

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

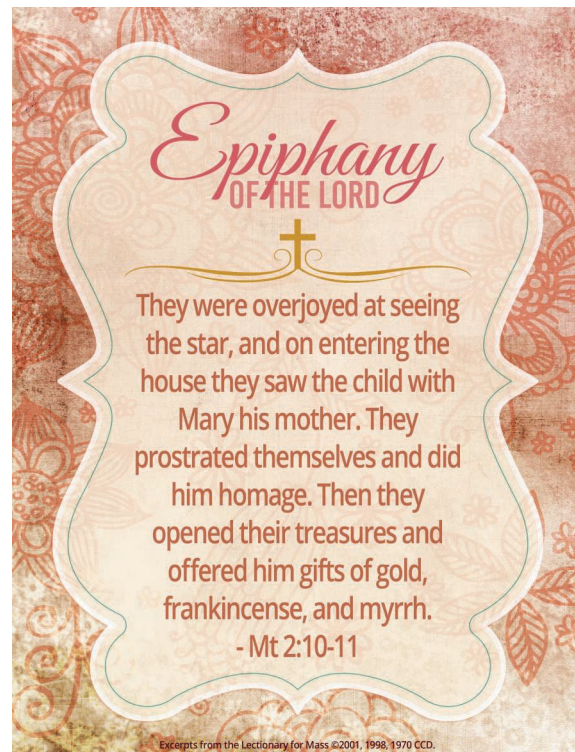
Parish Office: 814-899-5342

Office of Lifelong Faith Formation: 814-899-6132

Fax: 814-898-3306

Email: info@ourladyofmercychurch.org

January 7, 2018



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. 01/08	11:00 a.m.	Centering Prayer
	6:30 p.m.	Fruit of the Vine (SCC)
	6:30 p.m.	Isaiah's Community (SCC)
	7:00 p.m.	Pastoral Facilitator's Mtg
Tue. 01/09	9:30 a.m.	Steel Magnolias (SCC)
	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.	Sister Parish Committee Mtg
	7:00 p.m.	Finance Council Mtg
Wed. 01/10	1:00 p.m.	Diamonds in the Rough (SCC)
	6:30 p.m.	AGIFT Mtg
	7:00 p.m.	Knights of Columbus
Thur. 01/11	9:00 a.m.	Painting Class
	6:00 p.m.	Prayer Shawl
	6:45 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Fri. 01/12	1:30 p.m.	Legion of Mary
Sat. 01/13	4:30 p.m.	Sacrament of Penance
Sun. 01/14	9:30 a.m.	Sunday Morning C*A*F*E*
	9:30 a.m.	Rel Ed Gr K-2
	12:00 p.m.	Red Ed Gr 7 & 8

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon. 01/08	10:00 a.m.	Msgr. Carlton Ritchie
Tue. 01/09	8:30 a.m.	Bob Vargo (Pat & Rog Urmann)
Wed. 01/10	8:30 a.m.	Irene Ritchie
Thur. 01/11	8:30 a.m.	
Fri. 01/12	8:30 a.m.	
Sat. 01/13	8:30 a.m.	Stanley Walczak (James Walczak)
	6:00 p.m.	David Ross (Linda Ross)
Sun. 01/14	8:30 a.m.	For the People of OLM
	11:00 a.m.	Frederick Trester Sr. (Peter & Faye Froess)

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Mon. 01/08	Is 55:1-11	/ Mark 1:7-11
Tue. 01/09	1 Sm 1:1:9-20	/ Mark 1:21-28
Wed. 01/10	1 Sm 3:1-10	/ Mark 1:29-39
Thur. 01/11	1 Sm 4:1-11	/ Mark 1:40-45
Fri. 01/12	1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a	/ Mark 2:1-12
Sat. 01/13	1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19, 10:1	/ Mark 2:13-17
Sun. 01/14	1 Sm 3:3b-10, 19/1 Cor 6:13c-15a, 17-20/ John 1:35-42	

OLM PARISH OFFICE REMINDERS

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.



IN LOVING MEMORY

We remember Jon Urmann, Step-brother of Roger Urmann. Please keep him and his family in your prayers.

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 Marilyn Garwig.

THIS SUNDAY'S REFLECTION

Matthew 2:1-12



God's plan, hidden in ages past, was fully revealed in Jesus. In this age of grace, Jesus is God's *epiphany*, God's manifestation on the earth. In Jesus we can walk in God's ways, serving the people with justice and mercy. In Jesus, all people are sharers of God's gifts, members of the same body, sons and daughter of God. Though Jesus illuminates the path to God, not everyone can see it and follow it. The Herods of the world, who rule through domination and violence, are greatly disturbed by any threat to their wealth and power. The dark clouds of fear they create obscure the path to peace.

Only the wise ones - apostles, prophets, magi, women and men who can see with the eyes of the heart - are able to perceived God's appearance. They speak God's words to the lost, the alienated, and the downcast: "Look up and see!" Hearts that are broken throb with joy and gratitude. When we raise our eyes, we see God's glory and walk by God's light. No longer do we follow the paths of the world; we take another route. The light of Christ guides us to our true home.

For Reflection: Do I disclose God's light to others? What gifts can I offer them today?

© Kay Murdy

Ministry Sign-Ups

There will not be a regular ministry sign-up this year in January. 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.



Grief Support Group

This group meets on January 15 at 7:00 p.m. and on the third Monday of each month. We have prayer and discussion about a topic that pertains to the grief experience. Contact Donna Clark in the parish office at 899-5342 or dclark@ourladyofmercychurch.org

The Letters of Stewardship

L:Love - God is Love. Love is something that is demonstrated through our actions and words. Giving = love = God.

We have Electronic Giving Available

Our Lady of Mercy uses the company Faith Direct to manage our electronic giving. You may have your donation deducted from your checking or savings account. You may also use a credit card. Simply go to our web site: www.ourladyofmercychurch.org and look for the Faith Direct icon on the left hand column.

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 17 was **Chloe Knepper, Grade 3**, who knew that Jesus was born in Bethlehem.

Family Faith Event

Families with children enrolled in the Sunday morning, K-Gr. 2 religious education ministry are reminded that we have a **Family Faith Event on Sunday, January 28 during the regularly scheduled class time.** Parents are expected to share this class time with their child. Siblings are welcome.

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.

Ink Jet Fundraiser

Please donate used black or color ink jet cartridges to the Religious Education ministry. Your donation helps to support our ministry to the children of the parish. *Previously refilled and remanufactured cartridges can not be redeemed.*

Looking to get rid of that extra fridge?

Our Lady of Mercy needs a new refrigerator for the Conference Room. If you have one that you are not using... please give us a call at 899-5342.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Offertory for the weekend of December 24, 2017

Envelopes sent:	399	
Envelopes returned:	83	\$3,734.00
Faith Direct Deposits:	106	\$2,851.75
Loose Change:		\$71.00
TOTAL OFFERTORY:		\$6,656.75

Offertory for December 25, 2017

Envelopes sent:	399	
Envelopes returned:	88	\$3,421.00
Faith Direct Deposits:	106	\$2,851.75
Loose Change:		\$1,474.00
TOTAL OFFERTORY:		\$7,746.75

Offertory for the weekend of December 31, 2017

Envelopes sent:	399	
Envelopes returned:	75	\$3,024.00
Faith Direct Deposits:	106	\$2,851.75
Loose Change:		\$91.00
TOTAL OFFERTORY:		\$5,875.75

Social Justice Committee News



The Church will observe World Refugee Day on January 14. In union with this international recognition, the Social Justice Committee will present the teaching of Scripture and Church leaders on this topic.

“The more prosperous nations are obligated, to the extent they are able, and to welcome the foreigner in search of the security and the means of livelihood which he cannot find in his country of origin. Public authorities should see to it that the natural right is respected that places a guest under the protection of those who receive him.”

Public authorities, for the sake of the common good for which they are responsible, may make the exercise of the right to immigrate subject to various juridical conditions, especially with regard to the immigrants' duties to their country of adoption. Immigrants are obligated to respect with gratitude the material and spiritual heritage of the country that receives them, to obey its laws and to assist in carrying civic burdens.” (Catechism of the Catholic Church #2241)

Upcoming Events

People for Life's Annual Pro-Life Breakfast will be held on **Saturday, January 13 at the Erie Bayfront Convention Center**. The main speaker will be Ann McElhinney, movie producer and author of a best-selling book about the Philadelphia abortion provider Kermit Gosnell who was in the news just a few years ago. Tickets are \$16 for adults. Free childcare available.

Attend the **March for Life in Washington, DC on Friday, January 19**. Buses chartered by People for Life will leave Erie on Thursday evening, January 18 at 11 p.m. and return about 2 a.m. on January 20. Reservations should be made as soon as possible.

Payments for the Pro-Life Breakfast and the March on Washington can be mailed to People for Life: PO Box 1126, Erie, PA 16512. For more information or to pay by credit card call 814-882-1333 or go online to www.peopleforlife.life/january 2018.

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.

Do We Have Your Latest Contact Information?

If you have moved or have changed home phone and/or cell phone numbers or email addresses, please update the office. Thank you!

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.**

Mardi Gras

It's time to plan for our annual parish **Mardi Gras celebration on February 11**. Sign-up sheets are in the Gathering Space. The Chili and Soup Cook-Off Teams are the highlight of the event. Gather family or friends and sign-up your team. We are also collecting items for our Chinese Auction, so consider re-gifting those unwanted Christmas gifts to OLM. Bring Chinese Auction items to the Faith Formation Office. The money we raise at this event will be sent to assist our sister parish complete a small convent for the sisters who minister in Peto.



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.

Benefit for John Salter

Join us for a benefit for John Salter, brother of Lisa (Tony) Iesue, on **Saturday, January 20 from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in Sperry Hall at OLM**. John nearly lost his life after being struck head-on by a drunk driver a few months ago. Everyday has been a step in the right direction for John as he continues his healing and rehab with a positive outlook! Please join us for a spaghetti dinner, Chinese auction, bake sale and more.

Our Neighbors Place Donations

We would like help with the following donations: coffee, hot cocoa, creamer, pop, drink mixes, cereal, snacks such as potato chips, pretzels, and fresh fruit. We also accept men's and women's winter clothing items, especially warm gloves. All the volunteers are in place for the January 14 to 27 session. If you would like to volunteer for staff or meals for the March session contact: Mary Ellen Lieb at 873-1284 or melieb4@gmail.com or Mary Hoffman at 873-298 or mymary14@gmail.com

2232 Men 2018 Conference

Enjoy three nationally known speakers on Saturday, March 3, 2018 at Our Lady of Peace, 2401 West 38th Street, Erie from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The speakers are Steve Wood, Fr. Larry Richards and Mike McCoy. Register online at www.2232men.com.

What is Contemplative or Centering prayer?

Wednesday Evenings
at 6:30 p.m.
January 17
January 31
February 7

Come To One Or All



Each Session will describe an aspect of contemplative prayer, give instruction on how to practice this form of prayer and will include a 20 minute contemplative prayer experience.

The tradition of Contemplative Christian Meditation goes back to the first century.

- ◆ This form of Prayer comes out of the life of God moving within us.
- ◆ It establishes us in a deeper relationship with Christ.
- ◆ Centering Prayer bonds us with everyone else in the Mystical Body of Christ and indeed with the whole human family.
- ◆ Questions? Call Donna Clark at 899-5342

Sunday Morning *C*A*F*E*

Join Us on Sunday, January 14

9:45 a.m.—10:45 a.m.

Sperry Hall



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.

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