



FOR MERCY'S SAKE

the quarterly newsletter of Our Lady of Mercy Church

837 Bartlett Road
Harborcreek, PA 16421

814-899-5342

www.ourladyofmercychurch.org

PARISH FEAST DAY WEEKEND

*Honoring our patroness and celebrating our unity
as a "community of communities".*

August 2018



Saturday, September 22

Parish Dance

7:00—11:00 p.m. in the Gym

Featuring "The Groove" -
Erie's most popular band

(see future bulletins for more information)

Sunday, September 23

Feast Day Mass

10:30 a.m.

followed by a dinner
in Sperry Hall

(This is the only Mass at OLM this weekend.)

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Parish Festival 2018 Results

OLPI

REVENUE	
Take-out Dinners	6,775.00
Dinner	7,225.00
After Dinner Chicken Sales	0.00
Grand Award	2,193.00
50/50	1,110.00
TV	824.00
iPad	807.00
Lottery Tree	1,219.00
Restaurant Tree	1,355.00
Quilt Raffle	900.75
Afghan	298.00
Total Raffle	5,403.75
Chinese Auction	2,061.00
Children's Chinese Auction	340.00
Large Item Chinese Auction	1,144.00
Total Chinese Auction	3,545.00
Kiddyland	576.00
Instant Bingo	526.75
Bingo	445.00
Bake Sale	401.75
Funnel Cakes	656.00
Refreshments	381.86
Big 6	103.50
Misc. donations	795.70
TOTAL INCOME	\$30,138.31

EXPENSES	
Chicken	3,919.05
Dinner	1,119.89
Charcoal	647.50
Pit Area	573.95
Grand Award	1,000.00
50/50	555.00
Advertising	84.90
Supplies	397.17
Tickets	763.20
iPad	263.94
Lottery Tree	0.00
Chinese Auction	38.16
Kiddyland	206.27
Bingo License	15.00
Funnel Cakes	77.25
Refreshments	143.23
Parking	225.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$10,029.51
TOTAL PROFIT	\$20,108.80



Festival 2016 Results	
Income	\$31,350.45
Expenses	\$10,940.20
Profit	\$20,410.25
Festival 2017 Results	
Income	\$30,552.90
Expenses	\$10,511.30
Profit	\$20,041.60



Please welcome our new members
by sending a card or stopping by if you live nearby.

Ronald and Berdena Schwartz
2930 Depot Road
Harborcreek, PA 16421

Sunset Mass

Sunday, Aug. 19 @ 7:00 PM

(This Mass fulfills the Sunday obligation.)



Glinodo Conference Center

off of East Lake Road

just east of Mount St. Benedict

Please do not drive on the grass

Bring a chair and bug spray

Cookies and punch fellowship to follow

(Could you bring a plate of cookies to share?)



MINISTRY RECOMMITMENT SCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER

Committing ourselves to specific ministries at Our Lady of Mercy goes deeper than simply filling out a ministry signup sheet. After 7 months of celebrating the 50+ ministries available in our parish, this fall, on October 13 & 14, we will have a ministry recommitment ceremony.

As preparation for this celebration we will invite people into a period of prayer and discernment. What is God calling you to? Are you able to recognize and celebrate your God-given talents? What is the meaning behind your recommitment to the ministry or ministries you have spent the last year engaged in? How do you discern if you are being called to a new ministry or perhaps retire from a ministry?

Look for more information in the September and October bulletins.

Parish Morning of Reflection Go and Make Disciples of All Nations: Sent by Christ to the World



Saturday, November 3
9:00 a.m. — 1:00 p.m.

Presenter: Dr. Eric Dart

Evangelization and discipleship are central activities for living our shared Christian vocation in the world. At times, we struggle as church communities to find ways to bring the Gospel to new situations in a rapidly changing world full of opportunities and challenges. The struggles are real, but not necessarily unique to us today. Like us, generation after generation of Christians have worked and struggled to faithfully follow Jesus' command to "go and make disciples of all nations." Drawing upon the victories and failures of previous generations, this morning of reflection, through presentation and discussion, prayer and reflection, will invite participants to reflect on what Jesus' call to discipleship looks like in the 21st century and empower them to respond to this call in the midst of our complex world.

Dr. Eric S. Dart is an Assistant Professor in the Theology Department at Gannon University where he is also the director of the Graduate Program in Pastoral Studies.



Our Lady of Mercy and the Diocese of Erie is very excited about the opportunity to participate again in the **Take Me to Worship** campaign that is being promoted in Erie County this summer and fall, **August 24 – October 15, 2018.**

Data from this campaign has shown that when children participate in regular, weekly, organized religion, they are less likely to be involved in violence, drug and alcohol use, and other negative behaviors.

Let's take our families to Mass regularly! Let's invite our neighbors and friends to the many and varied activities here at OLM! To find out more and to get involved, please visit www.takemetoworship.org.



This past year the Pastoral Council focused on **The Parish as Proclaimer of the Word**. After reading through the document *"The Word of God in the Life and Mission of the Church"* by the United States Bishops, the council discerned that we do a decent job of proclaiming the Word within the parish; however we were not as good proclaiming the word outside the parish.

Although still a work in progress, these goals were formulated at our June meeting:

- ◆ Create a culture in our parish that helps people take the message out to others or the community. This goal involves **creating an experience of evangelization** so parish members understand how to share their experience of God with others. The council, working with our parish staff, will give our parishioners the education and tools needed to better understand that evangelization is more about how we live our lives than what we proclaim on a street corner. It could be as simple as offering to pray for someone.
- ◆ **Participate in local community events** as a group from Our Lady of Mercy. One approach would be to identify what is already happening and help members to participate as a group from our church.
- ◆ **Teach and preach to those who are not here.** This goal will involve using our website as an evangelizing tool and researching tools that will help us reach out to those who are seeking to know God.

At our first council meeting in September, we will welcome five new members: [Todd Beckes](#), [Maureen Brainard](#), [Nate Matusiak](#), [Mary Beth Smith](#), and [David Seyboldt](#). Returning members are Darrell Garwig, Nick Heise, Marge LeFaiver, Margy Luniewski, Bill Matrogran, Nancy Mowery, Dan Szczesny, and Katie Stephenson.

We thank [Paul Barko](#) who has completed his second three year term as council president. Please keep the Pastoral Council in your prayers in the coming year as they prayerfully discern the spiritual direction for our parish.

ADORATION of the BLESSED SACRAMENT for Young Adults



WHO: single & married young adults (18-39)

WHEN: Friday, August 24 at 7pm

WHERE: Our Lady of Mercy Church

Join us for just an hour to spend time with Jesus in the Eucharist. The evening will include Eucharistic adoration, confession, praise and worship music, and benediction. Around 8 pm, we'll grab dinner somewhere local. Join us for as much or as little of the evening as your schedule allows. Bring a friend!

WHAT IS ADORATION?

"The worship of the one God sets humanity free from turning in on himself, from the slavery of sin and the idolatry of the world." (*Catechism of the Catholic Church, 2097*)

Did you ever wish that you had a "pause" button for life? You know, the ability to pause the really important moments so that you could more fully enjoy them? In a way, Eucharistic Adoration is a "pause button". Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is a form of prayer that began centuries ago. The same Eucharist we receive at Mass is what (or more accurately Who) we worship in Adoration. A consecrated host is displayed in a beautiful sacred vessel called a Monstrance. The word "monstrance" means "to show." The monstrance allows Christ's body to be seen and "shown" to us - so that we can be present to God as He is present to us in His Eucharist. It is very important to remember that Adoration is a prayer that flows from the Mass; it does not take the place of Mass. During Adoration, we have the opportunity to come face-to-face with the living God. Like spending time with a close friend, Eucharistic Adoration is about deepening and strengthening our personal relationship with God.

WHAT DO I DO DURING ADORATION?

"Be still, and know that I am God." (Psalm 46:10)

When the Blessed Sacrament enters and exits the church, we kneel as a sign of respect. During the rest of the time, feel free to assume a position that will allow you to pray and listen. This is your time to bring your heart, your worries, your joys, your hopes - your entire life - before a God who is madly in love with you. During Adoration, use the music, prayers and Scripture readings as a way to focus your heart on Christ. There is no right or wrong way to come before the King, He just wants you to spend time with Him. While we will be worshipping together as a family, this is also a very individual time of prayer.

Questions? Contact Brittany Barko
814-746-5427 or britt.barko@gmail.com

August is upon us. In a few short weeks, children will be boarding buses, ready to begin a new school year. The religious education ministry is also preparing to open a new year on September 4. Below is important information for parents with children who plan to participate in the religious education ministry at Our Lady of Mercy in 2018-2019.

Please take a moment to skim through this information to locate the areas that concern your children. If you have any questions not answered in these paragraphs, call Irene Lucas at 899-6132.

Registration for the 2018-2019 Religious Education Program is taking place after all liturgies the weekend of August 11-12.

If you have found that you have missed the general registration weekend, please stop by the office of Lifelong Faith Formation during normal working hours. All families with children intending to participate in the 2018-2019 Rel. Ed. program are asked to register at this time. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

Again this year, there will be a \$10 discount on the registration fee for those families who provide the parish with current clearances for at least one parent. If you have already submitted clearances, and they are less than 3 years old, the discount will apply. As most of you know, all those who volunteer with children must have government issued clearances, both criminal background checks and child abuse clearances. This law applies to parents helping with a classroom party, chaperoning a field trip, religious education substitutes and the like. These clearances are free for volunteers. However, they must be on file with the sponsoring organization before any volunteer can assist with any aspect of the program.

Our Lady of Mercy believes that parent participation in the religious education ministry is essential to its success. Whether parents can volunteer on a weekly basis or assist with a one-time project, we value your gifts and time. The only way we can involve parents is if we have their clearances on file. Many of you have obtained these clearances for school, scouting, sports, or other programs. If you do not already have these documents, you can apply online. All links can be found at the diocesan website <http://eriecd.org>.

In an attempt to encourage parents to provide Our Lady of Mercy with these clearances, we are offering a \$10 registration discount to any family who provides us with both clearances (clearances must be less than 3 years old).

Program Fees may be paid at the time of registration. Checks should be made payable to Our Lady of Mercy Religious Education. Program fees are:

\$40.00—One Child	\$55.00—per child of non-parishioners
\$50.00—Two Children	\$10.00—Youth ministry fee grades 7-12
\$60.00—Three or more children	\$25.00—Youth ministry fee for 3 or more children grades 7-12

For a family who has current criminal background checks and child abuse clearances for at least one parent on file at OLM, the fee schedule is:

\$30.00—One Child	\$45.00—per child of non-parishioners
\$40.00—Two Children	\$10.00—Youth ministry fee grades 7-12
\$50.00—Three or more children	\$25.00—Youth ministry fee for 3 or more children grades 7-12

If we have current clearances on file, a notation will appear on your registration form. If you

Program Description

Kindergarten Religious Education class is held on Sunday mornings from 9:30-10:45. Participants must be age 5 by September 1 and should be in the same school grade.

Grade One religious education is required prior to participation in the Sacramental Preparation program. First grade religious education students meet on Sunday mornings from 9:30-10:45.

First Reconciliation preparation is conducted on the second grade level. The First Reconciliation program, held 9:30-10:45 Sunday morning, is open to all students in Grade 2 or older who have previously been involved in at least one year of religious instruction and who have been baptized. **No child can be registered for the grade 2 RE class who has not attended one year of formal religious education classes at a Catholic parish. In order to qualify as successfully completing 1 year of instruction, the child must have been present for a minimum of 3/4th of the scheduled classes or provide a letter of completion from the pastor or director of the parish program they attended stating such.** Participation in a 3-hour preparatory retreat is required prior to the celebration of the sacrament. The celebration of First Reconciliation occurs in March. Parental support and involvement is essential during periods of sacramental preparation.

First Eucharist preparation is the curriculum for the third grade program. Individuals must have celebrated the sacraments of Baptism and Reconciliation prior to the celebration of their First Eucharist. First Eucharist is celebrated in May. Students are required to participate in an April retreat day as part of the preparation program. Parental involvement and support is essential during periods of sacramental preparation.

The Intermediate Program encompasses grades 3-6. Students participating in religious education on this level gather for classes on Tuesday afternoons from 4:00 to 5:30. Our Lady of Mercy arranges for bus transportation from the Harborcreek public elementary schools to the church. Parents are responsible for picking up their children at class end.

Behavior for the Rel. Ed. bus follows the same policies as that enforced by the Harborcreek School District. Failure by any student to behave in an appropriate fashion while riding the bus to religious education classes will result in the suspension of the privilege to receive this transportation for the remainder of the academic year.

Junior High Program is conducted on Sunday afternoon. On the first three Sundays of each month, students meet immediately after the 11:00 Mass for classroom style sessions from 12:00-1:15. On the final Sunday of each month, the young people gather for an extended youth ministry session which combines opportunities for community service, retreats, community building and more.

Confirmation Preparation is a three year process. Individuals may enter the program in the ninth grade or later. Those attending a Catholic high school are not required to participate in the first two years of this process. This program includes Home Sessions, service projects, retreat days, etc. Those celebrating the sacrament of Confirmation must be in the eleventh grade or older, have been baptized, and have completed all requirements.

Days of Retreat are provided for students in the formal religious education program. All programs providing retreat experiences are free to participants. Attendance at these events is required for those preparing for a sacramental celebration (Grade 2 First Reconciliation, Grade 3 First Eucharist and Grade 9-11 Confirmation). All other experiences are encouraged, but not mandatory. These days combine fun with spiritual growth.

Family Faith Days are opportunities for families to share in the faith formation process with their children. Currently, these are scheduled twice during the school year during the Sunday morning program. On these specially designated mornings, all children in pre-K through Grade Two are joined by parents, siblings and any extended family members wishing to attend to share in a special morning of prayer and fun.

Parent Meetings enable family members to best support the faith development of their child. Every year we hold a series of parent meetings designed to inform parents of curriculum topics, special projects and other details of interest. All parent meetings are designed to be informative and brief. All parents and guardians are highly encouraged to attend these meetings. Please consult the religious education calendar and the bulletin for specific times and dates.

Absentee & Homework Policy: Preparing for a sacramental celebration is a very important process. Extra care and attention is directed to these parts of the program by the R. E. Office, the catechists and the families. To ensure that youth are as well prepared as possible, attendance policies are in place for these years:

- **Children preparing for First Reconciliation and First Eucharist (Grades 1, 2 & 3) must be present for a minimum of $\frac{3}{4}$ of scheduled classes each year.** Any child absent for more than a quarter of the scheduled classes in any given year will not be approved to celebrate this sacrament. (Any first grade student who has missed more than a quarter of the scheduled classes will not have met the requirement of completing a year of religious education necessary to enter the First Reconciliation program.)
- **Confirmation candidates (grade 9, 10 & 11) are permitted a maximum of 2 absences per year.** Additional absences must be made up with the Director of Lifelong Faith Formation before the candidate can continue in the process.

Additionally, these years of preparation include work to be done at home. **All homework must be completed and returned before the individual will be approved for the sacramental celebration.**

To all returning catechetical ministers, students and families, I look forward to seeing you soon. To all new participants in the religious education program, I welcome you. To all members of this parish community, I encourage your comments, ideas and suggestions.

Religious Education Classes begin Tuesday, September 4.

Religious Education calendars are available
at the time of registration.

*May you continue to deepen your love for God and one another.
May the remaining weeks of the summer
season bring many blessings.*



WE WANT TO STAY IN TOUCH



August brings new addresses for many young people as they head off to college, enlist in the military, or begin internships. The parish

wants to keep in touch with our young people who are living away from home for a few years. If you are headed to campus, the military, or an internship this fall (or if you are the parent of a young person making this move), please share your new contact info with us. Complete the following form and return it to the parish: drop it into the collection basket, mail it to the parish, email the info to ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org. We don't care how you get it to us; we just want to be able to stay in touch!

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

COMING SOON: Story Time at Our Lady of Mercy

WHAT: A time of Stories, Songs, and Rhymes designed for children ages 0 – 5.

WHEN: Every other Wednesday beginning August 8th at 9:30 a.m.

WHERE: The atrium (bench area by the classrooms) at Our Lady of Mercy.

**Join us for a time of
fellowship and fun!**



While geared for children ages 0-5, older siblings are welcome to attend and join along with us.

Hope to see you there!



Are you expecting a new child? Has a baby recently blessed your family? Is the celebration of the Sacrament of Baptism with your child something that you are planning for some time in the next year? If so, mark your calendar for **noon on Sunday, October 21** for our semi-annual Baptismal Preparation Session.

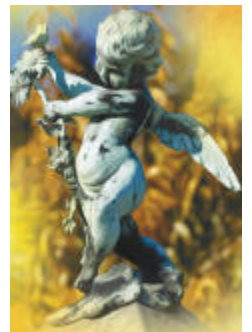
All parents/guardians and godparents are asked by the Diocese of Erie to prepare their hearts and spirits to celebrate this wonderful Sacrament by attending a special session just for them. Because these sessions are only held twice a year here at Our Lady of Mercy, you will want to take advantage of the opportunity now.

To register for the Baptismal Preparation Session, parents/guardians are asked to call the Parish Office at 899-5342. Questions can be asked at that time, or check out our web page to see the answers to the most frequently asked questions about child Baptism.

If the session scheduled at Our Lady of Mercy does not fit your calendar, you may attend a Baptismal Preparation Session for Parents at any Catholic parish in the area. If you call the area parishes, you should find a session that meets your time constraints; evening and weekend classes are available.

Mass of Remembrance: **Saturday, December 1st at 10 a.m.**

Each December we gather together to celebrate a Mass of Remembrance, coordinated by members of the Bereavement Ministry. All members of Our Lady of Mercy are invited to attend this annual Mass to support the families of our parish who have lost loved ones during the past year. During this service, votive candles will be lit for the deceased family members and immediately following the Mass, a social gathering will be held in Sperry Hall with refreshments being served by the members of the Funeral Meal Ministry.



OLM's Liturgy and Music Director, Brandon Vogt, is currently pursuing graduate studies at the Catholic Theological Union of Chicago for a Master of Arts in Liturgical Ministry.

As a result of the work he has already completed, Brandon will share a few of his recent liturgical projects with our parish community. This fall, we will have two opportunities: **“A Prayerful, Welcoming, and Nurturing Environment”** and **“Liturgy is Life”**.

Check out the details on the following pages...

A PRAYERFUL, WELCOMING, AND NURTURING ENVIRONMENT

THE LITURGICAL DESIGN
OF OUR LADY OF MERCY CHURCH



Sunday, September 16
9:30 A.M.

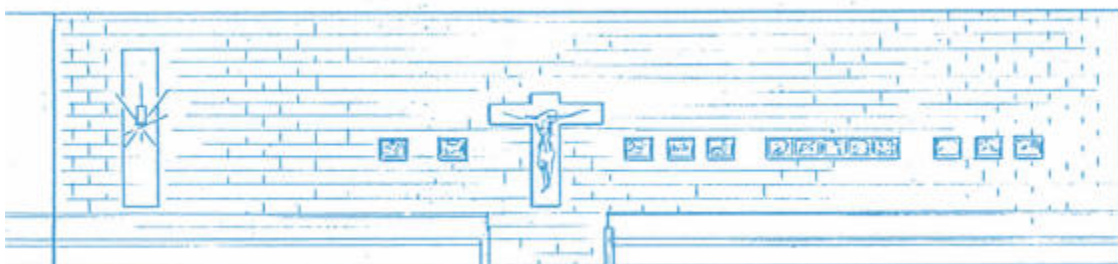
PRESENTED BY
BRANDON VOGT

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.



(original concept sketches from our liturgical consultant)



Liturgy ^{is} ~~and~~ Life

encountering the mystery of the Eucharist

presented by **Brandon Vogt**

FOUR WEEKLY SESSIONS IN OCTOBER:

Monday evenings:
October 8, 15, 22, 29
7:00 p.m.

Thursday mornings:
October 11, 18, 25, Nov. 1
9:00 a.m.

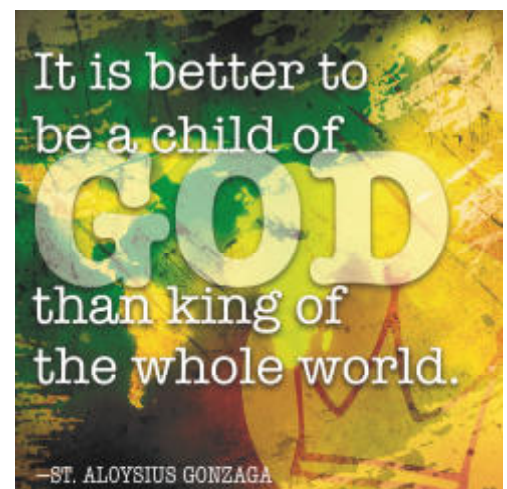
“The liturgy is the privileged place for catechizing the People of God.”
(Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1075)

This four-week series is an invitation to that “privileged place” — the liturgy— where we encounter the great mystery of Christ.

Using story, reflection, Scripture, the rich tradition of Catholic teaching, and conversation, we will uncover connections that allow us to enter more deeply into the signs and symbols that tell of the mysteries of the Eucharistic liturgy.



“Think
about
it...”



Adults Growing in Faith Together & Life Long Faith Formation

2018-2019 Calendar

As our children prepare to kick off a new school year, the adult disciples of Our Lady of Mercy are presented with many opportunities to grow in their faith. Below are some dates for you to mark on your calendar. We offer a range of opportunities so that every member of the parish might find something of interest. This calendar is still under construction; new events are being added all the time. Watch the parish website and bulletin for details on these events and to learn of new ones.

AUGUST

19 Beach Mass

SEPTEMBER

16 Sunday CAFÉ
23 Parish Feast Day

OCTOBER

7 Harvest Fest
8, 11 "Liturgy is Life" Series, Part 1
9 Q & A with the Pastor
12 Wine Social
15, 18 "Liturgy is Life" Series, Part 2
22, 25 "Liturgy is Life" Series, Part 3
29, 11/1 "Liturgy is Life" Series, Part 4

NOVEMBER

10 Family Service Day

DECEMBER

2 Family Advent Celebration

JANUARY

6 Study on Prayer
13 Study on Prayer
20 Sunday CAFÉ
27 Study on Prayer

FEBRUARY

3 Study on Prayer
6 Q & A with the Pastor
10 Study on Prayer
15-16 Parish Alive
17 Study on Prayer
24 Study on Prayer

MARCH

2 Adult Mardi Gras Celebration
3 Study on Prayer
13 Lenten Pastus
18-20 Parish Mission
27 Lenten Pastus

APRIL

3 Lenten Pastus
17 Pilgrimage through Holy Week Symbols
28 Sunday Sundaes

MAY

11 Family Service Day