

# 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

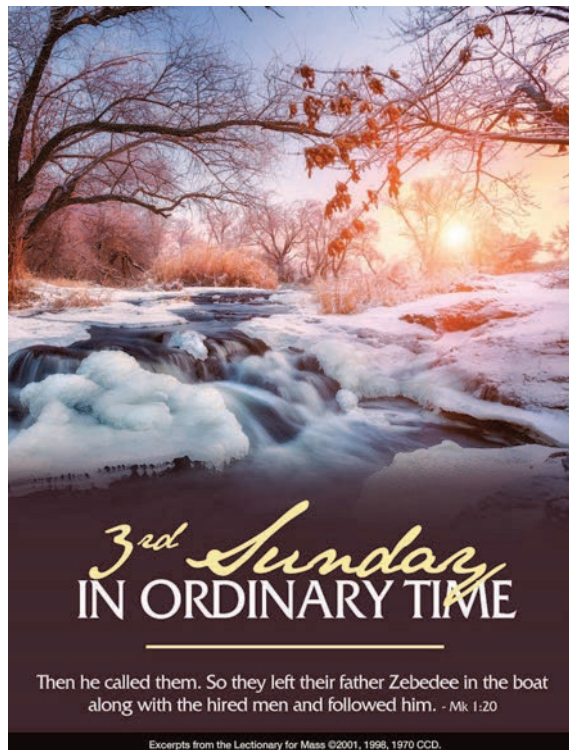
Parish Office: 814-899-5342

Office of Lifelong Faith Formation: 814-899-6132

Fax: 814-898-3306

Email: [info@ourladyofmercychurch.org](mailto:info@ourladyofmercychurch.org)

January 21, 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](http://ourladyofmercychurch.org/calendar)

<b>Mon. 01/22</b>	11:00 a.m.	Centering Prayer
	6:30 p.m.	Isaiah's Community (SCC)
<b>Tue. 01/23</b>	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
	6:30 p.m.	Parish Alive Team Mtg
<b>Wed. 01/24</b>	9:00 a.m.	Scripture Study
	1:00 p.m.	Diamonds in the Rough (SCC)
	7:00 p.m.	Q & A w/ Pastor
<b>Thur. 01/25</b>	9:00 a.m.	Painting Class
	3:00 p.m.	Social Justice Mtg
	6:00 p.m.	Prayer Shawl
	6:45 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
	7:00 p.m.	Tech Committee Mtg
<b>Fri. 01/26</b>	1:30 p.m.	Legion of Mary
	7:00 p.m.	Young Adult Adoration Event
<b>Sat. 01/27</b>	<b>Painting Class Art Exhibit</b>	
	4:30 p.m.	Sacrament of Penance
<b>Sun. 01/28</b>	<b>Painting Class Art Exhibit</b>	
	9:30 a.m.	Family Faith Event
	12:15 p.m.	Gr. 11 Interviews
	12:15 p.m.	Gr 7 & 8 Youth Event

## MASS INTENTIONS

<b>Mon. 01/22</b>	10:00 a.m.	<b>Eleanor Boris</b> ( <i>Extein Family</i> )
<b>Tue. 01/23</b>	8:30 a.m.	<b>David Ross</b> ( <i>Linda Ross</i> )
<b>Wed. 01/24</b>	8:30 a.m.	<b>Mary Ann Spiegel</b> ( <i>Spiegel Family</i> )
<b>Thur. 01/25</b>	8:30 a.m.	
<b>Fri. 01/26</b>	8:30 a.m.	<b>Olive Antolik</b> ( <i>George &amp; Judy Gido</i> )
<b>Sat. 01/27</b>	8:30 a.m.	
	6:00 p.m.	<b>Maureen Cudicio</b> ( <i>Bill Beckman</i> )
<b>Sun. 01/28</b>	8:30 a.m.	<b>For The People of OLM</b>
	11:00 a.m.	<b>Carol Kosobucki</b> ( <i>Kosobucki Family</i> )

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

<b>Mon. 01/22</b>	2 Sm 5:1-7, 10	/ Mark 3:22-30
<b>Tue. 01/23</b>	2 Sm 6:12b-15,17-19	/ Mark 3:31-35
<b>Wed. 01/24</b>	2 Sm 7:4-17	/ Mark 4:1-20
<b>Thur. 01/25</b>	Acts 22:3-16	/ Mark 16:15-18
<b>Fri. 01/26</b>	2 Tm 1:1-8	/ Mark 4:26-34
<b>Sat. 01/27</b>	2 Sm 12:1-7a,10-17	/ Mark 4:35-41
<b>Sun. 01/28</b>	Dt 18:15-20/ 1 Cor 7:32-35	/ Mark 1:21-28

## OLM PARISH OFFICE REMINDERS

### Annual Contribution Statements:

Annual contribution statements are available. Please call the parish office at 899-5342 or send your request via email to [secretary@ourladyofmercychurch.org](mailto:secretary@ourladyofmercychurch.org). **No statements will be sent electronically.** Faith Direct users please go to [www.FaithDirect.net](http://www.FaithDirect.net) for a contribution statement.

### 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.

## 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 1:14-20



Sometimes when we hear God's call, we are tempted to run away to avoid doing what God wants. But God does not let us off the hook and pursues us no matter how far we go. "Repent!" God says. Does God mean those other people, those "foreigners" with their strange talk and peculiar ways? We hear God speak again: "Repeat!" Can God be talking to us! Perhaps time is running out for us to mend our ways!

John the Baptist heard God's call, and the path on which God led him wasn't an easy one. When he wound up in jail, he probably wondered if he was on the right track. But prison walls could not silence the voice of God. Jesus repeated the message to all who would listen: "The reign of God is at hand! Reform your lives and believe the good news!" Simon Peter and Andrew answered his call, but it wasn't without a price: "Leave everything behind and come after me." Where will this path lead? "Teach us your ways, Lord; we pray." Guide us in right paths."

**For Reflection: How might my life be different if I took God's call seriously? What do I need to do first in order to proclaim the good news to others?**

© 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.

### 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. **The next two sessions are January 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.

### 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 laser toner cartridges can not be redeemed.*

### Winter Scripture Study

A Scripture Study on the minor prophets is underway. **We meet Wednesday mornings from January 17 to February 7 at 9:00 a.m. in the Conference Room.** We will study Amos this week. Upcoming weeks will explore Micah and Zachariah. 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 9 was **Kaylyn Still Grade 1** who knew that the name of the pope is Pope Francis.

### Young Adult Adoration

Married and single young adults (18-39) are invited to spend intentional time with Jesus in the Eucharist on **Friday, January 26 at 7:00 p.m. at OLM.** The evening will include Eucharistic adoration, confession, live praise and worship music, and benediction. Around 8:00 p.m. we will make our way to the Fiddle Inn for food and fellowship. Join us for as much or as little of the evening as your schedule allows. Bring a friend!

### 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 last week's bulletin or find applications on the bulletin tables. The retreat is free but space is limited.

Here is what one participant had to say about the weekend. *"This has been a wonderful experience that has allowed me to better examine my faith journey in connection with God and the community. I feel so lucky to have met and to have been embraced by the incredible members of your parish. They, through this Parish Alive weekend, have inspired me to get more involved in the church and the Erie community in general. It was really refreshing to take time out of my busy week to reflect on my faith."* Lauren Kenny

## FINANCIAL SUPPORT

### Offertory for the weekend of January 14, 2018

Envelopes sent:	399	
Envelopes returned:	102	\$4116.01
Faith Direct Deposits:	106	\$2,851.75
Loose Change:		\$170.00
<b>TOTAL OFFERTORY:</b>		<b>\$7,137.76</b>

## Social Justice Committee News



The Church observes World Refugee Day on Jan. 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.

Message of His Holiness Pope Francis for the 104th World Day of Migrants

*“The principle of the centrality of the human person, firmly stated by my beloved Predecessor, Benedict XVI, [5] obliges us to always prioritize personal safety over national security. It is necessary, therefore, to ensure that agents in charge of border control are properly trained. The situation of migrants, asylum seekers and refugees requires that they be guaranteed personal safety and access to basic services. For the sake of the fundamental dignity of every human person, we must strive to find alternative solutions to detention for those who enter a country without authorization.[6] (The entire text can be found on the OLM website on the Social Justice page)*

### Upcoming Events

**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 be gin 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](http://www.peopleforlife.org/january2018).

### The Letters of Stewardship

**N: Nature** – We care for the earth just as we care for ourselves. “The earth is the LORD’s and all it holds, the world and those who dwell in it.” (Psalm 24) Being a good steward extends beyond ourselves.

### 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](http://www.ourladyofmercychurch.org) and look for the Faith Direct icon on the left hand column.

### 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!

## 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 to complete a small convent for the sisters who minister in Peto.

## OLM Book Group

In February we will discuss “The Ballroom” by Anna Hope. 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.

## 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](mailto:melieb4@gmail.com) or Mary Hoffman at 873-2981 or [mymary14@gmail.com](mailto:mymary14@gmail.com).

## 125th Anniversary Celebration at St. Peter

Bishop Lawrence Persico invites members of the parishes in the Western Vicariate of the Diocese of Erie to join him at St. Peter Cathedral in downtown Erie, for 11 a.m. Mass on Sunday, February 11, in celebration of the 125th year of worship at the cathedral, the mother church of the diocese. Guided tours of the church, including the crypt, will immediately follow Mass. Social time will include coffee and donuts.

## Do you Shop at Gordon Food Service?

Please mention Our Lady of Mercy when you check out. We accumulate points and then our Funeral Meal Ministry can use these points to purchase food.

## Smile for Our Lady of Mercy

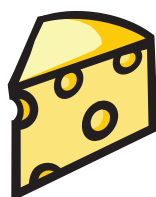
To link to our Amazon Smile charity listing visit: <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/25-1563277>. If you shop Amazon please consider using Amazon Smile and naming “Our Lady of Mercy – Harborcreek” as your charity.

**Join Us For A**

## **Q & A With Fr. Ritchie**

**Wednesday, January 24 at 7:00 p.m.**

**Informal gathering in the Conference Room**

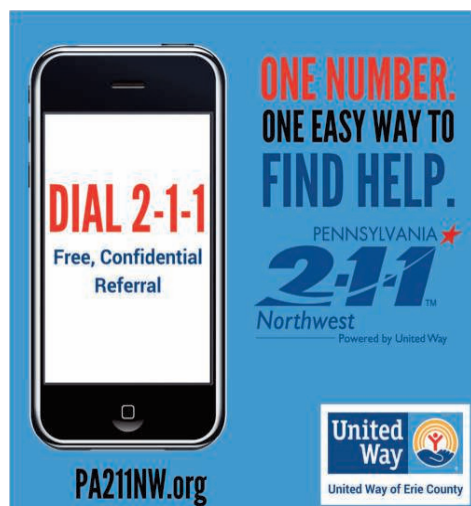


## **Wine, Cheese and Your Questions**



*(Feel free to bring a snack to share, if you wish)*

*This is your opportunity to chat with your pastor about those questions concerning the Bible, the Church, Catholic beliefs, etc. that you have never known how to answer. Every question is worthwhile as we will learn from one another. Whether you have a specific question in mind or just want an opportunity to learn and discuss, bring a friend and join us.*



**ONE NUMBER.  
ONE EASY WAY TO  
FIND HELP.**

**DIAL 2-1-1**  
Free, Confidential  
Referral

PENNSYLVANIA  
**2-1-1**  
Northwest  
Powered by United Way

United  
Way  
United Way of Erie County

PA211NW.org

### **United Way's 2-1-1 Information and Referral Service Now Available**

**2-1-1 is the social service equivalent of 9-1-1**, connecting people in need with the vast array of health, human and social services available in Erie County.

This is a much-needed service in Erie County since the demise of the volunteer-led Erie Hotline. **2-1-1 service** specifically addresses the 2016 Erie County Community Health Improvement Plan which concluded the lack of a central information and referral system as one of the "overarching challenges" impacting the

health of Erie County residents.

**Think 2-1-1 for social services much like people now think 9-1-1 for emergency services.**

**CALL 2-1-1**

**FOR THOSE IN NEED OF SOCIAL SERVICES IN ERIE COUNTY**

**LYNCH**  
Home Medical Supply  
TIMOTHY P. LYNCH  
Parishioner, Owner, Certified Orthotic Fitter  
Lift Chairs & Scooters • Wound Care • Walkers  
Wheelchairs • Commodes & Much More  
4020 Main St. • Lawrence Park  
899-3636  
www.lynychmedical.com

**Stans**  
Where There's Always Something GROWING on!  
Jim Skarzenski & Bob Rocky - Parishioners  
East: 5001 Buffalo Road, Erie, PA 16510, 899.5424  
West: 5341 West Lake Road, Erie, PA 16505, 835.6960

**HEISE REBUILDING**  
Starters • Alternators • Electrical  
Rewiring • Mechanical Repairs  
PA Inspections  
**899-8186**  
1291 Walbridge Rd. • Erie, PA 16511  
heiserebuilding.com  
~ Parishioner ~

**OLLINGER**  
PLUMBING, HEATING  
& AIR CONDITIONING  
Residential • Commercial  
Quality Installations & Service  
**899-2809**

Andy says ...  
**"Write it Up!"**  
LAKESIDECHEVYBUICK.COM  
-Andy Gabler  
President  
LAKESIDE CHEVROLET BUICK

Online Shopping  
for Catholic  
Gifts of Faith  
www.parishstore.com

**PRICHARD**  
CHIROPRACTIC OFFICES  
6095 Buffalo Road  
Harborcreek, PA  
**899-1966**  
DR. LOREN J. PRICHARD  
DR. SCOTT V. PRICHARD

**SUL FARMS & TRUCKING**  
12050 Kerr Rd • Northeast  
**(814) 882-3320**  
Custom Farming • Pick Your Own  
24 Hr. Snow Plowing • Detachable Low Boy  
Trailer with Winch • Salt and Ice Control  
Trucking & Dumping

**Howard Hanna**  
Real Estate Mortgage Title Insurance  
**Cindy Fabin,**  
Realtor, GPA, RRS, CNHS  
Multi Million Dollar Producer, PARISHIONER  
FOR OUTSTANDING RESULTS,  
YOU NEED AN OUTSTANDING AGENT!  
Cell: 814-881-1087 • Office: 814-899-3005  
Email: cFabin@howardhanna.com | Erie, PA, 16510

**FIDDLE INN**  
HARBORCREEK, PA  
"Home of the EVERYTHINGS"  
6615 Buffalo Road  
**814-899-9005**  
www.diningverse.com/fiddleinn

LIHEAP can help heat your home.  
LIHEAPhelps.com  
**National Fuel**  
PART OF THE SOLUTION

**William D. Elkin**  
Funeral Home  
65 South Lake St. • North East  
**725-4511**  
Timothy P. Elkin, F.D.  
William D. Elkin, F.D.  
Pre-Arrangements Available

**Widget**  
Financial  
widgetfinancial.com

**DUSCKAS - TAYLOR**  
FUNERAL HOME & CREMATION SERVICES, INC.  
5151 BUFFALO RD.  
ERIE, PA 16510  
ROBERT D. TAYLOR, SUPERVISOR  
814-315-0911  
WWW.DUSCKAS-TAYLORFUNERALHOME.COM

**Foster's**  
Rose of Sharon  
Floral & Gift Shop  
Merry Christmas!  
Savings of Up To 60% On All Items  
2703 Buffalo Rd • 814-899-5071

**Erie City**  
MEMORIALS by Ericson  
Because Every Life is Worth Remembering  
Located just down the road  
2515 Buffalo Rd • Erie, PA 16510  
(Across from St. James School)  
**814-898-0709**  
Indoor and Outdoor Showrooms  
Cemetery Memorials • Bronze Markers  
Vases • Candles • Pet Urns

AVAILABLE FOR A LIMITED TIME  
ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS HERE  
Contact **Tim Weir** to place an ad today!  
tweir@4LPi.com or (800) 477-4574 x6568

"Your Computer Professional"  
NEW SYSTEMS USED • REPAIRS  
"WE SERVICE ALL BRANDS"  
**898-8300**  
Jerry & Dee Law - Parishioners  
JDLCOMPUTERS.COM

**RUSSELL C. SCHMIDT & SON FUNERAL HOME, INC.**  
5000 Wattsburg Road • Erie, PA 16504  
(814) 824-5000 • Fax (814) 824-5006  
www.SchmidtFuneralHomeErie.com  
Dennis D. Schmidt, President/Supervisor  
Pre-Arranged, Pre-Financed, and  
Cremation Funerals Available

**catholicmatch**  
Pennsylvania  
CatholicMatch.com/PA

**A Deli and So Much More**  
Harborcreek  
Marketplace Deli  
814-899-3671  
6992 Buffalo Road  
Harborcreek  
**Shur's Fine**

**Holiday Sale**  
GET HELP AT THE TOUCH OF A BUTTON  
\$29.<sup>95</sup> / Mo. **BILLED QUARTERLY**  
• Providing Protection In the Home • One Month Free • No Long-Term Contracts • Price Guarantee  
**CALL TODAY! 877.801.7772**