

OUR LADY OF MERCY CHURCH

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



October 20th, 2019 - 29th 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*

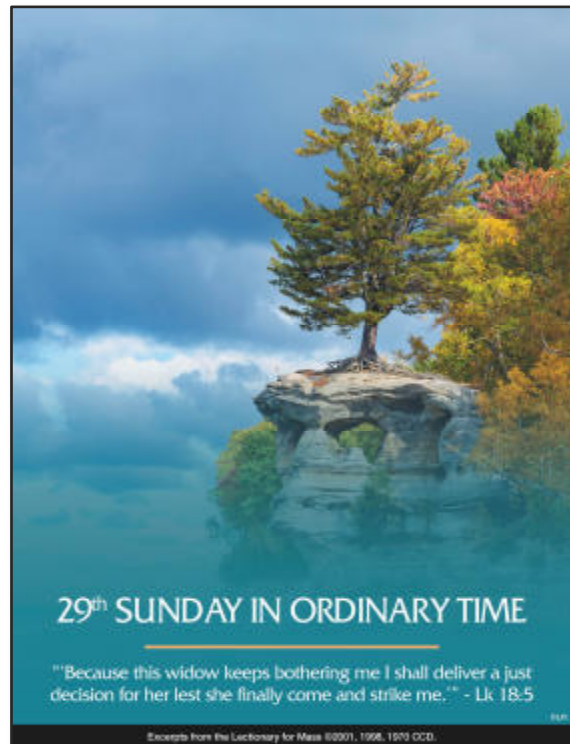
CONTACT INFORMATION

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. 10/21	9:00 a.m.	Acts of the Apostles Scripture Study
	7:00 p.m.	Grief Support Group
	7:00 p.m.	Acts of the Apostles Scripture Study
Tue. 10/22	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
	4:00 p.m.	Gr. 4-6 Retreat
	7:00 p.m.	New SCC
	7:30 p.m.	AA
Wed. 10/23	1:00 p.m.	Diamonds in the Rough SCC
	7:00 p.m.	Q&A with the Pastor
Thur. 10/24	9:00 a.m.	Painting Class
	9:30 a.m.	Potter's Clay SCC
	6:00 p.m.	Prayer Shawl
	6:45 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Fri. 10/25	7:00 p.m.	Eucharistic Adoration
Sat. 10/26	9:00 a.m.	Discover Your Strengths
	10:00 a.m.	AA
	4:30 p.m.	Sacrament of Penance
	7:00 p.m.	Trunk or Treat
Sun. 10/27	Ministry Recommitment Weekend	
	9:30 a.m.	Family Faith Event Gr. K-2
	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 Florence Voelker.



FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Offertory for the weekend of October 13, 2019

Envelopes sent:	392	
Envelopes returned:	108	\$4,306.20
Faith Direct Deposits:	116	\$2,948.08
Loose Change:		\$ 269.00
TOTAL OFFERTORY:		\$7,523.28

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Mon. 10/21	Rom 4:20-25	/ Lk 12:13-21
Tue. 10/22	Rom 5:12, 15b, 17-19, 20b-21	/ Lk 12:35-38
		/ Lk 12:39-48
Wed. 10/23	Rom 6:12-18	/ Lk 12:49-53
Thur. 10/24	Rom 6:19-23	/ Lk 12:54-59
Fri. 10/25	Rom 7:18-25a	/ Lk 13:1-9
Sat. 10/26	Rom 8:1-11	/ Lk 13:10-17
Sun. 10/27	Sir 35:12-14, 16-18 / 2Tm 4:6-8, 16-18	/ Lk 18:9-14

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon. 10/21	8:30 a.m.	Denny Smith (The Religious Ed. Dept.)
Tue. 10/22	8:30 a.m.	Emma Royer (Janet Smith)
Wed. 10/23	8:30 a.m.	Evelyn Seyboldt (Michael & Denise Gaines)
Thur. 10/24	8:30 a.m.	Donald Ross (Donna Ross)
Fri. 10/25	8:30 a.m.	
Sat. 10/26	8:30 a.m.	
	6:00 p.m.	Tom Rinke (Doug & Linda Poust)
Sun. 10/27	8:30 a.m.	For the People of OLM
	11:00 a.m.	Palma Reed (Katie and Bailey)

Question-of-the-Week

The winner of the Question-of-the-Week
 Contest for the week of Oct. 7 was
Madden Inthavong, Gr. 2, who knew that
 Jesus taught us to pray the Our Father.

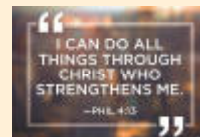


For Mercy Sake Deadline

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

THIS SUNDAY'S REFLECTION

Lk 18:1-8



Like Moses, we may grow weary of petitioning God in prayer. That is when we need the support of the community to come to our assistance. They help us remember that God is with us in all our struggles; God is our "shade" in the heat of conflict.

Paul is our companion who inspires us when we are weak. He reminds us that God's word is a training ground for the battles of life. Fully equipped, we are competent to do every good work. No matter how difficult the trials, we have a responsibility to share God's word. Whether convenient or inconvenient, we must never give up.

Jesus tells a parable about persistence in prayer. In the story, a poor widow suffered ill-treatment from her opponent. The judge who heard her case was hard-hearted, unconcerned with her rights or with God's justice. Although she demanded her due repeatedly, the judge refused to listen to her pleas. She did not lose heart, and eventually the case was settled in her favor. Jesus asks, if this corrupt judge hear the cries of the poor, would God refuse to answer those who called out with faith night and day?

For Reflection: Who comes to my aid when I am weak? How does my parish show a "preferential option for the poor"?

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



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.

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.



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!

Discover Your Strengths Workshop

Saturday October 26 at 9:00am

the stewardship committee is hosting a **Discover Your Strengths** workshop to help people celebrate 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.



Eucharistic Adoration

An evening of Eucharistic Adoration that was only open to the young adult population is now open to all ages and will take place on **Friday October 25 at 7:00 p.m.**



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.

Family Faith Event

Families with children in the Sunday morning religious education program, Gr. K -2, are reminded that next **Sunday, Oct. 27**, is our Family Faith Event. Parents and siblings are invited to share a special faith experience. The Family Faith Event is the same time as regularly scheduled religious education class. Meet in Sperry Hall.



Contemplative Prayer Experience



How does God speak to us? Sometimes we need to create a space of silence before we can hear the "still small voice." 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 30 and 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 31 and Nov 7).

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.



Mailing Party



Can you help us fold the newsletter and stuff envelopes? We will be preparing the newsletter for the mail on **Monday, Nov. 11 at 9:00 AM**. Call Irene at 899-6132 or email ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org if you can lend a hand.

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 so we can prepare by calling the parish at 899-5342 or emailing secretary@ourladyofmercychurch.org by Nov. 4.



Sunday Morning *C*A*F*E*

The last Sunday Morning CAFÉ of 2019 will be **Sunday, Nov. 10 at 9:45**. Our presenter will be Fr. Ritchie. He will talk to us about how to approach the examination of our conscience as an adult. Enjoy fresh baked sweets, fresh brewed coffee and the opportunity to explore fresh ideas.

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 Nov. 20** to discuss The Tattooist of Auschwitz by Heather Morris



Electronic Giving to Our Lady of Mercy

This past week you received letters from Faith Direct with instructions on how to sign up. This is an easy way to be consistent in your giving which helps us meet our daily operating costs. You can also use Faith Direct for the special monthly collections or the occasional second collection.



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.

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

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.

"Racism can only end if we contend with the policies and institutional barriers that perpetuate and preserve the inequality – economic and social – that we still see all around us."

Open Wide Our Hearts USCCB

Racism can be individual, when persons fail to recognize certain groups as created in the image and likeness of God and equal in dignity, or it can be systemic, where practices or policies treat certain groups of people unjustly. One example of systemic racism is lack of access to the vote for some communities of color.

The Church teaches that all persons have both a legal right and a responsibility to have their voice heard in the public square to promote human dignity and the common good of society. As people of faith, we have the obligation to help shape the moral character of society by voting and other acts of public participation. We also must act to ensure that the right to vote is protected for all citizens. This has often been threatened for many minorities in the U.S. Today, too many barriers to the right to vote remain for minorities. In response, we are called to work to ensure that all are able to exercise their rights, as faithful citizens, to raise their voices in the public square.

Racism and Voting USCCB



CHILD PROTECTION AND CREATING SAFE ENVIRONMENTS

Child Protection and Creating Safe Environments-Bullying Prevention Month: Relational bullying is unwarranted, persistent, unwelcome behavior in the form of criticism, isolation, or fabricated allegations that can damage relationships. Examples include social exclusion ("You can't be with us"), spreading rumors ("Did you hear...?"), and withholding friendship ("I won't be your friend if you..."). Though relational bullying can often seem ambiguous to outside observers and often garners less attention than physical bullying or verbal bullying, it should not be discounted simply as normal, adolescent behavior. In fact, several recent studies suggest relational bullying is more strongly related to emotional distress and teen depression than any other form of bullying. To see what the Diocese of Erie is doing to help maintain safe environments, visit <https://www.eriecd.org/childprotection/>

**OUR LADY OF MERCY
PRESENTS...**

TRUNK OR TREAT

SATURDAY OCTOBER 26TH @ 7:00 P.M.

DRESS UP AND DECORATE YOUR TRUNK! PRIZE FOR THE BEST TRUNK!

Please fill out and return slip to Our Lady of Mercy

_____ We will be attending Trunk or Treat. Number of Treaters _____

_____ We will be attending Trunk or Treat and will pass out Candy.

Family Name _____



“Life is Changed, Not Ended”

reflections on the theology of Christian death and dying

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 4 AT 7:00 P.M.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5 AT 9:00 A.M.

IN MARY'S CHAPEL

presented by Brandon Vogt

During the month of November, we remember those who have gone before us in a particular way. Come and discover what the Church teaches about death and dying through prayer, song, scripture, and the funeral rites. *(the evening and morning session will cover the same topics; you need not attend both)*

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