

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.

November 18, 2018

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

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. 11/19	7:00 p.m.	Grief Support Group
Tue. 11/20	9:30 a.m.	Potter's Clay
	9:30 a.m.	Steel Magnolias
	1:30 p.m.	Legion of Mary
	2:00 p.m.	Prayer Shawl
	7:00 p.m.	Core Team Meeting
	7:00 p.m.	LFF Meeting
	7:30 p.m.	AA Meeting
Wed. 11/21	1:00 p.m.	Diamonds in the Rough
Thur. 11/22		Happy Thanksgiving
		Parish Office Closed
	9:00 a.m.	Mass
Fri. 11/23		Parish Office Closed
Sat. 11/24	10:00 a.m.	AA Meeting
	4:30 p.m.	Sacrament of Penance
Sun. 11/25		

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon. 11/19	8:30 a.m.	Helen Markiewicz <i>(Michael Sank)</i>
Tue. 11/20	8:30 a.m.	Ann DiFlippo <i>(The Extein Family)</i>
Wed. 11/21	8:30 a.m.	Dolores Dietz <i>(Dan, Casey & Nick Pfeiffer)</i>
Thur. 11/22	9:00 a.m.	
Fri. 11/23	8:30 a.m.	Dawn Williams <i>(Sister)</i>
Sat. 11/24	8:30 a.m.	Norbert Walczak <i>(James Walczak)</i>
	6:00 p.m.	For The People of OLM
Sun. 11/25	8:30 a.m.	Anna Mae Passerotti <i>(Rose & Bill Evans)</i>
	11:00 a.m.	Thomas Liebel <i>(The Liebel Family)</i>

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Mon. 11/19	Rv 1:1-4, 2:1-5	/ Luke 18:35-43
Tue. 11/20	Rv 3:1-6, 14-22	/ Luke 19:1-10
Wed. 11/21	Rv 4:1-11	/ Luke 19:11-28
Thur. 11/22	Rv 5:1-10	/ Luke 19:41-44
Fri. 11/23	Rv 10:8-11	/ Luke 19:45-48
Sat. 11/24	Rv 11:4-12	/ Luke 20:27-40
Sun. 11/25	Dn 7:13-14 / Rv 1:5-8 / John 18:33-37	



Harborcreek Community Thanksgiving Service



South Harborcreek United Methodist Church will host this year's Community Thanksgiving Service **TONIGHT at 7 p.m.** All are invited to attend. The offering will go to the Ella Cochran Food Pantry. Refreshments will follow.

MASS OF REMEMBRANCE

The annual Mass of Remembrance is **Saturday, December 1st at 10AM.** The Bereavement Ministry invites all members of Our Lady of Mercy to attend this annual Memorial Mass to support the families of our parish who have lost loved ones during the past year. Please join us for this special celebration.



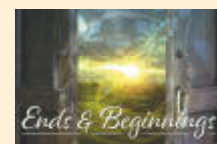
PRAYER LINE

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.**



THIS SUNDAY'S REFLECTION

Mark 13:24-32



In a time of persecution, Daniel gave hope to a troubled community, reassuring them that God would vindicate and deliver them. "Keep me safe, O God," the psalmist prayed. God's servants would escape their tormentors and arise to "shine brightly" like the stars of the firmament. They would be shown the path to a joy-filled life in God's presence.

In the reign of God, Jesus Christ rules triumphantly, continuing his high priestly work of interceding for a suffering humanity. Through his Passion, death, and resurrection, Christ's work has been completed, yet we await its fulfillment. When will this happen? What will be the sign that everything will be accomplished? We need not engage in futile speculation but instead continue working for the coming of God's reign. Like the faithful servants in Daniel, the Son of Man will come with great power and glory at the appointed time. The exact day or hour is not part of divine revelation. We rely on Jesus's assurance that though the heavens and earth will pass away, his word will stand firm forever.

For Reflection: How Does my service advance the coming of God's reign? What frustrates this goal?

QUESTION OF THE WEEK WINNER

The Question-of-the-Week Winner for the week of Nov. 6 was, **Mariska Habursky, Gr. 6**, who knew that the CREED is the prayer that proclaims our beliefs.



Getting Through the Holidays after Losing a Loved One

Monday November 19 at 7pm. The first year of holidays can be difficult after losing someone we love because of all the traditions surrounding these events; the absence of our loved one feels more intense. The Grief support group offers a special session in November to talk through actions one can take to ease the pain and celebrate our loved one. Questions - contact Donna Clark in the parish office.



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.

Our November book will be Rose Kennedy: The Life and Times of a Political Matriarch by Barbara Perry. Because of the Thanksgiving holiday, we will meet on the 4th Wednesday of November. Join us **Wednesday, Nov. 28 at 7:00** at the home of Marilyn Garwig 1320 Boyer Rd. In December, we will gather to watch and discuss a movie, so come with suggestions for a good flick to view.

Advent Family Party

Mark your calendar for Sunday, Dec. 2 from noon to 2:00 PM for a time to "Prepare for Christmas in an Old Fashioned Way". Bring a treat that reminds you of Christmases of old. If you have a picture or ornament from your childhood Christmases please bring it to share. There will be crafts and activities for children, fellowship and memories for adults, and the chance of a surprise guest for all. The event is free and open to everyone.



Autumn Scripture Study



Our Scripture Study will conclude on **Nov. 29**. We will finish our study of the First Book of Samuel and the rise of David to power. All are welcome to join us from **9:30 -10:30** in the Conference Room.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Offertory for the weekend of **November 11, 2018**

Envelopes sent:	392	
Envelopes returned:	111	\$4,384.00
Faith Direct Deposits:	118	\$3,122.00
Loose Change:		\$ 106.05
TOTAL OFFERTORY:		\$7,612.05

A TIME TO HEAL

Are you or someone you know struggling with physical, mental, emotional or spiritual issues? The Healing Ministry of OLM will be offering "A Time to Heal" on **Monday December 3rd at 7 pm** for anyone who has a need for healing in any area and on any level of their lives. The evening will include prayer, music, laying of hands and quiet reflection and is open to anyone who seeks healing and calm. Bring yourself and feel free to bring a friend.



Chance of a Lifetime Sweepstakes



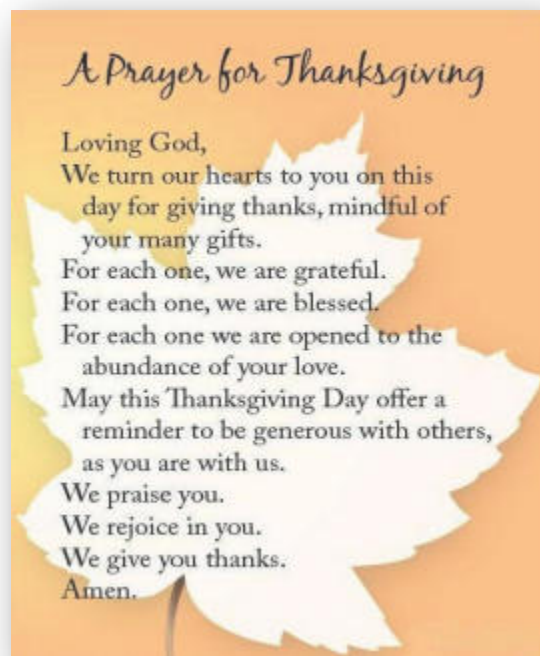
The Our Lady of Mercy Knights of Columbus are selling tickets for the Annual Statewide Chance of a Lifetime Sweepstakes (C.O.A.L.) the weekends of November 4, 11 and 18. Profits from this fundraiser are applied to the cost of Bibles for the Confirmation classes at Our Lady of Mercy. There are 16 terrific prizes in all. First prize is a 2019 Chevrolet Spark. Other prizes include vacations to Portugal & Spain, and a Scandinavian Cruise and trips to California, New England and Las Vegas. Our very own Audrey and Dick Miller won the Southern Sound Tour prize last year. Tickets are \$1 each or a book of 8 for \$7 and will be available in the Gathering Space after all Masses and in the office during the week.

IT'S HERE!

A Thanksgiving gift from OLM's Small Christian Communities...A Prayer Cube. Simply roll the cube at mealtime and recite the prayer that comes up. It's a fun way to involve your family and learn new prayers. There will be 2 different prayer cubes. Collect them both! **Some assembly required.

MEN'S NIGHT OUT SAVE THE DATE

The Men's Night Out Committee is very pleased to announce our next event. Our featured speaker will be The Honorable John J. Trucilla, (President Judge, Erie County Court of Common Pleas) **Wednesday January 2nd, 2019** See you there! **Sperry Hall, 6:00pm.**



Dresses for Missions

The birthing center is not fully open in our mission in Haiti. Our contact person, Dorothy, has found a company to manufacture baby boxes, which are beds for the newborn babies. They are filled with receiving blankets, onesies, socks, hats, diapers, etc.; and given to the mothers as a gift for taking classes. The babies then do not have to be born and placed on the ground. I am collecting the blankets, onesies, hats, socks or booties to help fill the boxes. Please bring donated items to the parish office before December 1st. If you have any questions or comments, call Carole Peters at 899-4470 and leave a message with your name and phone number. Thank you and God Bless you for your support and prayers.



Christ Centered Recovery Program

Every Monday at 6:30 to 8:30pm at South Harborcreek United Methodist Church 7929 McGill Road **814-580-9158** We open the door to recovery by sharing our experiences, strengths and hopes with one another. This ministry helps people of all ages resolve their pain in the context of the church as a whole, and it is for anyone who has a hurt, habit, or hang-up. As we progress through the principles and the steps we discover our personal loving and forgiving Higher Power -- Jesus Christ. The service starts at 6:30 p.m. with discussion groups beginning at 7:30 p.m. A light meal is provided. <http://www.southharborcreekumc.org/celebrate-recovery.html>



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.

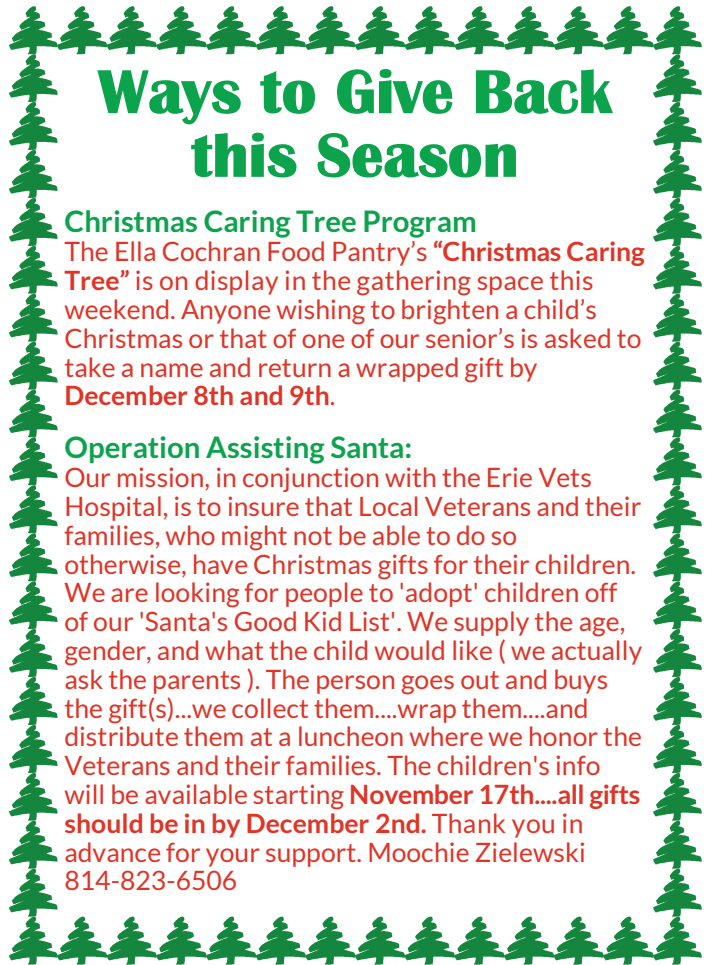
Do you Shop at GFS?



You can help Our Lady of Mercy accumulate points by telling the cashier to credit the church account. Then our regular shoppers who buy for parish events use those points to pay for the food. If the cashier does not ask you what organization you are with please mention Our Lady of Mercy. Judy Mitchelltree was just able to purchase food using our accumulated points.

Hospital Visitation

We don't always get accurate reports of who is in the hospital because of the change in policy for the local hospitals. **If you know of a parishioner who is in the hospital please call the parish office to let us know.**



Ways to Give Back this Season

Christmas Caring Tree Program

The Ella Cochran Food Pantry's "Christmas Caring Tree" is on display in the gathering space this weekend. Anyone wishing to brighten a child's Christmas or that of one of our senior's is asked to take a name and return a wrapped gift by **December 8th and 9th.**

Operation Assisting Santa:

Our mission, in conjunction with the Erie Vets Hospital, is to insure that Local Veterans and their families, who might not be able to do so otherwise, have Christmas gifts for their children. We are looking for people to 'adopt' children off of our 'Santa's Good Kid List'. We supply the age, gender, and what the child would like (we actually ask the parents). The person goes out and buys the gift(s)...we collect them....wrap them....and distribute them at a luncheon where we honor the Veterans and their families. The children's info will be available starting **November 17th....all gifts should be in by December 2nd.** Thank you in advance for your support. Moochie Zielewski **814-823-6506**

An 8-Week Study on Prayer

Do you want to pray more, but are unsure how to start? Has your prayer become dry and stale? Do you struggle with distractions in your prayer? Do you wonder how to recognize God's voice when you pray? On **Jan. 6**, we will begin an 8 week study on prayer. Whether you have been faithful to prayer for many years or are new to prayer, this study will have something for you. The sessions will take place from **9:45 - 10:45 Sunday mornings** in the Conference Room. The sessions are free and open to all. Even if you are not able to attend every week, you are still welcome. There is a workbook that accompanies the sessions. If you would like the workbook, contact **Irene Lucas at 899-6132** or ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org by Dec. 16.



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.



Domestic Violence Support



Do you know someone who is living through domestic violence? You can help. Call the National Domestic Violence Hotline for resources and support **800-799-SAFE (7233) {TTY 800-787-3224}** or find help on line at thehotline.org.

Preparing for Christmas in an Old Fashioned Way

Families of young and old are invited to celebrate Christmas traditions the old fashioned way in Sperry Hall on December 2, 2018 from noon until 2pm. Lunch is provided.

There will be:

- Crafts
- Cookie Decorating
- Games
- There's even a possibility of a special holiday surprise guest!

Please bring a treat and a decoration and/or a photo from Christmas past to share for the afternoon!

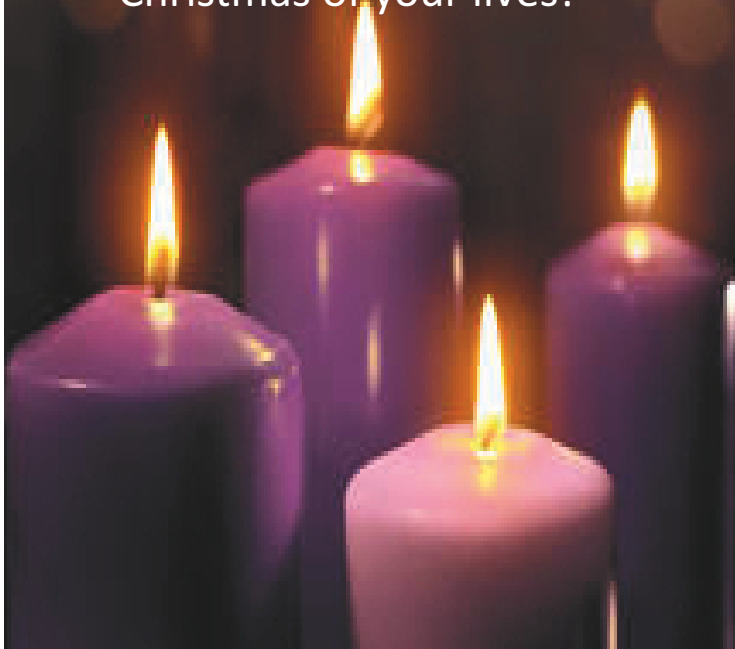


It's a free email program that will help you slow down and focus on what matters most during this busy season. You'll Experience Advent in a way you've never experience it before—leading to the best Christmas of your lives!

Best Advent Ever

How Does it Work?

1. Sign up at DynamicCatholic.com/SignUp
2. Starting December 2, you will receive daily emails with short inspirational videos from Allen Hunt and Dominick Albano, practical tips to incorporate into your everyday life, and real-life stories to encourage you in your faith journey.
3. Throughout Advent, you will discover how to slow down and focus on what really matters in preparing for Christmas.



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