

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

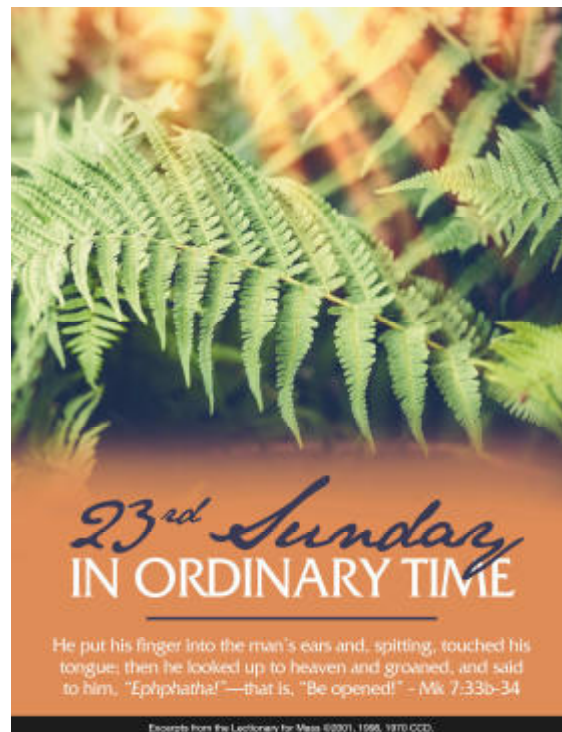
Parish Office: 814-899-5342

Office of Lifelong Faith Formation: 814-899-6132

Fax: 814-898-3306

Email: info@ourladyofmercychurch.org

September 9, 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. 09/10	6:30 p.m.	Fall PF & Core Team Kickoff Potluck
Tue. 09/11	2:00 p.m.	Prayer Shawl
	4:00 p.m.	Religious Ed. Gr. 3-6
	5:30 p.m.	Children's Choir
	7:30 p.m.	AA Meeting
Wed. 09/12	6:30 p.m.	AGIFT Meeting
	7:00 p.m.	Fruit of the Vine (SCC)
	7:00 p.m.	Knights of Columbus
Thur. 09/13	6:00 p.m.	Prayer Shawl
	6:45 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
	7:00 p.m.	Tech Committee Meeting
Fri. 09/14	1:30 p.m.	Legion of Mary
Sat. 09/15	SCC SIGN-UP WEEKEND	
	10:00 a.m.	AA Meeting
	4:30 p.m.	Sacrament of Penance
Sun. 09/16	SCC SIGN-UP WEEKEND	
	8:00 a.m.	Pre-Cana
	9:30 a.m.	CAFÉ Presentation: Liturgical Design
	9:30 a.m.	Healing Ministry
	9:30 a.m.	Religious Ed. Gr. K-2
	12:00 p.m.	Religious Ed. Gr. 7 & 8

Special Thanks

Thank you Father Ritchie, Donna, Brandon, Brittany, and staff of the Bereavement Ministry and Funeral Dinners. Also thank you to all who donated food and worked in the kitchen in our time of loss.

God Bless,
The Family of Larry Rogers

Outreach Ministries Sign up

If you are interested in joining one of the outreach ministries please see the display in the gathering space. **These include:**
 Dresses for Missions Sister Parish Committee
 Praying for the Parish Social Justice Committee
 Ella Cochran Food Pantry Casserole Club
 Cursillo Parish Coordinator

Fall Bucket List

- Drink Apple Cider
- Watch Football
- Join A Small Christian Community
- Read A Book
- Have A Bonfire
- Join A Small Christian Community
- Jump In The Leaves
- Take A Hayride
- Join A Small Christian Community



Signup weekend: September 15 & 16
After all Masses

Questions? Call Dave Jacquel 602-4622
Or the Parish Office 899-5342

In Loving Memory

We remember **Jack King**, father of Brenda Royer; 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 Florence Voelker.

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon. 09/10	8:30 a.m.	
Tue. 09/11	8:30 a.m.	Ruth Extein <i>(Extein Family)</i>
Wed. 09/12	8:30 a.m.	Jim Bucklin <i>(Lorraine Bucklin)</i>
Thur. 09/13	8:30 a.m.	
Fri. 09/14	8:30 a.m.	Floyd Brochey <i>(Don & Margaret McCurdy)</i>
Sat. 09/15	8:30 a.m.	
	6:00 p.m.	Diane Gerlach <i>(Frank Gerlach)</i>
Sun. 09/16	8:30 a.m.	For the People of OLM
	11:00 a.m.	Olive Antolik <i>(John & Rebecca Kucsma)</i>

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Mon. 09/10	1 Cor 5:1-8	/ Luke 6:6-11
Tue. 09/11	1 Cor 6:1-11	/ Luke 6:12-19
Wed. 09/12	1 Cor 7:25-31	/ Luke 6:20-26
Thur. 09/13	1 Cor 8:1-7, 11-13	/ Luke 6:27-38
Fri. 09/14	Nm 21:4-9; Phil 2:6-11	/ John 3:13-17
Sat. 09/15	1 Cor 10:14-22	/ John 19:25-27 or Luke 2:33-35
Sun. 09/16	Is 50:5-9/ Jas 2:14-18/ Mark 8:27-35	

THIS SUNDAY'S REFLECTION



Mark 7:31-37

In bondage for a generation, the people of God did not hear Isaiah's message of hope. But God was trustworthy! God secured justice for the oppressed and set the captives free. Then their eyes were opened to God's mercy, and their ears could hear God's commands.

James declared: "Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters". We may be poor in the sight of the world, yet God chose us, welcomed us into the kingdom and made us rich in faith. If God has been so gracious to us, we must not show favoritism to the rich and powerful. Since God has liberated us from a life of sin, we must not be oppressive toward those who are powerless and defenseless. Discrimination has no place in hearts that have been set free.

God's saving mercy was fully revealed in Jesus Christ. To those who have not heard God's voice, Jesus says "Ephphatha! Be opened!" To those unable to sing God's praises, Jesus says, "Ephphatha!" To hearts and minds closed to the needs of the poor and the suffering in the world, Jesus says, "Ephphatha!" With ears opened and tongue released, we sing, "Praise the Lord, my soul!"

For Reflection: Are my ears open to hear God's truth? Am I able to see Christ in the disadvantaged?

OFFERING OF LETTERS

On the weekend of **Sept. 29-30**, Our Lady of Mercy will participate in the Bread for the World annual Offering of Letters Campaign. The goal of this campaign is to encourage Congress to fully fund nutrition programs that alleviate hunger as they make the 2019 budget. For the first time since the turn of the century, the hunger rate increased in 2016. 815 million people live in hunger, of these 13 million children are children living in the U.S. Our voices are needed to advocate for the most vulnerable of our sisters and brothers. Each member of the community is asked to bring a personalized letter addressed to your Senators or Congressman. These letters will be part of our Procession of Gifts, our offering of our political power as citizens on behalf of the Gospel. More details about this campaign can be found on the parish website.

Sample Letter

[Date]

Dear Sen. Patrick Toomey or Robert Casey,
or Dear Rep. Glenn Thompson or Mike Kelly,

As Congress works on the fiscal year 2019 budget and spending bills, I ask you to invest in and protect key programs that will reduce hunger and poverty.

Our country and the world have made progress against hunger and poverty in recent decades. I want you to continue to invest in programs like SNAP and tax credits for low-income workers. Continued funding for programs that reduce hunger and poverty around the world are also important to me.

My faith calls me to urge you to make public investments that will move us toward the end of hunger. My parish works to alleviate hunger by hosting the Harborcreek Food Pantry. Through the annual CROP Walk, members of Erie County come together to raise funds to support ministries like the local soup kitchens, shelters and food pantries that serve so many hungry people living among us. I support a number of these local initiatives by my time and donations. But, local charitable efforts are not enough. We need federal programs that are fully funded.

Sincerely,

[Your name] [your address] [city, state, ZIP]

Harvest Fest

Our annual Harvest Fest will take place **Sunday, Oct. 7 from noon to 2:00 PM**. There will be a feast of homemade soups, crafts and games for the children, a day to celebrate the blessings of the season. We need people willing to make and donate a crockpot of soup for our feast. Sign-up lists for soup makers will be in the Gathering Space next weekend. Thank you in advance.



Feast Day Kitchen Helpers

We need a number of people to work for about an hour in the kitchen or hall for our **Feast Day on Sept 23rd**. People can help Saturday for set up, Sunday before Mass to receive food and then put it out on the serving tables after Mass or clean up after lunch. Each shift should be about an hour. See the sign up in the gathering space. Or **contact Donna Clark**.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Offertory for the weekend of **September 2, 2018**

Envelopes sent:	392	
Envelopes returned:	99	\$5,433.00
Faith Direct Deposits:	118	\$3,122.00
Loose Change:		\$ 240.00
TOTAL OFFERTORY:		\$8,795.00

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 Legler.



Ministry Recommitment and Showcase Oct 13 & 14

During Mass on this weekend, everyone will have an opportunity to recommit to their current ministries or join a new ministry. On this weekend we will have a recommitment ceremony. We ask everyone, starting Sept 30, to check the ministry lists displayed in the gathering space and verify the ministries you are involved in. If you are retiring from a ministry this is one way to let us know. After Mass we will have a Ministry Showcase in Sperry Hall. There you can sign up for a new ministry. These ministries are looking new people to join them. Start now in prayer 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. 899-5342**.

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 that want to read ahead, our October book will be The Rent Collector by Camron Wright.



Day of Prayer

Bishop Persico has called the Church of the Diocese of Erie to a day of prayer on **Saturday, Sept. 15**, the Feast of Our Lady of Sorrows. Every church in the diocese is asked to be opened from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm. We are invited to pray for the Church, for the healing of its members who bear the wounds of abuse, for the sincere repentance of its members who inflicted those wounds by their actions or failure to act, for the ongoing conversion and growth in holiness of every member of the Body of Christ. At Our Lady of Mercy, the hours of silent prayer will be punctuated by several opportunities for communal prayer. Every member of this community is asked to take the opportunity for prayer during this time.

7:00 am	Church is open for silent Prayer
8:30 am	Mass
10:30 am	The Rosary
1:00 pm	Stations of the Cross
4:00 pm	Vespers (Evening of Prayer Lament)
4:30 pm	Sacrament of Reconciliation
6:00 pm	Mass
7:00 pm	Day of Prayer concludes



CATHOLIC EDUCATION COLLECTION



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The yearly Catholic Education Collection will be conducted in our parishes during the weekend of September 15-16 and we need your help. The Catholic Education Collection supports lifelong faith formation for everyone. I view faith formation truly as a lifelong process that includes religious education and youth ministry, but also adult faith formation efforts.

It must encompass all age groups, including those beyond elementary school and high school age. Almost every aspect of parish life is touched by faith formation, from religious education and family life to service and worship.

Please generously support this collection. Half of the funds raised in your parish will remain in your parish to support its educational and faith formation programs. The other half raised will be used throughout the diocese to fund programs like leadership training, tuition assistance, workshops and conferences, and training for pastoral ministers.

A small portion of the collection also supports The Catholic University of America which promotes Catholic Social Teaching and the training of priests, religious and lay leaders.

Thank you for your generous support which helps make these important opportunities possible. Be assured of my prayers for you and your families.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+Lawrence T. Persico

The Most Reverend Lawrence T.
Persico, JCL
Bishop of Erie

Saint Stanislaus Parish Day

St. Stanislaus Parish, is hosting their Annual Parish Day on **Sunday, October 7, 2018**, from Noon—5:00 p.m. A delicious “Polish Platter Dinner” will be served. Cost for adults—\$11; children (6-12) — \$5; and children under 5—free. All festivities take place in the Parish Hall located at 520 East 13 Street. There will be special awards, fresh baked goods, a Chinese auction, theme baskets, raffles and children’s games, fun for all ages. A fun afternoon to get together with your family and friends. All proceeds benefit the parish.

Blessed Sacrament Fall Festival

Sunday, September 16th from Noon – 5:00PM



Children and adult games, bake sale, and a theme basket raffle! \$500 Drawing every half hour from 12:30pm to 3:00pm! At 3:30pm \$1,500...4:00pm \$2,500...4:30pm \$3,000! **GRAND PRIZE DRAWING \$5,000 at 5:00pm!** \$50. Additional

prize if winner is present. Tickets are \$5 each. Flu Shots available Noon - 4pm. Blood Mobile available Noon - 3:00pm.

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/.

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.



Important Parent Meetings

As the year of Religious Education kicks off at Our Lady of Mercy, there are a couple of important parent meetings today:

Sept. 9 @ 9:30 – Gr. K-2 Mtg
Sept. 9 @ 12:15 – Gr 7/8 Mtg



Catechists Needed

For the coming academic year, we need a Jr. High catechist (12:00-1:15 Sunday afternoon), 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.

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.

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 the 2nd and 4th Wednesday mornings at 9:30 under the skylight in the classroom area. All are welcome. Bring a friend. There is no cost. **Our next session is Sept. 12.**



Children's Liturgy of the Word

There has been a request to have Children's Liturgy of the Word at the 8:30 Mass. We can only make this possible if we have 4 volunteer leaders willing to be on a rotating schedule. If you are interested in being part of this ministry at the 8:30 Mass, **contact Irene to learn more at 899-6132 or ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org**.

Baptismal Preparation Session

Our next session for parents and godparents will be Sunday, Oct. 21 at 12:15 in the Conference Room. If you have or are expecting a baby and hope to celebrate baptism with the child in the next 6 months, you need to attend a preparation session. To register for this class, **call the Parish Office at 899-5342**.



Ladies' Outing

Join us for a trip to the Straw Hat in North East. This is a social event for women who live alone. Meet at the church at **12:30pm on Wednesday Sept 19**.

Our Lady of Mercy's **PARISH FEAST DAY**



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2018
Community Mass at 10:30 a.m.
followed by a luncheon in Sperry Hall
(This is the only Mass at OLM this weekend.)

Since most of us attend the same Mass each weekend, we don't often get the chance to interact with those who attend other Masses. By celebrating one "Community Mass", we have the opportunity to celebrate and rejoice together as one family of faith.

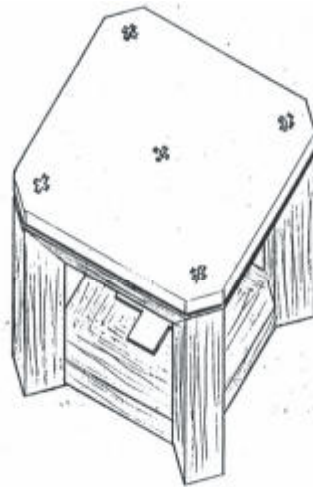
Please bring a dish to share for the luncheon according to your last name:

A-G *Dessert or Snack*
H-O *Casserole or Fruit*
P-Z *Salad or Appetizer*

Gluten-free items are welcome.

A **PRAYERFUL,**
WELCOMING,
AND **NURTURING**
ENVIRONMENT

THE LITURGICAL DESIGN
OF OUR LADY OF MERCY CHURCH



Sunday, September 16
9:30 A.M.

PRESENTED BY
BRANDON VOGT

PART OF THE
OLM SUNDAY CAFÉ

One of the most significant experiences in the life of any parish community is the process of building a church.

In early 1995, Our Lady of Mercy's Pastoral Council began to explore solutions to address the lack of adequate space for our liturgical needs. Our original church home, built in 1946, was built as a multi-purpose building and did not lend itself to implementing the liturgical directives of the Church as part of the vision of the Second Vatican Council.

Come and learn about how the architecture, furnishings, and works of art of our current worship space, dedicated in 2000, was inspired from the process of liturgical design.

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