

OUR LADY OF MERCY CHURCH

837 Bartlett Road • Harborcreek, PA 16421 • 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

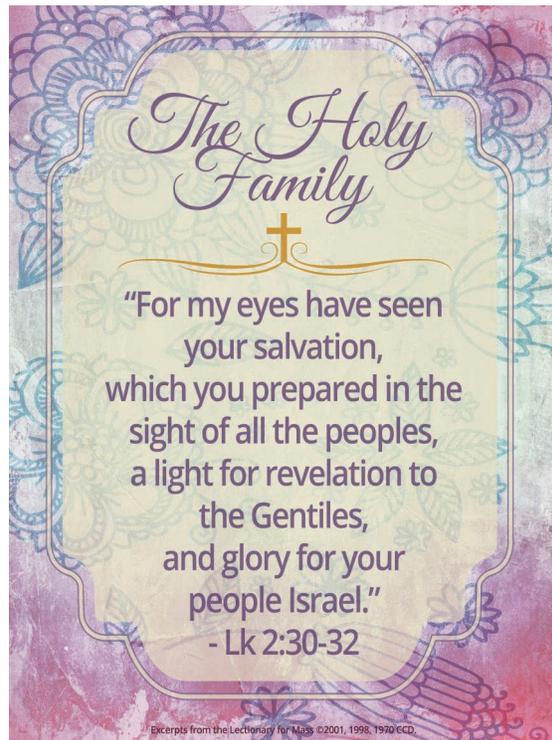
Parish Office: 814-899-5342

Office of Lifelong Faith Formation: 814-899-6132

Fax: 814-898-3306

Email: info@ourladyofmercychurch.org

DECEMBER 31, 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

Mon. 01/01	New Year's Day —Parish Office Closed
	10:00 a.m. Mass- Solemnity of Mary Mother of God
Tue. 01/02	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. Pastoral Council Meeting
Wed. 01/03	1:00 p.m. SCC-Diamonds in the Rough
Thur. 01/04	6:00 p.m. Prayer Shawl
	6:45 p.m. Choir Rehearsal
Fri. 01/05	1:30 p.m. Legion of Mary
Sat. 01/06	4:30 p.m. Sacrament of Penance
Sun. 01/07	Casserole Club Drop Off
	Monthly Food Pantry Collection
	9:30 a.m. Healing Ministry
	9:30 a.m. Rel Ed Gr K-2
	12:00 p.m. Red Ed Gr 7 & 8
	3:00 p.m. Epiphany Concert

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.

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon. 01/01	10:00 a.m. Yolanda DiRaimo (Donelle Davey)
Tue. 01/02	8:30 a.m. Stephen Lion
Wed. 01/03	8:30 a.m. Mabel Holodnak (Eric Jacobs)
Thur. 01/04	8:30 a.m.
Fri. 01/05	8:30 a.m.
Sat. 01/06	8:30 a.m. Frank Antalek
	6:00 p.m. Cecelia Rankin-Zielonka (Ed & Marlene Meyer)
Sun. 01/07	8:30 a.m. Francis Ritchie
	11:00 a.m. For the People of OLM

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Mon. 01/01	Nm 6:22-27/Gal 4:4-7/ Luke 2:16-21
Tue. 01/02	1 Jn 2:22-28 / John 1:19-28
Wed. 01/03	1 Jn 2:29—3:6 / John 1:29-34
Thur. 01/04	1 Jn 3:7-10 / John 1:35-42
Fri. 01/05	1 Jn 3:11-21 / John 1:43-51
Sat. 01/06	1 Jn 5:5-13 / Mark 1:7-11
Sun. 01/07	Is 60:1-6/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/ Matthew 2:1-12

OLM PARISH OFFICE REMINDERS

The OLM Parish Office will be closed on **Monday, January 1, 2018** in observance of the New Year's Holidays.

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline to submit items for the February issue of **For Mercy Sake** is **January 15**. Items can be sent electronically to ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org or hard copies can be brought to the Office of Lifelong Faith Formation.

Bulletin Announcements

All content for the bulletin is due 10 days before the bulletin date. All bulletin flyers are now one-half page. Bulletin flyers also need to be **scheduled in advance** for inclusion in any given bulletin. **They must also be submitted as a Word or Publisher document.** Questions? Contact Marsha in the parish office.

THIS SUNDAY'S REFLECTION



Luke 2:22-40

Christ dwells in each one gathered as one family around the table. Young and old, male and female, everyone has a right to be heard, whether in instruction, prayer, or song. We may be aged, like Simeon and Anna, and feel that we have nothing to say. Yet they are models for today. They recognize Christ in their midst, and they fearlessly proclaim God's saving light to all peoples. Their message gives hope to those who look forward to God's deliverance. Like the prophets before them, their words are filled with blessing and gratitude, sorrow and pain. Not all will accept their words. The child of peace will be opposed by conflict and disunity.

Mary and Joseph show us how to walk in God's ways. Submissive to God's word, their child is filled with wisdom and the grace of God. Like them, we are called to be a "holy family." Our words of correction must be tempered with humility and love. Whether in speech or action, what ever we do must be done in the name of Jesus.

For Reflection: Is my family united in peace and love? Can Mary, a virgin mother, and Joseph, her chaste spouse, be examples for families today?

© Kay Murdy



***The Season of Christmas 2017-2018
at Our Lady of Mercy***

Feast of the Holy Family

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

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

The 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.

The Music Ministry of Our Lady of Mercy invites you to join the combined adult choirs, children's choir and instrumentalists as we sing and celebrate the sounds of the Christmas season. A light social will follow.

Parents of Toddlers or Nursing Babies

We always love to have children in church but sometimes an energetic toddler needs to move around. If that is the case, we have the Gathering Space or if you want a contained room try the Nursery that has closed circuit TV so you can still see and hear Mass. It is available for all Masses. The Nursery is located in the school classroom area, the first door on the right past the Parlor. The 11:00 a.m. Mass has a schedule of parents who take turns in the nursery so other parents can be spiritually renewed at Mass without having to worry about their children. For more information, see Donna Clark or Peggy Williams.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Due to the deadline for this bulletin the offertory information was not available.

Winter Scripture Study

A Scripture Study on the minor prophets will be held **Wednesday, January 17– February 7 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. Because each week we will look at a different biblical prophet, you do not have to commit to attend every week.



Sunday Morning *C*A*F*E*

Our next Sunday Morning CAFÉ will be on Sunday, January 14 from 9:45-10:45 a.m.. Mary Nelson, OFS and Candy Henry, OFS will introduce us to the Order of Secular Franciscans, an 800 year old lay order in the Catholic Church with about 12,000 members in the U.S. along with many more around the world. Mary Nelson is the Regional Formation Director for western PA and the leader of the local group. Candy Henry, a member of OLM, is its secretary. Enjoy fresh coffee and homemade treats along with fellowship and an informative program.

The Question-Of-The-Week Contest Winner

The winner for the week of December 10 was, **Colton Catrabone, Grade 1**, who knew that the Angel Gabriel was sent to Mary to tell her that she would be the mother of God's Son, our Savior.

New Video Series

A new biweekly video series for young adult Catholics, is now available on YouTube. Designed with the young-adult Catholic in mind. Catholic Central features chat about faith, the Bible, Catholicism, and prayer (with tons of puns, costume changes, and sketches thrown in).

Young Adults Gathering

Young adults/families are invited to a brief planning gathering to discuss how to better live out our faith in a group setting. **We will gather in the Conference Room on January 7 after 8:30 Mass.** Beverages and snacks will be provided. See you there!

The Letters of Stewardship

K: Kindness – as defined in the dictionary kindness is the quality of being friendly, generous, and considerate. These are the qualities that draw us out of ourselves to give to others.

Do you have a square on the OLM Parish Quilt?

The Parish Quilt, which hangs in the back of our Worship Space, was started in celebration of the Millennium Year 2000. It is a prayer of thanksgiving for all the members of Our Lady of Mercy. As new families join the parish they are encouraged to complete a quilt square. As we get enough squares to make a row, new rows are continually added. Find a blank felt square with instructions on the table near the door to Classroom #1. Put a design representing your family on the square and return it to the parish office.

JANUARY 2018

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Jan. 02	Hayley D'Angelo	10
Jan. 04	Dylan Forsythe	6
Jan. 05	Kaitlyn Brumagin	3
Jan. 05	Ellie Stauffer	7
Jan. 07	Kayla Shaffer	15
Jan. 08	Grace Galbreath	10
Jan. 08	Brodynn Smith	7
Jan. 11	Makenna Pearson	7
Jan. 12	Nolan Reinsel	16
Jan. 13	Jacob Zemanek	18
Jan. 17	Ava Suranofsky	9
Jan. 20	J.T. Martin	15
Jan. 20	Avery Ollinger	13
Jan. 21	Kara Meyer	16
Jan. 23	Megan Hedlund	18
Jan. 23	Aidan Reinsel	14
Jan. 25	Ryan Stauffer	5
Jan. 26	Kenslie Inthavong	1
Jan. 27	Madison Rizzo	8
Jan. 28	Lila Bly	9
Jan. 28	Octavio Garnica	13
Jan. 29	Keagon Oler	11



Ministry Sign Ups

The stewardship committee is working toward renewing our sense of parish ministries. Through the course of this coming year we will take time each month to celebrate a category of ministries and to bless the ministers. We will have an opportunity to find out more about each of the ministries through talks and ministry brochures. There will also be an opportunity to join a ministry if you are drawn to it.

Contemplative Prayer Instruction Sessions

Are you interested in learning more about contemplative or centering prayer? These Wednesday evening sessions at 6:30 p.m. will provide some instruction and an opportunity to practice this quiet form of meditative prayer that goes back to the early centuries of Christianity. There will be three sessions before Lent. **Come to one or all: January 17, 31, and February 7.**

Parish Alive

Our annual Parish Alive retreat will be held Friday, February 16 and Saturday, February 17. It is a wonderful way to kick off your Lent, to renew your faith, to deepen your connection to the parish. Apply online on the parish website, by paper using the form in the November newsletter or find applications on the bulletin tables. The retreat is free but space is limited.

Mardi Gras

Mark your calendar for the annual parish Mardi Gras celebration on Sunday, February 11. We are collecting items for our Chinese Auction, so consider re-gifting those unwanted Christmas gifts to OLM. We also need chili or soup cook-off teams. More information and sign-ups will be available in the new year.



OLM Book Group

Join us on Wednesday, January 17 at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Irene, 1019 Bartlett Rd., to discuss "The Boys in the Boat" by Daniel Brown. The weather outside might be frightful, but our book group is so delightful. Whether you are interested in joining a book group or just want to talk about one particular title, the door is open to you. Want to read ahead? In February we will discuss "The Ballroom" by Anna Hope.

Social Justice Committee News

People who are dying must be accompanied with the love of family members and the care of medical professionals, but there is no requirement that every means available must be used to prolong their lives. Pope Francis said in a message to the European members of the World Medical Association.



Erie Parishes host 'Festival of Lessons and Carols'

St. John the Baptist and Holy Rosary in Erie invite everyone to "A Festival of Lessons and Carols" on Thursday, January 4 at 7:00 p.m. at St. John the Baptist Church, 509 E. 26th Street. The event is a service of Scripture and song that dates to the late 19th century. Those in attendance will hear nine short Scripture readings and then listen to music. A light reception will follow.

Choral Concert at St. Peter Cathedral

The Baldwin Wallace University Choir, of Berea, Ohio, will perform a choral concert at St. Peter Cathedral in Erie on Friday, January 5 at 7:00 p.m. with Erie's McDowell High School Chorus. The conductor of the Baldwin Wallace Choir is Dr. Dirk Gardner; the McDowell Chorus is under the direction of Leslie Weber. The public is welcome. A free-will offering will be taken.

January 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 8:30 & 11:00 AM MASS FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY	1 Parish Office Closed SOLEMNITY OF MARY 10:00 AM Mass	2 8:30 AM Mass 9:30 AM SCC-Steel Magnolias 2:00 PM Prayer Shawl 4:00 PM Rel Ed Gr. 3-6 5:30 PM Children's Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM Dance Class in Gym Pastoral Council Meeting 7:30 PM AA	3 8:30 AM Mass 1:00 PM SCC- Diamonds in the Rough	4 8:30 AM Mass 9:00 AM RCIA Inquiry Session 6:00 PM Prayer Shawl 6:45 PM Choir Rehearsal	5 8:30 AM Mass 1:30 PM Legion of Mary	6 8:30 AM Mass 10:00 AM AA 4:30 PM Sacrament of Penance 6:00 PM MASS
7 8:30 & 11:00 AM MASS Casserole Club DROP OFF Food Pantry Collection 9:30 AM Healing Ministry 9:30 AM Rel Ed Gr. Kgr-2 9:30 AM Young Adult Planning meeting 12:00 PM Cub Scouts 12:00 PM Rel. Ed. Gr. 7 & 8 3:00 PM Epiphany Concert	8 8:30 AM Mass 11:00 AM Centering Prayer 6:30 PM Fruit of the Vine (SCC) 6:30 PM SCC-Isalah's Community - CF 7:00 PM Pastoral Facilitator Meeting	9 8:30 AM Mass 9:30 AM SCC-Steel Magnolias 2:00 PM Prayer Shawl 4:00 PM Rel Ed Gr. 3-6 5:30 PM Children's Choir Rehearsal 6:00 PM Sister Parish Committee Mtg 7:00 PM Dance Class in Gym 7:00 PM Finance Council 7:30 PM AA	10 8:30 AM Mass 1:00 PM SCC- Diamonds in the Rough 6:30 PM AGIFT Meeting 7:00 PM Knights of Columbus	11 8:30 AM Mass 9:00 AM Painting Class 6:00 PM Prayer Shawl 6:45 PM Choir Rehearsal	12 8:30 AM Mass 1:30 PM Legion of Mary	13 8:30 AM Mass 10:00 AM AA 4:30 PM Sacrament of Penance 6:00 PM MASS
14 8:30 & 11:00 AM MASS 9:30 AM Rel Ed Gr. Kgr-2 9:30 AM Sunday Morning CAFE 12:00 PM Rel. Ed. Gr. 7 & 8	15 Martin L. King, Jr. Day 8:30 AM Mass 11:00 AM Centering Prayer 7:00 PM Grief Support Group	16 8:30 AM Mass 9:30 AM SCC-Steel Magnolias 2:00 PM Prayer Shawl 4:00 PM Rel Ed Gr. 3-6 5:30 PM Children's Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM Core Team Mtg. 7:00 PM Dance Class in Gym 7:00 PM LFF Mtg. 7:30 PM AA	17 8:30 AM FOOD PANTRY DISTRIBUTION 8:30 AM Mass 9:00 AM Scripture Study 1:00 PM SCC- Diamonds in the Rough 6:30 PM Contemplative Prayer 7:00 PM OLM BOOK GROUP	18 8:30 AM Mass 9:00 AM Painting Class 3:00 PM Social Justice Committee 6:00 PM Prayer Shawl 6:45 PM Choir Rehearsal	19 8:30 AM Mass 1:30 PM Legion of Mary	20 Ministry Celebration Kick-off Weekend 8:30 AM Mass 10:00 AM AA 4:30 PM Sacrament of Penance 6:00 PM MASS
21 8:30 & 11:00 AM MASS Ministry Celebration Kick-off Weekend 9:30 AM Healing Ministry Rel Ed Gr. Kgr-2 10:30 AM Gr. 9 Retreat 12:00 PM Rel. Ed. Gr. 7 & 8	22 8:30 AM Mass 11:00 AM Centering Prayer 6:30 PM Fruit of the Vine (SCC) 6:30 PM SCC-Isalah's Community Rehearsal 7:00 PM Dance Class in Gym 7:30 PM AA	23 8:30 AM Mass 9:30 AM SCC-Steel Magnolias 2:00 PM Prayer Shawl 4:00 PM Rel Ed Gr. 3-6 5:30 PM Children's Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM Core Team Mtg. 7:00 PM Dance Class in Gym 7:00 PM LFF Mtg. 7:30 PM AA	24 8:30 AM Mass 9:00 AM Scripture Study 1:00 PM SCC- Diamonds in the Rough 7:00 PM Q&A w/ Pastor	25 8:30 AM Mass 9:00 AM Painting Class 6:00 PM Prayer Shawl 6:45 PM Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM Tech Committee Mtg.	26 8:30 AM Mass 1:30 PM Legion of Mary	27 8:30 AM Mass 10:00 AM AA 4:30 PM Sacrament of Penance 6:00 PM MASS
28 8:30 & 11:00 AM MASS 9:30 AM Family Faith Event 12:00 PM Gr. 11 Interviews 12:15 PM Gr. 7 & 8 Youth Event	29 8:30 AM Mass 11:00 AM Centering Prayer	30 8:30 AM Mass 9:30 AM SCC-Steel Magnolias 2:00 PM Prayer Shawl 4:00 PM Rel Ed Gr. 3-6 5:30 PM Children's Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM Dance Class in Gym 7:30 PM AA	31 8:30 AM Mass 9:00 AM Scripture Study 12:00 PM Food Pantry Volunteer Lunch 1:00 PM SCC- Diamonds in the Rough 6:30 PM Contemplative Prayer	1 8:30 AM Mass 9:00 AM Painting Class 6:00 PM Prayer Shawl 6:45 PM Choir Rehearsal	2 8:30 AM Mass 1:30 PM Legion of Mary	3 8:30 AM Mass 10:00 AM AA 4:30 PM Sacrament of Penance 6:00 PM MASS 6:00 PM Sign-Up Weekend 7:00 PM Wine Social

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