

# 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

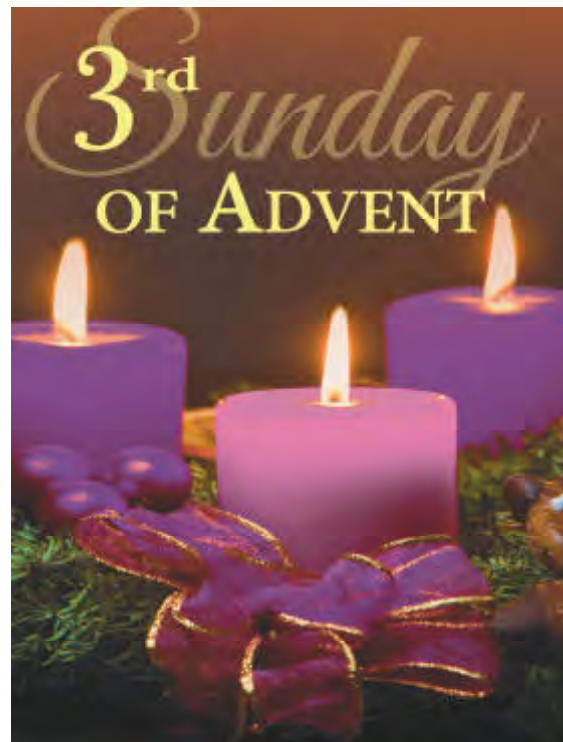
Parish Office: 814-899-5342

Office of Lifelong Faith Formation: 814-899-6132

Fax: 814-898-3306

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

December 16, 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. 12/17</b>	7:00 p.m.	Grief Support Group
<b>Tue. 12/18</b>	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
	4:00 p.m.	Religious Ed. Gr. 3-6
	5:30 p.m.	Children's Choir
	5:30 p.m.	Youth Open Gym
	7:30 p.m.	AA Meeting
<b>Wed. 12/19</b>	8:30 a.m.	Food Pantry Distribution
	1:00 p.m.	Diamonds in the Rough
	7:00 p.m.	Fruit of the Vine
<b>Thur. 12/20</b>	7:00 p.m.	OLM Book Group
	9:00 a.m.	Painting Class
	6:00 p.m.	Payer Shawl
	6:45 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
<b>Fri. 12/21</b>		
<b>Sat. 12/22</b>	10:00 a.m.	AA Meeting
	4:30 p.m.	Sacrament of Penance
<b>Sun. 12/23</b>	<b><u>Fourth Sunday of Advent</u></b>	

## 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.**



## SCRIPTURE READINGS

<b>Mon. 12/17</b>	Gn 49:2, 8-10	/ Matthew 1:1-17
<b>Tue. 12/18</b>	Jer 23:5-8	/ Matthew 1:18-25
<b>Wed. 12/19</b>	Jgs 13:2-7, 24-45	/ Luke 1:5-25
<b>Thur. 12/20</b>	Is 7:10-14	/ Luke 1:26-38
<b>Fri. 12/21</b>	Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18	/ Luke 1:39-45
<b>Sat. 12/22</b>	1 Sm 24-28	/ Luke 1:46-56
<b>Sun. 12/23</b>	Mi 5:1-4 / Heb 10:5-10	/ Luke 1:39-45



## MASS INTENTIONS

<b>Mon. 12/17</b>	8:30 a.m.	<b>Hilbert Jordon</b> (Family)
<b>Tue. 12/18</b>	8:30 a.m.	<b>Irmina Walsh</b> (Family)
<b>Wed. 12/19</b>	8:30 a.m.	<b>Peggy Badach</b> (Badach Family)
<b>Thur. 12/20</b>	8:30 a.m.	
<b>Fri. 12/21</b>	8:30 a.m.	
<b>Sat. 12/22</b>	8:30 a.m.	<b>Madeline Vogel</b> (Barb Schlosser)
	6:00 p.m.	<b>Ken Whitney</b> (Dan Casey & Nick Pfeiffer)
<b>Sun. 12/23</b>	8:30 a.m.	<b>Richard Walach</b> (Rose Walach)
	11:00 a.m.	<b>The People of OLM</b>



## THIS SUNDAY'S REFLECTION

**LUKE 3:10-18**



"Shout for joy, O daughter Zion!" the prophet Zephaniah declared. Like Mary, we should be glad and exult, for the Lord is in our midst. Discouragement and defeat are overcome as God renews us with love. "Cry out with joy and gladness," the prophet Isaiah sings. We can be confident and unafraid because God, the Holy One, is a "mighty savior." When we are weak, God gives us courage. When we are drained by sadness, God fills us with joy from the fountain of salvation.

Paul repeats the glad refrain: "Rejoice!" So that we will not forget it, he says it again: "Rejoice!" Though a guard stands watch over Paul, the peace of Christ protects his heart and mind. Paul urges us to dismiss anxiety and present our needs before God in prayerful petition. Then, like Paul, we will be released from the dungeons of worry and fear.

John the Baptist proclaims the coming salvation, speaking to each life situation: be honest, don't abuse one another, don't blame others for our misdeeds, and be satisfied with what we have. As we await the coming of Christ to cleanse us from sin, we are filled with anticipation of this happy day.

**For Reflection:** How can I practice the virtue of joy this Advent? In what ways can I bring joy to those who are despairing?



# 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 .

## Congratulations!

Welcome to the family of God! We rejoice with **Miles Lewandoski**, son of Corey and Kristina Lewandoski; **Angel Gilbert** and **Jazmyn McGerl** who celebrated their baptisms last weekend.



## 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 TODAY** so she can order it.

## FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Offertory for the weekend of **December 9, 2018**

Envelopes sent:	392	
Envelopes returned:	100	\$4,192.00
Faith Direct Deposits:	118	\$3,122.00
Loose Change:		\$ 98.00
<b>TOTAL OFFERTORY:</b>		<b>\$7,412.00</b>

\*\*\*\*\*  
**QUESTION OF THE WEEK WINNER**  
 The Question-of-the-Week Winner for the week of Dec. 2 was **Kaylyn Still**, Gr. 2, who knew that the season of Advent lasts for 4 Sundays.  
 \*\*\*\*\*



## 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.

## 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.**



## Divorced & Separated Ministry

Our Lady of Mercy has a ministry to the divorcee and separated. This one on one ministry allows those experiencing divorce or separation to talk to another person who has been through it. This person can provide support during a difficult time. **Contact Donna Clark.**



## 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.

## 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 Alive

Make a New Year's resolution to ignite a deeper relationship with God or strengthen your connection to the parish. Make a **Parish Alive weekend Feb. 15-16**. This retreat is open to all parish members over the age of 18. It begins with Friday evening supper and ends with Saturday evening Mass. The retreat is free, but registration by Feb. 1 is required. To register, use the form in the November issue of For Mercy Sake or use the form at the parish website. For more information, contact Irene Lucas at 899-6132 or [ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org](mailto:ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org).



### When should young adults join the parish apart from their parents?



Generally young adults would stay registered under their parents while they are in school. When young adults move away from home after school, they would join the local parish where they attend Mass. If young adults are still at home then we encourage them to register in the parish on their own.

### 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.



### 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.



### Pastoral Council

This year's Pastoral council consists of the following parishioners: Todd Beckes, Maureen Brainard, Darrell Garwig, Nick Heise, Marge LeFaiver, Margy Luniewski, Bill Matrogran, Nathan Matusiak, Nancy Mowery, David Seyboldt, Mary Beth Smith, Katie Stephenson and Dan Szczesny. A recent Diocesan Pastoral Planning session asked us to consider how we as a parish create an atmosphere of welcoming. Also, how we help people to feel like they belong - that they are of value to the community. The parish council choose these topics to study and then formulate goals based on what we can improve in the areas of welcoming and belonging within the parish.



### For those Hurting in this Christmas Season...

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.



### 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.



### 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.



### Christ Centered Recovery program

Every **Monday at 6:30 to 8:30pm** at South Harborcreek United Methodist Church 7929 McGill Road 814-580-9158 <http://www.southharborcreekumc.org/celebrate-recovery.html> 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.



# Christmas Mass Schedule

## Monday, December 24th

**6:00 p.m.—Christmas Eve Mass**  
*(music by the Children's Choir)*

**9:20 p.m.—Music Selections**  
*(Festival Choir and Instruments)*

**10:00 p.m.—Christmas Night Mass**  
*(music by Festival Choir and instruments)*

## Tuesday, December 25th

**10:00 a.m.—Christmas Day Mass**



## St. Martin Center - Volunteers Needed!



St. Martin Center, Inc.'s food pantry assists over 300 families a month with food and is in need of volunteers!

We see clients on both an emergency basis and during appointments from 9:00-12:00 and 1:00-3:30.

We are also in need of volunteers to assist twice a month with our Senior Citizen food box day. This includes some heavy lifting as our clients need some aid in lifting and transporting boxes to their vehicles.

Anyone interested in volunteering can contact Stacey Hellmann at 452-6113 x208.

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