dclark@ourladyofmercychurch.org](mailto:dclark@ourladyofmercychurch.org)

**OLM Book Group**

Because the holidays keep us all so busy, rather than read a book in December, we will meet **on Wednesday, December 13 at 6:30 p.m.** at the home of Claudette Terrill, 6821 East Lake Rd. to watch a movie, "The Help".

**OLM PARISH OFFICE REMINDERS**

Due to the publisher's filing deadlines for December and the Christmas and New Year's Holidays, **bulletin content is due as follows:**

- December 8**—content due for the Dec. 17 bulletin
- December 11**—content due for the Dec. 24 bulletin
- December 14**—content due for the Dec. 31 bulletin
- December 20**—content due for the Jan. 7 bulletin

**PARISH OFFICE CLOSED**

The OLM Parish Office will be closed **Monday, December 25 through Monday, January 1, 2018.**





## Social Justice Committee News

As we continue to reflect on the call to respect the dignity of all human life, we turn to the social issue of capital punishment. During the month of November, this section will offer the teaching of Scripture and the Church on this pro-life issue.

*"In the Law, Moses commanded us to stone such a person. So what do you say?" "Let the one who is without sin among you be the first to throw the stone to kill her."*

(Jn. 8:5, 7)

### Up-Coming Events

The Erie Pro-Life community has three events in January 2018 that provide you an opportunity to speak out on behalf of unborn children and the unalienable right to life.

**Pro-Life Breakfast:** Saturday, January 13 at 9:00 a.m. Erie Bayfront Convention Center. Cost \$16 for adults and \$8 for children 3-12 years of age. The featured speaker is Ann McElhinny, author of "Gosnell."

**DC March for Life:** Friday, January 19, 2018. Annual bus trip sponsored by People for Life. \$55 per seat, \$50 if registered by December 1.

**Erie March for Life:** Saturday, January 27 at 11:00 a.m. Begins and concludes at Perry Square.

**Go to People for Life at:** [www.Peopleforlife.org](http://www.Peopleforlife.org) or call 882-1333 for information/reservations. You can also call Phil Legler at 504-1048.

### Getting Through the Holidays after Losing a Loved One

On Monday, November 20 at 7:00 p.m. meet in the Parish Parlor as the Grief Support Ministry hosts a special session for those who have lost loved ones. Sometimes the holidays can be difficult because of all the tradition and the loss of someone close to us is more keenly felt at this time of year. At this session we will give some ideas for making our loved ones present during those first holidays without their physical presence.

### 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.

### Christmas Caring Tree Program

The Ella Cochran Food Pantry's "Christmas Caring Tree" is on display this weekend, **November 18 and November 19** to allow extra time to shop for gifts. If you would like to brighten a child's or senior's Christmas, please take a name from the tree and **return a wrapped gift by December 9 and 10**. If you have any questions, contact Aimee McKinney at 899-1361.

### Veteran's Family - Gift Donation

If you would like to buy a gift for the child of a veteran in need, please contact Janet Smith at 899-5495 or see the display in the parish office to take an information card. **Gifts need to be returned by December 3.**

### 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.) on **November 18/19**. **This is the last weekend to get your tickets.** 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.

### Women's Luncheon

Looking to get out one more time before the snow files. Join a group of ladies who live alone for some great fellowship on **Tuesday, November 28 at 1:00 p.m. at Bob Evans**. Bring the youth mission trip coupon with you to help raise money for the youth group. Questions: Call Donna in the parish office 899-5342.

### Grinch Party

You are invited to a Grinch Party on **Sunday, December 10 from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. in Sperry Hall**. Crafts, games, food, fun and maybe even a special guest surprise. Come and celebrate Advent with us. This event is free.



### Cathedral Concert Series

The Cathedral Concert Series at St. Peter Cathedral in downtown Erie continues **TODAY, November 19 at 4:00 p.m. with an organ recital**. The program is free and open to the public. Kenneth Danchik, associate organist of St. Paul Cathedral in Pittsburgh, is the featured organist.

### Youth Fundraiser at Bob Evans

Our first Mission Trip fundraiser is at **Bob Evans on Buffalo Rd. on Monday, November 27 and Tuesday November 28**. This is a great way to help the youth of the parish. Just bring in the Bob Evans flyer FROM THIS BULLETIN and the youth will receive 15 % of your check. While you are there, also check out the raffle at the door.

## Answer The Call

The Erie Diocese and Bishop Persico will host seventy five singers and musicians from many Erie area parishes in the performance of **Answer the Call on December 3 at 2:00 p.m. at Cathedral Prep.** This Lessons and Carols bridges Advent to Christmas through scripture readings and music composed by Michael Malthaner, music director at Sacred Heart. **The concert is free and open to the public.** OLM parishioners Ken and Brian Marshall, and Sue Haynes will be performing in the choir. Following the performance a free-will offering will be collected to benefit the retired priests and religious funds. Please mark your calendar and join in this celebration of hope as we hear God's message to *Answer the Call.*

## Bishop's Breakfast Collection for Christmas

Celebrate the "Season of Giving" by providing gently used or new items for distribution at the annual Christmas gathering of the Bishop's Breakfast. **Donations will be accepted through December 5** and may include blankets, hats, socks, gloves and clothing for adult men and women. Other needed items are men's boxer shorts (all sizes) and \$5 gift cards to McDonald's or Tim Horton's. To contribute, contact Jennie Hagerty at [jhagerty94@gmail.com](mailto:jhagerty94@gmail.com) or Mary Therese Riley at [mtriley1@verizon.net](mailto:mtriley1@verizon.net). The Bishop's Breakfast provides thousands of warm meals to those in need throughout the year.

## Mission Art Contest Announced

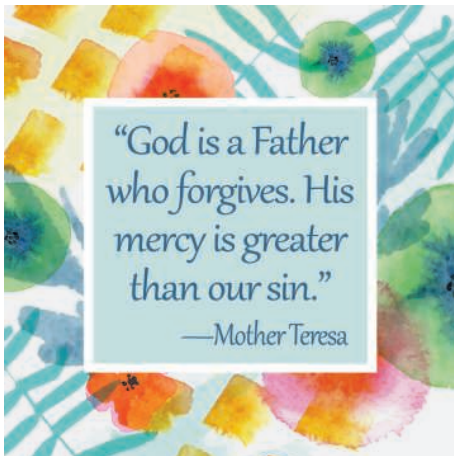
The Mission Office of the Diocese of Erie is happy to announce a Christmas art contest sponsored by the Missionary Childhood Association of the Pontifical Mission Societies.. Twenty-four winners will be selected in this competition. Winning artwork will be displayed at the Basilica of the National Shrine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



## 2018 Men's & Women's Conferences Announced

The following dates have been scheduled for the 22:32 Men's Conference and the 1:38 Women's Conference, both to be held at Our Lady of Peace Parish in Erie:

- March 3, 2018 – 22:32 Men's Conference
  - April 21, 2018 – 1:38 Women's Conference
- More information about these conferences, sponsored by the Reason for Our Hope Foundation, will be forthcoming at the beginning of January.



## A Time to Heal: Parish Healing Service

**Monday, December 4 at 7:00 p.m.**

In what areas of your life do you need healing? Physical, mental, emotional, or spiritual? In your daily life? In the world around you?

Perhaps there is a place or space that longs for forgiveness for yourself or another. Everyone seems to need healing at so many different levels and areas of their lives. Please join us on **December 4 at 7 p.m.**

**This Healing Service is open to everyone.**





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