

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*

Katie Stephenson, *Administrative Assistant*

Geri Hadlock, *Youth Minister*

Kirk Mientkiewicz, *Maintenance Coordinator*

Andrea Maille, *Lifelong Faith Formation Secretary*

CONTACT INFORMATION

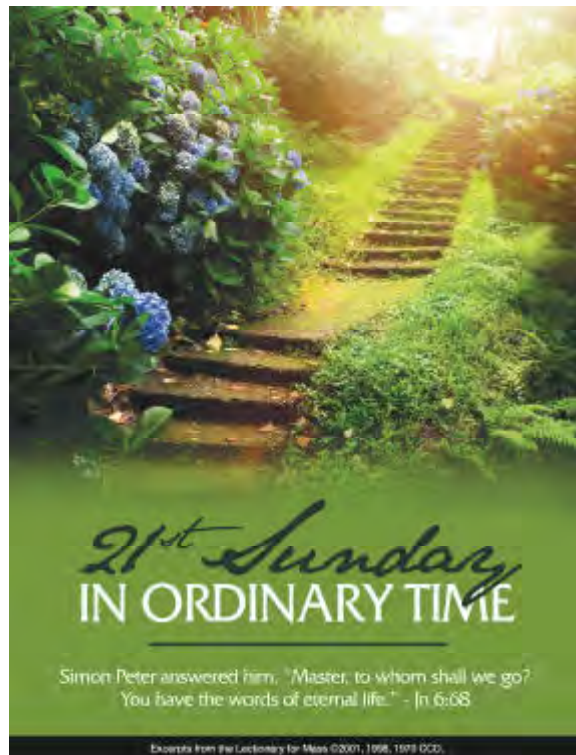
Parish Office: 814-899-5342

Office of Lifelong Faith Formation: 814-899-6132

Fax: 814-898-3306

Email: info@ourladyofmercychurch.org

August 26, 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. 08/27		
Tue. 08/28	5:30 p.m.	AA Picnic
	7:30 p.m.	AA Meeting
Wed. 08/29	7:00 p.m.	Fruit of the Vine (SCC)
Thur. 08/30		
Fri. 08/31	1:30 p.m.	Legion of Mary
Sat. 09/01	10:00 a.m.	AA Meeting
	4:30 p.m.	Sacrament of Penance
Sun. 09/02	9:30 a.m.	Healing Ministry
		Food Pantry Collection
		Casserole Club Drop Off

Catechist Organizational Meeting is today, Aug. 26 at 9:30 in the Conference Room.
Religious Education Classes Begin September 4 at Our Lady of Mercy.

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 Tom & Linda Bleil.

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon. 08/27	8:30 a.m.	Margaret Rathers
Tue. 08/28	8:30 a.m.	
Wed. 08/29	8:30 a.m.	James Boris (Extein Family)
Thur. 08/30	8:30 a.m.	Margaret Latchford
Fri. 08/31	8:30 a.m.	Dolores Dietz (Family)
Sat. 09/01	8:30 a.m.	Edward Spellman Jr. (Novelia & Edward Spellman)
	6:00 p.m.	Bob Jones (Barb Jones)
Sun. 09/02	8:30 a.m.	Frank Szklenski (Heise Family)
	11:00 a.m.	The People of Our Lady of Mercy

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Mon. 08/27	2 Thes 1:1-5, 11-12 / Matthew 23:13-22
Tue. 08/28	2 Thes 2:1-3, 14-17 / Matthew 23:23-26
Wed. 08/29	2 Thes 3:6-10, 16-18 / Mark 6:17-29
Thur. 08/30	1 Cor 1:1-9 / Matthew 24:42-51
Fri. 08/31	1 Cor 1:17-25 / Matthew 25:1-13
Sat. 09/01	1 Cor 1:26-31 / Matthew 25:14-30
Sun. 09/02	Dt 4:1-2, 6-8 / Jas 1:17-18, 21-22, 27 / Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

From the Family of Frank Gerlach

To Our Lady of Mercy Faith Community and Pastoral Staff—Please accept our heartfelt gratitude for your constant prayers and support. A special thank you to all who gave so generously of their time and talents to comfort us during this difficult time; especially the ladies who provided and served the delicious lunch and Msgr. Ritchie, Donna, Brandon, and Tom and their Staff. This parish is truly blessed to have you as its greatest treasure.

IN LOVING MEMORY

We remember **Leona Stankiewicz**, mother of Karen Sweeney. Please keep them and their families in your prayers.



THIS SUNDAY'S REFLECTION

John 6:60-69

Before they crossed over into the Promised Land, Joshua gathered all the people and challenged them to make a decision. Would they serve the gods of the world or the true God of Israel? Fidelity to God is not easy. We must think carefully before taking on such an obligation. We must decide not only today but tomorrow and the next day. We hope that we will say, as Joshua did: "As for me and my household, we will serve the LORD" (24:15). But can I decide for others when my own faith commitment may be fragile? Can I make such a commitment for my loved ones—spouses who do not believe, children who are disinterested? We must not impost our faith on others but rather defer to one another, waiting patiently for the Spirit to stir each heart to make a decision.



Jesus knows how weak our human flesh is. He knows we sometimes fail to take his words seriously. We murmur in protest at his words, even though we know the promise they contain: "The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life" (Jn 6:63). Jesus knows there are some among us who do not believe. "Do you want to leave me too?" he asks. "To whom can we go?" we cry. "You have the words of eternal life" (v 68b).

For Reflection: Have I pledged my faithful commitment to the Lord today?



Social Justice Committee News

Poverty

Last year, Pope Francis instituted the World Day of the Poor. In so doing, he termed it a call "to make a serious examination of conscience in order to understand if we are really capable of hearing them." This year it will be commemorated on Sunday, November 18.

In responding to this challenge, we can participate in local anti-poverty efforts. Within our own parish, we can volunteer or donate to the Food Pantry. In the Erie community, there are many opportunities such as supporting or volunteering with the Emma's Soup Kitchen, St Martin's Center, Catholic Charities, Second Harvest Food Bank, Homeless Shelters, and the many programs run by the Sisters of St. Joseph, the Benedictine Sisters of Erie, and the Sisters of Mercy.

eriercd.org provides information regarding services and charities available in the Erie Diocese. You can also search VolunteerMatch.org will help to find other local opportunities to help those in need.

Women's Luncheon

On Monday, **August 27 at 1pm** we will gather at Harborview Grill. (3730 Harbor Ridge Trail). If you live alone and are looking for companionship and laughter please join us. Questions? **Call Donna Clark** in the parish office.

Knights of Columbus Dance



The Knights of Columbus is sponsoring a dance **Saturday Sept 22nd** in conjunction with the OLM Feast Day weekend. The band "The Groove" Eries most popular band will be providing the entertainment from

7 to 11 in the gym. Complimentary beer and setups will be provided. Tickets will go on sale in the Gathering Space after all the masses beginning on August 12th and thru Sept. 16th, or until sold out. Tickets are limited to 250. Last year we were sold out, so purchase your tickets early. Tickets will also be available for purchase during the week in the parish office. Ticket price is \$15 or (2) for \$25. Co-Chairs Frank Kaleta and Phil Gleger.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Offertory for the weekend of **August 19, 2018**

Envelopes sent:	392	
Envelopes returned:	87	\$3,890.00
Faith Direct Deposits:	118	\$3,122.00
Loose Change:		\$ 134.00
TOTAL OFFERTORY:		\$7,146.00

Kitchen Coordinator for Feast Day

We need a small team of people to help coordinate the kitchen for our Feast Day on **Sept 23rd**. This group prepares the meatballs, receives the food before Mass, keeps things warm and puts the food out on the buffet tables. Then coordinates the clean-up. If you can help please **contact Donna Clark**.



Do you use a cell phone for your main communication?

Would it be helpful if the parish had your cell phone number? Please **text 814-566-7593** to let us know or email secretary@ourladyofmercychurch.org. Tell us your name and cell phone number.

Neighborhood Art House to host fundraising event

The children of the Neighborhood Art House, a ministry of the Benedictine Sisters of Erie, welcome the public to the 2018 "Taste of the Arts" event at 201 E. 10th St., Erie, **Sept. 11 at 5 p.m.** All proceeds fund the after-school and summer arts programs for inner-city youth. For more details and to register, visit www.neighborhoodarthouse.org/.

Story Time

There is something new for pre-school children and their parents! It is our Wednesday morning Story Time: music, games activities, snack and stories guarantee a fun-filled hour for all. We meet every other Wednesday morning at 9:30 under the skylight in the classroom area. All are welcome. Bring a friend. There is no cost. Our next session is this **Wednesday, September 5.**



Book Group

Another school year is beginning. Kids are once again cracking open those books. It's a great time to crack open your own book, only now you get to pick the title you want to read. And, you get to discuss that book with a glass of wine and some great ladies. This is a season of beginnings, a perfect time to try something new. Consider giving the OLM Book Group a try. There is no need to commit; come as often as you wish. On Sept. 19, we will gather at the home of Irene Lucas 1019 Bartlett Rd. to discuss Eighty Days: Nellie Bly and Elizabeth Bisland's History Making Race Around the World by Matthew Goodman. For those who want to read ahead, our October book will be The Rent Collector by Camron Wright.



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS



Sept 1	Lexi Gilchrist	18
Sept 1	Libby Gilchrist	18
Sept 5	Zach Olson	16
Sept 7	Kayla Kohut	13
Sept 8	Georgia Weber	13
Sept 9	Logan Garrans	5
Sept 10	Aiden Ollinger	11
Sept 11	Louis Morgan	3
Sept 11	Riley Whitney	9
Sept 12	Ryder Daniels	9
Sept 12	Sadie Lander	10
Sept 14	Mikayla Habursky	16
Sept 14	Annie Sarvis	14
Sept 14	Hannah Claypoole	15
Sept 17	Anthony Allegretto	11
Sept 20	Rachel Mclaughlin	18
Sept 21	Amiya Sacco	16
Sept 22	Clara Camillo	10
Sept 27	Montgomery Varo	12
Sept 27	Lillian Zielinski	10
Sept 28	Cole Maloney	1

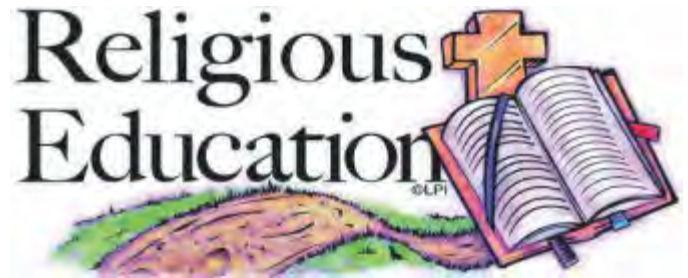
Hair Care Done in Your Home

Specializing in seniors and disabled, Annette will come to your home. She can do perms, shampoo and sets, haircuts, manicures, coloring and barbering. For more information or to get in touch with **Annette please call 814-616-6946**. Annette recently moved back to Erie and joined Our Lady of Mercy.



Surviving Divorce Healing Program

Surviving Divorce Ministry, a 12-week group to help anyone who is separated or divorced. Runs on Wednesdays from **Sept. 5 – Nov. 28, 2018** from 6:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m. at St. Mark Catholic Center in Erie (Cost - \$15 for book/journal). Topics to begin healing will be covered through DVDs with experienced presenters and real men and women who have felt the pain of divorce. **Please call the Family Life Office, (814) 824-1250**, or email: familylife@eriercd.org for more information and/or to register.



Religious Education Classes Begin September 4 at Our Lady of Mercy.

Important Parent Meetings:

As the year of religious education kicks off at Our Lady of Mercy, there are a number of important parent meetings:

Sept. 5 @ 6:00 – Grade 9 Parent & Candidate Mtg

Sept. 6 @ 6:00 – Gr. 11 Parent & Candidate Mtg

Sept. 9 @ 9:30 – Gr. K-2 Parent Mtg

Sept. 9 @ 12:15 – Gr 7/8 Parent Mtg

Gr. K-2 Sunday Morning RE Ministry will begin the year with a Parent/Child event.

Parents are asked to accompany their child to religious education on the first day of class, Sept 9. We will gather in Sperry Hall for a shared activity. After that, children will meet their teachers and go to class while parents will remain in Sperry Hall for a Parent Meeting. Siblings are welcome to share in this event.

Catechists Needed

The start of religious education is only 2 weeks away. It is time to begin praying about God's call to become involved in the religious education ministry. For the coming academic year, we need a Jr.

High catechist (12:00-1:15 Sunday afternoon), several Confirmation Home Session leaders for Gr. 9 (time of choosing) and a Sunday morning general aide (9:15-10:45). We also need adults willing to supervise Klein students who arrive half an hour prior to the start of class (3:15-3:50 Tuesday afternoon). All volunteers who work with youth must provide current background checks and view an on-line training for child safety. Training for the ministry of catechist will be provided. If you would like more information, **contact Irene Lucas @ 899-6132**.



Religious Education Registration

All new and returning youth planning to participate in the coming year of religious education classes at OLM must be registered prior to the start of class. Registration is accomplished by updating the contact information and a parent signature. If you have not yet registered your child and anticipate that s/he will be involved in the faith formation ministry, please stop by the Office of Lifelong Faith Formation during normal working hours. The process takes only a couple of minutes.

Celebrating the Ministries of Our Lady of Mercy

We celebrate the **Outreach Ministries** on Sept 8 & 9

These include:

Casserole Club
Cursillo Parish Coordinator
Dresses for Missions
Ella Cochran Food Pantry
Sister Parish Committee
Social Justice Committee
Praying for the Parish

On this weekend, please wear **INDIGO (dark blue)** if you are in one of these ministries. There will be an opportunity to learn more about each of these ministries and sign-up if the spirit is drawing you to participate in a ministry.



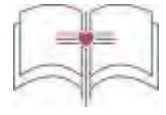
What's Next? — Ministry Recommitment and Showcase—Oct 13 & 14

Before our Recommitment, you will have an opportunity to verify what ministries you participate in. Lists will be displayed in the Gathering Space. If you are retiring from a ministry this is one way to let us know.

During Mass on this weekend we will have a recommitment ceremony.

There will be an opportunity to sign up for a new ministry. We will list the ministries that are in need of more people. It is a time to discern how best to use your gifts .

At any time you can contact your ministry leader to make a change or contact Donna Clark in the parish office.



In our prayerful response to the Grand Jury Report on sexual abuse in the Church, we offer the following materials to sit and pray with in our struggle for healing and peace.

PRAYER FOR HEALING *for the Victims of Sexual Abuse*

God of endless love,
 ever caring, ever strong,
 always present, always just:
 You gave your only Son
 to save us by the blood of his cross.

Gentle Jesus, shepherd of peace,
 join to your own suffering
 the pain of all who have been hurt
 in body, mind, and spirit
 by those who betrayed the trust placed in them.

Hear our cries as we agonize
 over the harm done to our brothers and sisters.
 Breathe wisdom into our prayers,
 soothe restless hearts with hope,
 steady shaken spirits with faith:
 Show us the way to justice and wholeness,
 enlightened by truth and enfolded in your mercy.

Holy Spirit, comforter of hearts,
 heal your people's wounds
 and transform our brokenness.
 Grant us courage and wisdom, humility and grace,
 so that we may act with justice
 and find peace in you.
 We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

(provided by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops)

Below are the lyrics to the reflection song prayed at last weekend's Masses.

God weeps
 at love withheld,
 at strength misused,
 at children's innocence abused,
 and till we change the way we love,
 God weeps.

God bleeds
 at anger's fist,
 at trust betrayed,
 at women battered and afraid,
 and till we change the way we win,
 God bleeds.

God cries
 at hungry mouths,
 at running sores,
 at creatures dying without cause,
 and till we change the way we care,
 God cries.

God waits
 for stones to melt,
 for peace to seed,
 for hearts to hold each other's need,
 and till we understand the Christ,
 God waits.

(by Shirley Elena Murray)



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