

OUR LADY OF MERCY CHURCH

837 Bartlett Road • Harborcreek, PA 16421 • www.ourladyofmercychurch.org



September 8, 2019 – 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

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*

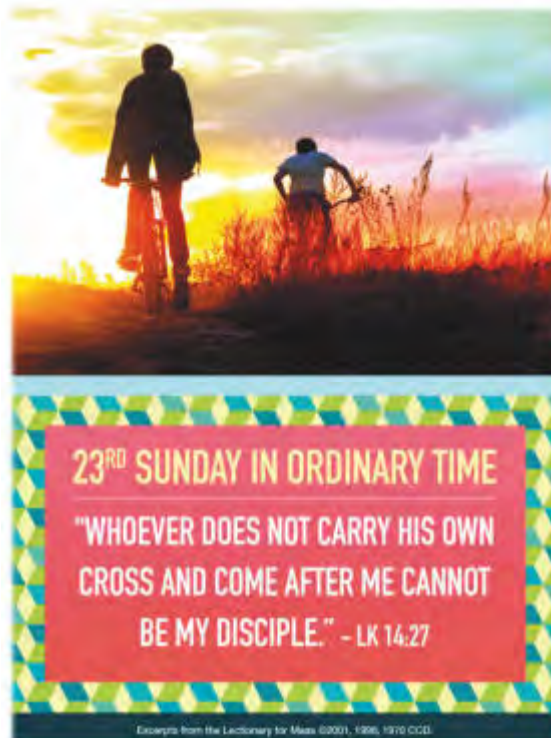
CONTACT INFORMATION

Parish Office: 814-899-5342

Office of Lifelong Faith Formation: 814-899-6132

Fax: 814-898-3306

Email: info@ourladyofmercychurch.org



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

Mon. 09/09	6:30 p.m.	Fall PF & Core Team Potluck
	6:30 p.m.	Fruit of the Vine SCC
Tue. 09/10	1:30 p.m.	Legion of Mary
	2:00 p.m.	Prayer Shawl
	4:00 p.m.	Religious Ed. Gr. 3-6
	7:00 p.m.	New SCC
	7:00 p.m.	Stewardship
	7:00 pm.	Finance Council
	7:30 p.m.	AA
Wed. 09/11	1:00 p.m.	Discussion Group
	1:00 p.m.	Diamonds in the Rough SCC
	6:30 p.m.	AGIFT Meeting
	7:00 p.m.	Knights of Columbus
Thur. 09/12	9:00 a.m.	Painting Class
	6:00 p.m.	Prayer Shawl
	6:45 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Fri. 09/13	5:00 p.m.	Widows Dinner
Sat. 09/14	10:00 a.m.	AA
	4:30 p.m.	Sacrament of Penance
Sun. 09/15	8:00 a.m.	Pre-Cana
	9:30 a.m.	Healing Ministry
	9:30 a.m.	Religious Ed. Gr. K-2
	12:00 p.m.	Religious Ed. Gr. 7&8

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Mon. 09/09	Col 1:24-2:3	/ Lk 6:6-11
Tue. 09/10	Col 2:6-15	/ Lk 6:12-19
Wed. 09/11	Col 3:1-11	/ Lk 6:20-26
Thur. 09/12	Col 3:12-17	/ Lk 6:27-38
Fri. 09/13	1 Tm 1:1-2, 12-14	/ Lk 6:39-42
Sat. 09/14	Nm 21:4b-9 / Phil 2:6-11 / Jn 3:13-17	
Sun. 09/15	Ex 32:7-11, 13-14	
	1 Tm 1:12-17	/ Lk 15:1-32

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Offertory for the weekend of September 1, 2019

Envelopes sent:	392	
Envelopes returned:	102	\$4,377.20
Faith Direct Deposits:	116	\$2,923.68
Loose Change:		\$ 231.00
TOTAL OFFERTORY:		\$7,531.88

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**.



We Remember...

Walter Dickson, father of Elizabeth Gerlach; and
Frances Grygo Somolani, mother of Carol Gilmore.
Please hold them and their families in prayer
during this difficult time.

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon. 09/09	8:30 a.m.	Evelyn Seyboldt <i>(Jim & Claudette Terrill)</i>
Tue. 09/10	8:30 a.m.	Don Murray <i>(John & Irene Abbate)</i>
Wed. 09/11	8:30 a.m.	John Green <i>(Mary Michaelis)</i>
Thur. 09/12	8:30 a.m.	
Fri. 09/13	8:30 a.m.	Ruth Extein <i>(The Extein Family)</i>
Sat. 09/14	8:30 a.m.	Floyd Brochey <i>(Joan Brochey)</i>
	6:00 p.m.	Gert Peters <i>(Ross Peters)</i>
Sun. 09/15	8:30 a.m.	Diane Gerlach <i>(Frank Gerlach)</i>
	11:00 a.m.	For the People of OLM

THIS SUNDAY'S REFLECTION

LUKE 14:25-33

Even if we had the wisdom of Solomon, we could not fully understand what God intends. If we cannot comprehend the things of earth, the things of heaven are beyond our grasp. Yet with God's Spirit, the path to knowledge can be made straight as we learn to follow the Lord.

Jesus's lessons on discipleship are not easy. One moment he teaches loving concern for others, and then he tells us to turn our backs on everyone else. Jesus's instructions are not mutually exclusive. Being his disciples means that we are not attached to anything that stands in the way of following him. God's reign must have first place in our hearts.

Following Jesus exacts a price. Paul learned to value those things that really mattered through suffering and hardship. As a prisoner for the Lord, he interceded for others who were in chains. Paul appealed on behalf of a runaway slave, asking his master to receive him back as a "beloved brother." If we are daunted by the high demands of Jesus, we must remember that we are not left on our own to fulfill them. Worldly wisdom may tell us otherwise, but we have the wisdom of the Spirit to guide us every step of the way.

For Reflection: What lesson have I learned today as a disciple of Christ? Do I teach this by the way I live my life?



Youth Ministry Fundraiser

On September 7-8 there will be a youth ministry fundraiser. You will find a display of envelopes. Please take an envelope and you will find something inside pertaining to youth ministry events we are involved in. Then put the amount that is on the envelope in it and put it in the collection basket that weekend or the next or turn into the office by **September 15th**. Thank you for your support of Youth Ministry.



Widows Dinner

Grief affects the whole self. The loss of a loved one affects how we view ourselves and how we relate to others and how others relate to us. It seems we no longer fit in with friends. As a widow, many find it difficult to eat alone. Join us for a monthly dinner **Friday Sept 13, 5pm** at Jonny B's on 37 Vine St in North East.



Autumn Scripture Study

We are never too old to learn. As the kids begin another school year, OLM will begin a new Scripture Study. Join us for a 6 week study of The Acts of the Apostles beginning **Monday, Sept. 16**. The study will be offered at **9:15 AM** and at **7:00 PM**. All are welcome. Your only text will be the Bible.



Grief Support

Even when we know death is coming we are never prepared. We do not really question the fact of death. What we question is why we had to lose our loved one at this time. The next Greif Support Group is **Monday September 16 at 7pm** in the parlor. If you know someone who is suffering with grief, invite him or her to attend. This group is open to everyone, not just parishioners. Questions? **Contact Donna Clark** in the parish office.



OLM Book Group

Back to school means that the kids are beginning to crack open those books. The OLM Book Group will be cracking open some great books as well. Join us **7:00 PM Sept. 18** at the home of Kay Kaerberlein, 190 Kraus Dr., to discuss Where the Crawdads Sing by Delia Owens. For those who want to read ahead, our October title will be The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek by Kim Michele Richardson.



Parish Wine & Beer Social

Bring your favorite wine or beer and an appetizer to share and enjoy an evening of fellowship with your OLM family at **7:00 PM on Friday, Sept. 20**. This is a great opportunity to meet new parish members and reconnect with those you have not seen in a while.



Religious Education Parent Meetings

Gr. 7 & 8 Parent Meeting – Sept. 8 at 12:15
Gr K-2 Family Event – Sept. 8 at 9:30

Parish Autumn Harvest Fest

The annual Family Harvest Fest will be held **Sunday, Oct. 13 at noon** with soup sampling, children's crafts and fun for all. We are looking for those willing to make a crock pot of soup for our event. Sign-up lists for soups will be in the Gathering Space beginning the weekend of **Sept. 22**. If you are not donating a pot of homemade soup, please bring a dessert to share.



Sister Parish School Supply Collection

The Sister Parish Committee is collecting school supplies to bring to Peto: pencils, pens, erasers, pencil sharpeners, rulers. We can not take notebooks, paper, or crayons. Our supply list is limited to small, light-weight items that we can carry down and that won't melt in the heat. School supply donations can be placed in the basket on the candy bar table.



Sister Parish Committee Selling Daffin's Candy Bars

The Sister Parish Committee is selling Daffin's candy bars to help with the cost of the delegation this October. Candy bars are \$1. They are available in the Gathering Space. Leave your money in the bucket.



SOCIAL JUSTICE

Globally, malnutrition causes forty-five percent of all preventable child deaths. Of those who survive, one in four suffer from physical and cognitive stunting. As Catholics, we are called to care for our neighbor in need – including our neighbors around the world. What would it take to realize God's vision for a world in which everyone has enough? In the last 10 years, stunting has been reduced by one-third through improved access to nutritious foods, vitamins and minerals, clean water and sanitation, and promotion of breastfeeding. We have the resources now to extend these programs, but we need the political will to increase funding that will make it happen. Watch this space for a way that you can help the world's children.



Our Communities Are Growing Again!



We are forming at least one new Small Christian Community this fall! Are you interested in joining a community? Have you been in a community but are looking for a

change? Are you just curious about our parish communities and would like to learn more? Join us at noon on Sunday September 8 in the picnic pavilion. Enjoy a grilled hot dog, find answers to your questions, and help us kick-start a few new communities this fall. Bring a dish to share, or just come and join us. See you there! Interested but can't make it? Call Katie in the office 899-5342 or Dave 602-4622

CROP Walk

OLM will be participating in the CROP Walk Sept. 15 at 2:00 at Presque Isle. Walker pledge envelopes will be available in the Gathering Space the weekends of Sept. 1 & 8. If you can't walk but would like to sponsor our team, you can make a donation at the CROP Walk table in the Gathering Space. Pledge envelopes will also be available in the Faith Formation Office during the week. If you have any questions, talk to Susan Payne or Irene Lucas.



CROP Walk Team Support—Online

You can also make a donation on line. To Give online to the Crop Walk for Ella Cochran Food Pantry go to: <https://www.crophungerwalk.org/eriepa> select donate, then choose the "Walker" Ella Cochran. The Crop Walk for Erie County distributes the money to over 20 local agencies and part of the proceeds go to help feeding the hungry around the world.

THE GROOVE IS BAAAAACK



The Knights of Columbus is again sponsoring a dance with the GROOVE on Friday Oct. 4. in conjunction with the OLM Feast Day the prior week. The band "The Groove" Erie's most popular band will be providing the entertainment from

7 to 11 in the gym. Complimentary beer and setups will be provided. Tickets will go on sale in the Gathering Space after all the Masses beginning on August 24 and for the next four weekends. Tickets will also be available for purchase during the week in the parish office from 9 a.m. till 3 p.m. Ticket price is \$15. This dance has been a sell out for the past 2 years so get your tickets as soon as possible, capacity is limited.

A Belated Thank You to our Festival Additions

Jan Brown and her helpers for the Book Sale which made \$1,277.50 Peggy Jacquel and her crew from the Chicken Run which made \$1,488.58 and all of you who participated to make them a success.



CHILD PROTECTION AND CREATING SAFE ENVIRONMENT

Diocesan Child Protection Policies



The Diocese of Erie, along with all other dioceses in the United States, has policies and procedures in place to address the national problem of child abuse and to aid in maintaining safe environments. The diocese is committed to promptly reporting any suspicions of child abuse directly to ChildLine or law enforcement. The diocese is committed to on-going screening and training of all personnel, paid or unpaid, who have regular contact with our children and youth under the age of 18. The diocese is also committed to the yearly safe environment training of our children, youth and parents regarding touching-safety and safe environments. To read the policy and see what the diocese is doing to help maintain safe environments, visit <https://www.eriecd.org/childprotection/>

CATHOLIC EDUCATION COLLECTION



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The yearly Catholic Education Collection is an opportunity for parishioners to show their support of life-long faith formation initiatives.

To be taken upon the weekend of September 14-15, the Catholic Education Collection supports faith formation opportunities for everyone throughout our entire diocese. Almost every aspect of parish life is touched by faith formation, from religious education and family life to service and worship.

Please generously support this collection. Half of the funds raised from this collection remain in your parish to support its educational and faith formation programs. The other half is granted throughout the diocese to fund programs like leadership training, tuition assistance, workshops and conferences and training for pastoral ministers. A small portion also supports The Catholic University of America which promotes Catholic Social Teaching and the training of priests, religious and lay leaders.

Thank you for your generous support. Be assured of my prayers for you and your families.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
+Lawrence T. Persico
Bishop of Erie

Care for Creation Continued

On September 1, we celebrated The World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, instituted by Pope Francis in 2015. Let us continue the focus on caring for creation with a special program Near the Feast of St. Francis. Please join us for discussion and activities on October 2 at 7PM in the conference room. Look for more information in the upcoming bulletins. Contact Michelle Knight, michellem.knight@gmail.com, 202-997-5069 with questions.



Our Lady of Mercy's **PARISH FEAST DAY**



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2019

Community Mass at 10:30 a.m.

followed by a luncheon in Sperry Hall

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

Since most of us attend the same Mass each weekend, we don't often get the chance to interact with those who attend other Masses. By celebrating one "Community Mass", we have the opportunity to celebrate and rejoice together as one family of faith.

Please bring a dish to share for the luncheon according to your last name:

A-G *Salad or Appetizer*

H-O *Dessert or Snack*

P-Z *Casserole or Fruit*

Gluten-free items are welcome.



Where would we be without music?

Music is inspiring, it speaks to us in a way that words sometimes cannot. It aids us in prayer, it fuels our spirituality, and it brings us peace. Music is said to be the speech of angels. Music unites us. Music is a gift that is to be shared.

We are blessed to have a talented, dedicated group of singers and musicians here at Our Lady of Mercy who share their gift of music with us every week throughout the year. Our choir, ensembles, children's choir, cantors, and instrumentalists all bring something different each week, but all have one common goal: to lead and inspire the community to full participation in the celebration of the Liturgy through music.

Join us! Come and sing in any of the groups of OLM's Music Ministry...

- ◆ **Parish Choir (8:30a.m. Mass)** Rehearsals are on **Thursdays** at 6:45 p.m., beginning **September 12**.
- ◆ **Saturday Ensemble (6:00p.m. Mass)** Rehearsal is at 5:30p.m. before Mass.
- ◆ **Sunday Ensemble (11:00a.m. Mass)** Rehearsal is at 10:30a.m. before Mass.

Contact Brandon before or after Mass...

at the parish office... or by email at music@ourladyofmercychurch.org

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