

OUR LADY OF MERCY CHURCH

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



September 15, 2019 – 24th 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*

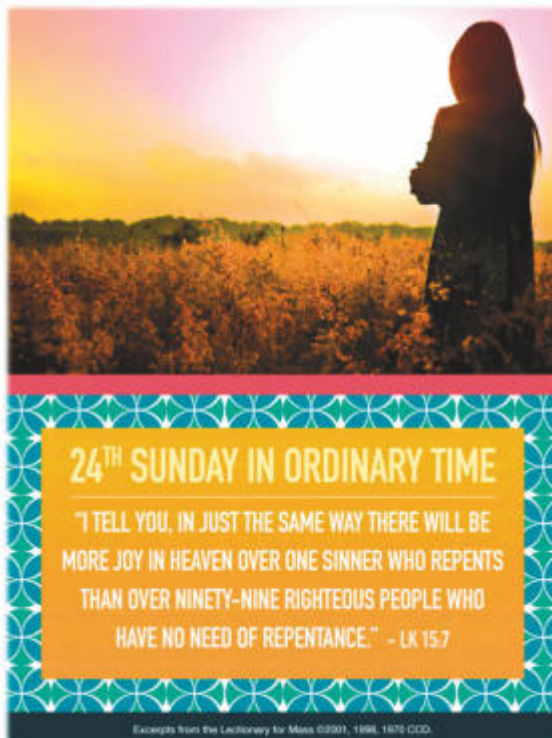
CONTACT INFORMATION

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. 09/16	9:00 a.m.	Acts of the Apostles Scripture Study
	6:30 p.m.	Sophia's Circle SCC
	7:00 p.m.	Acts of the Apostles Scripture Study
Tue. 09/17	7:00 p.m.	Grief Support Group
	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
	6:30 p.m.	Welcome Ministry
	7:00 p.m.	Core Team Meeting
Wed. 09/18	7:00 p.m.	Lifelong Faith Formation AA
	8:30 a.m.	Food Pantry Distribution
	1:00 p.m.	Diamonds in the Rough SCC
Thur. 09/19	1:00 p.m.	Discussion Group
	7:00 p.m.	OLM Book Group
	9:00 a.m.	Painting Class
Fri. 09/20	6:00 p.m.	Prayer Shawl
	6:45 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
	7:00 p.m.	Parish Wine Social
Sat. 09/21		Small Christian Community Sign-Up
Sun. 09/22	10:00 a.m.	AA
	4:30 p.m.	Sacrament of Penance
	9:30 a.m.	Religious Ed. Gr. K-2
	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 Florence Voelker.



MASS INTENTIONS

Mon. 09/16	8:30 a.m.	Don Brooks
Tue. 09/17	8:30 a.m.	Communion Service
Wed. 09/18	8:30 a.m.	Communion Service
Thur. 09/19	8:30 a.m.	Communion Service
Fri. 09/20	8:30 a.m.	Communion Service
Sat. 09/21	8:30 a.m.	
Sun. 09/22	6:00 p.m.	For the People of OLM Emma Royer (Potter's Clay SCC)
	8:30 a.m.	
	11:00 a.m.	Deceased member of the Spiegel Family (The Spiegel Family)

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Mon. 09/16	1 Tm 2:1-8	/ Lk 7:1-10
Tue. 09/17	1 Tm 3:1-13	/ Lk 7:11-17
Wed. 09/18	1 Tm 3:14-16	/ Lk 7:31-35
Thur. 09/19	1 Tm 4:12-16	/ Lk 7:36-50
Fri. 09/20	1 Tm 6:2c-12	/ Lk 8:1-3
Sat. 09/21	Eph 4:1-7, 11-13	/ Mt 9:9-13
Sun. 09/22	Am 8:4-7 / 1 Tm 2:1-8	/ Lk 16:1-13

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Offertory for the weekend of September 8, 2019

Envelopes sent:	392	
Envelopes returned:	109	\$3,660.00
Faith Direct Deposits:	116	\$2,923.68
Loose Change:		\$ 203.00
TOTAL OFFERTORY:		\$6,786.68

Question-of-the-Week

The winner of the Question-of-the-Week for the week of Sept. 2 was **Addy Mikolajewski, Gr. 6**, who knew that St. Anne and St. Joachim were the grandparents of Jesus.



THIS SUNDAY'S REFLECTION

LUKE 15:1-32

The people of Israel were once slaves in Egypt, and it took them a long time to learn how to live in freedom. As they wandered in the desert, they often took the wrong path. They sacrificed to the idols instead of worshiping the God who liberated them. Moses did not deny the reality of the sin, yet he interceded on the sinner's behalf.

Paul did not rationalize his sins; rather he humbly accounted himself the worst sinner: blasphemer, persecutor, arrogant unbeliever. Because he experienced God's forgiveness, Paul was an example to all who came afterward.

In the parable of God's mercy, the two sons are mirrors of us all. Though we are children of a benevolent father, we often regard ourselves more like slaves than sons and daughters. When God's rewards seem distant, we are tempted to squander our eternal inheritance as the younger son did. Like the elder son, we are angry when our father takes our brother back and reinstates him. Neither one fully understands the radical love of God: "Everything I have is yours, for you are with me always." When we repent our sins, God tells us, "Though you were once dead, you have come back to life."

For Reflection: Am I grateful for God's mercy when I sin? Do I show God's forgiveness to others?



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.

Ladies Lunch.

Save the date of **Tuesday, Oct 1 at 1pm** for the ladies lunch. More info to follow.



Confirmation Interviews

Candidates preparing to celebrate Confirmation in November are reminded that they have mandatory interviews on **Sunday, Oct. 6 at 12:15**.



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 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.

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? Interested in joining an SCC? Call Katie in the office 899-5342 or Dave 602-4622

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.

Youth Open Gym

Need a chance to run around and let off some back to school steam? The youth are invited to join us on **Tuesday September 24th from 5:30-6:30 p.m.** in the OLM gym to do just that. Hope to see you there!



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.



Today is the 2019 Catholic Education Collection!

Please support this important program and say yes to a lifelong faith formation opportunities. Half of what you give will remain at Our Lady of Mercy parish to support our own religious education and faith formation programs. Thank you!



BLESSED SACRAMENT PARISH FALL FESTIVAL



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29th at 1626 West 26th Street, Erie, Pa from noon – 5:00 p.m. Children and Adult Games – Bake Sale – Theme Basket Raffle – \$500. Drawing every half hour from 12:30p.m. to 3:00p.m. Tickets are \$5 each. Flu Shots

available Noon - 4:00 p.m. COME JOIN THE FUN AT BLESSED SACRAMENT FALL FESTIVAL!!

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.



Erie Climate Strike September 20



You are invited to participate in the Erie Climate Strike in conjunction with strikes throughout the world (www.strikewithus.org). The Erie event will be held on Friday September 20 from 10 AM until 8 PM at Perry Square.

The first two hours will be led by Erie area Youth on the steps of the Art Museum. More information and the day's schedule will be available on the Facebook page, [Climate Strike Erie!](#) OLM's social justice committee is one of many co-sponsors of the event

WINE & BEER SOCIAL



Friday, Sept 20

7:00 PM

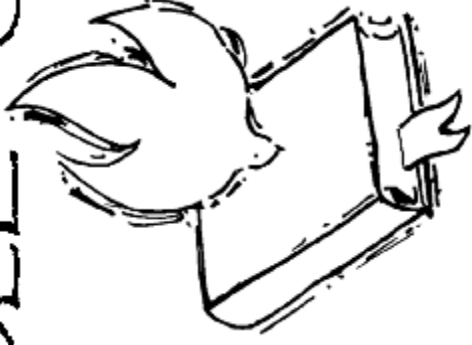
Sperry Hall

Bring your favorite wine or beer and an appetizer to share.

Meet new people in the parish and catch up with old friends.



ACTS OF THE APOSTLES A BIBLE STUDY



**Monday, Sept. 16 thru Oct. 21
9:00-10:15 AM**

And

7:00-8:00 PM

The Acts of the Apostles, the second volume in Luke's epic account of the birth of Christianity, is the story of the Church. In this masterfully crafted account, we encounter a powerful theology of Church, of the Holy Spirit and of our call to apostleship. Having listened to the Gospel of Luke proclaimed each Sunday this year, it is a perfect time to dive into this continuation of that Gospel.

There is no cost or need to register.

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