

OUR LADY OF MERCY CHURCH

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



December 29nd, 2019 - The Feast of the Holy Family

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday Vigil: 6:00 p.m.

Sunday: 8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

Weekday: 8:30 a.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*

Kirk Mientkiewicz, *Maintenance Coordinator*

Andrea Maille, *Lifelong Faith Formation Secretary*

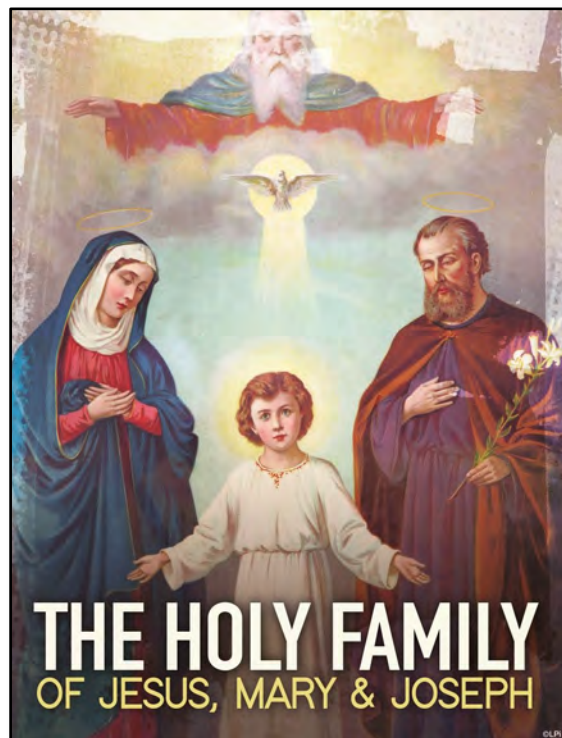
CONTACT INFORMATION

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. 12/30		
Tue. 12/31	6:00 p.m.	The Solemnity of Mary - Vigil Mass
	7:30 p.m.	AA
Wed. 01/01		New Year's Day - Parish Office Closed The Solemnity of Mary 10:00 a.m. Holy Day Mass
Thur. 01/02		
Fri. 01/03		
Sat. 01/04	10:00 a.m.	AA
	4:30 p.m.	Sacrament of Penance
Sun. 01/05		The Epiphany of the Lord Casserole Club Drop Off Monthly Food Pantry Collection 9:30 a.m. Healing Ministry 9:30 a.m. Religious Ed. Gr. K-2 12:00 p.m. Religious Ed. Gr. 7 & 8 3:00 p.m. Epiphany Concert

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Mon. 12/30	1 Jn 2:12-17	/ Lk 2:36-40
Tue. 12/31	1 Jn 2:18-21	/ Jn 1:1-18
Wed. 01/01	Nm 6:22-27 / Gal 4:4-7	/ Lk 2:16-21
Thur. 01/02	1 Jn 2:22-28	/ Jn 1:19-28
Fri. 01/03	1 Jn 2:29-3:6	/ Jn 1:29-34
Sat. 01/04	1 Jn 3:7-10	/ Jn 1:35-42
Sun. 01/05	Is 60:1-6 / Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6 / Mt 2:1-12	

Question-of-the-Week

The winner of the Question-of-the-Week Contest for the week of Dec. 16 was **Bailey Haislip, Gr. 3**, who knew that Jesus was born in Bethlehem.

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. 12/30	8:30 a.m.	
Tue. 12/31	8:30 a.m.	Tim Eisert (Dick & Pat Marshall)
	6:00 p.m.	For the People of OLM
Wed. 01/01	10:00 a.m.	For the People of OLM
Thur. 01/02	8:30 a.m.	Steve Lion
Fri. 01/03	8:30 a.m.	
Sat. 01/04	8:30 a.m.	
	6:00 p.m.	Janet Telega (The Extein Family)
Sun. 01/05	8:30 a.m.	Charles A. Krahn (Doris Adiutori Krahn)
	11:00 a.m.	For the People of OLM

Holiday Office Hours

The Parish Office will be closed on Tuesday December 31 and Wednesday January 1, 2020 for the New Year holiday. Regular office hours of Monday-Friday from 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. will resume on Thursday January 2, 2020.

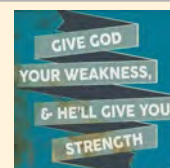


Bulletin Deadlines

Please send bulletin content to Katie in the Parish Office at Secretary@ourladyofmercychurch.org at least **10 days** before the Sunday it is to be distributed. We will then do our best to find

THIS SUNDAY'S REFLECTION

MT 2:13-15, 19-23



Our reading from the Book of Sirach sets the tone for the Feast of the Holy Family by drawing attention to the loving relationships that should permeate every family. The commandment "Honor your father and mother" is the foundation for this reflection. Love for parents continues throughout life and brings with it the reward of many blessings.

Paul's letter to the Colossians focuses on family life. Paul reminds us of our identity as "God's chosen ones, holy and beloved." We are called to live out our identity in all relationships especially within the family. Paul uses a beautiful analogy: just as we consciously select our clothes every day, so we should consciously clothe ourselves daily with the virtues inspired by Jesus: "compassion, kindness, humility."

On this first Sunday of Christmas Time, our minds turn to the heart of the message of the Incarnation. The Gospel offers a beautiful narrative that reflects the life of the Holy Family. The Son of God entered the human family as a helpless child, cared for by a loving family. Joseph and Mary immediately exercise their role as protectors of their child amid dire circumstances. They become refuges, escaping the tyranny of King Herod, who had ordered the death of their child. Just as the Joseph in the Old Testament went to Egypt to save his family from starvation, so Joseph in the New Testament takes his family to Egypt under God's inspiration to save them. Once King Herod had died, God brings the Holy Family back from Egypt to safety in Nazareth. Joseph and Mary illustrate the primary role of every parent: to trust in God's guidance as they care for and protect their child.

For Reflection: How does Joseph in the Old Testament foreshadow Joseph in the New Testament? How should adult children continue to fulfill the commandment "Honor your father and your mother"? What good news does the Feast of the Holy Family convey to your family?

Widow's Dinner

Friday, January 10 at 4:30pm Applebee's on Buffalo Rd. Join us for good fellowship, laughter heartfelt love. If you are grieving sometimes, the best remedy is to get out and be with others. **Contact Donna Clark** in the parish office with questions.



Gr. 9 Retreat



The candidates in their first year of preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation will have a mandatory retreat **Sunday, Jan. 12 from noon to 4:00** in Sperry Hall.

Question & Answer With the Pastor

Mark your calendar. 2020 will kick off with an evening of conversation with Fr. Ritchie, **Monday, Jan. 13 at 7:00 PM.** All are welcome, including friends and family members with questions about the Catholic faith. Feel free to bring snacks or left over cookies to share.



Gr. 11 Interviews



Confirmation candidates in their final year of preparation for the Sacrament are reminded that they have mandatory interviews on **Sunday, Jan. 19 at 12:15.** Meet in Classroom #1.

Awaken Your Faith

Wednesday January 22 at 7pm - for people who are struggling with their faith and feeling pushed away from church.



Has your faith journey been confusing, frustrating, filled with guilt? Has it pushed you out of a faith community? Are you seeking to awaken your faith but are not ready to re-enter the community. Join this discussion group to explore the difficulties of the faith journey and discover the next step on the journey that works for you. **Questions call Donna Clark, Pastoral Minister 899-5342 or 814-303-9282**



Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser

The religious education ministry is holding its first spaghetti dinner on **Jan. 26.** In addition to spaghetti and meatballs, salad and bread,

beverage and dessert, there will be a gift auction. Gluten free pasta will also be available. Tickets are \$10 for adult and \$5 children under 10 years. Seating is limited, so buy your tickets early. Tickets can be purchased after weekend Masses or at the Parish Office during the week. Take out will be offered. We are asking our religious education community to volunteer for this event. Donations of theme baskets for our gift auction and empty large baskets for our gifts are appreciated.

Know someone . . .

Who is struggling with church or faith? Who feels hurt or is angry with God, himself or herself or a minister of the church? Invite them to Healing the Faith Journey, **Monday, February 10 at 7pm.**



This session will allow us to process our hurts in a prayerful environment and take a step towards healing and forgiveness. Questions call **Donna Clark, Pastoral Minister 899-5342.**

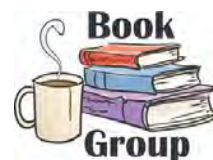
Parish Alive



Give yourself a gift this Christmas. Register to make Parish Alive on **Feb. 28-29.** The gift of a deeper relationship with Christ is the best gift you could ever receive. Registration forms and more information can be found at the parish website and on the bulletin tables.

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. Our January title will be *Of Human Bondage* by W. Somerset Maugham. Want to read ahead? In February we will discuss *What Alice Forgot* by Lianne Moriarty.



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."

Interim Coordinator for Youth Ministry Needed

Our Lady of Mercy is seeking a temporary coordinator of Junior and Senior High Youth ministry events and retreats. Responsibilities include: a January freshman retreat, a February Junior High retreat and a May Confirmation retreat as well as monthly Junior High youth ministry events and a high school mission trip. The coordinator will work with Irene Lucas in the Faith Formation Office to work out the logistics of each event and to communicate with youth and families. The interim coordinator would receive a stipend for this ministry. **Contact Irene Lucas at 899-6132** for more information.



Food Pantry News

Thank you for your generous donations of food and money throughout the year and especially during the holidays. Your generosity is overwhelming, a sure sign of God's love active in our world. Because of this, our expenses are down and we are serving more people. We have 160 families registered and we give out at least 40 pounds of food each month. In December, we handed out a bag of personal and paper supplies.

Gift Cards needed for Gluten Free Family.

Either Aldi or Giant Eagle. Since most of the food given out at the food pantry contains gluten or does not specify gluten free (even tuna fish) this family cannot accept all the food and has to buy much of their own food. They can accept the meat we give out but we do not get enough donations of gluten free items. If you can help, please do.

SOCIAL JUSTICE

New Year's Resolution.



The Church's social teaching is a rich treasure of wisdom about building a just society and living lives of holiness amidst the challenges of modern society. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops has identified seven major themes that permeate the call of Christ to social justice.

Consider basing your New Year's resolutions on one or more of these themes.

1. Life and Dignity of the Human Person. Every person is precious; people are more important than things; the measure of every institution is whether it threatens or enhances the life and dignity of the human person.
2. Call to Family, Community, and Participation. People have a right and a duty to participate in society, seeking together the common good and well-being of all, especially the poor and vulnerable.
3. Rights and Responsibilities. Every person has a fundamental right to life and a right to those things required for human decency.
4. The Poor and Vulnerable. In a society marred by deepening divisions between rich and poor, our tradition recalls the story of the Last Judgment (Mt 25:31-46) and instructs us to put the needs of the poor and vulnerable first.
5. The Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers. If the dignity of work is to be protected, then the basic rights of workers must be respected--the right to productive work, to decent and fair wages, to the organization and joining of unions, to private property, and to economic initiative.
6. Solidarity. At the core of the virtue of solidarity is the pursuit of justice and peace. Pope Paul VI taught that if you want peace, work for justice. The Gospel calls us to be peacemakers.
7. Care for God's Creation. "Care for the earth" is not just an Earth Day slogan, it is a requirement of our faith.

May you have a happy and blessed New Year and may your resolutions help the community of Our Lady of Mercy answer the call of Christ to build his kingdom.

January Birthdays

Jan. 02	Hayley D'Angelo	12
Jan. 05	Ellie Stauffer	9
Jan. 07	Kayla Shaffer	17
Jan. 08	Grace Galbreath	12
Jan. 08	Brodynn Smith	9
Jan. 11	Makenna Pearson	9
Jan. 12	Nolan Reinsel	18
Jan. 17	Ava Suranofsky	11
Jan. 20	Avery Ollinger	15
Jan. 21	Kara Meyer	18
Jan. 23	Aidan Reinsel	16
Jan. 25	Ryan Stauffer	7
Jan. 26	Kenslie Inthavong	3
Jan. 27	Madison Rizzo	10
Jan. 28	Lila Bly	11



The Music Ministry of
Our Lady of Mercy

presents its

Epiphany Concert

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 5
AT 3:00 P.M.**

Join the combined adult choirs,
children's choir, and instrumentalists
as we sing and celebrate
the sounds of the Christmas season.
A light social will follow.
You won't want to miss
this special event!

January 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 8:30 & 11:00 AM MASS Casserole Club DROP OFF Monthly Food Pantry Collection 9:30 AM Healing Ministry 9:30 AM Rel. Ed. Gr. K-2 12:00 PM Rel. Ed. Gr. 7 & 8 3:00 PM Epiphany Music Concert	30 8:30 AM Mass	31 Parish Office Closed 8:30 AM Mass 6:00 PM The Solemnity of Mary - Vigil Mass 7:30 PM AA	1 Parish Office Closed The Solemnity of Mary 10:00 AM Holy Day 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
5 8:30 & 11:00 AM MASS Casserole Club DROP OFF Monthly Food Pantry Collection 9:30 AM Healing Ministry 9:30 AM Rel. Ed. Gr. K-2 12:00 PM Rel. Ed. Gr. 7 & 8 3:00 PM Epiphany Music Concert	6 8:30 AM Mass 7:00 PM Pastoral Facilitator	7 8:30 AM Mass 9:30 AM Steel Magnolias 1:30 PM Legion of Mary 2:00 PM Prayer Shawl 4:00 PM Rel. Ed Gr. 3-6 5:30 PM Sister Parish 7:00 PM Pastoral Council 7:30 PM AA	8 8:30 AM Mass 1:00 PM Diamonds in the Rough 3:00 PM Social Justice 6:30 PM AGIFT 7:00 PM Knights of Columbus	9 8:30 AM Mass 9:00 AM Painting Class 9:30 AM Potter's Class 1:00 PM Contemplative Prayer 6:00 PM Prayer Shawl	10 8:30 AM Mass 4:30 PM Widows' Dinner	11 8:30 AM Mass 10:00 AM AA 4:30 PM Sacrament of Penance 6:00 PM MASS
12 8:30 & 11:00 AM MASS 9:30 AM Rel. Ed. Gr. K-2 12:00 PM Gr. 9 Retreat 12:00 PM Rel. Ed. Gr. 7 & 8	13 8:30 AM Mass 7:00 PM Q&A w/t Pastor	14 8:30 AM Mass 9:30 AM Steel Magnolias 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 6:00 PM Mexico Delegation Group 7:00 PM LFF Mtg. 7:00 PM Roman Candles 7:30 PM AA	15 8:30 AM Food Pantry Distribution 8:30 AM Mass 1:00 PM Diamonds in the Rough 7:00 PM OLIM BOOK GROUP	16 8:30 AM Mass 9:00 AM Painting Class 9:30 AM Families & Faith Formation 9:30 AM Potter's Clay 1:00 PM Contemplative Prayer 6:00 PM Prayer Shawl 6:45 PM Choir Rehearsal	17 8:30 AM Mass	18 8:30 AM Mass 10:00 AM AA 4:30 PM Sacrament of Penance 6:00 PM MASS
19 8:30 & 11:00 AM MASS 9:30 AM Healing Ministry 9:30 AM Rel. Ed. Gr. K-2 9:45 AM First Reconciliation Parent Mtg. 12:00 PM Rel. Ed. Gr. 7 & 8 12:15 PM Gr. 11 Interviews	20 8:30 AM Mass 7:00 PM Grief Support Group	21 8:30 AM Mass 9:30 AM Steel Magnolias 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 Core Team 7:30 PM AA	22 8:30 AM Mass 1:00 PM Diamonds in the Rough 7:00 PM Awaken Your Faith	23 8:30 AM Mass 9:00 AM Painting Class 9:30 AM Potter's Class 1:00 PM Contemplative Prayer 6:00 PM Prayer Shawl 6:45 PM Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM Tech Committee	24 8:30 AM Mass 7:00 PM Eucharistic Adoration	25 Spaghetti Dinner Set-Up 8:30 AM Mass 9:00 AM Angels in Training 10:00 AM AA 4:30 PM Sacrament of Penance 6:00 PM MASS
26 8:30 & 11:00 AM MASS 9:30 AM Rel. Ed. Gr. K-2 11:00 AM Gr. 6 Class Mass 12:00 PM Gr. 7 & 8 Youth Event 12:00 PM Religious Ed. Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser	27 8:30 AM Mass	28 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 5:30 PM Youth Open Gym 7:00 PM Roman Candles 7:30 PM AA	29 8:30 AM Mass 1:00 PM Diamonds in the Rough	30 8:30 AM Mass 9:00 AM Painting Class 9:30 AM Potter's Clay 1:00 PM Contemplative Prayer 6:00 PM Prayer Shawl 6:45 PM Choir Rehearsal	31 8:30 AM Mass	1 8:30 AM Mass 10:00 AM AA 4:30 PM Sacrament of Penance 6:00 PM MASS