

# OUR LADY OF MERCY CHURCH

837 Bartlett Road • Harborcreek, PA 16421 • [www.ourladyofmercychurch.org](http://www.ourladyofmercychurch.org)



## January 19, 2020 - The Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

### 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*

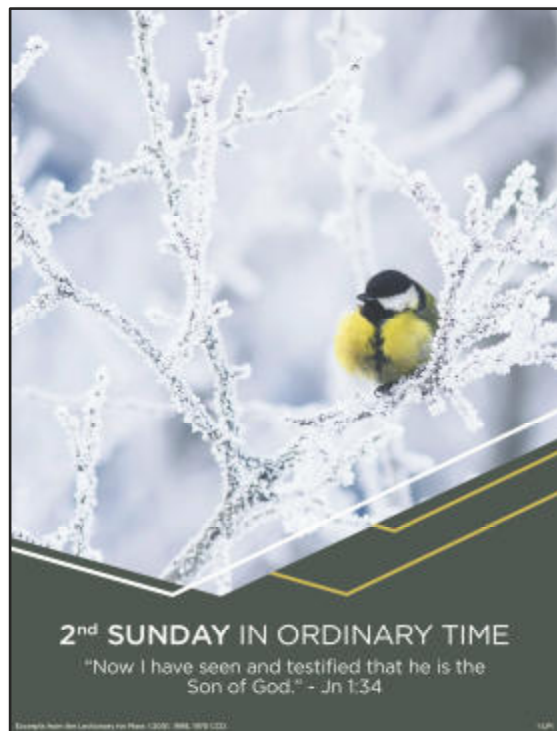
### CONTACT INFORMATION

Parish Office: 814-899-5342

Office of Lifelong Faith Formation: 814-899-6132

Fax: 814-898-3306

Email: [info@ourladyofmercychurch.org](mailto: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](http://ourladyofmercychurch.org/calendar)

Mon. 01/20	7:00 p.m.	Grief Support Group
Tue. 01/21	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.	Children's Choir
	7:00 p.m.	Core Team Meeting
	7:00 p.m.	Finance Council
	7:30 p.m.	AA
Wed. 01/22	1:00 p.m.	Diamonds in the Rough
	7:00 p.m.	Awaken Your Faith
Thur. 01/23	9:00 a.m.	Painting Class
	9:30 a.m.	Families and Faith Formation Meeting
	9:30 a.m.	Potter's Clay
	1:00 pm.	Contemplative Prayer
	6:00 p.m.	Prayer Shawl
	6:45 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Fri. 01/24	7:00 p.m.	Eucharistic Adoration
Sat. 01/25		<b>Spaghetti Dinner Set-Up</b>
	9:00 a.m.	Angels in Training SCC
	10:00 a.m.	AA
	4:30 p.m.	Sacrament of Penance
Sun. 01/26	9:30 a.m.	Religious Ed. Gr. K-2
	11:00 a.m.	Gr. 6 Youth Mass
	12:00 p.m.	Gr. 7 & 8 Youth Event
	12:00 p.m.	Religious Ed. Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser

### FROM THE RELIGIOUS ED. OFFICE

#### First Reconciliation Parent Meeting

There will be a very important meeting for parents of children preparing for First Reconciliation. The meeting will be held **TODAY 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 **TODAY Sunday, Jan. 19 at 12:15**. Meet in Classroom #1.

## MASS INTENTIONS

Mon. 01/20	8:30 a.m.	
Tue. 01/21	8:30 a.m.	Denny Smith (Janet Smith)
Wed. 01/22	8:30 a.m.	Eleanor Boris (The Extein Family)
Thur. 01/23	8:30 a.m.	
Fri. 01/24	8:30 a.m.	
Sat. 01/25	8:30 a.m.	
	6:00 p.m.	Gertrude Peters (Ross Peters)
Sun. 01/26	8:30 a.m.	For the People of OLM
	11:00 a.m.	For the People of OLM

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

Mon. 01/20	1 Sm 15:16-23	/ Mk 2:18-22
Tue. 01/21	1 Sm 16:1-13	/ Mk 2:23-28
Wed. 01/22	1 Sm 17:32-33, 37, 40-51	/ Mk 3:1-6
Thur. 01/23	1 Sm 18:6-9; 19:1-7	/ Mk 3:7-12
Fri. 01/24	1 Sm 24:3-21	/ Mk 3:13-19
Sat. 01/25	Acts:22:3-16 or Acts 9:1-22	/ Mk 16:15-18
Sun. 01/26	Is 8:23-9:3 / 1Cor 1:10-13, 17	/Mt 4:12-23

### Question-of-the-Week

The winner of the Question-of-the-Week Contest for the week of Jan. 7 was **Sam Camillo, Gr. 4**, who knew that the person who assists the priest in distributing Communion is called a Eucharistic Minister.

## PRAYER LINE

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

Call Donna Smicker at 899-9108

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

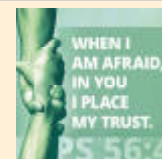
Call Gerri Extein at 899-6875

The **Hospital Visitor** for the week is Marilyn Garwig.



## THIS SUNDAY'S REFLECTION

### JOHN 1:29-34



**"A man is coming after me who ranks ahead of me because he existed before me."**

These words of John the Baptist seem like a riddle. Jesus was born after John but is older and ranks ahead of John. In human experience this doesn't make sense. We live by birth order. The older child or the oldest person comes first.

What seems like a simple riddle in reality announces a radical reordering of human existence. Jesus is clearly human and known to John's audience to have been born after John, so John's words mean that Jesus existed before John was born. How is this possible? Jesus is both human and divine. John is revealing that Jesus is the Son of God.

John is also hinting at the radical message that Jesus brings to human existence. The disruption of birth order implied when John says that Jesus "ranks ahead of me..." can be understood on two levels. We willingly rank Jesus ahead of ourselves as the Son of God. On another level Jesus' ministry will make clear that it is not priority of birth that matters but a new understanding of equality and service. We are all created equal in God's image and we are called to serve one another as equals.

**For Reflection: In Ordinary Time, we contemplate things that are far from ordinary—things like existence of God, the person of Jesus and being made in God's image. Who in my life has witnessed to the greatness of God?**

### For Mercy Sake Deadline

The deadline to submit items for the February issue of *For Mercy Sake* newsletter is TODAY Jan.

19. Items can be emailed to [ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org](mailto:ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org).



### Grief Support



Have you lost someone in your life and are experiencing doubt, confusion, anger or deep sadness? The Grief Ministry sponsors a monthly support group on the third Monday of the month. Our next

meeting is **January 20 at 7pm**. We choose a topic associated with the grief process, discuss our experience, learn how others are coping and close with prayer. Questions call **Donna Clark** in the parish office.

### 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

This is the final weekend to purchase tickets for the spaghetti dinner fundraiser next **Sunday afternoon**.

### Family Faith Event

The families with children in the Sunday morning religious education class are reminded that we have our Family Faith Event on **Sunday, Feb. 2**. This is an opportunity for the entire family to share an experience of learning together. The Family Faith Event is the same time as our regular religious education class, 9:30-10:45. We will gather in Sperry Hall.



### Family Movie Night

Mark your calendar for a Family Movie Night on **Saturday, Feb. 8 at 7:00 PM**. Bring your comfy pillow, wear your jammies, and meet us in the large classroom for a night at the movies.



### Sunday Morning \*C\*A\*F\*E\*

Mark your calendar for the first Sunday Morning \*C\*A\*F\*E\* on **Sunday Feb. 9 from 9:45-10:45**. Join us as those who recently traveled to Peto, Mexico share their stories of our sister parish.

### 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 the 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. Want to read ahead? In

February we will discuss What Alice Forgot by Lianne Moriarty.

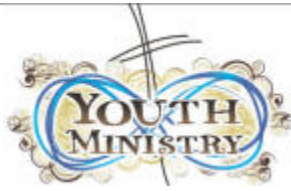
## FINANCIAL SUPPORT

*Offertory for the weekend of January 12, 2020*

Envelopes sent:	392	
Envelopes returned:	125	\$4,104.20
Faith Direct Deposits:	117	\$3,059.08
Loose Change:		\$ 131.00
<b>TOTAL OFFERTORY:</b>		<b>\$7,294.28</b>

**Full-time youth minister needed at Our Lady of Mercy, St. Mark**

The parishes of Our Lady of Mercy, Harborcreek, and St. Mark the Evangelist, Lawrence Park, are seeking an energetic, creative person dedicated to working with teens as a youth minister. For full details, go to <https://www.eriecd.org/employment.html>.



**Mission Trip Fundraiser - Gift Basket Bingo**

What: Gift basket bingo When: Feb 8, 12-4 doors open at 11am. Where: St. James Place For who: The youth Mission trip for St. James/St. Marks/Our Lady of Mercy Cost: \$20 a Ticket Contact: Maggie

Santiago 490-4275

**2020 Cursillo Dates**

March 19-22<sup>nd</sup> Men's Cursillo #251 at OLM  
 April 16-19<sup>th</sup> Women's Cursillo #258 at OLM  
 Start making plans for life's best weekend!  
 Lois Heise would love to talk to you about Cursillo and how it can change your life! Call Lois at 882-9555.



**Thank You OLM!**


I would like to thank all those that helped with the reception after the Dan Schutte concert. Jan Brown, Lorraine Bucklin, Jane Chase, Sharon Kestler, Ed and Marlene Meyer, Lorraine

Schneider, Karen Sweeney, Dee Dee Hawryliw and Peggy Williams and the over 30 bakers that did a wonderful job making the reception a total success. Please know that the leftover cookies were donated to different organizations and those that needed a little sweetness in their lives. Most recently I asked again for volunteers to help with the Epiphany concert reception; Patty Sacco and Peg Williams, Deb Radomile, Sharon Kestler and my husband Frank and all those that brought goodies to share. It too was a success. This could not ever happen without all of the bakers and volunteers that help. Our Lady of Mercy is a loving and generous parish. All I have to do is ask and they come through. I am so thankful for their generosity of time and willingness to bake or do whatever is needed. Thank you all from the bottom of my heart. Linda Kaleta

**Paper Crafters Needed**

Fr. Ritchie has some pictures he would like put in a scrapbook. Please contact Teresa Shamburg at 879-8622 or [shamtacc@roadrunner](mailto:shamtacc@roadrunner) if you are interested in helping.






## We Remember...

**Rob Sedelmyer**, brother of Jon Sedelmyer; and **Kimberly Glancy**, niece of Marilyn Rinke.

Please hold them and their families in prayer during this difficult time.

## SOCIAL JUSTICE



January opened with the annual celebration of the International World Day of Peace. During these days of the Season of Christmas, we rejoice that God took on our nature and entered our world as a vulnerable baby. Our hearts are gladdened by the laughter of children, their delight in the Christmas lights and Santa's surprises. But, the celebration of the International Day of Peace reminds us that for many of the world's children, pain, fear, hunger and trauma marks this season as it marks most of their days. As we begin 2020 with a commitment to work for peace in the world, let the cries of the children inspire us to action.

On the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of UNICEF, the United Nations published a report which chronicled the toll of war on children in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The decade that brought that century to a close saw the following impact of war on the most vulnerable members of the human race, our children.

- 2 million killed;
- 4-5 million disabled;
- 12 million left homeless;
- more than 1 million orphaned or separated from their parents;
- some 10 million psychologically traumatized."

**The most recent report of the World Food Program reveals a close link between armed conflict and hunger. More than 56 million people faced starvation in 2018, the vast majority of these were living in nations at war.**

As hunger and conflict fuel one another, the recent proliferation of conflicts has reversed several decades of progress fighting global hunger. Today, people living in conflict-stricken areas make up 60 percent of the world's 815 million chronically hungry. They are more than twice as likely to be undernourished than those living in countries at peace.

# 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

oAdmission 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](mailto:ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org)

Phone: 814-899-6132

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

Email: [ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org](mailto:ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org)

Phone: 814-899-6132

Murder Mystery Actors: Contact Joanne Fournier

Email: [jafournier77@gmail.com](mailto:jafournier77@gmail.com)

Phone: 814-897-3648

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