



# FOR MERCY'S SAKE

the quarterly newsletter of Our Lady of Mercy Church

837 Bartlett Road  
Harborcreek, PA 16421

814-899-5342

[www.ourladyofmercychurch.org](http://www.ourladyofmercychurch.org)



November 2017



## *The Season of Advent 2017*

Mass of Remembrance: Saturday, December 2—10:00 a.m.

Evening of Healing: Monday, December 4—7:00 p.m.

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception:

Friday, December 8—8:30 a.m. & 7:00 p.m. (*Holy Day of Obligation*)

Taize Prayer: Monday, December 11—6:00 p.m.

Reconciliation Service: Wednesday, December 13—7:00 p.m.

(Note: This year, the Fourth Sunday of Advent is on Christmas Eve, December 24.  
Therefore, the morning Masses (8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.)  
on Sunday, December 24 will celebrate the Fourth Sunday of Advent.

## *The Season of Christmas 2017-2018*

### MASSES FOR CHRISTMAS:

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: Monday, December 25

10:00 a.m.

### MASS FOR NEW YEAR'S:

Solemnity of Mary: Monday, January 1—10:00 a.m.

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

### EPIPHANY CONCERT OF CHRISTMAS MUSIC:

Sunday, January 7—3:00 p.m.



Inside  
this  
Issue:

Advent and Christmas Schedule.....Page 1  
Thanksgiving Service .....Page 2  
Thank You Bill and Barb.....Page 2  
Newly Confirmed.....Page 2  
Pastoral Council News.....Page 3  
New Members.....Page 3  
Anointing of the Sick.....Page 4  
Advent Penance Services.....Page 4  
Mass of Remembrance.....Page 5  
Young Adult Adoration.....Page 5

Youth News .....Page 6  
Knightly News .....Page 7  
Frosty Party.....Page 8  
Fr. Ritchie's Faith Box .....Page 9  
Mardi Gras .....Page 10  
Visit Our Library .....Page 10  
Parish Mission .....Page 11  
Healing Service .....Page 11  
Parish Alive .....Page 12



## HARBORCREEK COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING SERVICE

Faith Lutheran Church, 5414 East Lake Road, will host this year's Community Thanksgiving Service on **Sunday, November 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.**

All are invited to attend. The offering will go to the Ella Cochran Food Pantry at Our Lady of Mercy. Refreshments will follow.



### THANK YOU, BARB AND BILL!

After 25 years of dedicated service to the Bereavement Ministry, **Bill and Barb Schwartz** have “retired” from their leadership roles. We certainly thank them for their compassionate concern to the bereaved of our parish.

Many of us have been touched by their “behind the scenes” work in helping to prepare for the funerals of our loved ones. Thank you, Barb and Bill, for blessing us with your ministry.



### Congratulations to our Newly Confirmed!

Jason (*Sebastian*) Angelo  
Noah (*Michael*) Bleil  
Andrew (*Francis*) Dalton  
Gabriel (*Gabriel*) DeVore  
Shannon (*Honoratus*) Gotham  
Megan (*Maria*) Hedlund  
Alec (*Gregory*) Henry  
Gavin (*Hubertus*) Matrogran  
Marina (*Dymphna*) Owens  
Alexander (*Dymphna*) Pohl  
Laurel (*Sophia*) Prokopchak  
Emily (*Margaret*) Reilly  
Alexander (*Luke*) Rupp  
Ethan (*Thomas*) Sacco  
Kyle (*Hubert*) Scarpino  
Jonah (*Patrick*) Shumaker  
Ryan (*Anthony*) Smith  
Samantha (*Teresa*) Smith  
Andrew (*Francis*) Stroker  
Nicholas (*Nicholas*) Trombetta

## PASTORAL COUNCIL NEWS

The current members of this year's pastoral council are Paul Barko, Darrell Garwig, Nicholas Heise, Marge LeFaiver, Margy Luniewski, Bill Matrogran, Nancy Mowery, Katie Stephenson and Dan Szczesny.

This year the council is studying what it means to be a **"Parish as Proclaimer of the Word."** How does the Word of God affect our lives? What do we need to know about the Word of God? How does the Word of God shape our prayer and liturgies?

Last year, the council read through Pope Francis' "The Joy of Love." The goals for last year were to reach out to young families and also to those who are separated from a faith community.

The second goal involved creating a team of people who will pray, study and then help the community to become sensitive in reaching out to those who are separated from the faith community. Through information, prayer and helping to heal past hurts we hope to invite people to become part of this welcoming community.

Our next step is to form a committee that will implement this goal. If reaching out to people with a message of love and hope stirs something in your heart, then perhaps God is calling you to this new endeavor. If so contact Donna Clark in the parish office at 899-5342 or [dclark@ourladyofmercychurch.org](mailto:dclark@ourladyofmercychurch.org)



**our newest members!**

*If you live near these new parishioners,  
please help them to feel welcome—  
send a card or stop by to say hello.*

### **Scott & Ashley Burick**

*Mila, Luca, Liam*  
5382 Glacier Dr.  
Erie, PA 16510

### **Pat & Abby Doyle**

2523 Hope Dr. Apt. 4  
Erie, PA 16510

### **Colleen & Jacob Hordych**

*Lydia*  
185 Griffin Ave.  
Erie, PA 16511

### **John & Amy Parente**

*David, John, Samuel*  
4035 Blueberry Dr.  
Erie, PA 16510

### **Susan Payne**

418 Eagle Point Blvd.  
Erie, PA 16511-1172

### **Patrick & Lindsay Roche**

*Rian, Raegan*  
2411 Clark Road  
Erie, PA 16510

### **James Spiegel**

17 East Dr.  
Erie, PA 16511

### **Jonathon & Rachel Still**

*Abigail, Kaylyn, Ava*  
207 Fox Hollow Lane  
Erie, PA 16511



## EXPERIENCE THE SACRAMENTS...



Jesus spent the greatest amount of his time healing, both spiritually and physically. It is said that we spend our time on those things which are most important to us. If this is true, then healing must have been a very important value to Jesus.

Our Parish Mission Statement reminds us that we are a community that lives the values of Jesus Christ. Our celebration is not just for the sick. The faith

community gathers with them to show their concern for the sick of our community, and to pray with and for the sick of the community.

The celebration of this sacrament is an opportunity for the deepening of the faith of our entire community by witnessing the faith and devotion of those being anointed. Through anointing, the sick are reminded that Christ and the Church are in communion with their suffering.

**Our Parish Community will celebrate this powerful sacrament  
at all Masses on November 18 & 19.**

*Who may celebrate this Sacrament?* Those who are suffering any serious physical or mental illness; those who are suffering any chronic illness. those who are about to undergo surgery; the elderly who cannot get around as well as before.



Advent is a beautiful season to celebrate the [Sacrament of Reconciliation](#). While not officially described as a penitential season (which distinguishes it from Lent), Advent is still a season for ongoing conversion, as we reflect on the Second Coming of the Lord Jesus and heed John the Baptist's call to repentance and conversion.

Communal celebrations of the sacrament of reconciliation remind us that continued conversion is a journey we make together as the Body of Christ.

**We will gather as a local faith community  
on the following days:**

Sunday, December 10	3:00 p.m.	at Mount Calvary in Erie
Monday, December 11	7:00 p.m.	at Saint Gregory in North East
Tuesday, December 12	7:00 p.m.	at Saint James in Wesleyville
Wednesday, December 13	7:00 p.m.	at Our Lady of Mercy in Harborcreek



# Mass of Remembrance

Saturday, December 2, 2017 at 10 a.m.

Each December, we gather together to celebrate a special Mass of Remembrance, hosted by members of the Bereavement Ministry. Join together in prayer on Saturday, December 2, 2017, at 10 a.m. All members of Our Lady of Mercy are invited to attend this annual Mass to support the families of our parish who have lost loved ones during the past year.

During this liturgy, votive candles will be lit for the deceased family members and immediately following the Mass, a social gathering will be held in Sperry Hall with refreshments served by the members of the Funeral Meal Committee.

Please join us for this special celebration.

## **YOUNG ADULT ADORATION of the Blessed Sacrament**

**WHO:** single & married young adults (18-39)

**WHEN:** Friday, December 29th at 7pm

**WHERE:** Our Lady of Mercy Church



Join us to clear the holiday clutter by spending intentional time with Jesus in the Eucharist. The evening will include Eucharistic adoration, confession, live praise and worship music, and benediction. Around 8p.m., we will make our way to Fiddle Inn for food and fellowship. Join us for as much or as little of the evening as your schedule allows. Bring a friend!

*Questions?* Contact Brittany Barko  
814-746-5427 or [britt.barko@gmail.com](mailto:britt.barko@gmail.com)

"This is the wonderful truth, my dear friends: the Word, which became flesh two thousand years ago, is present today in the Eucharist." -Saint Pope John Paul II



Two years ago, in November 2015, seven youth from Our Lady of Mercy and St. Mark's attended the **National Catholic Youth Conference**. This year, at this biannual event, thirteen youth will be attending. Please keep these young people in your prayers as they strengthen their faith at this national event.

This summer, twenty five youth and six adults will be heading to Huntingburg, Indiana for a week of service, attending **Catholic Heart Work Camp**.

Please mark your calendars for **Monday November 27th and Tuesday November 28th** to enjoy a meal at Bob Evans on Buffalo Rd in support of their mission trip.







### MEMBERSHIP

Congratulations to the following new Knights who made their First Degree since the last newsletter: Frank Cargioli, Ken Marshall, Dave Parmenter, Paul Sacco and Ray Welch.

**We now have 67 members of the Parish who are Knights!**

Also, special congratulations to the following Knights who made their Fourth Degree on Oct. 22nd: Frank Cargioli, Tim Fuhrman, Mike Hawryliw, Frank Kaleta, John Matts, Dave Parmenter, Mike Royer and Dave Cottrell (St. James). The Fourth Degree is the highest Degree that a member of the Knights of Columbus can attain.

### C.O.A.L. SWEEPSTAKES

The Knights are selling the annual "Chance Of A Lifetime" Sweepstakes tickets on the weekends of 11/5, 11/12 & 11/19. Profits from the sales go towards covering the cost of Bibles for the Confirmation candidates.

This is a statewide event and features prizes such as a 2018 Chevrolet Volt, vacation trips to Portugal & Spain, a Scandinavian Cruise, Canyonlands Tour, California Wine Country, Disneyland, as well as other trips and cash prizes. Thank you for the support that you have given the Knights in the past.

### ACTIVITIES

The Knights have sponsored the following activities in the past several months:

- ♦ Ladies Wine tour in August in appreciation for those who helped at the Golf Raffle.
- ♦ Cleveland Indians bus trip in September open to all men of the Parish.
- ♦ Sponsorship of a dance as part of the Parish Feast Day celebration. The dance featured "The Groove", Erie's most popular band, and was a great success with very favorable comments by all who attended.

The Knights also make significant donations to the OLM Food Pantry at Thanksgiving and to a needy parish family at Christmas.



# FROSTY PARTY



**Sunday, December 10, 2017  
Noon — 2:00 p.m.**



**Games, Crafts,  
Fun for the Family**

**Lunch will be served**



**A surprise guest?**





## Fr. Ritchie answers Your Faith Box Questions

### *Why do we not keep the 4th Commandment?*

I wish I knew why we don't keep the 4th Commandment - "Honor your father and mother", but I don't. The question does remind us that honoring parents is not just for children but for adults also. As we age, honoring our parents is not about obeying them, but respecting them and being there for them, taking care of their needs. We are called to respect people at all ages.

Living in a "ME" centered society where everything is about the individual makes it more difficult for us to focus on others and to show others the respect that God calls us to give to all people.

Keeping the 4th Commandment creates an environment for greater understanding and kindness toward one another, teaches us to treat others as we would like to be treated, (the Golden Rule), and teaches us to, as Jesus asks us, *"love one another as I have loved you"*.

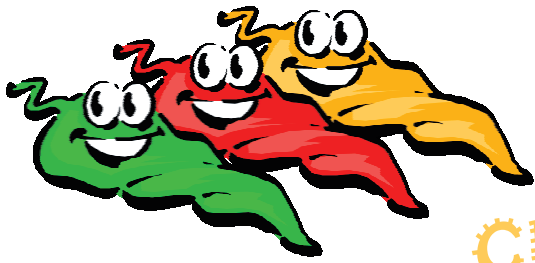
### *Why do certain things happen the way they do?*

We may not know why certain things happen, only God knows. What we do know is that life usually goes in directions we least expect, that people don't always act the way we would hope they would act, that bad things do happen to good people.

We are called to be open, to have the faith that God will give us the strength to get through tough times, that God will challenge us and that we are called to trust that whatever comes will make us a better person.

We trust that our experiences will afford us an opportunity to share our gifts with others. With our kindness, compassion, and presence we will not only help others, but grow in our knowledge and perspective.





## It's the Parish Mardi Gras & Chili Cook-Off Party

**Save the Date**  
**Sunday, February 11**  
**Noon to 3:00**



***Supports our Sister Parish Ministry***  
***Start planning now!***

**Team registration and volunteer lists will be in the Gathering Space the first week of January. We also need your unwanted Christmas gifts for our Chinese Auction.**



## Visit our Library!

For the past four years, **Theresa Pekelnicky**, with the assistance of **Ellie Richardson** and **Pat Urmann**, has worked tirelessly to re-catalogue our parish library. On October 22, we had an informal 'Library Grand Re-opening'. If you have not had the chance to do so, please visit your Parish Library, just down the hall from the Religious Education Offices near the Conference Room. Check out a book or just browse to learn about and be inspired in your faith.

***Thanks Theresa, Ellie and Pat!***

## Our Lady of Mercy's Parish Mission 2018

# Dan Schutte

March 11–13, 2018



Mark your calendars now for what promises to be an unforgettable Lenten Parish Mission with Dan Schutte. Dan Schutte is one of the best-known and most influential composers of Catholic music for liturgy in the English-speaking world.

Some of his most celebrated songs: *"Here I Am, Lord," "City of God"* and *"Sing a New Song"*—are from his years of collaboration with the Saint Louis Jesuits.

Dan has served as liturgist and music director in various pastoral and academic settings. That experience, his deep knowledge of Sacred Scripture, and a strong sense of Ignatian spirituality form the basis of every event he leads. His ministry has had an enormous impact on the spiritual journey of millions of people, and we look forward to welcoming him to Our Lady of Mercy this March.



## A Time to Heal: Parish Healing Service

December 4th  
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 at **7:00 pm on Monday, December 4.** Open to everyone.



# PARISH ALIVE RETREAT



*Do you want to strengthen your spiritual life? Do you want your parish connection to be more meaningful for you and your family? Do you want your prayer to be said with greater sincerity and feeling? Can you set aside 24 hours to allow the Holy Spirit to work in your heart?*



Join us for "Parish Alive" February 16-17, 2018. This 24 hour retreat will begin on Friday evening and end with the Saturday evening Mass. Meals will be provided. Lodging will be at your own home. There will be no cost, although an anonymous offering will be accepted.



"Parish Alive" is a parish-based opportunity for spiritual renewal.

It will be held at Our Lady of Mercy and conducted by Fr. Ritchie and a team of parishioners. Private and group prayer, presentations and fellowship will make up the schedule. This event is open to all adults (must be out of high school) male and female, single and married, new to the parish or a long-time member.

Please register for this weekend by completing the registration below and returning it to Our Lady of Mercy **NO LATER THAN Feb. 1**. Space is limited, so get your registration form in early. A confirmation letter will follow. If you have questions, call Irene Lucas @ 899-6132 or email [ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org](mailto:ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org).



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have any special needs? \_\_\_\_\_

Check All That Apply:

☐ Female

☐ Male

☐ Married (registering w/ Spouse)

☐ Married (registering alone)

☐ Single


☐ Divorced

☐ Separated

☐ Widowed

☐ Catholic

☐ Non-Catholic

Mail to  Our Lady of Mercy Church, 837 Bartlett Rd, Harborcreek, Pa. 16421

Or place in the collection basket.