

# 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

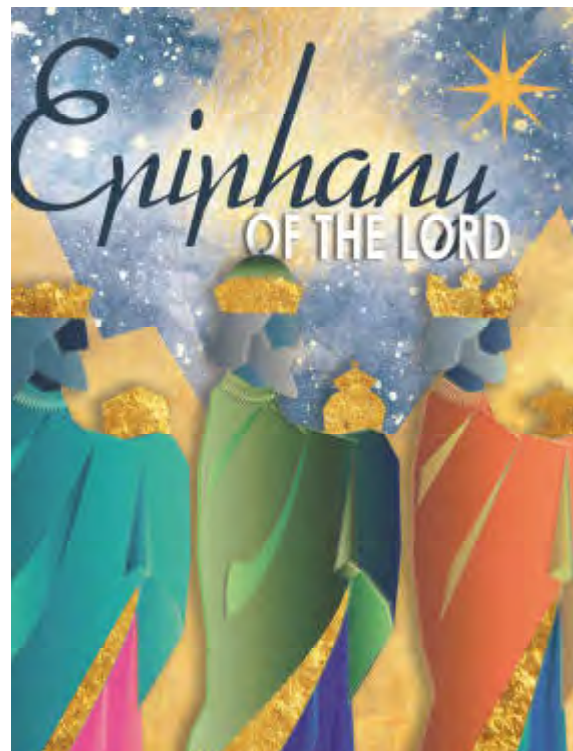
Parish Office: 814-899-5342

Office of Lifelong Faith Formation: 814-899-6132

Fax: 814-898-3306

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

January 6, 2019



## 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. 01/07</b>	3:00 p.m.	Social Justice Committee
	7:00 p.m.	Pastoral Facilitator Meeting
<b>Tue. 01/08</b>	9:30 a.m.	Steel Magnolias
	9:30 a.m.	Potter's Clay
	9:30 a.m.	Story Time
	10:00 a.m.	Families & Faith Formation Committee
	1:30 p.m.	Legion of Mary
	2:00 p.m.	Prayer Shawl
	4:00 p.m.	Religious Ed. Gr. 3-6
	6:00 p.m.	Sister Parish Meeting
	7:00 p.m.	Pastoral Council
	7:30 p.m.	AA Meeting
<b>Wed. 01/09</b>	1:00 p.m.	Diamonds in the Rough
	6:30 p.m.	AGIFT Meeting
<b>Thur. 01/10</b>	7:00 p.m.	Knights of Columbus
	9:00 a.m.	Painting Class
	6:00 p.m.	Prayer Shawl
	7:00 p.m.	Tech Committee Meeting
<b>Fri. 01/11</b>		
<b>Sat. 01/12</b>	10:00 a.m.	AA Meeting
	4:30 p.m.	Sacrament of Penance
<b>Sun. 01/13</b>	9:30 a.m.	Religious Ed. Gr. K-2
	9:45 a.m.	Study on Prayer
	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 **Andrea Maille**.



## MASS INTENTIONS

<b>Mon. 01/07</b>	8:30 a.m.	<b>Frank Antolak</b>
<b>Tue. 01/08</b>	8:30 a.m.	<b>Denny Smith</b> <i>(Janet Smith)</i>
<b>Wed. 01/09</b>	8:30 a.m.	<b>Msgr. Carlton Ritchie</b>
<b>Thur. 01/10</b>	8:30 a.m.	<b>Francis Ritchie</b>
<b>Fri. 01/11</b>	8:30 a.m.	<b>Emma Royer</b> <i>(Barb Jones)</i>
<b>Sat. 01/12</b>	8:30 a.m.	<b>Margaret Gross</b> <i>(Lorraine Bucklin)</i>
	6:00 p.m.	<b>Madeline Vogel</b> <i>(Barbara &amp; Norman Schlosser)</i>
<b>Sun. 01/13</b>	8:30 a.m.	<b>Leona Stankiewicz</b> <i>(Jim &amp; Carol Perrotto)</i>
	11:00 a.m.	<b>For the People of OLM</b>

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

<b>Mon. 01/07</b>	1 Jn 3:22-4:6	/ Mark 4:12-17, 23-35
<b>Tue. 01/08</b>	1 Jn 4:7-10	/ Mark 6:34-44
<b>Wed. 01/09</b>	1 Jn 4:11-18	/ Mark 6:45-52
<b>Thur. 01/10</b>	1 Jn 4:19-5:5	/ Luke 4:14-22
<b>Fri. 01/11</b>	1 Jn 5:5-13	/ Luke 5:12-16
<b>Sat. 01/12</b>	1 Jn 5:14-21	/ John 3:22-30
<b>Sun. 01/13</b>	Is 40:1-5, 9-11	/ Ti 2:11-14, 3:4-7
		/ Luke 3:15-16, 21-22



## THIS SUNDAY'S REFLECTION

### MATTHEW 2:1-12



Throughout the ages, God's plan seemed mysterious and hidden. In Jesus, it was fully revealed. Jesus was God's epiphany, the fullness of God's revelation. In Jesus we learn to walk in God's ways. With Jesus, we are sons and daughters of God. Not everyone understands God's disclosure. The Herods of the world tried to obscure God's vision. They feigned interest in learning God's ways, but in their dark hearts they did not believe.

God illuminates and guides the paths of all who sincerely seek it. Wise men and women, and simple ones too, can perceive God's appearance on earth. They speak God's words to the downcast: "Look up and see! Though darkness covers the earth, upon you the Lord shines." When we raise our eyes, we see God's glory and walk by God's light. Hearts that are broken are filled with joy and gratitude. The lost and alienated gather from afar. With reverence they bow before the Christ Child.

Together, with Mary, his mother, we offer our finest gifts. We cannot return to Herod; we can no longer follow the paths of the world. We must take another route. The light of Christ will guide us to our true home.

**For Reflection:** How can I disclose God's light to others? What gifts will I offer the Lord 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.

### #ThinkAboutItOLM

This week's Social Media "Think About It" is:  
**We're a few days in...Have you stuck to your New Years Resolution?**

Due to privacy settings on Facebook, we are unable to see some of your #ThinkAboutItOLM posts. Please continue to share on your personal Social Media page, but we are now asking that you post your response directly to the #ThinkAboutItOLM Our Lady of Mercy Facebook post too. This way we can all stay connected!



### First Reconciliation Parent Meeting

There will be a very important parent meeting on **Sunday, Jan. 27 at 9:45** for families with children preparing to celebrate First Reconciliation in March.

## FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Offertory for the weekend of **December 23, 2018**

Envelopes sent:	392	
Envelopes returned:	108	\$3,272.00
Faith Direct Deposits:	118	\$3,122.00
Loose Change:		\$ 275.00
<b>TOTAL OFFERTORY:</b>		<b>\$6,669.00</b>

## FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Offertory for **Christmas 2018**

Faith Direct Deposits:		\$ 750.00
Envelopes returned:	92	\$3,431.00
Loose Change:		\$1,415.00
<b>TOTAL OFFERTORY:</b>		<b>\$5,596.00</b>

\*\*\*\*\*  
**QUESTION OF THE WEEK WINNER**  
 The Question-of-the-Week Winner for the week of Dec. 23 was **Gabby Licata**, Gr. 6, who knew that the angels heralded Jesus' birth by singing "Glory to God in the highest and peace to people of good will".  
 \*\*\*\*\*



### Sunday Morning \*C\*A\*F\*E\*

Our next Sunday Morning CAFÉ will be held **Jan. 20 from 9:45-10:45**. Three years ago, Pope Francis wrote the encyclical On Care For Our Common Home: Laudato Si. What does this papal document call us to do? What does it mean to live out Laudato Si? What does our faith say about our relationship to the created world? Celebrate Laudato Si with Secular Franciscans Mary Nelson, OFS and Chris Zurawski, OFS animators with the Global Catholic Climate Movement as we explore some of these ways with short videos, discussion and prayer.



### For Mercy Sake Deadline



The deadline to submit items for the February issue of For Mercy Sake is **January 27th**. Please email all content to **Irene Lucas @**

[ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org](mailto:ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org)

### 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. All are welcome!



### OLM Book Group



The OLM Book Group will meet on **Wednesday, Jan. 16, at 7:00 PM** at the home of Irene Lucas, 1019 Bartlett Rd. to discuss Educated by Tara Westover. In February our book will be Doc by Mary Dorea Russell.

### Parish Alive

Make a New Year's resolution to ignite a deeper relationship with God or deepen 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).





### A Special Thank You

To everyone who participated in the Baby Box project for expectant mothers in Haiti, Carole Peters received a card of appreciation for your generous gifts. The card says:



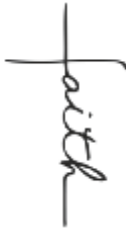
*"Dear Carole, I received the 2 boxes from UPS, on my porch last week. What a nice surprise. I really appreciate your group's wonderful support of our work in Haiti. The Baby Box program is flourishing. Thank you so much for your and your groups help.  
-Dorothy Frederickson."*

Carole Peters would also like to extend a great big "Thank you" to all who helped with the Baby Box project.

### Christ Centered Recover 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.



### 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.

### 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.



### 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.

### To Report Abuse

Victims or concerned individuals can report abuse to the independent investigators retained by the Dioceses of Erie: [ErieRCD@KLGates.com](mailto:ErieRCD@KLGates.com).

People are also welcome to contact the diocese directly at 814-451-1543 or call the PA ChildLine at 800-932-0313.



### Hospital Visitation

If you know of a parishioner who is in the hospital, please call the parish office to let us know.



### Counseling for Abuse



Counseling assistance is available for victims and/or their families through the diocesan victim assistance coordinator, **Dr. Robert Nelson at 814-451-1521**. You may approach any member of the staff of

Our Lady of Mercy who will assist you in finding the appropriate help.

## Can you help? Overflow Shelter for the Homeless



The Overflow Shelter is in need of the following for the weekend of January 13th:

Shift Work:

Subs for second and third shift any day. (Looking for male subs. Will be called when needed)

Volunteers:

Someone willing to deliver the supplies we collect to St. John's.

Personal Grooming Needs:

Toothbrush, paste, foot powder, travel sized deodorant.

Clothing:

Men and women's underwear (all sizes), gloves/hats, sweats and hooded sweatshirts, jeans, winter boots, flip flops.

Facility Supplies:

Laundry soap, pods, fabric softener, disinfectant (Lysol spray).

Money:

Make checks out to "St. John the Baptist Outreach."

The Overflow Shelter is in need of the following donations to be collected the weekend of January 20th:

Food:

Soft fruits (bananas, grapes or halo oranges), bottles of pop, juice (apple and orange juice) and snack bars.

The Overflow Shelter is in need of volunteers for the February dates to cover these shifts:

Meals:

Coverage for 7 dinners from Feb. 27-March 12.

Breakfast helper (a female willing to work 3am-7am during March session).

Shift Worker:

1st shift helper single openings on March 2, 4, 11 & 12.

Please drop off all donations to the display table in the Gathering Space.

If you are able to volunteer your time to this ministry, please call Mary Ellen Lieb at 873-1284, or Donna Clark in the Parish Office at 899-5342.

# Calling All Home Beer Brewers & Wine Makers!



The OLM Mardi Gras Is Growing Up!  
The Chili Cook-Off is being replaced with a  
Beer & Wine Taste-Off



The trophy is being replaced with a Cash Prize!  
Willing to put your recipe to the test? Sign up  
on the easel in the Gathering Space.

**Mardi Gras 2019 will be Saturday, March 2nd  
from 7:00-9:00 PM**

## THINGS YOU MAY NEED TO KNOW



### Hearing Assistance



Hearing assisted devices are available for anyone who has trouble hearing in the church. You can be assigned one to take with you or leave it at the church. See Donna Clark.

### Eucharist for the Homebound



If you notice that someone has not been in their usual space at Mass for a number of weeks let us know. Perhaps this person cannot get out any more or they have stopped driving or recovering from surgery. Our community has a number of Eucharistic ministers who visit the homebound. If you would like to bring Eucharist to the homebound please contact Donna Clark.

### Room for Wandering Toddlers

When Toddlers start running or fidgeting and you want a space to let their energy flow but don't want to miss Mass then try our Toddler/Nursery room. It is located in the classroom area just past the parish parlor. (To the right as you come in the front doors.) There is closed circuit TV of the church. There are rocking chairs for nursing mothers and toys to occupy a little one. And best of all you can close the door.



### Gluten Free Hosts

Gluten free hosts are available! If you are gluten intolerant, please talk to Fr. Ritchie about receiving gluten free hosts.





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