

OUR LADY OF MERCY CHURCH

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



September 22nd, 2019 – 25th 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*

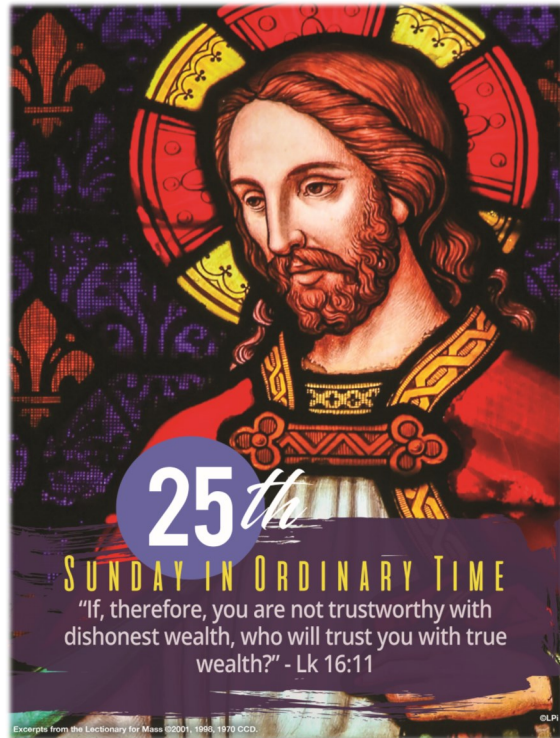
CONTACT INFORMATION

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. 09/23	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. 09/24	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
	5:30 p.m.	Youth Open Gym
	6:45 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
	7:00 p.m.	New SCC
	7:30 p.m.	AA
Wed. 09/25	1:00 p.m.	Diamonds in the Rough SCC
	5:30 p.m.	Contemplative Prayer
Thur. 09/26	9:00 a.m.	Painting Class
	9:30 a.m.	Families & Faith Formation committee
	9:30 a.m.	Potter's Clay SCC
	6:00 p.m.	Prayer Shawl
	10:00 a.m.	AA
Fri. 09/27	4:30 p.m.	Sacrament of Penance
	Sat. 09/28	
Sun. 09/29		Parish Feast Day Celebration
	10:30 a.m.	Feast Day Mass
	12:00 p.m.	Gr. 7&8 Youth Event

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 **Marilyn Garwig**.



Question-of-the-Week

The winner of the Question-of-the-Week Contest for the week of Sept. 9 was **Colton Wuerstle, Gr. 5**, who knew that Baptism is the Sacrament by which we



MASS INTENTIONS

Mon. 09/23	8:30 a.m.	
Tue. 09/24	8:30 a.m.	Frances Somolani (Sandy Jordan)
Wed. 09/25	8:30 a.m.	Rod Haynes (Sue Haynes)
Thur. 09/26	8:30 a.m.	Denny Smith (John & Judy Skuce)
Fri. 09/27	8:30 a.m.	
Sat. 09/28	8:30 a.m.	
Sun. 09/29	10:30 a.m.	For The People Of OLM

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Mon. 09/23	Ezr 1:1-6	/ Lk 8:16-18
Tue. 09/24	Ezr 6:7-8, 12b, 14-20	/ Lk 8:19-21
Wed. 09/25	Ezr 9:5-9	/ Lk 9:1-6
Thur. 09/26	Hg 1:1-8	/ Lk 9:7-9
Fri. 09/27	Hg 2:1-9	/ Lk 9:18-22
Sat. 09/28	Zec 2:5-9, 14-15a	/ Lk 9:43b-45
Sun. 09/29	Acts 1:14; 4:32-35	
	Rom 12:1-2, 9-18	/ Lk 1:39-55

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Offertory for the weekend of **September 15, 2019**

Envelopes sent:	392	
Envelopes returned:	121	\$3,583.00
Faith Direct Deposits:	116	\$2,948.08
Loose Change:		\$ 167.00
TOTAL OFFERTORY:		\$6,698.08

We Remember...



Phillip Rose, uncle of Mike Brown, who passed away recently. Please hold him and his family in prayer during this

THIS SUNDAY'S REFLECTION

LUKE 16:1-13



The prophet Amos rebuked the wealthy and greedy merchants of his day who profited from their exploitation of the poor. He chastised them for failing to see their neighbors as their brothers and sisters and for using them for their own purpose. Paul begged the church to offer "petitions, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgiving" in every time and place, especially for those in authority who had the power to change unjust practices.

Jesus taught his disciples a lesson on rendering a just account of their stewardship. In the story, a wealthy man asked his manager, who had mismanaged his master's goods, to give an account of his service. The crafty steward devised a scheme whereby he canceled his own commission, thus reducing the amount owed by the debtor. Jesus didn't justify the dishonest man's practice. Yet he praised him for his resourcefulness when faced with a crisis. Jesus lamented that his followers failed to devote as much energy to God's eternal kingdom as people have gave to worldly concerns. Only when we act justly can we offer prayers "with blameless hands held aloft" and be free from materialism and greed.

For Reflection: In what ways do I work for peace by working for justice? Are the world's leaders held in my prayers?

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!

Autumn Scripture Study

The study of the Acts of the Apostles will continue on **Monday, Sept. 23** with both a **9:00 AM and 7:00 PM** session. This week we will be looking at ch. 3-8.



Seeking Silence?

These introductory sessions on contemplative prayer are designed to help people incorporate more silence into their prayer lives. The mixture of words and silence will help us grow more comfortable with silence and discover how God communicates with us "in the silence of our hearts." Each session will include a short instruction



on various techniques that help us move into contemplative silence. The half hour sessions will be from **5:30pm to 6:00pm starting on Sept 25 in Mary's Chapel**. Stop in on your way home from work. The other dates are **Oct 2, 16, 30**. Interested, but this time does not work for you? **Contact Donna Clark** in the parish office or try the session on **Thursdays at 1pm (Sept 26, Oct 3, 17, 31)**. We will draw on the writings of some of the saints of the church: Julian of Norwich, Hildegard of Bingen, Theresa of Avila and John of the Cross.

Ladies Lunch.

For women who live alone join others for lunch on **Tuesday, Oct 1 at 1pm** at Harborview Grill. (check bulletin next week for a change of place in case the club closes earlier than expected). Good fellowship over food helps dispel loneliness and depression. **Contact Donna Clark** with questions.



SOCIAL JUSTICE

Bread for the World is a gathering of Christian voices urging our nation's decision makers to end hunger at home and abroad. Every year, Our Lady of Mercy participates in Bread for the World's Offering of Letters. This year's letter aims to realize a world in which all of God's children are fed. We will ask our policy makers to support an increase in funds for global maternal and child nutrition programs. Join the Social Justice Committee on October 5/6 after all Masses, as we turn our faith into action and sign letters to Senators Casey and Toomey and Rep. Kelly. For more information on this year's Offering of Letters, go to bread.org/ol.



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.**



Confirmation Interviews

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



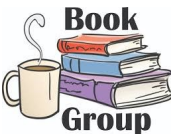
Parish Autumn Harvest Fest

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.



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 Oct. 16** to discuss The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek by Kim Michele Richardson.



Baptismal Preparation Sessions for Parents

Parents desiring to celebrate the Sacrament of Baptism with their child are asked to attend a preparation session by the Diocese of Erie. The next Baptismal Preparation Session for Parents and Godparents at OLM will be held **Sunday, Oct. 20 at noon** in the Conference Room. Please call the **Parish Office at 899-5342** to register prior to the class.



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**



**Mark Your Calendar for the
Parish Mardi Gras!**



Mardi Gras might feel like it is a long way off, but the Sister Parish Committee has begun to plan. This year, in addition to the home brew and wine taste-off, there will be a homemade salsa taste-off. As you are turning those garden tomatoes into salsa, think about putting some aside to enter into the taste-off. This year's Mardi Gras will be **Saturday, Feb. 22.**

CARE FOR CREATION CONTINUED

FEAST OF ST FRANCIS

INVASIVE SPECIES IN LAKE ERIE

FEATURING IVOR KNIGHT, PH.D.

Come to learn about a recent discovery of an invasive species in our local waters. How do they and others like them affect our fishing and boating locally? What can we do about them? And what does any of that have to do with our faith?

Wednesday, October 2, 7 PM, Conference Room

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.

Hands of Mercy - The Hands that Serve

Annual Ministry Recommitment and Sign-Up

When: October 26/27.

- ◆ **Verify Ministries You Are Involved In—**
 - ⇒ Ministry lists will be in the Gathering Space starting Oct 5
 - ⇒ Recommit or Retire

- ◆ **Sign Up for New Ministries**
 - ⇒ Check this list of ministries. Are you drawn to anything?
 - ⇒ Sign-up sheets are on the display table.

- ◆
- ◆ **Discover Your Strengths Workshop**
 - ⇒ **Oct 26 at 9am**
 - ⇒ Discover your God given gifts. Look for more information in the bulletin.

- ◆ **Questions ????? :**
 - ⇒ Contact Donna Clark
 - ⇒ 899-5342
 - ⇒ dclark@ourladyofmercychurch.org

AGIFT	Liturgical Art & Environment
Altar Linen Care	Music Ministry
Altar Servers	Newsletter Mailings
Baker's Ministry	Nursery
Baptismal Preparation	Nursing Home Ministry
Bereavement Ministry	Offertory Counter
Buildings & Grounds	Office Help
Casserole Club	Pastoral Council
Children's Liturgy of the Word	Peer Ministry
Cursillo Parish Coordinator	Prayer Network
Divorced & Separated	Prayer Shawl
Dresses for Mission	Pre Cana Program
Eucharistic Minister	Presenter of Gifts
Eucharistic Ministry to Sick	Quilt
Finance Committee	RCIA
Food Pantry	Religious Education Teacher
Funeral Meals	Script Shopper Card Program
Greeters	Sister Parish Committee
Grief Ministry	Small Christian Communities
Healing Ministry	Social Justice Committee
Homebound Ministry	Stewardship Committee
Hospital Visitor	Technology Committee
Knights of Columbus	Transportation Ministry
Landscaping	Usher
Lectors	Welcome Ministry
Legion of Mary	Youth Ministry
Lenten Soup Supper	
Library	
Lifelong Faith Formation	

