



# FOR MERCY'S SAKE

the quarterly newsletter of Our Lady of Mercy Church

837 Bartlett Road  
Harborcreek, PA 16421

814-899-5342

www.ourladyofmercychurch.org



## PARISH FEAST DAY CELEBRATIONS

*honoring our patroness by  
celebrating our oneness as a "community of communities"*

August 2019



**Sunday, September 29**

***Feast Day Mass***

*10:30 a.m.*

followed by a dinner  
in Sperry Hall

*(This is the only Mass at OLM this weekend.)*

**3rd Annual Knights of  
Columbus Parish Dance**

*Will be the Friday after Feast Day  
October 4, 2019 from 7-11*

Featuring "The Groove" -

Erie's post popular band

*(see future bulletins for more information)*

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# Parish Festival 2019 Results

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## REVENUE

Take-out Dinners .....	7,875.00
Dinner .....	6,590.00
After Dinner Chicken Sales.....	592.00
Grand Award .....	2,247.00
50/50 .....	1,020.00
TV.....	697.00
iPad .....	694.00
Lottery Tree.....	1,141.00
Restaurant Tree .....	1,071.00
Quilt Raffle .....	712.00
Afghan .....	<u>244.00</u>
Total Raffle.....	4,559.00
Chinese Auction .....	1,414.00
Children's Chinese Auction .....	1,185.00
Large Item Chinese Auction .....	<u>1,005.00</u>
Total Chinese Auction.....	3,604.00
Kiddyland .....	236.90
Instant Bingo .....	369.35
Bingo .....	462.75
Bake Sale .....	1,394.80
Funnel Cakes .....	478.00
Refreshments .....	256.75
Big 6 .....	96.25
Misc. donations.....	770.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME .....</b>	<b>\$30,551.81</b>

## EXPENSES

Chicken .....	4,038.39
Dinner .....	1,646.50
Charcoal.....	307.26
Pit Area .....	128.00
Grand Award .....	1,000.00
50/50 .....	510.00
Advertising .....	287.78
Supplies .....	68.43
Tickets .....	763.20
iPad .....	263.94
Lottery Tree.....	100.00
Chinese Auction .....	253.61
Kiddyland .....	27.98
Bingo License .....	15.00
Funnel Cakes .....	54.97
Refreshments .....	33.00
Parking.....	20.67
Indirect Expenses .....	96.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES .....</b>	<b>\$9,614.73</b>
<b>TOTAL PROFIT .....</b>	<b>\$20,937.08</b>



**Thank you for being a part of what is  
now the BEST FESTIVAL EVER!  
Congratulations!**

### **Festival 2017 Results**

Income.....	\$30,552.90
Expenses.....	<u>\$10,511.30</u>
Profit.....	\$20,041.60

### **Festival 2018 Results**

Income.....	\$30,138.31
Expenses.....	<u>\$10,029.51</u>
Profit.....	\$20,108.80

# Sunset Mass

Sunday, August 18 @ 7:00 p.m.

This Mass will count for your Sunday commitment



**Glinodo Conference Center**  
Off of East Lake Road just east of  
Mount St. Benedict

Please do not drive on the grass

Bring a chair and bug spray  
Cookies and punch fellowship to  
follow

(Could you bring a plate of cookies  
to share?)



## Welcome New Members!

Please welcome our new members by sending a card or  
stopping by if you live nearby.

Rita Kaveney  
641 Troupe Road #204  
Harborcreek, PA 16421-1031

Michelle & Brendan Scully- Joseph  
965 Bartlett Road  
Harborcreek, PA 16421-1129

Jane & Donald Mallin  
1138 Moorheadville Rd  
North East, PA 16428-2349

Ann Marie & Tom Ulrich  
4400 East Lake Rd Apt. 216  
Erie, PA 16511-1392

Mandy Mallin  
1138 Moorheadville Road  
North East, PA 16428-2349

## *A Listening Ear*

Is something on your mind? Something about life, the spiritual journey, or an image of God that is preventing peace? Not sure what to do with some built up anger? Not sure where to turn or who to talk to? You will find a listening ear on the healing hotline: 814-303-9282. This is a google voice phone number set up to receive calls outside of our regular church channels. Donna Clark is the person receiving these private calls. You may also reach Donna through the parish office number 899-5342.

Look for more information in the September and October bulletins.



# ***PASTORAL COUNCIL NEWS***

We would like to thank the following parishioners who are stepping down from pastoral council:

Darrell Garwig and Marge LeFaiver who each served for one term of three years Nick Heise, Margy Luniewski and Nancy Mowery who each served for two terms for a total of six years.

During these past six years the council worked on the following goals regarding the spiritual life of the parish.

## **2014**

- To continually educate the Community of Our Lady of Mercy parish as to the meaning of Social Justice and to present the variety of opportunities available in the local community that help to address the issue of Social Justice.

## **2015**

- Expand Active Participation in Ministries to further strengthen and enhance our faith communities.

## **2016**

- To attract more young adults and young families to sharing full participation in their Catholic Christian faith.
- Our Lady of Mercy provides support for those experiencing divorce or separation.

## **2017**

- Our Lady of Mercy reaches out to the disenfranchised and helps people continue their spiritual journey.

## **2018**

- Create a culture in the parish that helps people take message out to others/community.
- Participate in local community events as a group from Our Lady of Mercy.
- Proclaim the Good News to those who are not here.

## **2019**

- Identify and reach out to welcome potential and new parishioners.
- To create a seamless transition of leadership for ministries or activities.
- To foster a sense of belonging in our youth, starting in the 4<sup>th</sup> grade, to live out their faith through engagement and active participation at Our Lady of Mercy.

Thoughts, Questions, Ideas? Contact one of these continuing council members: Todd Beckes, Maureen Brainard, Bill Matrogran, Nathan Matusiak, David Seyboldt, Mary Beth Smith, Katie Stephenson or Dan Szczesny.



## 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? Join us at noon on Sunday, September 8 in the picnic pavilion. Enjoy a grilled hot dog, find answers to your questions, and help us kick-start a few new communities this fall. Bring a dish to share, or just come and join us. See you there! Interested but can't make it? Call Katie in the office 899-5342 or Dave 602-4622



## YOUTH NEWS

“OMG,” or as we say at Catholic Heartwork Camp, “Oh My Gosh!” this year’s mission trip was an amazing experience. 45 people represented our parishes and were so excited to share our time, talents, and treasures. We built new bathroom floors, planted trees, painted inside and out, weeded, helped out at a daycare center and many other things. We are already thinking about next summer. We hope that other people will join us for that trip! In the beginning of September we will have a youth ministry fund raiser to help out with the cost of 3 big events.



- First is for students in 6-8 grade to attend a Conference Holy Fire, that will be held in Bowling Green Ohio. The Erie Diocese will sponsor a coach bus to this event.

- 2<sup>nd</sup> is for 9-12 grade; it’s our biannual trip to Indianapolis, Indiana for the National Catholic Youth Conference.

- And 3<sup>rd</sup> will be for next summer’s mission trip.

All 3 of the events are a great way to engage youth in their faith. You will hear more details on this fundraiser in the weeks to come. Thank you for supporting our youth!

# Religious Education Registration

*Another summer has flown by. Soon the warm summer days will give way to cool nights and changing leaves. As the children prepare to start another school year, Our Lady of Mercy is preparing for a new year of religious education.*

**Registration for the 2019-2020 Religious Education Program is taking place after all liturgies the weekend of August 10-11.**

If you have found that you have missed the general registration weekend, please stop by the office of Lifelong Faith Formation during normal working hours. All families with children intending to participate in the 2019-2020 Rel. Ed. program are asked to register at this time. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

Again this year, there will be a \$10 discount on the registration fee for those families who provide the parish with current clearances for at least one parent. If you already submitted clearances, and they are less than 3 years old, the discount will apply. As most of you know, all those who volunteer with children must have government issued clearances, both criminal background checks and child abuse clearances. This law applies to parents helping with a classroom party, chaperoning a field trip, religious education substitutes and the like. These clearances are free for volunteers. However, they must be on file with the sponsoring organization before any volunteer can assist with any aspect of the program.

Our Lady of Mercy believes that parent participation in the religious education ministry is essential to its success. Whether parents can volunteer on a weekly basis or assist with a one-time project, we value your gifts and time. The only way we can involve parents is if we have their clearances on file. Many of you have obtained these clearances for school, scouting, sports, or other programs. If you do not already have these documents, you can apply online. All links can be found at the diocesan website <http://eriecd.org>. If you have any difficulty completing the online application for these clearances, call the parish office and we will assist you.

In an attempt to encourage parents to provide Our Lady of Mercy with these clearances, we are offering a \$10 registration discount to any family who provides us with both clearances (clearances must be less than 3 years old).

Program Fees may be paid at the time of registration. Checks should be made payable to Our Lady of Mercy Religious Education. Program fees are:

\$40.00—One Child	\$55.00—per child of non-parishioners
\$50.00—Two Children	\$10.00—Youth ministry fee grades 7-12
\$60.00—Three or more children	\$25.00—Youth ministry fee for 3 or more children grades 7-12

For a family who has current criminal background checks and child abuse clearances on at least one parent on file at OLM, the fee schedule is:

\$30.00—One Child	\$45.00—per child of non-parishioners
\$40.00—Two Children	\$10.00—Youth ministry fee grades 7-12
\$50.00—Three or more children	\$25.00—Youth ministry fee for 3 or more children grades 7-12

If we have current clearances on file, a notation will appear on your registration form. If you present clearances at the time of registration, the registration fee will be adjusted accordingly.

# Program Description

**Kindergarten** Religious Education class is held on Sunday mornings from 9:30-10:45. Participants must be age 5 by September 1 and should be in the same school grade.

**Grade One** *religious education is required prior to participation in the Sacramental Preparation program.* First grade religious education students meet on Sunday mornings from 9:30-10:45.

**First Reconciliation** preparation is conducted on the second grade level. The First Reconciliation program, held 9:30-10:45 Sunday morning, is open to all students in Grade 2 or older who have previously been involved in at least one year of religious instruction and who have been baptized. No child can be registered for the grade 2 RE class who has not attended one year of formal religious education classes at a Catholic parish. In order to qualify as successfully completing 1 year of instruction, the child must have been present for a minimum of 3/4th of the scheduled classes or provide a letter of completion from the pastor or director of the parish program they attended stating such. Participation in a 3-hour preparatory retreat is required prior to the celebration of the sacrament. The celebration of First Reconciliation occurs in March. Parental support and involvement is essential during periods of sacramental preparation.

**First Eucharist** preparation is the curriculum for the third grade program. Individuals must have celebrated the sacraments of Baptism and Reconciliation prior to the celebration of their First Eucharist. First Eucharist is celebrated in May. Students are required to participate in an April retreat day as part of the preparation program. Parental involvement and support is essential during periods of sacramental preparation.

**The Intermediate Program** encompasses grades 3-6. Students participating in religious education on this level gather for classes on Tuesday afternoons from 4:00 to 5:30. Our Lady of Mercy arranges for bus transportation from the Harborcreek public elementary schools to the church. Parents are responsible for picking up their children at class end.

Behavior for the Rel. Ed. bus follows the same policies as that enforced by the Harborcreek School District. Failure by any student to behave in an appropriate fashion while riding the bus to religious education classes will result in the suspension of the privilege to receive this transportation for the remainder of the academic year.

**Junior High Program** is conducted on Sunday afternoon. On the first three Sundays of each month, students meet immediately after the 11:00 Mass for classroom style sessions from 12:00-1:15. On the final Sunday of each month, the young people gather for an extended youth ministry session which combines opportunities for community service, retreats, community building and more.

**Confirmation Preparation** is a three year process. Individuals may enter the program in the ninth grade or later. Those attending a Catholic high school are not required to participate in the first two years of this process. This program includes Home Sessions, service projects, retreat days, etc. Those celebrating the sacrament of Confirmation must be in the eleventh grade or older, have been baptized, and have completed all requirements.

**Days of Retreat** are provided for students in the formal religious education program. All programs providing retreat experiences are free to participants. Attendance at these events is required for those preparing for a sacramental celebration (Grade 2 First Reconciliation, Grade 3 First Eucharist and Grade 9-11 Confirmation). All other experiences are encouraged, but not mandatory. These days combine fun with spiritual growth.

**Family Faith Days** are opportunities for families to share in the faith formation process with their children. Currently, these are scheduled three times during the school year during the Sunday morning program. On these specially designated mornings, all children in pre-K through Grade Two are joined by parents, siblings and any extended family members wishing to attend to share in a special morning of prayer and fun. The first of these Family Faith Events takes place on the first morning of religious education.

**Parent Meetings** enable family members to best support the faith development of their child. Every year we hold a series of parent meetings designed to inform parents of curriculum topics, special projects and other details of interest. All parent meetings are designed to be informative and brief. All parents and guardians are highly encouraged to attend these meetings. Please consult the religious education calendar and the bulletin for specific times and dates.

**Absentee & Homework Policy:** Preparing for a sacramental celebration is a very important process. Extra care and attention is directed to these parts of the program by the R. E. Office, the catechists and the families. To ensure that youth are as well prepared as possible, attendance policies are in place for these years. ***Children preparing for First Reconciliation and First Eucharist (Grades 1, 2 & 3) must be present for a minimum of ¾ of scheduled classes each year.*** Any child absent for more than a quarter of the scheduled classes in any given year will not be approved to celebrate this sacrament. (Any first grade student who has missed more than a quarter of the scheduled classes will not have met the requirement of completing a year of religious education necessary to enter the First Reconciliation program.)

***Confirmation candidates (grade 9, 10 & 11) are permitted a maximum of 2 absences per year.*** Additional absences must be made up with the Director of Lifelong Faith Formation before the candidate can continue in the process. Additionally, these years of preparation include work to be done at home. ***All homework must be completed and returned before the individual will be approved for the sacramental celebration.***

To all returning catechetical ministers, students and families, I look forward to seeing you soon.

To all new participants in the religious education program, I welcome you. To all members of this parish community, I encourage your comments, ideas and suggestions.

**Religious Education Classes begin Tuesday, September 3**

**Religious Education calendars are available  
at the time of registration.**



***May you continue to deepen your love for God and one another.  
May the remaining weeks of the summer  
season bring many blessings.***



# ACTS OF THE APOSTLES A BIBLE STUDY



Monday, September 16 thru October 21  
9:00~10:15 a.m.  
and  
7:00~8:00 p.m.

The Acts of the Apostles, the second volume in Luke's epic account of the birth of Christianity, is the story of the Church. In this masterfully crafted account, we encounter a powerful theology of Church, of the Holy Spirit and of our call to apostleship. Having listened to the Gospel of Luke proclaimed each Sunday this year, it is a perfect time to dive into this continuation of that Gospel. There is no cost or need to register.



**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS OLM  
SCHOLARSHIPS**

Knights of Columbus Ed Cudicio Memorial Scholarships have been awarded to the following parishioners. The college they will attend is in parenthesis. **Thomas DeVore, Stephany Licata and Joey Moreno** (Penn State Erie; The Behrend College), **Allison Dorosch** (University of Pittsburgh), **James Lucas** (Robert Morris University), **Caleb Mandel** (Gannon University), **Dante Rocco** (Slippery Rock University) and **Robert Shotts** (Clarion University). All are graduates of Harborcreek High School and have impressive accomplishments throughout their high school years.

**26<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL GOLF & SPORTS RAFFLE**

This annual event, one of the largest of our parish, sponsored by the Knights was once again a huge success, thanks to the hard work and generosity not only of the Knights, but also of the *Ladies of the Knights*, parishioners and friends. Thank you everyone! We are already looking forward to 2020.

Once again, as a way of thanking them for all they do, the raffle will be followed by the *Ladies Wine Tour*. The yellow school bus is guaranteed to be filled with fun, good times and especially some surprises!

**MENS LADIES NIGHT-OUT**

The Men's Night Out committee in conjunction with the Knights of Columbus, opted for a Ladies Night Out, rather than the usual. Nick Heise was presenter.

**CLEVELAND INDIANS BUS TRIP**

The yellow school bus mentioned earlier is serviced and ready for the annual trip to the Indians Game on August 25<sup>th</sup>. It will depart the OLM parking lot at 9am. See the bulletin for details.

**BINGO / PIZZA NIGHT AT THE  
V.A. MEDICAL CENTER**

Our quarterly night with the veterans at the V.A. Medical Center was scheduled for July.

**OTHER INVOLVEMENTS &  
CONTRIBUTIONS**

Knights worked in several areas at the parish festival and served at the family pancake breakfast. The proceeds of the golf raffle also enabled the Knights to donate \$7,500 to the parish as the remaining balance of the cost of the new floor in the gymnasium.

**KoC Parish Feast Day Dance**

October 4, 2019 7-11 p.m. featuring "The Groove". Hope to see you there!

If you or someone you know would like to learn more about the *Knights of Columbus*, or about becoming a *Knight or Lady of the Knights*, please contact one of us.

Are you expecting a new child? Has a baby recently blessed your family? Do you have an unbaptized pre-school age child? Would you like to celebrate this sacrament of welcome and belonging with your child?

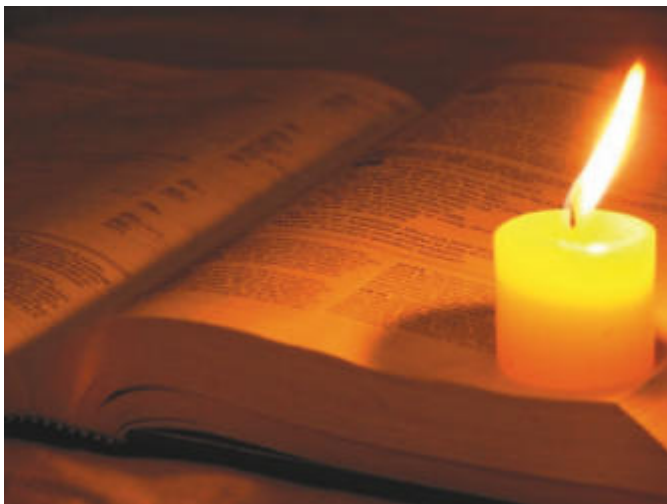


The next Baptismal Preparation Session for parents will be held at Our

Lady of Mercy on Sunday, October 20 at noon in the Conference Room. The Diocese of Erie requires that parents who wish to celebrate Baptism with a child, must participate in a parent preparation session within two years prior to the date of sacrament. To register for this session, call the parish office at 899-5342. If you have questions about the celebration of Baptism, check out the FAQ about Baptism at the parish website.

## Mass of Remembrance

December 7 at 10 a.m.



Each December we gather together to celebrate a special Mass of Remembrance, hosted by members of the Bereavement Ministry. Join together in prayer on **Saturday, December 7, 2019, at 10 a.m.** All members of Our Lady of Mercy are invited to attend this annual Memorial Mass to support the families of our parish who have lost loved ones during the past year. During this service, votive candles will be lit for the deceased family members and immediately following the Mass, a social gathering will be held in Sperry Hall with

refreshments being served by the members of the Funeral Meal Committee. Please join us for this special celebration.

# Adults Growing in Faith Together & Lifelong Faith Formation

## 2019-2020 Calendar

As our children prepare to kick off a new school year, the adult disciples of Our Lady of Mercy are presented with many opportunities to grow in their faith. Below are some dates for you to mark on your calendar. We offer a range of opportunities so that every member of the parish might find something of interest. This calendar is still under construction; new events are being added all the time. Watch the parish website and bulletin for details on these events and to learn of new ones.

### August

18 Beach Mass

### September

16 Acts of the Apostles: Scripture Study

20 Wine Social

23 Acts of the Apostles: Scripture Study

29 Parish Feast Day

30 Acts of the Apostles: Scripture Study

### October

4 Knights of Columbus Dance

7 Acts of the Apostles: Scripture Study

13 Harvest Fest

14 Acts of the Apostles: Scripture Study

21 Acts of the Apostles: Scripture Study

23 Q & A with the Pastor

### November

10 Sunday CAFÉ

### December

8 Family Advent Party

### January

23 Q & A with the Pastor

28 Family Spaghetti Dinner

### February

9 Sunday Morning CAFE

22 Parish Mardi Gras

28-29 Parish Alive

### March

4 Lenten Pastus

11 Lenten Pastus

15-17 Parish Mission

25 Lenten Pastus

### April

8 Pilgrimage Through Holy Week Symbols

26 Sunday Sundaes

28 Q & A with the Pastor

### May

9 Family Service Day

