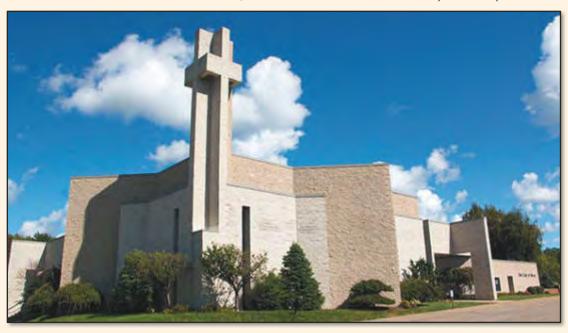
OUR LADY OF MERCY CHURCH

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

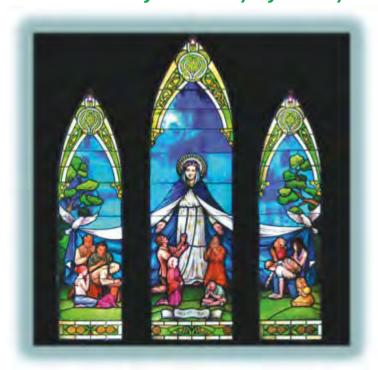
Parish Office: 814-899-5342

Office of Lifelong Faith Formation: 814-899-6132

Fax: 814-898-3306

Email: info@ourladyofmercychurch.org

September 23, 2018 The Feast of Our Lady of Mercy



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

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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**.



MASS INTENTIONS

Mon. 09/24 8:30 a.m.
Tue. 09/25 8:30 a.m.
Rod Haynes
(Sue Haynes)

Wed. 09/26 8:30 a.m. Thur. 09/27 8:30 a.m. Fri. 09/28 8:30 a.m.

Sat. 09/29 8:30 a.m. 6:00 p.m.

Sun. 09/30 8:30 a.m. 11:00 a.m. Denise Carroll Helen Markiewicz (Mary Lou Oslecki)

For the People of OLM Yolanda DiRaimo (Family)

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Mon. 09	/24 Prv	3:27-34	/ Luke 8:16-18
Tue. 09	/25 Prv	21:1-6, 10-13	/ Luke 8:19-21
Wed. 09	/26 Prv	30:5-9	/ Luke 9:1-6
Thur. 09	/ 27 Eccl	1:2-11	/ Luke 9:7-9
Fri. 09	/28 Eccl	3:1-11	/ Luke 9:18-22
Sat. 09	/29 Dn 7	7:9-10, 13-14 or R	v 12:7-12
			/ John 1:47-51
Sun. 09	/30 Nm	11:25-29/ Jas 5:1	-6
		/ Mark 9	:38-43, 45, 47-48

THE FEAST OF OUR LADY OF MERCY



September 23rd, 2018

In 1218, Mary appeared in separate visions to St. Peter Nolasco, St. Raymond of Peñafort, and James, King of Aragon. She asked them to found a religious order dedicated to freeing Christian captives from the Saracens and Moors. At the time, the Saracens and Moors occupied a large part of Spain. In keeping with our Blessed Mother's desire, King James established the royal, military, and religious order of Our Lady of Ransom (also known as the Mercedarian Order). Members were given the privilege of wearing the King's own arms on their breast. The majority of members were knights who guarded the coasts and delivered prisoners. Cleric members of the order were committed to praying - particularly the Divine Office - for the knights' mission. The order and its mission spread, producing heroes who collected alms for the ransom of Christians. Often, they surrendered themselves to captivity in exchange for the Christian prisoners' release. In the seventeenth century, Pope Innocent XII extended the feast from the Mercedarian Order to the universal Church. The Order of Mercy (also known as Mercedarian) was officially founded on August 10, 1218 and continues serving the Church responding to on-going, modernday enslavements in our world today.

www.ncregister.com

PRAYER TO OUR LADY, MOTHER OF MERCY

Blessed Virgin Mary, who can worthily repay you with praise and thanks for having rescued a fallen world by your generous consent! Receive our gratitude, and by your prayers obtain the pardon of our sins. Take our prayers into the sanctuary of heaven and enable them to make our peace with God.

Holy Mary, help the miserable, strengthen the discouraged, comfort the sorrowful, pray for your people, plead for the clergy, intercede for all women consecrated to God. May all who venerate you feel now your help and protection. Be ready to help us when we pray, and bring back to us the answers to our prayers. Make it your continual concern to pray for the people of God, for you were blessed by God and were made worthy to bear the Redeemer of the world, who lives and reigns forever. Amen.

Saint Augustine of Hippo



Social Justice Committee News

Labor

Practically speaking, in the setting of wages, there must be due consideration for what justly ensures security for employees to establish and maintain all significant aspects of family life, and care for family members into the future.

OUESTION OF THE WEEK WINNER

The Question-of-the-Week Winner for the week of Sept 11 was Makenna Pearson, Gr. 2, who knew that the Church uses green during Ordinary Time.

* *********



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 is in the Gathering Space. Thank you in advance.

OLM Day of Service

Our Lady of Mercy is organizing a day to assist the elderly and/



or disabled in our parish to complete their yard work in preparation for winter. If you are or you know a parishioner in need of help raking, putting away the lawn furniture, pulling out annuals, etc., please contact Irene at 899-6132 with name, address and description of the work that needs to be done. Our Service Day will be Saturday, Nov.

10 from 9:00-noon. In October we will be asking families to sign up to serve those parishioners who are in need.

Confirmation Penance Service

On Sunday, Oct. 14 at 6:00, there will be a Penance Service for all those to be Confirmed at the end of the month along with their sponsors and their families. The entire parish is invited to join us to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation at this time.

Need to Slow Down?

Consider learning about the relaxation techniques that are associated with meditation. Instruction will be giving on Wednesday October 3 at 7pm.



We will cover a series of relaxation methods that can be used before quiet prayer. These also work during times of stress or other agitation. Then for those who wish we will have a 20 minute meditation session with instruction.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Offertory for the weekend of September 16, 2018

Envelopes sent: 392

Envelopes returned: 106 \$4,492.00 118 \$3,122.00 Faith Direct Deposits: Loose Change: 200.00 **TOTAL OFFERTORY:** \$7,814.00

Women's Luncheon

On Monday, October 1st at 1pm we will gather at Haborview 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.

Men's Night Out Event

To all men of the Parish: Our next Men's Night Out Event will be Thursday September 27th in Sperry Hall. Our featured speaker for the evening will be our very own John Reilly. John is the



Head Coach of the Gannon Knights Men's Basketball Program. His talk will center on what drives his passion for his faith and his passion for the Game. We will start with dinner at 6:00pm followed by John's talk at 7:00pm. Food and beverages will be supplied. All we ask is your generous free will offering. More information will be available at next weekend's Masses. For now, save the date, invite your friends and family and be there on the 27th at 6:00pm

Question & Answer with the Pastor

Our next Q&A with Fr. Ritchie will be Tuesday, Oct 9 at 7:00 in the Conference Room. Do you have questions about Church practices, traditions or teachings? Do you have a friend who has questions that you can't answer? This is a perfect opportunity to get those answers in a relaxed environment. Join us for snacks, drinks and conversation. You are welcome to bring a snack to share, but don't feel obligated.

OLM Wine Social

Our Lady of Mercy is a warm community of wonderful people who truly care about each other. But Sunday morning does not always give us the time to visit, especially with those we do not know well. So, it is good to be able to get together on



occasion just to be with each other, to meet parishioners we do not know and to visit with the ones we rarely get to spend time with. Join us Friday, Oct. 12 at 7:00 for a Wine Social. Bring your favorite bottle of wine and a snack to share. All are welcome.

Ministry Recommitment and Showcase Oct 13 & 14

During Mass on the weekend of October 13 & 14, 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 for 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.

Autumn Scripture Study

All are invited to a 4 week Scripture Study on 1 Samuel beginning Nov. 1. The sessions will be held Thursday mornings from 9:00-10:30 in the Conference Room. Nov. 1 - Samuel, Nov. 8 - Saul, Nov. 15 - David, Nov. 29 - David. There are no books to purchase, no need to register. All are welcome.



find us on Facebook! page 4

Outreach Ministries Sign-up



If you are interested in joining one of the outreach ministries please see the display in the gathering space. These ministries are

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

Book Group

Longer autumn nights and cooler, wetter autumn days are the perfect excuse to get lost in



a good book. And a good book is made even better by sharing it with friends. All are invited to join the OLM Book Group on **Wednesday, Oct. 17** to discuss <u>The Rent Collector</u> by Camron Wright.

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.

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.

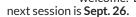


24th Annual Rosary March

Fatima's 101 year anniversary, **Sunday October 14, 2018 at 2:00 p.m.** at the St. Peter Cathedral on 10th and Sassafras. Please come join us and pray the Rosary. Sponsored by the World Apostolate of Fatima. For those unable to march, the Rosary will be recited in the Cathedral while the March is taking place. For more information, please **call John Walsh at 868-1100**.

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



Barsto

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]

Counseling for Abuse

If you or someone you know is in need of counseling, you may contact our parish counselor, Paula DeDionisio, directly at 814-722-8805. Paula is a trained professional counselor specializing in trauma. Counseling assistance is also available for victims and/or their families through the diocesan victim assistance coordinator, **Dr. Robert Nelson at 814-451-1521**. You may approach any member of the staff of Our Lady of Mercy who will assist you in finding the appropriate help.

Victims or concerned individuals can report abuse to the independent investigators retained by the Dioceses of Erie: ErieRCD@KLGates.com. People are also welcome to contact the diocese directly at 814-451-1543 or call the PA ChildLine at 800-932-0313.

Bar Stools for Food Pantry

The Food pantry is looking for a few bar stools for its new counter high reception desk. If you have some stools that are gathering dust that you are willing to part with please **contact Donna Clark**. We are nearing the end of the second phase of our remodel. When we are finished, we will have an open house.

October 2018

8:30 AM Mass
Shawl 1.00 PM Diamonds in the Rough 1. Gr. 3-6 - SCC 1. Coloir 7:00 PM Meditation Instruction al Council Meet-
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8:30 AM Mass 8:30 AM Mass 8:30 AM Mass 8:30 AM Mass 7:00 PM Living the Liturgy 9:00 AM Potter's Clay SCC 9:30 AM Story Time 6:00 PM Prayer Shawl Series 4:00 PM Prayer Shawl 1:00 PM Diamonds in the Rough 6:45 PM Choir Rehearsal 4:00 PM Relights of Columbus 5:30 PM Children's Choir 7:00 PM Fruit of the Vine (SCC) Pastor - CR 7:00 PM Rhights of Columbus 7:30 PM AA 7:00 PM Rhights of Columbus
16 17 18
8:30 AM Mass B:30 AM Mass Cursillo - (Woman) Set-Up Cursillo - (Women) 7:00 PM Grief Support Group 2:00 PM Prayer Shawl 8:30 AM Food Pantry Distri- 8:30 AM Mass 7:00 PM Living the Liturgy 5:30 PM Children's Choir 8:30 AM Mass 6:00 PM Prayer Shawl Series 7:00 PM Core Team Mtg. - SCC 7:00 PM LF Mtg. 7:00 PM OLM BOOK GROUP
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8:30 AM Mass 8:30 AM Mass 8:30 AM Mass 8:30 AM Mass 7:00 PM Living the Liturgy 9:00 AM Potter's Clay SCC 9:30 AM Story Time 6:00 PM Prayer Shawl Series 4:00 PM Prayer Shawl 1:00 PM Diamonds in the Rough G:45 PM Choir Rehearsal 4:00 PM Rel. Ed. Gr. 3 - SCC 4:00 PM Rel. Ed. Gr. 3 - SCC 7:00 PM Fruit of the Vine (SCC) 5:30 PM AA 7:30 PM AA
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8:30 AM Mass 8:30 AM Mass 7:00 PM Living the Liturgy 9:30 AM Families & Faith Formation Committee 1:00 PM Diamonds in the Rough G:00 PM Prayer Shawl mation Committee 2:00 PM Prayer Shawl A:00 PM Prayer Shawl A:00 PM Choir Rehearsal A:30 PM AA 5:30 AM Mass

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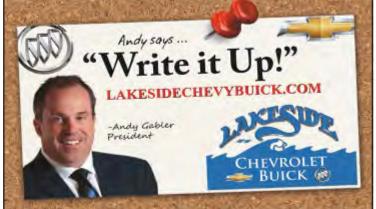
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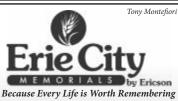
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