

OUR LADY OF MERCY CHURCH

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



December 1st, 2019 - First Sunday of Advent

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*

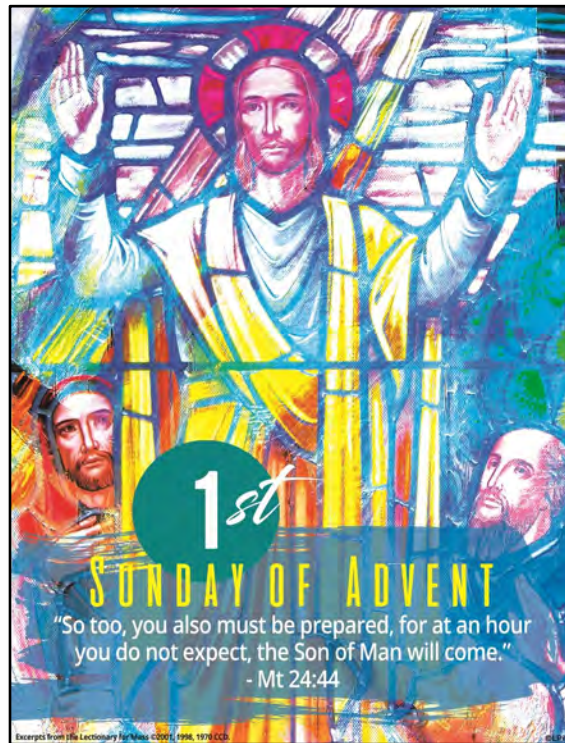
CONTACT INFORMATION

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. 12/02	7:00 p.m.	Pastoral Facilitator Mtg.
Tue. 12/03	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.	Pastoral Council
	7:30 p.m.	AA
Wed. 12/04	1:00 p.m.	Diamonds SCC
	5:30 p.m.	Contemplative Prayer
Thur. 12/05	9:00 a.m.	Painting Class
	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
Fri. 12/06		
Sat. 12/07	10:00 a.m.	AA
	4:30 p.m.	Sacrament of Penance
Sun. 12/08		Second Sunday of Advent
	9:30 a.m.	Religious Ed. Gr. K-2
	12:00 p.m.	Family Advent Party
	12:00 p.m.	Religious Ed. Gr. 7 & 8

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Mon. 12/02	Is 4:2-6	/ Mt 8:5-11
Tue. 12/03	Is 11: 1-10	/ Lk 10:21-24
Wed. 12/04	Is 25:6-10	/ Mt 15:29-37
Thur. 12/05	Is 26:1-6	/ Mt 7:21, 24-27
Fri. 12/06	Is 29:17-24	/ Mt 9:27-31
Sat. 12/07	Is 30:19-21, 23-26	/ Mt 9:35-10:1, 5-8
Sun. 12/08	Is 11:1-10 / Rom 15:4-9	/ Mt 3:1-12

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 **Donna Smicker**.



MASS INTENTIONS

Mon. 12/02	8:30 a.m.	Communion Service
Tue. 12/03	8:30 a.m.	Communion Service
Wed. 12/04	8:30 a.m.	Communion Service
Thur. 12/05	8:30 a.m.	Communion Service
Fri. 12/06	8:30 a.m.	Communion Service
Sat. 12/07	8:30 a.m.	Communion Service
	6:00 p.m.	For the People of OLM
Sun. 12/08	8:30 a.m.	Fredrick Trester
		(Faye & Pete Froess)
	11:00 a.m.	Ruth Extein
		(The Extein Family)

The Immaculate Conception of Mary, as the patronal day of our country, remains a holy day of obligation except when it falls on a Sunday of Advent. Only then, when the celebration must be moved to **Monday, December 9th, is it not obligatory.** Our Mass here for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception will be **Monday at 8:30am.**



THIS SUNDAY’S REFLECTION

MT 24:37-44



Do we rejoice as we enter God’s house? Are we able to find peace there? From this earthly place, are we able to hear heavenly instruction for the whole world? If we are truly listening, then swords will become plowshares to plant crops of peace. Spears will turn into pruning hooks to reap a harvest of justice. No one will train for war or raise a weapon against another. Or have we become apathetic to the deeds of darkness?

We must arouse ourselves from the lethargy and put on armor, not for battle but for defense against worldly desires. The old clothes of our former lives must be cast off. Instead, we are to “put on” Jesus, our garment of salvation. Jesus warns us that it is later than we think. He compares himself to a “thief in the night,” who comes when we least expect it. “Stay awake!” he cautions us. “You do not know the hour.” We must pray that God’s peace will reign in our places of worship as well as in our hearts and in our world.

For Reflection: Am I watchful for the Lord’s arrival in the unexpected places of my life? What robs me of my joy and peace as I begin this Advent season?

#iGiveCatholic**Our Lady of Mercy**

#iGIVECATHOLIC

You are invited to give to Our Lady of Mercy on **December 3rd** for the **#iGiveCatholic** initiative in part of Giving Tuesday. It is an opportunity for us, in gratitude, to donate online to **Our Lady of Mercy** in memory of loved ones and family members. Advanced giving is also accepted from **November 18th to December 2nd**. To give, please visit: <https://erie.igivecatholic.org/organizations/our-lady-of-mercy-parish-4b60a05f-7657-40cc-a47a-0bb8b871de44>

**Widows Dinner**

Dec 6 at 4:30pm at Creeks on East Lake Rd. It is difficult to eat alone all the time so come join a group of friends for dinner. Questions call Donna Clark.

Family Advent Party

Mark your calendar for **Sunday, Dec. 8** and join us for our annual Advent Party. We will share a pot luck lunch. There will be crafts and games for the kids. And, we have sent an invitation to the North Pole, still waiting to hear if our special guest will be able to join us.

**A TIME TO HEAL**

You are invited to join the OLM healing ministry on **Monday, December 9th at 7pm** for an evening of prayer, song, laying of hands and quiet reflection. There are so many levels of healing that are needed in this world, whether

it be physical, emotional or spiritual. Come for yourself or for someone you love...and bring a family member or friend who may need healing and calm in their lives. We hope to see you there.

OLM Book Group

The best part of long, cold winter nights is that they give an excuse for more hours of reading. You are invited to share the fruits of your winter reads with the OLM Book Group. Because of the hectic pace of the holiday season, we will take a break from reading in December to view a movie "The Green Book" on **Dec. 11**. Join us at the home of Claudette Terrill, 6821 East Lake Rd. at 6:45 for a movie start time of 7:00 sharp. Want to read ahead? Our January title will be Of Human Bondage by W. Somerset Maugham.

**Woman's Event**

If you live alone join us for this evening out. On **Dec 13** we will start with a social gathering at **4:30pm**, Dinner at **5:00pm** both at Our Lady of Mercy. Then we will head over to the Harborcreek Christmas Light Up Night around **6:00pm**. RSVP to Donna Clark in the Parish office. Or

dclark@ourladyofmercychurch.org

WAYS TO GIVE THIS SEASON

CHRISTMAS CARING TREE PROGRAM

The Ella Cochran Food Pantry would like to remind anyone who took a name from the Christmas Caring Tree to please return a wrapped gift to the gathering space by the deadline next weekend, **Dec 7th and 8th**

Operation Assisting Santa:

Our mission, in conjunction with the Erie Vets Hospital, is to insure that Local Veterans and their families, who might not be able to do so otherwise, have Christmas gifts for their children. We are looking for people to 'adopt' children off of our 'Santa's Good Kid List'. We supply the age, gender, and what the child would like (we actually ask the parents). The person goes out and buys the gift(s)...we collect them....wrap them....and distribute them at a luncheon where we honor the Veterans and their families. The children's info will be available starting **November 24th**....all gifts should be in by **December 8th**. Thank you in advance for your support. **Moochie Zielewski 814-823-6506**

Coat and Toy Collection - One Weekend Only

We are collecting coats, clothing and gently used toys for the Community Outreach Group on **November 23 and 24**. Items can be brought to the Gathering Space that weekend only. This will be the only collection time. The annual clothing distribution party is on **Saturday, December 7 at 10:00 a.m.** located at 453 West 16th St, Erie PA 16502. Any items not distributed are given to other local organizations and shelters for distribution to those in need. If you have any questions, you can **call Tom Pearson at 814-450-7338**.

Warming Shelter

Our Neighbors' Place is a faith based seasonal shelter for the homeless. Sessions at St. John the Baptist this season are **January 15-28, 2020** and **February 26-March 10, 2020**. If you would like to provide food, money or volunteer your time to the shelter, please contact **Mary Ellen Lieb 873-1284 melieb@gmail.com** or **Mary Hoffman 873-2981 mymary14@gmail.com**. Checks may be made payable to "St. John the Baptist Outreach."

December Birthdays

Dec. 3	Aidan Tylman	18
Dec. 4	Aubrie Olson	16
Dec. 5	Blake Bleil-Tersigni	6
Dec. 7	Gabriella Licata	13
Dec. 8	Perrin Baker	3
Dec. 9	Morgan Wilhelm	14
Dec. 11	Samuel Camillo	10
Dec. 12	Ava Froess	13
Dec. 13	Raegan Andrews	12
Dec. 15	Casey Brigham	1
Dec. 17	Ariel Owens	18
Dec. 21	Alivia Smith	13
Dec. 23	Angel Gilbert	11
Dec. 26	Emily Desser	17
Dec. 27	Joey Bernatowicz	12
Dec. 29	Rosalie Gilchrist	2



Room Available



Looking for a non-smoking, non-drinking female to share a home near Rt 90 and Depot Rd. Bedroom with bathroom, large shared TV room with fireplace. \$400 per month includes utilities. Interested?

Call Donna Clark in the parish office.

Drivers Needed

Weekday trips to and from Erie, various times and days. Compensation provided. Contact Donna Clark in the parish office.



Washington, DC March for Life



Attend the March for Life in Washington, DC on **Friday, January 24, 2020**. Buses chartered by People for Life will leave Erie on Thursday evening, **January 23 at 11 p.m.** and return about **1:30 a.m. on January 25**.

Students and families on tight budgets are encouraged to inquire about sponsorships arranged by People for Life. Reservations should be made as soon as possible. Send \$55 per seat to People for Life; P.O. Box 1126; Erie, PA 16512. Pay by **December 21** and get a \$5 early bird discount (send \$50 per seat). For more information or to use a credit card, call (814) 882-1333 or go online to www.peopleforlife.life/january2020.

Holiday Grief



The Holidays usually bring joy but if this is the first Christmas without your loved one it can also bring sadness or pain. The grief support group will have a special session on managing the holidays when you really don't feel like celebrating. Join us **Monday, Dec 16 at 7pm** in the parish parlor. We will have some suggestions that may help. Questions call **Donna Clark** in the parish office.

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.

Give in Thanksgiving



"The nuns left lasting impressions on me," writes a donor. "I shall always be grateful for my Catholic education." Please join in thanking the thousands of senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests who worked tirelessly to educate the young and serve those in need. Next week's second collection is for the Retirement Fund for Religious, which helps hundreds of religious communities care for aging members. Please give generously.

Tennessee Back Porch Christmas Tour in the Harborcreek Area

Once again, the local band "Tennessee Back Porch" will present their annual Christmas concert: "Follow the Star". This year, our own **Brandon Vogt** will be featured as the male soloist. There are two concerts being held in the Harborcreek area:



Friday, December 6 at 7:00 p.m. at South Harborcreek United Methodist Church (including the Harbor Creek High School Vocal Ensemble) and **Sunday, December 8 at 4:00 p.m.** at St. Gregory Church in North East (including Bongos from Heaven and the St. Gregory Children's Choir.) Please consider showing your support by attending one of these wonderful concerts.



SOCIAL JUSTICE

Hunger Update

The social justice committee has good news on the Global Hunger Resolution! In October, the parish wrote letters to our members of Congress asking them to support this important legislation which will accelerate global progress against maternal and child malnutrition. The House Foreign Affairs committee has passed the Resolution in a bi-partisan manner and it can now proceed to the House for a full vote.

December 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8:30 & 11:00 AM MASS Casserole Club DROP OFF FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT Monthly Food Pantry Collec- tion 9:30 AM Healing Ministry	2 8:30 AM Mass 7:00 PM Pastoral Facilitator	3 8:30 AM Mass 9:30 AM Steel Magnolias SCC 1:30 PM Legion of Mary 2:00 PM Prayer Shawl 4:00 PM Rel. Ed Gr. 3-6 5:30 PM Children's Choir 7:00 PM Pastoral Council 7:30 PM AA	4 8:30 AM Mass 1:00 PM Diamonds in the Rough	5 8:30 AM Mass 9:00 AM Painting Class 9:30 AM Potter's Clay SCC 1:00 PM Contemplative Prayer 6:00 PM Prayer Shawl 6:45 PM Choir Rehearsal	6 8:30 AM Mass	7 8:30 AM Mass 10:00 AM AA 10:00 AM Mass of Remem- berance 4:30 PM Sacrament of Penance 6:00 PM MASS
8 8:30 & 11:00 AM MASS SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT 9:30 AM Rel. Ed. Gr. K-2 12:00 PM Family Advent Event 12:00 PM Rel. Ed. Gr. 7 & 8	9 IMMACULATE CONCEPTION 8:30 AM Holy Day Mass 6:30 PM Fruit of the Vine - SCC 7:00 PM Healing Ministry Ser- vice	10 8:30 AM Mass 9:30 AM Steel Magnolias SCC 1:30 PM Legion of Mary 2:00 PM Prayer Shawl 4:00 PM Rel. Ed Gr. 3-6 5:30 PM Children's Choir 7:00 PM New SCC 7:30 PM AA	11 8:30 AM Mass 1:00 PM Diamonds in the Rough 6:45 PM OLIM BOOK GROUP 7:00 PM Knights of Columbus	12 8:30 AM Mass 9:00 AM Painting Class 9:30 AM Potter's Clay SCC 1:00 PM Contemplative Prayer 6:00 PM Prayer Shawl 6:15 PM Choir Rehearsal	13 8:30 AM Mass	14 8:30 AM Mass 9:00 AM Dan Schutte Workshop Retreat 10:00 AM AA 4:30 PM Sacrament of Penance 6:00 PM MASS
15 8:30 & 11:00 AM MASS THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT 9:30 AM Healing Ministry 9:30 AM Rel. Ed. Gr. K-2 12:00 PM Rel. Ed. Gr. 7 & 8 3:00 PM Advent Concert with Dan Schutte	16 8:30 AM Mass 7:00 PM Grief Support Group 7:00 PM Penance Service - St. Gregory	17 8:30 AM Mass 9:30 AM Steel Magnolias SCC 1:30 PM Legion of Mary 2:00 PM Prayer Shawl 4:00 PM Rel. Ed Gr. 3-6 5:30 PM Children's Choir 6:15 PM Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM Core Team Mtg. 7:00 PM LFF Mtg. 7:00 PM Penance Service - St. James 7:30 PM AA	18 8:30 AM Food Pantry Distri- bution 8:30 AM Mass 1:00 PM Diamonds in the Rough 7:00 PM Penance Service - Our Lady of Mercy	19 8:30 AM Mass 9:00 AM Painting Class 9:30 AM Potter's Clay SCC 1:00 PM Contemplative Prayer 6:00 PM Prayer Shawl 7:00 PM Penance Service - St. Mark the Evangelist	20 8:30 AM Mass	21 8:30 AM Mass 10:00 AM AA 4:30 PM Sacrament of Penance 6:00 PM MASS
22 8:30 & 11:00 AM MASS FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT 12:00 PM Gr. 7 & 8 Youth Event	23 8:30 AM Mass	24 Parish Office Closed 8:30 AM Mass 6:00 PM CHRISTMAS EVE MASS 9:20 PM <i>Christmas Music with</i> <i>Choir and Instruments</i> 10:00 PM CHRISTMAS EVE MASS	25 CHRISTMAS Parish Office Closed 10:00 AM CHRISTMAS DAY MASS	26 Parish Office Closed 8:30 AM Mass	27 8:30 AM Mass	28 8:30 AM Mass 10:00 AM AA 4:30 PM Sacrament of Penance 6:00 PM MASS
29 8:30 & 11:00 AM MASS	30 8:30 AM Mass 6:00 PM Solemnity of Mary Vigil Mass 7:30 PM AA	31 Parish Office Closed 8:30 AM Mass 6:00 PM Solemnity of Mary Vigil Mass 7:30 PM AA	1 Parish Office Closed Solemnity of Mary 9:00 AM Mass	2 8:30 AM Mass	3 8:30 AM Mass	4 8:30 AM Mass 10:00 AM AA 4:30 PM Sacrament of Penance 6:00 PM MASS