

# 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*

Katie Stephenson, *Administrative Assistant*

Geri Hadlock, *Youth Minister*

Kirk Mientkiewicz, *Maintenance Coordinator*

Andrea Maille, *Lifelong Faith Formation Secretary*

## CONTACT INFORMATION

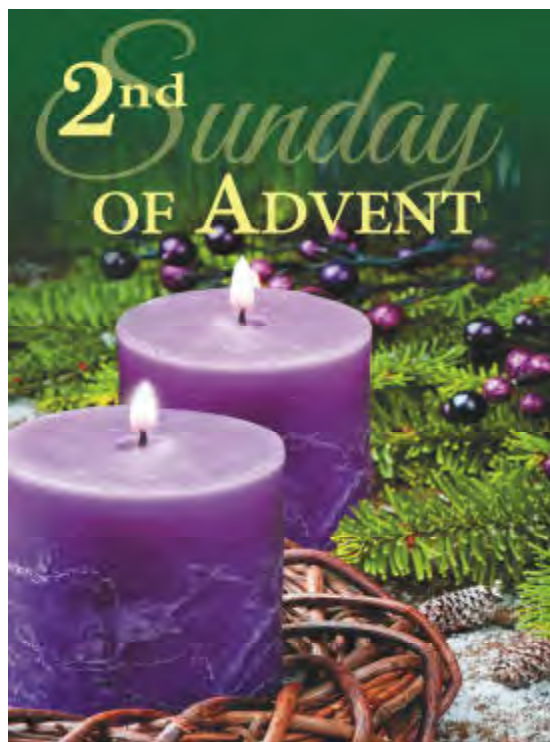
Parish Office: 814-899-5342

Office of Lifelong Faith Formation: 814-899-6132

Fax: 814-898-3306

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

December 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](http://ourladyofmercychurch.org/calendar)

<b>Mon. 12/10</b>		
<b>Tue. 12/11</b>	9:30 a.m.	Steel Magnolias
	9:30 a.m.	Story Time
	1:30 p.m.	Legion of Mary
	2:00 p.m.	Prayer Shawl
	4:00 p.m.	Religious Ed. Gr. 4-6
	5:30 p.m.	Children's Choir
	7:30 p.m.	AA Meeting
<b>Wed. 12/12</b>	1:00 p.m.	Diamonds in the Rough
	7:00 p.m.	Knights of Columbus
	7:00 p.m.	Penance Celebration
<b>Thur. 12/13</b>	9:00 a.m.	Painting Class
	9:30 a.m.	Potter's Clay
	6:00 p.m.	Payer Shawl
	6:45 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
<b>Fri. 12/14</b>		
<b>Sat. 12/15</b>	10:00 a.m.	AA Meeting
	4:30 p.m.	Sacrament of Penance
<b>Sun. 12/16</b>	<b>Third Sunday of Advent</b>	
	9:30 a.m.	Religious Ed. Gr. K-2
	9:30 a.m.	Healing Ministry
	12:00 p.m.	Religious Ed Gr. 7&8

## 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 **Marilyn Garwig**.



## SCRIPTURE READINGS

<b>Mon. 12/10</b>	Is 35:1-10	/ Luke 5:17-26
<b>Tue. 12/11</b>	Is 40:1-11	/ Matthew 18:12-24
<b>Wed. 12/12</b>	Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19; 12:1-6, 10	/ Luke 1:26-38 or Luke 1:39-47
<b>Thur. 12/13</b>	Is 41:13-20	/ Matthew 11:11-15
<b>Fri. 12/14</b>	Is 48:17-19	/ Matthew 11:16-19
<b>Sat. 12/15</b>	Sir 48:1-4, 9-11	/ Matthew 17:9, 10-13
<b>Sun. 12/16</b>	Zep 3:14-18 / Phil 4:4-7 / Luke 3:10-18	

## MASS INTENTIONS

<b>Mon. 12/10</b>	8:30 a.m.	<b>Denny Smith</b> <i>(William &amp; Agnes Cermak)</i>
<b>Tue. 12/11</b>	8:30 a.m.	<b>Deceased Legion of Mary</b> <i>(Legion of Mary)</i>
<b>Wed. 12/12</b>	8:30 a.m.	<b>David Ross</b> <i>(Family)</i>
<b>Thur. 12/13</b>	8:30 a.m.	
<b>Fri. 12/14</b>	8:30 a.m.	
<b>Sat. 12/15</b>	8:30 a.m.	<b>William Miller</b> <i>(Fruit of the Vine)</i>
	6:00 p.m.	<b>For the People of OLM</b>
<b>Sun. 12/16</b>	8:30 a.m.	<b>Helen Szklenski</b> <i>(Heise Family)</i>
	11:00 a.m.	<b>Deceased Members of the Spiegel Family</b> <i>(The Spiegel Family)</i>

## THIS SUNDAY'S REFLECTION



### LUKE 3:1-6

In times of darkness, we await the new light of day. Then we can take off the sack of cloth of mourning and robe ourselves in God's justice and glory. Though it may seem like an impossible dream, we try to remember the "great things the Lord has done for us." Though we went forth weeping, we will return to a joyful homecoming.

Though he was behind prison walls, Paul asked his community to rejoice. His prayer was that his experience of loss would teach them how to value what really mattered. When a harvest of justice ripened in them, they would stand before the Lord with a "clear conscience and blameless conduct." God would bring to completion the good work begun in each one.

Though the powers of the world threatened to destroy him, John the Baptist continued to proclaim God's message: "Make ready the way of the Lord." With Christ, the desolate valleys can be filled, obstacles can be overcome, and the twists and turns of our lives can be straightened out. Then together, we will rejoice at Christ's coming and see the salvation of God.

**For Reflection:** How can I practice the virtue of courage this Advent? Whom do I need to encourage today?



# SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWS


The Erie Pro-Life community has three events in January 2019 that provide you an opportunity to speak out on behalf of unborn children and the unalienable right to life.

**PRO-LIFE BREAKFAST - Saturday, January 12th, 9:00 AM** - Erie Bayfront Convention Center, reservations are \$17 or \$9 for children 3-12. Featuring Uju Ekeocha, internationally acclaimed Pro-Life speaker and founder and president of Life Africa.

**DC MARCH FOR LIFE - Friday, January 18th** Annual bus trip sponsored by People For Life. \$55 per seat, \$50 if registered by 12/17

**ERIE MARCH FOR LIFE - Saturday, January 26th, 11:00 AM** - Begins and concludes at Perry Square Contact People For Life at: [www.peopleforlife.life](http://www.peopleforlife.life) or **882-1333** for information/reservations.

\*\*You can also call **Phil Legler at 504-1048** for information .



*We remember William (Bill) Morschhauser and Tom Rinke, brother of Dave Rinke. Please keep them and their family in your prayers.*

## Getting Through the Holidays after Losing a Loved One

**Monday December 17 at 7pm** is the monthly Grief Support group. At this session, we will have materials for the family to make a special Christmas ornament and list other ways to create meaning in the midst of grief. 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. **Questions - contact Donna Clark in the parish office.**



## FINANCIAL SUPPORT

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

Envelopes sent:	392	
Envelopes returned:	106	\$4,857.65
Faith Direct Deposits:	118	\$3,122.00
Loose Change:		\$ 117.00
<b>TOTAL OFFERTORY:</b>		<b>\$8,096.65</b>

## #ThinkAboutItOLM

This weeks Think About It is...

**What is your favorite holiday tradition?**

Please go to the OLM Facebook page, find this weeks #ThinkAboutItOLM post and share your answer in the comment section. Please take the time to share the #ThinkAboutItOLM post to your personal Facebook page as well.

## QUESTION OF THE WEEK WINNER

The Question-of-the-Week Winner for the week of Nov. 27 was **Haley Stadler**, Gr. 6, who knew that we will be hearing the Gospel of Luke proclaimed at Mass for this Church year beginning with Advent.



## OLM Book Group

The OLM Book Group will meet on **Wednesday, Dec. 19, at 7:00 PM** to share a movie night at the home of Claudette Terrill 6821 East Lake Road. We will watch and discuss Won't You Be My Neighbor. All are welcome. Read ahead! In January we will discuss Educated by Tara Westover and in February our book will be Doc by Mary Dorea Russell.



## Story Time

Calling all preschoolers and their parents/grandparents! Enjoy a morning of music, games, activities and, of course, stories, on **Tuesday, Dec. 11 at 9:30**. All are invited; there is no lower age limit. The event is free and open to all.



## Open Gym

Suffering from "cabin fever"? Just need to run around a bit, but the weather outside is too nasty? We have the solution! All parish youth are invited to Open Gym **Tuesday, Dec. 18 from 5:30-6:30**.



## Ministry Sign ups

Anyone can sign up for a new ministry at any time. Just visit the Ministry brochure stand. There you will find brochures about all of our ministries and sign-up sheets. Turn in the sheets at the main office. Looking to retire from a ministry? Simply **contact your ministry leader or call Donna in the parish office.**



## Study on Prayer

On **Jan. 6**, we will begin an 8-week series on prayer. This study will use video presentation and guided discussion. It will be held in the Conference Room from **9:45-10:45 Sunday mornings** (between the Masses). If you have ever wondered how to recognize the voice of God in prayer, struggled with distractions, wished you could pray with more attention or simply wished you knew how to get started with regular prayer, this study is for you. Both those new to a regular prayer life and those who have been faithful to prayer for years will find this study helpful. The study is free and there is no need to register or to commit to every week. The study is free, but a \$15 workbook is available for anyone who wants one. If you want a workbook, **contact Irene Lucas at 899-6132 by Dec. 15** so she can order it.



## 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 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2019 at 6:00p.m.** in Sperry Hall. See you there!



## Parish Quilt

New parish families are encouraged to decorate a quilt square for our parish quilt that hangs on the back wall of the worship space. You may find a square in the basket on the table next to classroom #1. After you decorate your family square please return it to the parish office



## Children's Worship Bulletins

Help the young child in your life to engage with the Sunday readings by using the Children's Worship Bulletins which can be found on the bulletin tables. Each weekly 4-page booklet has activities related to the Sunday readings designed for young children.



## 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.

## Christmas Caring Tree Program



Thank you to all who took a name from the Caring Tree. This weekend is the deadline for returning the wrapped gifts. Please be sure to place your wrapped gifts in the Gathering Space today.

## Blue Christmas -Light of Hope Worship Service

For those in pain Christmas can be a difficult time; it is not joyful nor is it a season of peace. The United Methodist Church on McGill Rd will host the service of Light and Hope on **Wednesday December 19 at 6:30pm**. The service is for anyone who is going through a difficult time because of grief, sickness, loss of job or a relationship or any other type of struggle. For more information, **contact Donna Clark in the parish office**. Fr Ritchie and Donna Clark will be participating in the service.



## 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.

## 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.



## Ink Jet Fundraiser



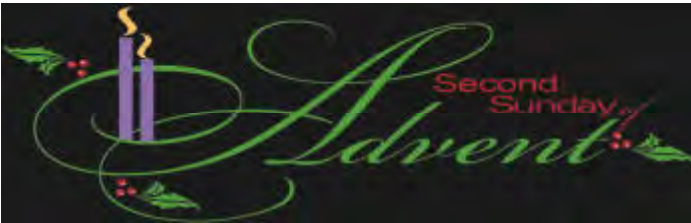
Please donate used black or color ink jet cartridges to the Religious Education ministry. Previously refilled and remanufactured cartridges can not be redeemed, nor can laser toner cartridges.

## Diocese Launches Free e-Newsletter



Have you subscribed to the *Diocese of Erie* news? It is easy to do and it's free. To receive your email edition each week, simply visit [nwpaCatholic.com](http://nwpaCatholic.com), click on the "subscribe" button, and provide a few lines of basic information. Every

Monday morning, you will receive headlines and photos with links to diocesan, national and Vatican news. You will also see a tweet sent out from Bishop Lawrence Persico or from the diocese. Sign up today and stay in the know!



## Overflow Shelter for the Homeless

Our Neighbors' Place is a faith based overflow shelter for the homeless. St. John the Baptist hosts two sessions every year. Parishioners from the Eastside Roman Catholic Churches are the backbone of this shelter. Dates for 2019 are: Session 1: **January 16th thru January 29th** and Session 2: **February 27th thru March 12th**. The shelter is open from 7:00pm to 7:00am daily. We need **fifteen volunteers** each night for three shifts. We need food; breakfast and dinner are served each day, enough to feed 60 people. If you would like to provide food, money or volunteer your time to the shelter, please contact **Mary Hoffman 873-2981** [mymary14@gmail.com](mailto:mymary14@gmail.com) **Mary Ellen Lieb 873-1284** [melieb4@gmail.com](mailto:melieb4@gmail.com) Make checks payable to "St. John the Baptist Outreach." They also accept donations of winter coats, boots, gloves, hats, sweatshirts, sweatpants, and jeans.



## Communal Celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation

**Wednesday, December 12 - 7:00 p.m.**

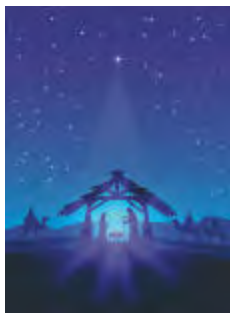
We are called to examine our lives and to see where reconciliation and penance for our sins and failings may aid our preparation for both the return of Christ at the end of time and for our celebration of his nativity at Christmas.

Other area penance services:

**Sunday, December 9 - 3:00 p.m.** - Mount Calvary Church

**Monday, December 10 - 7:00 p.m.** - Saint Gregory Church

**Tuesday, December 11 - 7:00 p.m.** - Saint James Church



## Come and enjoy a wonderful Family Christmas Event... Featuring Tennessee Backporch

**Sunday, December 9 at 4:00 p.m.**

South Harborcreek UMC

7929 McGill Road, Harborcreek (814)899-5962

Tickets will be sold in the narthex and will also be available at the church office.

**Sunday, December 16 at 4:00 p.m.**

St. Gregory Thaumaturgus Church

48 South Pearl Street, North East

(814)725-9691

Tickets will be sold at St. Gregory Parish Office

136 West Main St. North East, PA

(Tickets also available at the door)

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