

OUR LADY OF MERCY CHURCH

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



January 5, 2020 - The Epiphany of the Lord

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*

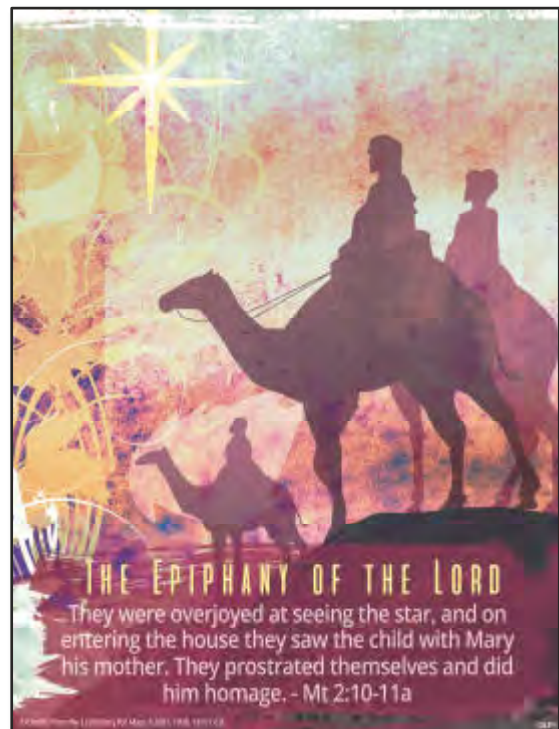
CONTACT INFORMATION

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. 01/06	7:00 p.m.	Pastoral Facilitator Mtg.
Tue. 01/07	9:30 a.m.	Steel Magnolias
	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.	Sister Parish
	7:00 p.m.	Pastoral Council
	7:30 p.m.	AA
Wed. 01/08	1:00 p.m.	Diamonds in the Rough
	3:00 p.m.	Social Justice Mtg.
	6:30 p.m.	AGIFT Mtg.
	7:00 p.m.	Knights of Columbus
Thur. 01/09	9:00 a.m.	Painting Class
	9:30 a.m.	Potter's Clay
	6:00 p.m.	Prayer Shawl
Fri. 01/10	4:30 p.m.	Widow's Dinner
Sat. 01/11	10:00 a.m.	AA
	4:30 p.m.	Sacrament of Penance
Sun. 01/12	9:30 a.m.	Religious Ed. Gr. K-2
	12:00 p.m.	Religious Ed. Gr. 7 & 8
	12:00 p.m.	Gr. 9 Retreat

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Mon. 01/06	1 Jn 3:22-4:6	/ Mt 4:12-17, 23-25
Tue. 01/07	1 Jn 4:7-10	/ Mk 6:34-44
Wed. 01/08	1 Jn 4:11-18	/ Mk 6:45-52
Thur. 01/09	1 Jn 4:19-5:4	/ Lk 4:14-22
Fri. 01/10	1 Jn 5:5-13	/ Lk 5:12-16
Sat. 01/11	1 Jn 5:14-21	/ Jn 3:22-30
Sun. 01/12	Is 42:1-4, 6-7	/ Acts 10:34-38 / Mt 3:13-17

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon. 01/06	8:30 a.m.	Frank Antalek
Tue. 01/07	8:30 a.m.	Irene Ritchie
Wed. 01/08	8:30 a.m.	Msgr. G. Carlton Ritchie
Thur. 01/09	8:30 a.m.	Frances Somoloni (Sandy Jordan)
Fri. 01/10	8:30 a.m.	Francis Ritchie
Sat. 01/11	8:30 a.m.	Margaret Gross (Lorraine Bucklin)
	6:00 p.m.	Special Intention for Bill Matrogran (Kim & Greg Palmer)
Sun. 01/12	8:30 a.m.	Fredrick Trester (Faye Froess)
	11:00 a.m.	For the People of OLM



FROM THE RELIGIOUS ED. OFFICE

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.

First Reconciliation Parent Meeting

There will be a very important meeting for parents of children preparing for First Reconciliation. The meeting will be held on Sunday, Jan. 19 at 9:45 in the Conference Room.

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.

PRAYER LINE

9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Call Donna Smicker at 899-9108

4:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.

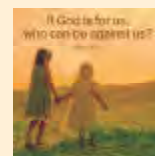
Call Gerri Extein at 899-6875

The Hospital Visitor for the week is Andrea Maille.



THIS SUNDAY'S REFLECTION

MT 2:1-12



"We...have come to do him homage."

These astrologers from Persia had studied the heavens for years. They were educated and wise enough to recognize that there was still much they did not know. For instance, what was the meaning of this star they had been following? What was its purpose? To find the answer they had traveled a great distance posing questions, seeking light.

They did not hesitate to ask others. This was not a secret mission. They wanted truth. What they received from the overly guarded and cautious Herod was an introduction to Scripture, to the words of the prophet Micah (5:1).

This Scripture led them to Bethlehem where they found the child and did him homage. Homage implies humility, in this case the ability to recognize someone greater than oneself. They did this through their veneration and offering of precious gifts.

The Magi received gifts as well. They returned home with new knowledge and understanding. By their openness and humility they had allowed the Prince of Peace to reveal himself to each of them.

Such openness and humility are qualities we need if the Light of Christ is to touch our hearts and minds.

For Reflection: When has a personal search for answers resulted in receiving the gift of humility? Does humility feel like a gift to me?

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.



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.

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. We will meet on January 15th at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Irene Lucas at 1019 Bartlett Road. Want to read ahead? In February we will discuss What Alice Forgot by Lianne Moriarty.



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 or 814-303-9282.

Parish Mardi Gras

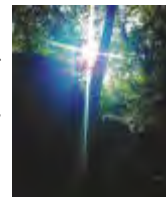


Last year's Sister Parish Mardi Gras celebration was a huge success raising over \$2,000 for our sister parish in Mexico. This year's Mardi Gras on Feb. 22 is going to be even better! There will be a taco bar dinner, beer, wine and pop,

tip boards and 50/50, a homemade beer, wine and salsa taste-off, a murder mystery. And a reverse raffle for the grand prize of \$500. The \$10 ticket covers your food, drinks, entertainment and entry into the reverse raffle. Tickets are available after Masses or in the Faith Formation Office during the week. Sign up to enter the wine, beer or salsa taste-off on the easel in the Gathering Space.

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.



Paper Crafters Needed



Fr. Ritchie has some pictures he would like put in a scrapbook. Please contact Teresa Shamburg at 879-8622 or shamface@roadrunner if you are interested in helping.

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.





CHILD PROTECTION AND CREATING SAFE ENVIRONMENTS

January is Human Trafficking Prevention Month. Trafficking of youth is a form of modern slavery. It includes both sex trafficking and forced labor. Any child under age 18 engaged in commercial sex is a victim of sex trafficking, even if the youth's participation is not forced or coerced. Be aware of recruiting tactics. Traffickers target victims through social media sites, telephone chat lines, afterschool programs, at shopping malls, bus depots, clubs/bars or through friends and acquaintances. To help protect your child, ask questions about your child's friends, monitor their computer use and know where he/she hangs out. For more information on protecting our youth from human trafficking or to report suspected trafficking visit: https://www.childwelfare.gov/pubPDFs/trafficking_ts_2019.pdf Visit <https://www.eriecd.org/childprotection/> to see what the diocese is doing to help maintain safe environments for children and youth.

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.

The Music Ministry of
Our Lady of Mercy
presents its
**Epiphany
Concert**
**TODAY, 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!



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 are on sale in the Gathering Space after Mass or in the Parish Office during office hours. Take-out and Gluten Free options are available upon request.****

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