

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

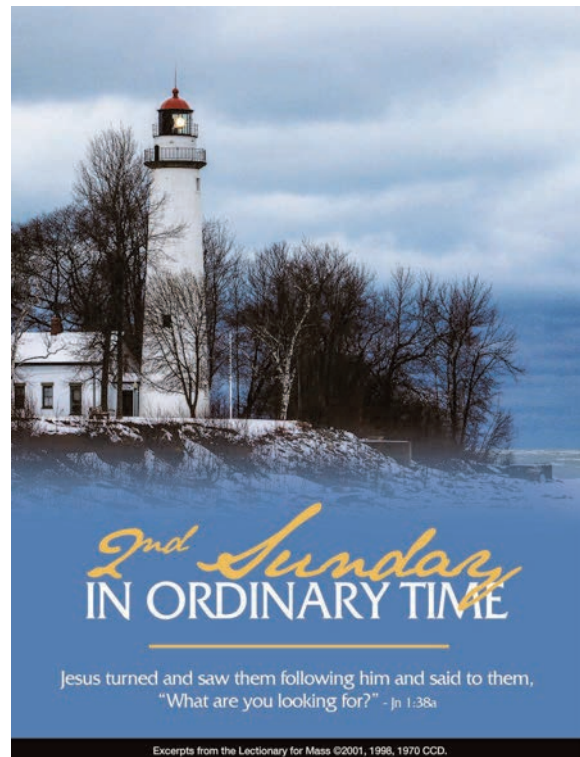
Parish Office: 814-899-5342

Office of Lifelong Faith Formation: 814-899-6132

Fax: 814-898-3306

Email: info@ourladyofmercychurch.org

January 14, 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. 01/15	11:00 a.m.	Centering Prayer
	6:30 p.m.	Fruit of the Vine (SCC)
	7:00 p.m.	Grief Support Group
Tue. 01/16	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
	7:00 p.m.	Core Team Mtg
	7:00 p.m.	LFF Mtg
Wed. 01/17	8:30 a.m.	Food Pantry Distribution
	9:00 a.m.	Scripture Study
	1:00 p.m.	Diamonds in the Rough (SCC)
	6:30 p.m.	Contemplative Prayer
	7:00 p.m.	OLM Book Group
Thur. 01/18	9:00 a.m.	Painting Class
	3:00 p.m.	Social Justice Committee
	6:00 p.m.	Prayer Shawl
	6:45 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Fri. 01/19	1:30 p.m.	Legion of Mary
Sat. 01/20	Ministry Celebration Weekend	
	4:30 p.m.	Sacrament of Penance
Sun. 01/21	Ministry Celebration Weekend	
	9:30 a.m.	Healing Ministry
	9:30 a.m.	Rel Ed Gr K-2
	10:30 a.m.	Gr 9 Retreat
	12:00 p.m.	Red Ed Gr 7 & 8

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon. 01/15	10:00 a.m.	Irene Lion
Tue. 01/16	8:30 a.m.	Jon Urmann (<i>Pat & Rog Urmann</i>)
Wed. 01/17	8:30 a.m.	
Thur. 01/18	8:30 a.m.	Dennis Hollarn (<i>Tom Farmer & Michelle Oylar</i>)
Fri. 01/19	8:30 a.m.	Marie Ritchie
Sat. 01/20	8:30 a.m.	
	6:00 p.m.	For the People of OLM
Sun. 01/21	8:30 a.m.	Jim Sheridan (<i>David & Jackie Felix</i>)
	11:00 a.m.	Lewis Peters (<i>Flo Voelker</i>)

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Mon. 01/15	1 Sm 15:16-23	/ Mark 2:18-22
Tue. 01/16	1 Sm 16:1-13	/ Mark 2:23-28
Wed. 01/17	1 Sm 17:32-33, 37, 40-51	/ Mark 3:1-6
Thur. 01/18	1 Sm 18:6-9, 19:1-7	/ Mark 3:7-12
Fri. 01/19	1 Sm 24:3-21	/ Mark 3:13-19
Sat. 01/20	2 Sm 1:1-4, 11-12, 19, 23-27	/ Mark 3:20-21
Sun. 01/21	Jon 3:1-5, 10/1 Cor 7:29-31	/ Mark 1:14-20

OLM PARISH OFFICE REMINDERS

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline to submit items for the February issue of **For Mercy Sake** is **TODAY January 14**. 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 Helen Blazek, mother of Robert Blazek. Please keep her and her 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 Geri Gallagher.

THIS SUNDAY'S REFLECTION

John 1:35-42



If we listen carefully, we can hear the voice of the Lord speaking to us. God speaks in the sacred space where we worship as well as in the holy temple within us. Sometimes we fail to hear God's voice because we haven't listened deeply enough. At other times the profane voice drowns out the divine voice. Then we must wait in silence and say, "Speak, Lord, your servant is listening." When we listen well, we can declare: "Here I am, Lord; I come to do you will."

John the Baptist heard God speak, and it drove him to do strange and wonderful things that seemed foolish to some. Why invite people to repent and then immerse themselves in the muddy waters of the Jordon? But John listened to God's voice instead of the voices of protest. John not only listened; he looked. As Jesus walked by, John wanted others to see what he saw. "Look! There is the Lamb of God!" Despite our blindness, Jesus sees us. "What are you looking for?" He invites us to come and see for ourselves. It will take a lifetime of listening, seeing, and following the one who calls us.

For Reflection: Do I take time to listen to God's voice? What is God telling me? How will I respond?

© Kay Murdy

Question & Answer with the Pastor

Wednesday, January 24 at 7:00 p.m. in the Conference Room is an opportunity for a conversation with Fr. Ritchie around your questions about the Catholic faith and practice, prayer, the Bible, moral issues or any other Catholic question you have. Invite a friend who has questions about the Church. Enjoy light snacks and a comfortable environment to explore matters of our shared faith. You are welcome to bring a snack to share if you wish.

Celebrating our Parish Ministries

This year instead of regular ministry sign-ups in January we are taking a year to celebrate all the ministries of Our Lady of Mercy. **Each month we will have an opportunity to learn about a group of 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

Meets 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

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.**

Counseling Available

Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy are offering their professional skills as counselors for adults or teens or family counseling. Counseling meetings are at the church, in a confidential setting. To schedule an appointment contact Donna Clark, 899-5342.

Divorced & Separated Ministry

Our Lady of Mercy has a ministry to the divorced and separated. This one-on-one ministry allows those experiencing divorce or separation to talk to another person who has been through it. This person can provide support during a difficult time. Contact Donna Clark.

Sunday Morning *C*A*F*E*

Our Sunday Morning CAFÉ is today, 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.

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.



First Reconciliation Parent Meeting

On Sunday, February 4 at 9:45 a.m. in Sperry Hall, there will be a very important meeting for all parents of children enrolled in the First Reconciliation Sunday morning religious education class.

The Question-Of-The-Week Contest Winner

The winner for the week of January 2 was **Kayden McKeel, Grade 4,** who knew that we remember the visit of the Magi to Jesus on Epiphany.

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, or by paper using the form in this week's bulletin 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, remanufactured, and lazer cartridges can not be redeemed.*

Special Thank You

John Eckendorf is now home after a lengthy illness. He offers his thanks to all those who prayed for him, and who sent cards and gifts during his illness.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Offertory for the weekend of January 7, 2018

Envelopes sent:	399	
Envelopes returned:	105	\$4,408.00
Faith Direct Deposits:	106	\$2,851.75
Loose Change:		\$231.48
TOTAL OFFERTORY:		\$7,491.23

Social Justice Committee News



The Church observes 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 during the month of January.

According to the United Nations High Commission on Refugees, 2017 saw more than 65 million refugees around the world, the highest number of people fleeing armed conflicts, persecution and natural disasters since the UN began to track this number.

"When the alien resides among you, do not oppress them. You must treat the alien living with you the same way you treat the native born among you; have the same love for them as you have for yourself; for you were once aliens in the land of Egypt. I, the Lord, am your God."
(Lev. 19:33-34)

Upcoming Events

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/january2018.

People for Life invites you to participate in the Erie March for Life on Saturday, January 27. Gather at the stage in west Perry Square by 10:45 a.m. The march will begin at 11:00 a.m. and conclude by 12:30 p.m. with a brief program in Perry Square. This is a good opportunity to be a voice for the voiceless and a witness for the sanctity of human life close to home. For more information call 814-882-1333 or go online to www.peopleforlife.org/january2018.

The Letters of Stewardship

M: Money – Many people think that stewardship is only about money. But that is only part of it. Money is what we use in this society to purchase what we need. Therefore, it becomes just as valuable as our time and talent. We give of ourselves in different ways at different times in our lives.

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.

Wine Social

Join the parish family for a wine social on Saturday, February 3 immediately after the Vigil Mass. Bring a bottle of wine and/or a snack to share. Meet new parish members and renew friendships with long standing members. Enjoy this opportunity to share some good food, a glass of wine, laughter before the Season of Lent begins.



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) Lesue, 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 873-2981 or mymary14@gmail.com.

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.

ABIBLE STUDY:

The Minor Prophets

**January 17— February, 7
Wednesdays/9:00-10:30 a.m.**

The biblical prophets spoke God's word of correction and hope to the people of ancient Israel. Their message continues to challenge us to this day.

Our winter Scripture Study will explore 4 of the shorter prophetic books of the Old Testament.

Hosea/Jan. 17 Amos/Jan. 24

Micah/Jan. 31 Zachariah/Feb. 7

Because each week will examine a different biblical book, there is no need to commit to be present to every week. This study is free and open to all. No prior knowledge of Scripture is needed. No need to register.



January 8, 2018

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In his 2017 World Communications Day Message, Pope Francis takes an unblinking look at how information is impacting our culture. While acknowledging that a constant focus on bad news contributes to anxiety and fear, he knows we cannot ignore the challenges of our times.

Yet he still finds room for hope.

"I would like to contribute to the search for an open and creative style of communication that never seeks to glamorize evil, but instead to concentrate on solutions and to inspire a positive and responsible approach on the part of its recipients," he writes. "I ask everyone to offer the people of our time storylines that are at heart 'good news.'"

That is exactly what we try to do in the Diocese of Erie. Overseeing our efforts to evangelize, to teach, to empower and to minister to those in need – not to mention the logistics of interacting with 97 parishes, 43 schools and dozens of ministries and agencies spread out across 10,000 square miles – requires that we share an enormous amount of information. I am committed to transparency, and work

closely with our Communications Office to make sure we use every avenue possible to keep you informed.

But it's about more than information. We prioritize inspiration as well. As Faith magazine begins its 13th year of publication, it's clear there will never be any shortage of stories about people in our diocese who are living out the Gospel with creativity and generosity. This year, we also are preparing to launch an updated website, designed to be welcoming, engaging and user friendly. And I have been enjoying reaching out to you with my new Twitter account in recent months.

Each of these efforts is important to our lifelong journey as disciples. That's why I'm asking you to please support the Help Spread the Faith collection January 27-28.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ Lawrence T. Persico
Bishop of Erie

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