

OUR LADY OF MERCY CHURCH

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



October 13th, 2019 - 28th 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. 10/14	9:00 a.m.	Acts of the Apostles Scripture Study
	5:00 p.m.	Widow's Dinner
	6:30 p.m.	Fruit of the Vine SCC
	7:00 p.m.	Acts of the Apostles Scripture Study
Tue. 10/15	9:30 a.m.	Steel Magnolias SCC
	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
	7:00 p.m.	Core Team
	7:00 p.m.	Lifelong Faith Formation AA
	7:30 p.m.	AA
Wed. 10/16	8:30 a.m.	Food Pantry Distribution
	1:00 p.m.	Diamonds in the Rough SCC
Thur. 10/17	5:30 p.m.	Contemplative Prayer
	7:00 p.m.	OLM Book Group
	9:00 a.m.	Painting Class
Fri. 10/18	9:30 a.m.	Potter's Clay SCC
	1:00 p.m.	Contemplative Prayer
	6:00 p.m.	Prayer Shawl
	6:45 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Sat. 10/19	10:00 a.m.	AA
	4:30 p.m.	Sacrament of Penance
Sun. 10/20	9:30 a.m.	Healing Ministry
	9:30 a.m.	Religious Ed. Gr. K-2
	9:45 a.m.	First Reconciliation Parent Meeting
	12:00 p.m.	Baptismal Prep Class
	12:00 p.m.	Religious Ed. Gr. 7&8

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Offertory for the weekend of October 6, 2019

Envelopes sent:	392	
Envelopes returned:	111	\$5,052.00
Faith Direct Deposits:	116	\$2,948.08
Loose Change:		\$ 110.00
TOTAL OFFERTORY:		\$8,110.08

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Mon. 10/14	Rom 1:1-7	/ Lk 11:29-32
Tue. 10/15	Rom 1:16-25	/ Lk 11:37-41
Wed. 10/16	Rom 2:1-11	/ Lk 11:42-46
Thur. 10/17	Rom 3:21-30	/ Lk 11:47-54
Fri. 10/18	2 Tm 4:10-17b	/ Lk 10:1-9
Sat. 10/19	Rom 4:13, 16-18	/ Lk 12: 8-12
Sun. 10/20	Ex 17:8-13 / 2Tm 3:14-4:2	/ Lk 18:1-8

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon. 10/14	8:30 a.m.	
Tue. 10/15	8:30 a.m.	Frances Somolani (Carol & Jim Perotto)
Wed. 10/16	8:30 a.m.	
Thur. 10/17	8:30 a.m.	Fred Fama (John & Irene Abbate)
Fri. 10/18	8:30 a.m.	
Sat. 10/19	8:30 a.m.	Sister Adrienne & Sister Aloysius (The Extein Family)
Sun. 10/20	8:30 a.m.	Recipients of Prayer Shawls (Prayer Shawl Ministry)
	11:00 a.m.	For the People of OLM

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**.



Question-of-the-Week

The winner of the Question-of-the-Week Contest for the week of Sept. 30 was **Zachery Henry, Gr. 2**, who knew that the Trinity is one God in three Divine Persons.



THIS SUNDAY'S REFLECTION

Lk 17:11-19

There seemed to be no hope for Naaman, a leper and a foreigner in a strange land. Absurd as it seemed, Naaman acted on the prophet's word to plunge into the muddy Jordan River to be made clean. When he emerged from the water, Naaman received more than physical healing. He received faith in God's saving power. God makes salvation known to all peoples, even to the ends of the earth.

Acting on God's word was a way of life for Paul. Imprisoned in chains, he freely proclaimed that those who died with Christ in baptism would be raised to new life. The same power that raised Jesus from the dead is at work in us. Like Naaman, we come to the water filled with the leprosy of sin. We cry "Jesus, master, have pity on us," and he heals us, expelling evil from our lives. Washed in the waters of salvation, we sit at a table with the household of faith. Jesus tells us, "Stand up and go your way; your faith has been your salvation." Now we must share it with others.

For Reflection: In what ways do I live my baptismal promises? Do I share what God has done for me?



Parish Autumn Harvest Fest

The annual Family Harvest Fest will be held **TODAY, Sunday, Oct. 13 at noon** with soup sampling, children's crafts and fun for all.



Autumn Scripture Study

The study of the Acts of the Apostles will continue on **Monday, Oct. 14** with both a 9:00 AM and 7:00 PM session. This week we will be looking at ch. 19-23.

Widows' Dinner

Monday Oct 14 5:00 pm. Harbor House, 4454 Buffalo Rd. Gather with others who enjoy company with a meal; laughter, love and support. **Contact Donna Clark**

Birthday Celebration

Our friend, Fr. Leo Gallina will be celebrating his 80th birthday on **October 15**. We would like to shower him with cards from his OLM family. You can mail your well wishes to him at 400 East Gore Road, Erie, PA 16509.

Seeking Silence?

These introductory sessions on **Contemplative Prayer** are designed to help people incorporate more silence into their prayer lives. 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 **Oct 16, 30, Nov 6**. Stop in on your way home from work. Interested, but this time does not work for you? Contact Donna Clark in the parish office or try the session on **Thursdays at 1pm (Oct, 17, 31, Nov 7)**.

OLM Book Group



Books might be the only thing that is not sold in pumpkin spice flavor, but the OLM Book Group still enjoys devouring them. Join us 7:00 PM **Oct. 16** at the home of Donna Huff, 4517 North Woods

Dr., to discuss The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek by Kim Michele Richardson. Want to read ahead? Our November title will be The Tattooist of Auschwitz by Heather Morris.

First Reconciliation Parent Meeting

There will be a very important meeting for parents with children in the Sunday morning First Reconciliation class. The meeting will be held on **Oct. 20 at 9:45 AM** in the Conference Room.

Grief Support

The monthly grief support group will meet on **Oct 21 at 7pm** in the parish parlor. This group meets on the third Monday of each month to share on a topic related to the grief journey. The rich conversation from others who are experiencing the same thing provides some relief in knowing you are not alone. Questions call Donna Clark.

For Mercy Sake Deadline

Deadline to submit articles for the November issue of For Mercy Sake is **Sunday, Oct. 20**. Send submissions to ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org.

Grade 4-6 Retreat

The youth in the 4th 5th and 6th grade religious education classes are reminded that they have their annual retreat on **Oct. 22**. The retreat will begin when the children arrive on the bus after school and will end at 7:00 PM. Supper will be provided.

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.



Question and Answer with the Pastor



Join Fr. Ritchie on **Wednesday, Oct. 23 at 7:00** in the Conference Room for a conversation around your questions about the Catholic faith. Enjoy a cold drink, some snacks and a chance to ask

the pastor your questions about the Catholic faith. There is so much we did not learn as children. Now is the time to continue our education. All are welcome, including friends and family members not part of the parish. If you like, bring a snack to share.

Hands of Mercy

The annual ministry recommitment is **Oct 26/27**. Verify your ministries starting **Oct 6**. Find the lists in the gathering space. New Ministry Sign ups are happening at the same time. See the ministry brochure display.

Looking for a fulfilling Life?

Find out how on **Saturday October 26 at 9:00am**. *The Discover Your Strengths* workshops help people to understand their God-given talents and use them in everyday life. Wondering what ministry God is calling you to? Find out how God has blessed you and you will know how to serve Him. *For this workshop you need to pick up a book in the parish office and take the online survey before coming to the class.* Questions Donna Clark, 899-5342 or dclark@ourladyofmercychurch.org.

Trunk or Treat

You are invited to OLM's very first Trunk or Treat event on **Saturday, October 26th at 7:00 p.m.** This event is free to the community and will take place in the OLM parking lot. If the weather is bad, we will move inside the gym. Please RSVP to this event by signing up in the Gathering Space, commenting on the Facebook event page, or calling the Parish Office at 899-5342. Please consider decorating your trunk and passing out treats to the children, as this event is predicted to be well attended. A prize will be awarded to the best decorated trunk!



Knights Support Life

The OLM Knights of Columbus is proud to announce a special presentation by the **Women's Care Center of Erie County**. This event will take place in Sperry Hall on **Wednesday, October 30th at 6:00 pm**, and will include food and refreshments. This Christian based Centers mission is to assist individuals and families facing an unexpected pregnancy and its associated difficulties. They offer a wide range of free supportive care services both before and after delivery. Ultrasounds are available courtesy of a machine donated by the K of C. The Care Center also operates their own infant adoption agency. Come join us for an informative evening that will include a question and answer session. Please RSVP on sign-up sheets in the Gathering Space. You can also email your reservation to legler.phil@gmail.com, or call 504-1048.



Cursillo!

Are you looking to enhance your relationship with Christ? Maybe get to know Him on a more personal basis? Why not consider making a Cursillo! The next men's Cursillo will be **October 17-20** and the next women's Cursillo will be **November 21-24**, both right here at OLM. We ask that you prayerfully consider a Cursillo Weekend, you'll be glad you did! For more information call Tim or Norma Lynch at 899-2681.

Laudato Si' seminar

A seminar on Pope Francis' environmental encyclical, *Laudato Si'*, on **Oct. 19 from 1 to 3 p.m.** hosted by St. George Parish, 5145 Peach St., Erie. Tom DiVecchio, senior meteorologist for WJET-TV, is the featured presenter, speaking on climate change from a meteorologist's point of view. To make a reservation, call Chris Zurawski at 814-679-4102.

Morning of Reflection



Our Lady of Mercy is hosting a Morning of Reflection with Fr. Shane Mathew on **Saturday, Nov. 9**. The event will run from **9:00 AM to 12:30 PM** followed by lunch. "Come Away with Me - Jesus' Invitation to Spirituality, Prayer, and Community" is

an opportunity to grow in our life of prayer. Jesus said to them, 'Come away by yourselves to a deserted place and rest a while'" (Mk. 6:31). This day of recollection will respond to Jesus' invitation to rest and to pray. We will explore how we might deepen our understanding of spirituality and prayer both as individuals and as parts of the Christian community. Father Shane Mathew is an instructor of theology at Gannon University and sacramental assistant for Our Lady of Peace and St. Jude Parishes. He was ordained a priest for the Diocese of Erie in 2005. Please RSVP to Katie in the Parish Office at 899-5342

Thinking of signing up for electronic giving?

Now is the time. This week you will receive letters from Faith Direct with instructions on how to sign up. You can also use Faith Direct for the special monthly collections or the occasional second collection.

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.

Used Medical Equipment?

Chosen International Medical Assistance will take used medical equipment. The cleaned, refurbished equipment is given to those in need, both at home and abroad. Wheelchairs, walkers, transfer benches, shower chairs, canes, hospital beds, etc. They also collect diabetic and other medical supplies in their original packaging. Rolling walkers are in great demand. Questions about what is accepted contact jeff@chosenima.org or 833-3023. Bring to Chosen International located at 3638 West 26 St. 8am to 3pm M-F.



Question Box

Do you have a question about prayer, the Bible, Church practices, moral teachings, or some other aspect of the Catholic faith? Place your question in the box in the Gathering Space and Fr. Ritchie will answer your question in the next issue of *For Mercy Sake*. This is a great way to learn together.

Tractor For Sale

Our Building & Grounds is selling our 1969 Farmall 140 Tractor. It runs well, has a mower deck, 3 PH; for \$3,500. If interested please contact the Parish Office at 899-5342 or by email at secretary@ourladyofmercychurch.org.



SOCIAL JUSTICE

October has been designated as "Pro-Life" month. It is also the month that prepares Americans for local and national elections. Our Social Justice Corner will look at Church teaching on these issues through the lens of racial justice.

The injustice and harm racism causes are an attack on human life. The Church in the United States has spoken out consistently and forcefully against abortion, assisted suicide, euthanasia, the death penalty, and other forms of violence that threaten human life. It is not a secret that these attacks on human life have severely affected people of color, who are disproportionately affected by poverty, targeted for abortion, have less access to healthcare, have the greatest numbers on death row, and are most likely to feel pressure to end their lives when facing serious illness. As bishops, we unequivocally state that racism is a life issue. Accordingly, we will not cease to speak forcefully against and work toward ending racism. Racism directly places brother and sister against each other, violating the dignity inherent in each person.

Open Wide Our Hearts: The Enduring Call to Love (A pastoral letter against racism United States Conference of Catholic Bishops)

WORLD MISSION SUNDAY

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

This October, Pope Francis has asked all Catholics to celebrate Extraordinary Mission Month to renew the Church's commitment to proclaim the Gospel to the whole world. During this month the Holy Father invites us to a personal encounter with Jesus Christ through prayer, meditation on the Word of God and pilgrimage. This is a reminder that each one of us has the responsibility to proclaim the Good News: to family and friends who are near and to people throughout the world.

One of the ways we can concretely respond to our worldwide missionary duty is to participate in this year's special collection for the Society for the Propagation of the Faith. This annual collection is taken up on World Mission Sunday – celebrated this year on the weekend of **October 19-20**. Your gifts to this collection support and sustain priests, religious and lay pastoral leaders in more than 1,100 mission dioceses throughout Asia, Africa and the Pacific Islands, as well as in Latin America and Europe.

This collection helps to proclaim the Gospel and to build the Church, all while serving the poor and neglected. I encourage you to give as generously as you can. Our small contributions here can make a big difference throughout the world.

As the Diocese of Erie continues to celebrate this Extraordinary Mission Month, please know my gratitude for all that you do to help spread our faith – both near and far. Pope Francis writes to us this month: "May the love for the Church's Mission, which is a passion for Jesus and a passion for His people, 'grow ever stronger!'" May God bless you and your family.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

†Lawrence T. Persico

The Most Reverend Lawrence T. Persico, JCL
Bishop of Erie



Ministry Recommitment Weekend

October 26th and 27th



†Verify your current ministries **NOW** at the tables in the
Gathering Space!

†Want to join a new ministry? Stop by the Ministry Brochure Table,
take a look at what OLM has to offer, fill out a sign-up sheet for the
Ministry you feel called to and drop it off at the Parish Office!

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