



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

November 2019



The Season of Advent 2019

MASS OF REMEMBRANCE:

Saturday, December 7—10:00 a.m.

EVENING OF HEALING:

Monday, December 9— 7:00 p.m.

SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION:

(Holy Day of Obligation)

Monday, December 9—9:00 a.m.

DAN SCHUTTE ADVENT CONCERT:

Sunday, December 15—3:00 p.m.

RECONCILIATION SERVICE:

Wednesday, December 12—7:00 p.m.

The Season of Christmas 2019-2020

MASSES FOR CHRISTMAS:

Christmas Eve: Tuesday, December 24

6:00 p.m. & 10:00 p.m.

(prelude music with choir and instruments at 9:20 p.m.)

Christmas Day: Wednesday, December 25

10:00 a.m.

MASS FOR NEW YEAR'S:

Solemnity of Mary:

Tuesday, December 31—6:00 p.m.

Wednesday, January 1—10:00 a.m.

EPIPHANY CONCERT:

Sunday, January 5—3:00 p.m.



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HARBORCREEK COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING SERVICE

Faith Lutheran Church will host this year's Community Thanksgiving Service on **Sunday, November 24th at 7:00 p.m.**

All are invited to attend. The offering will go to the Ella Cochran Food Pantry. Refreshments will follow.

Inquiring Minds Want To Know...

Who are those guys carrying the cross in the entrance procession for the 6:00 p.m. and 8:30 a.m. Masses? They are none other than Paul Barko and Dave Jacquel, two parishioners in their fourth year of study and formation to become Permanent Deacons (it is a 5-year process).

Paul has been a member of the parish for close to twenty years and his wife Deb has been a member of Our Lady of Mercy all her life. He graduated from Cathedral Prep and Penn State Behrend. He married Deb thirty years ago and they reside in Harborcreek. They have two children Brittany and Andrew who graduated from Collegiate Academy and Harborcreek High School respectively. Both children have degrees from major universities and are doing well in their fields of Music Therapy and Finance. Paul is very active in the church serving as Pastoral Council Chair for 6 years in addition to roles in Lifelong Faith, Families for Faith, Bereavement Ministry, Religious Education Teacher, Ella Cochran Food Pantry, and most recently the Finance Council. Paul is also involved in various liturgical ministries. Paul retired from GE in 2017 after forty-two years with the company.

Dave has been a member of the parish since his family moved to East Lake Road in the late 1960s. He graduated from Harborcreek, married his wife Peggy thirty-seven years ago and moved to Greenfield Township. Their children Peter and Mary graduated from Seneca High School in 2005 and 2006 and are both married; Mary and her husband live outside of Pittsburgh, while Peter and his wife are in Erie with a daughter just under two years old. Dave has been involved in PreCana, Religious Education, and has been a leader with our Parish Small Christian Communities. He works in human resources at Modern Industries.

Please pray for our candidates as they continue their studies and formation, prayerfully discerning their call to this much needed ministry.



EXPERIENCE THE SACRAMENTS...



Jesus spent the greatest amount of his time healing, both spiritually and physically. It is said that we spend our time on those things which are most important to us. If this is true, then healing must have been a very important value to Jesus.

Our Parish Mission Statement reminds us that we are a community that lives the values of Jesus Christ. Our celebration is not just for the sick. The faith

community gathers with them to show their concern for the sick of our community, and to pray with and for the sick of the community.

The celebration of this sacrament is an opportunity for the deepening of the faith of our entire community by witnessing the faith and devotion of those being anointed. Through anointing, the sick are reminded that Christ and the Church are in communion with their suffering.

**Our Parish Community will celebrate this powerful sacrament
at all Masses on November 23 & 24**

Who may celebrate this Sacrament? Those who are suffering any serious physical or mental illness; those who are suffering any chronic illness. those who are about to undergo surgery; the elderly who cannot get around as well as before.



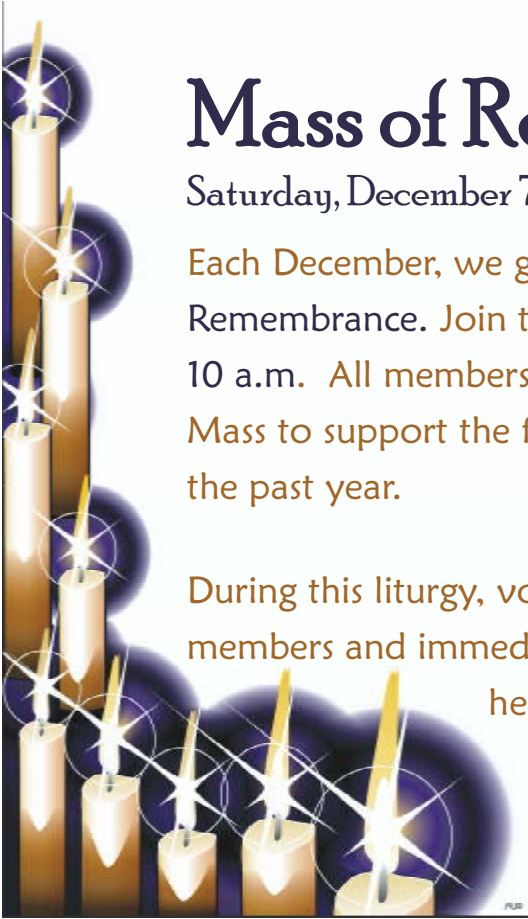
Advent is a beautiful season to celebrate the **Sacrament of Reconciliation**. While not officially described as a penitential season (which distinguishes it from Lent), Advent is still a season for ongoing conversion, as we reflect on the Second Coming of the Lord Jesus and heed John the Baptist's call to repentance and conversion.

Communal celebrations of the Sacrament of Reconciliation remind us that continued conversion is a journey we make together as the Body of Christ.

**We will gather as a local faith community
on the following days:**

Monday, December 16	7:00 p.m.	at Saint Gregory in North East
Tuesday, December 17	7:00 p.m.	at Saint James in Wesleyville
Wednesday, December 18	7:00 p.m.	at Our Lady of Mercy in Harborcreek
Thursday, December 19	7:00 p.m.	at St. Mark the Evangelist in Lawrence Park

There will be no scheduled confessions at Our Lady of Mercy after Wednesday, December 18.



Mass of Remembrance

Saturday, December 7, 2019 at 10 a.m.

Each December, we gather together to celebrate a special Mass of Remembrance. 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 Mass to support the families of our parish who have lost loved ones during the past year.

During this liturgy, 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 served by the members of the Funeral Meal Committee.

Please join us for this special celebration.



A PRAYER CUBE

*a gift for you this Thanksgiving
from OLM's
Small Christian Communities...*

**Simply roll the cube at mealtime
and recite the prayer that comes up.**

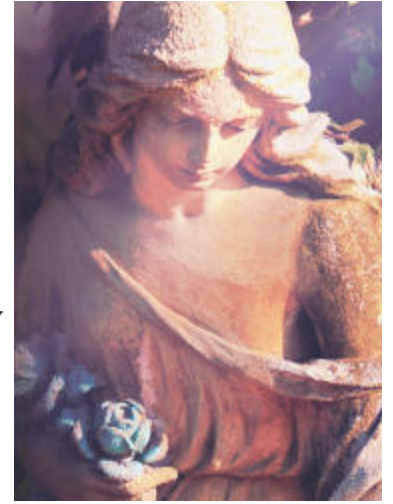
**It's a fun way to involve your family
and learn new prayers.**

(some assembly required!)



THE BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE

The Church has a long tradition of remembering those who have died to the love and mercy of God. Parishes have the custom of giving a place of honor to a book in which community members and visitors write the names of their beloved dead. We do this in a special way on the Feast of All Souls Day, and throughout November. The Book of Remembrance (or the Book of the Names of the Dead) was inspired by the ancient practice of recording the dates of the deaths of loved ones in a public record or registry of death. This practice provides the living with an opportunity for healing and consolation in the face of grief. The Book of the Names of the Dead will be displayed in the sanctuary from the solemnity of All Saints until the beginning of Advent. It is left open for people to write the names of their deceased loved ones and for others to read the names, remember, and pray for the repose of their souls. Remembering all of these men and women who have gone before us, "marked with the sign of faith," helps us better understand and appreciate our faith in the Christ our risen Lord who conquers sin and death and brings new life to all.



Parishioners who have died since last All Souls' Day, 2018

Chaz Magouirk
William Morschhauser
Evelyn Seyboldt
Gertrude Peters
Marion Klocko

Neil Ferringer
Lucille Poniatowski
John Buckel
John Green



ETERNAL REST GRANT TO THEM, O LORD,
AND LET PERPETUAL LIGHT SHINE UPON THEM.
MAY THEIR SOULS AND THE SOULS OF ALL
THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED,
THROUGH THE MERCY OF GOD, REST IN PEACE.



FROM YOUTH MINISTRY

Thank you, thank you, thank you! The generosity of Our Lady of Mercy is overwhelming. The youth of this parish are so blessed to have a parish that wants to provide support for things that will help them grow their faith with many different opportunities. This year we will share with the parish all of the things we are involved with in our journey. Again thank you so much for giving us your support.

OUR LADY OF MERCY *SCRIP* NEWS



There are many occasions during the year when you could use or give a gift card: holidays, birthdays, anniversaries, graduations, weddings, bridal and baby showers or to use for your daily purchases of groceries and gas. Consider purchasing your gift cards from Our Lady of Mercy's SCRIP program.

There are a number of cards in stock at church. If the card you want is not in stock, you can order your cards by filling out a paper form or order on-line. **YOU CAN NOW USE YOUR CREDIT CARD FOR ON-LINE PURCHASES!** Go on-line to ShopWithScrip.com for more information, or stop by the SCRIP table after Mass.

In-stock cards are available after each mass and during parish office hours (Mon - Fri: 9-3). Our Lady of Mercy benefits from each card sold and the money is used toward the church expenditures.

Call Peggy Jacquell 725-9869 or e-mail piggywiggy59@yahoo.com for more information.

From the Social Justice Committee - Simplify Your Christmas Giving

You are probably beginning to think about what you will do about Christmas gifts this year. Why not make your gift giving align with your Catholic values?

We can care for Creation by limiting our consumption. How? Give the gift of experiences, such as theater tickets or museum passes.

We can limit our spending to have money for other charitable pursuits. How? Donate to a charity in the name of your loved one.

We can share the gift of ourselves to create more community. How? Give the gift of your time in the form of a gift certificate for services such as a night of babysitting. Or create your own handmade gifts.

And we can love our neighbors by buying products that are certified to be Fair Trade. According to Catholic Relief Services, "Fair Trade Is a commitment to building relationships."

Fair Trade must meet the following goals:

- Paying a fair wage in the local context
- Offering employees opportunities for advancement
- Providing equal employment opportunities

for all people particularly the most disadvantaged

- Engaging in environmentally sustainable practices
- Being open to public accountability
- Building long-term trade relationships
- Providing healthy and safe working conditions within the local context
- Providing financial and technical assistance to producers whenever possible.

Fair trade recognizes the dignity of work and ensures that workers are fairly compensated. It protects and honors the human dignity of each worker by respecting the right to work and helping to maintain livelihoods. We can show our solidarity with those who are economically poor by purchasing Fair Trade items. The best place to find fair trade items is on-line. Catholic Relief Services offers several sources: <https://ethicaltrade.crs.org/guide/#eco-friendly-gifts> Ten Thousand Villages is another good source: <https://www.tenthousandvillages.com/>. Happy gift giving!!



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS®

Knightly News Fall 2019

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The third annual *Knights-sponsored feast day dance* in conjunction with our feast day weekend was well-attended and a roaring success as expected. Discussion regarding next year's event has taken place and we look forward to the return of The Groove, one of the area's finest groups. They love performing at our parish as much as we enjoy having them.

Discussions with the OLM Knights resulted in a presentation by the Women's Care Center of Erie County at our church on October 30th. The staff explained their mission, pro-life stand and activities which was followed by a question and answer session. The public was invited regardless of their position on pro-life. The Knights provided food and refreshments. Note that one of their services is free ultrasounds courtesy of a machine donated by the K of C of Erie.

C.O.A.L. FUNDRAISER

This time of year usually finds one of us speaking at Mass about the *COAL (Chance of a Lifetime) Fundraiser* and asking for your support, which you have generously given for many years. This year, the State has moved it to the Spring and since we will be promoting the Golf Raffle at that time, we have decided not to solicit money for COAL also. The proceeds that paid for the Bibles for Confirmation students, will now be covered by The Knights. We thank you for many years of support.

DEGREES WITHIN OUR COUNCIL

The council is the basic unit of the Knights of Columbus such as the one here at Our Lady of Mercy. A gentleman becomes a new council

member when he participates in a 1st Degree and over time, at his discretion, he may proceed through the other degrees. There are four degrees in all. Several gentlemen have become new members and/or advanced through these degrees this year. The latest to have occurred is the fourth degree, which is usually offered only once a year. Its theme is patriotism. In October, seven men from our council participated in this degree - Jim Dolak, Phil Legler, John Madigan, Ken Marshall, Tom Sandford, Bill Sinclair and Dan Szczesny. Also we are pleased to welcome Jon Sedelmeyer who is a fourth degree Knight to our Parish and our K of C Council. Please congratulate them.

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

CLEVELAND INDIANS BUS TRIP

All who climbed aboard the yellow school bus had a wonderful day during the *Cleveland Indians Bus Trip* in August. Sadly, the Indians were not victorious that day – the first time since the beginning of our trips. Many thanks to Fred Kaeberlein who arranges for the bus and does a great job driving in spite of all the noise behind him.

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

Our quarterly night with the Veterans at the V.A. Medical Center was held in October.

KNIGHTS HELPING THE COMMUNITY

As we have done in previous years our Council will make a significant contribution to the Ella Cochran Food Pantry at Thanksgiving and to a needy family at Christmas.

Family Advent Party

Sunday December 8th

Noon - 2:00 p.m.

Sperry Hall

- Pot-luck Meal
- Games
- Crafts
- Fellowship

This event is free, we only ask that you bring a dish or dessert to share

Our Lady of Mercy Presents... Family Movie Night

Saturday February 8th, 2020

One Showing Only!

7:00 p.m. in the Large Classroom

Popcorn provided!

Bring a comfy blanket, pillow or chair to sit in!

Stay tuned to the Bulletin for further details!

“In God’s Perfect Time”

Advent Reflections and Concert with

Dan Schutte

Dan has been composing music for worship for more than 30 years, including extensive collaborations with the St. Louis Jesuits. His more recent pieces exhibit an enduring ability to reach into people’s hearts and draw them into prayer. He is one of the best-known, most prolific and influential composers of music for the liturgy today.



Composer of:
“Here I Am, Lord”, “City of God”, “Sing A
New Song”, “These Alone are Enough”
and many more...

**SUNDAY,
DECEMBER 15, 2019
AT 3:00 P.M.**

**OUR LADY OF MERCY CHURCH
837 Bartlett Road, Harborcreek, PA 16421**



For the Religious Education Ministry

SUNDAY, JANUARY 26, 2020

First Sitting:

12 - 2 p.m.

Second Sitting:

2 - 4 p.m.

\$10 for Adults

\$5 for Children 10 and under

- Spaghetti & Meatballs
- Refreshments
- Salad
- Italian Bread
- Cupcake Bar
- Chinese Auction

****Tickets go on sale in the Gathering Space
beginning the weekend of December 1st, 2019****

OLM Sister Parish *Mardi Gras Celebration*

Join us for a night of fun to help benefit our sister parish in Peto, Mexico.

When: Saturday, February 22, 2020 - 7:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m.


Where: Our Lady of Mercy Sperry Hall - 837 Bartlett Road, Harborcreek, PA

How Much: \$10 Admission Ticket

Admission will include a taco dinner, beer, wine, pop and entertainment including:

- ♦Murder Mystery (8:15 - 8:30 p.m.) - Prize Drawing
- ♦Homemade Brew, Wine, and Salsa Contest (7 - 8 p.m.) - Cash Prize
- ♦Tip Boards and 50/50
- ♦Reverse Raffle - Grand Prize \$500.00

○Admission ticket gives you one chance at the reverse raffle. Attendance not needed to win. Tickets for the raffle will only be sold prior to the event.



HEAR YE, HEAR YE, MARDI GRAS HELP WANTED

Homemade Brew, Wine and Salsa Makers: Contact Irene Lucas

Email: ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org

Phone: 814-899-6132

Volunteers (kitchen, tip boards, set up/clean up, ect): Contact Irene Lucas

Email: ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org

Phone: 814-899-6132

Murder Mystery Actors: Contact Joanne Fournier

Email: jafournier77@gmail.com

Phone: 814-897-3648

PARISH ALIVE RETREAT



Do you want to strengthen your spiritual life? Do you want your parish connection to be more meaningful for you and your family? Do you want your prayer to be said with greater sincerity and feeling? Can you set aside 24 hours to allow the Holy Spirit to work in your heart?



Join us for "Parish Alive" February 28-29, 2020. This 24 hour retreat will begin on Friday evening and end with the Saturday evening Mass. Meals will be provided. Lodging will be at your own home. There will be no cost, although an anonymous offering will be accepted.



"Parish Alive" is a parish-based opportunity for spiritual renewal.

It will be held at Our Lady of Mercy and conducted by Fr. Ritchie and a team of parishioners. Private and group prayer, presentations and fellowship will make up the schedule. This event is open to all adults (must be out of high school) male and female, single and married, new to the parish or a long-time member.

Please register for this weekend by completing the registration below and returning it to Our Lady of Mercy **NO LATER THAN Feb. 1**. Space is limited, so get your registration form in early. A confirmation letter will follow. If you have questions, call Irene Lucas @ 899-6132 or email ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org.



Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Do you have any special needs? _____

Check All That Apply:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Female | <input type="checkbox"/> Male |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Married (registering w/ Spouse) | <input type="checkbox"/> Married (registering alone) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Single <input type="checkbox"/> Divorced | <input type="checkbox"/> Separated <input type="checkbox"/> Widowed |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Catholic | <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Catholic |

Mail to ☒ Our Lady of Mercy Church, 837 Bartlett Rd, Harborcreek, Pa. 16421