

# 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)

**DECEMBER 10, 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)

<b>Mon. 12/11</b>	11:00 a.m.	Centering Prayer
	6:00 p.m.	Taize Prayer
	6:30 p.m.	Fruit of the Vine (SCC)
	6:30 p.m.	Isaiah's Community (SCC)
<b>Tue. 12/12</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
<b>Wed. 12/13</b>	6:30 p.m.	OLM Book Group
	1:00 p.m.	SCC-Diamonds in the Rough
	7:00 p.m.	Knights of Columbus
	7:00 p.m.	Advent Penance Celebration
<b>Thur. 12/14</b>	9:00 a.m.	Painting Class
	6:00 p.m.	Prayer Shawl
	6:30 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
<b>Fri. 12/15</b>	1:30 p.m.	Legion of Mary
<b>Sat. 12/16</b>	4:30 p.m.	Sacrament of Penance
<b>Sun. 12/17</b>		<b>Third Sunday of Advent</b>
	9:30 a.m.	Rel Ed Gr K-2
	9:30 a.m.	Healing Ministry
	12:00 p.m.	Rel Ed Gr 7 & 8



### IN LOVING MEMORY

We remember William Demyanovich, father of Chip Demyanovich; and Olive Antolik, mother-in-law of Frank Gerlach. Please keep them and their families in your prayers.

### MASS INTENTIONS

<b>Mon. 12/11</b>	8:30 a.m.	
<b>Tue. 12/12</b>	8:30 a.m.	Jim Bucklin (Lorraine Bucklin)
<b>Wed. 12/13</b>	8:30 a.m.	Michael Nagosky (Family)
<b>Thur. 12/14</b>	8:30 a.m.	
<b>Fri. 12/15</b>	8:30 a.m.	David Ross (Linda Ross)
<b>Sat. 12/16</b>	8:30 a.m.	George Geisler
	6:00 p.m.	For The People of OLM
<b>Sun. 12/17</b>	8:30 a.m.	Julia Steger (Ashlee Steger)
	11:00 a.m.	All Deceased Members of the Spiegel Family

### SCRIPTURE READINGS

<b>Mon. 12/11</b>	Is 35:1-10	/	Luke 5:17-26
<b>Tue. 12/12</b>	Zec 2:14-17	/	Luke 1:26-38
<b>Wed. 12/13</b>	Is 40:25-31	/	Matthew 11:28-30
<b>Thur. 12/14</b>	Is 41:13-20	/	Matthew 11:11-15
<b>Fri. 12/15</b>	Is 48:17-19	/	Matthew 11:16-19
<b>Sat. 12/16</b>	Sir 48:1-4, 9-11	/	Mt 17:9a, 10-13
<b>Sun. 12/17</b>	Is 61:1-2a, 10-11	/	1 Thes 5:16-24/
	John 1:6-8, 19-28		

## OLM PARISH OFFICE REMINDERS

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

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



The OLM Parish Office will be closed Monday, December 25 through Monday, January 1, 2018 in observance of the Christmas and New Year's Holidays.

### 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 Donna Smicker.

### THIS SUNDAY'S REFLECTION

Mark 1:1-8



Waiting for good news or bad news can fill us with joy or dread. One day may seem like a thousand years. When we forget God's faithfulness, we need to be assured that God's promises will be fulfilled, perhaps not by our watches and calendars but with guaranteed fidelity. We need to comfort others and when they fail to remember: "Here is your God! See, the Lord comes with might to save us!"

John announces the good news: "Make straight the way of the Lord!" John is God's mighty voice, yet Jesus' words are more powerful. John stresses judgement, whereas Jesus speaks of salvation: "Kindness and truth shall meet; justice and peace shall kiss." The mountains in our lives will be overcome; the wastelands will flourish in the grace of the Holy Spirit. God is a loving shepherd who shows generous patience toward us when we wander. We need to patiently wait in hope as we pray: "Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation!"

**For Reflection: Am I making every effort to be found without "stain or defilement" as I await Christ's coming? Do I work for justice and peace in my community?**

© Kay Murdy





### **Taize Prayer**

Mark your calendars for an evening of meditative sung prayer on **Monday, December 11 at 6:00 p.m.** Take some time to slow down amidst the busy holiday season to allow your heart to rest quietly and prepare a place for the coming of the Savior.

### **Advent Celebrations of the Sacrament of Reconciliation**

**Sunday, December 10 at 3 p.m. at Mount Calvary**

**Monday, December 11 at 7 p.m. at St. Gregory**

**Tuesday, December 12 at 7 p.m. at Saint James**

**Wednesday, December 13 at 7 p.m.**

**at Our Lady of Mercy**

## **The Season of Christmas 2017-2018**

### **Christmas: The Solemnity of The Nativity of The Lord**

**Christmas Eve: Sunday, December 24**

**6:00 p.m. & 10:00 p.m.**

**(music with choir and instruments at 9:20 p.m.)**

### **Christmas Day Mass:**

**Monday, December 25 at 10:00 a.m.**

### **Feast of the Holy Family**

**Saturday, December 30 at 6:00 p.m.**

**Sunday, December 31 at 8:30 a.m. & 11 a.m.**

### **Solemnity of Mary, The Mother of God**

**Monday, January 1 at 10:00 a.m.**

**(Note: There is no evening Vigil Mass  
on Sunday, December 31)**

### **Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord**

**Saturday, January 6 at 6:00 p.m.**

**Sunday, January 7 at 8:30 a.m. & 11 a.m.**

### **Epiphany Concert of Christmas Music:**

**Sunday, January 7 at 3:00 p.m.**

## **FINANCIAL SUPPORT**

Offertory for the weekend of **December 3, 2017**

Envelopes sent:	399	
Envelopes returned:	116	\$5,053.81
Faith Direct Deposits:	106	\$2,851.75
Loose Change:		\$181.00
<b>TOTAL OFFERTORY:</b>		<b>\$8,086.56</b>

### **Frosty Party Today**

You are invited to a Frosty Party TODAY December 10 from 12 noon to 2:00 p.m. in Sperry Hall. Come and celebrate Advent with games, food, fun and maybe a surprise guest.

### **Order Scrip Now for Christmas**

TODAY, December 10, is the last day to place Scrip orders for guaranteed delivery before Christmas.

### **Christmas Caring Tree Program**

Thank you to all who took a name from the Christmas Caring Tree. The deadline for returning the wrapped gifts is TODAY.

### **Praying for Our Loved Ones Who Have Passed**

The Grief Support Group meets on Monday, December 18 at 7:00 p.m. in the Parlor for a special session for the Holidays. We will focus on the gifts of the person who has died. How can we make our loved ones present to us as we move through the Christmas Season? This can be a particularly difficult time when we feel the loss more acutely. Questions? Contact Donna Clark at 899-5342.

### **OLM Book Group**

Because the holidays keep us all so busy, rather than read a book in December, we will meet on **Tuesday, December 12 at 6:30 p.m.** at the home of Claudette Terrill, 6821 East Lake Rd. to watch a movie, "The Zookeeper's Wife." If you want to read ahead, in January we will read "The Boys in the Boat" by Daniel Brown.

### **Question of the Week Winner**

The winner for the week of November 27 was **Georgia Weber, Grade 6**, who knew that we pray the "Hail Mary" 53 times when we pray the Rosary.

### **Winter Scripture Study**

A Scripture Study on the minor prophets will be held **Wednesdays, January 10-31 at 9:00 a.m. in the Conference Room.** We will study Hosea, Amos, Micah and Zachariah on consecutive weeks. There is no cost and no registration.

### **Young Adult Adoration**

Married and single young adults (18-39) are invited to spend intentional time with Jesus in the Eucharist on **Friday, December 29 at 7:00 p.m.** The evening will include Eucharistic adoration, confession, live praise, worship music, and benediction.

### **Social Justice Committee News**

Our tradition...recognizes that we are not morally obligated to use all available medical procedures in every set of circumstances. But that tradition clearly and strongly affirms that as a responsible steward of life one must never directly intend to cause one's own death, or the death of an innocent victim, by action or omission. ... (Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World, n.27).



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