



For Mercy's Sake

the quarterly newsletter of
Our Lady of Mercy Church

837 Bartlett Road
Harborcreek, PA 16421

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www.ourladyofmercychurch.org

November 2018

The Season of Advent 2018



Mass of Remembrance:

Saturday, December 1—10:00 a.m.

Evening of Healing:

Monday, December 3—7:00 p.m.

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception:

(Holy Day of Obligation)

Friday, December 7—7:00 p.m. (Vigil Mass)

Saturday, December 8—8:30 a.m.

Reconciliation Service: Wednesday, December 12—7:00 p.m.

The Season of Christmas 2018-2019

MASSES FOR CHRISTMAS:

Christmas Eve: Monday, December 24

6:00 p.m. & 10:00 p.m.

(prelude music with choir and instruments at 9:20 p.m.)

Christmas Day: Tuesday, December 25

10:00 a.m.

MASS FOR NEW YEAR'S:

Solemnity of Mary:

Monday, December 31—6:00 p.m.

Tuesday, January 1—10:00 a.m.



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HARBORCREEK COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING SERVICE

South Harborcreek United Methodist Church will host this year's Community Thanksgiving Service on **Sunday, November 18th at 7:00 p.m.**

All are invited to attend. The offering will go to the Ella Cochran Food Pantry. Refreshments will follow.

Congratulations to those Newly Confirmed



Jared (*Francis*) Anderson
Thomas (*Ferdinand*) DeVore
Allison (*Juliana*) Dorosch
Cassidy (*Therese*) Hall
Benjamin (*Simeon*) Kightlinger
Conner (*Michael*) Knepper
Stephany (*Jeanne*) Licata
James (*Sebastian*) Lucas
Caleb (*Sebastian*) Mandel
Ricardo (*Genesius*) Moreno
Trevor (*Sebastian*) Nelson

Leo (*Louis*) Nicolussi
Yvonne (*Frances*) Nowosielski
Dante (*Sebastian*) Rocco
Alex (*Hubert*) Scarpino
Robert (*Adjutor*) Shotts
Ryan (*Albertus Magnus*) Sweet
Arthur (*Francis*) Thompson
Domonic (*Sebastian*) Viscuso
Corynne (*Teresa*) Williamson
Jacob (*Thomas*) Zemanek



EXPERIENCE THE SACRAMENTS...



Jesus spent the greatest amount of his time healing, both spiritually and physically. It is said that we spend our time on those things which are most important to us. If this is true, then healing must have been a very important value to Jesus.

Our Parish Mission Statement reminds us that we are a community that lives the values of Jesus Christ. Our celebration is not just for the sick. The faith

community gathers with them to show their concern for the sick of our community, and to pray with and for the sick of the community.

The celebration of this sacrament is an opportunity for the deepening of the faith of our entire community by witnessing the faith and devotion of those being anointed. Through anointing, the sick are reminded that Christ and the Church are in communion with their suffering.

**Our Parish Community will celebrate this powerful sacrament
at all Masses on November 17 & 18**

Who may celebrate this Sacrament? Those who are suffering any serious physical or mental illness; those who are suffering any chronic illness. those who are about to undergo surgery; the elderly who cannot get around as well as before.



Advent is a beautiful season to celebrate the **Sacrament of Reconciliation**. While not officially described as a penitential season (which distinguishes it from Lent), Advent is still a season for ongoing conversion, as we reflect on the Second Coming of the Lord Jesus and heed John the Baptist's call to repentance and conversion.

Communal celebrations of the Sacrament of Reconciliation remind us that continued conversion is a journey we make together as the Body of Christ.

**We will gather as a local faith community
on the following days:**

Sunday, December 9	3:00 p.m.	at Mount Calvary in Erie
Monday, December 10	7:00 p.m.	at Saint Gregory in North East
Tuesday, December 11	7:00 p.m.	at Saint James in Wesleyville
Wednesday, December 12	7:00 p.m.	at Our Lady of Mercy in Harborcreek



Mass of Remembrance

Saturday, December 1, 2018 at 10 a.m.

Each December, we gather together to celebrate a special Mass of Remembrance, hosted by members of the Bereavement Ministry. Join together in prayer on Saturday, December 1, 2018, at 10 a.m. 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 liturgy, 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 served by the members of the Funeral Meal Committee.

Please join us for this special celebration.



A PRAYER CUBE

*a gift for you this Thanksgiving
from OLM's
Small Christian Communities...*

**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.**

(some assembly required!)





THE BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE

The Church has a long tradition of remembering those who have died during the month of November. At Our Lady of Mercy, we have the custom of giving a place of honor to the book in which community members and visitors write the names of their beloved dead.

The **Book of Remembrance** provides the living with an opportunity for healing and consolation in the face of grief. Our parish Book of Remembrance is displayed in the sanctuary from the Solemnity of All Saints until the beginning of Advent. It is left open for people to write the names of their deceased loved ones and for others to read the names, remember, and pray for the repose of their souls. Remembering all of these men and women who have gone before us, “marked with the sign of faith,” helps us better understand and appreciate our faith in the Christ our risen Lord who conquers sin and death and brings new life to all.

ETERNAL REST GRANT TO THEM, O LORD,
AND LET PERPETUAL LIGHT SHINE UPON THEM.
MAY THEIR SOULS AND THE SOULS OF ALL THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED,
THROUGH THE MERCY OF GOD, REST IN PEACE.



Celebrating the HANDS THAT SERVE

We are truly blessed to have so many people involved in the Ministries of Our Lady of Mercy. Thank you to all who verified their ministries and signed up for new ministries! We also thank Ken Marshall who created our ministry brochure stand and the leaders who completed the questionnaires about their ministries for the creation of a brochure for each ministry. Check out the display in Sperry Hall.

OREMUS

A Catholic Study on Prayer

We know we should pray. We want to pray. But often we don't know how to start or where to go. Our prayer is empty. Distractions and life's demands pull us away from prayer. So, we pray half-heartedly, sporadically, tiredly. Oremus is an eight-week study for those who want to pray better, both those who are not sure they know how to pray and those who have been praying for many years and want to deepen or enrich that life of prayer. Learn new ways to pray, how to hear God when you pray, how to handle times of struggle in prayer and more.

This is an 8-week program. Each week will include a video presentation and facilitated conversation on one aspect of prayer.

A workbook is available for \$15, but it is not necessary to purchase the workbook to participate.

Sunday mornings

9:45 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.

Jan. 6–Mar. 2

Conference Room



There is no need to commit to every week. Coffee and sweets provided. All welcome! No cost except if you want a workbook. Contact Irene at 899-6132 by Dec. 16 if you want the \$15 workbook ordered for the first class.

Preparing for Christmas in an Old Fashioned Way

Families of young and old are invited to celebrate Christmas traditions the old fashioned way.

Sunday, December 2
noon until 2pm.
in Sperry Hall

Lunch is provided.

Crafts
Cookie Decorating
Games
A special holiday surprise guest?

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

Technology and Social Media Committee



Did you know Our Lady of Mercy Church is on **FACEBOOK**? Through our new Social Media Committee, we hope to bring the social aspect to our social media pages.

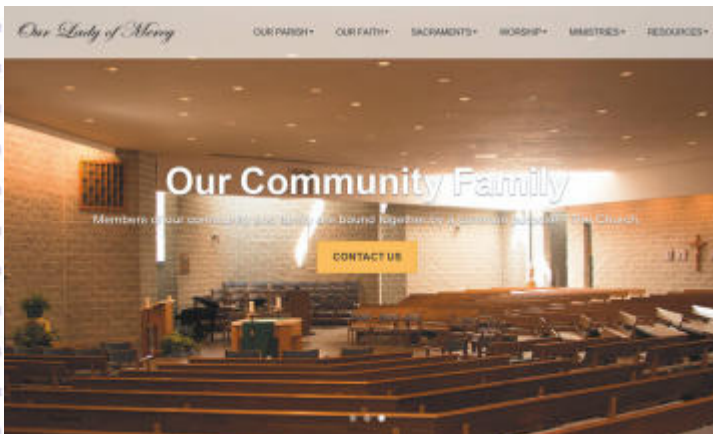
We invite you to like, comment and share our posts. If you come across something inspirational, an interesting faith based article or take a picture where you see one of God's many blessings, please post it on our page!

If you are at a parish event and take some pics, we want to see them and hear what you liked about the event. Feel free to share any general, privacy compliant prayer requests that you may have and if you have any questions on faith or doctrine, you can post them as well.

As if this wasn't enough, we will be posting event reminders, updates about our parish and most of the weekly readings so you can easily familiarize yourself with them before Mass.

Our **PARISH WEBSITE** has also seen a facelift thanks to our Tech Committee.

You can find the page at www.ourladyofmercychurch.org



There, you will find Mass schedules, event schedules, parish history, parishioner obituaries, religious education information and much, much more.

Please use these tools often to keep up with the happenings of the parish and to keep in contact with your parish family!

PARISH ALIVE RETREAT



Do you want to strengthen your spiritual life? Do you want your parish connection to be more meaningful for you and your family? Do you want your prayer to be said with greater sincerity and feeling? Can you set aside 24 hours to allow the Holy Spirit to work in your heart?



Join us for "Parish Alive" February 15-16, 2019. This 24 hour retreat will begin on Friday evening and end with the Saturday evening Mass. Meals will be provided. Lodging will be at your own home. There will be no cost, although an anonymous offering will be accepted.



"Parish Alive" is a parish-based opportunity for spiritual renewal.

It will be held at Our Lady of Mercy and conducted by Fr. Ritchie and a team of parishioners. Private and group prayer, presentations and fellowship will make up the schedule. This event is open to all adults (must be out of high school) male and female, single and married, new to the parish or a long-time member.

Please register for this weekend by completing the registration below and returning it to Our Lady of Mercy **NO LATER THAN Feb. 1**. Space is limited, so get your registration form in early. A confirmation letter will follow. If you have questions, call Irene Lucas @ 899-6132 or email ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org.



Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Do you have any special needs? _____

Check All That Apply:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Female | <input type="checkbox"/> Male |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Married (registering w/ Spouse) | <input type="checkbox"/> Married (registering alone) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Single <input type="checkbox"/> Divorced | <input type="checkbox"/> Separated <input type="checkbox"/> Widowed |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Catholic | <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Catholic |

Mail to Our Lady of Mercy Church, 837 Bartlett Rd, Harborcreek, Pa. 16421
Or place in the collection basket.