

OUR LADY OF MERCY CHURCH

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



November 15, 2020 - 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

MASS SCHEDULE

Weekday and Weekend Mass has resumed with the following schedule and covid-19 protocols in place:

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*

Sarah Phipps, *Youth Minister*

Kirk Mientkiewicz, *Maintenance Coordinator*

Andrea Maille, *Lifelong Faith Formation Secretary*

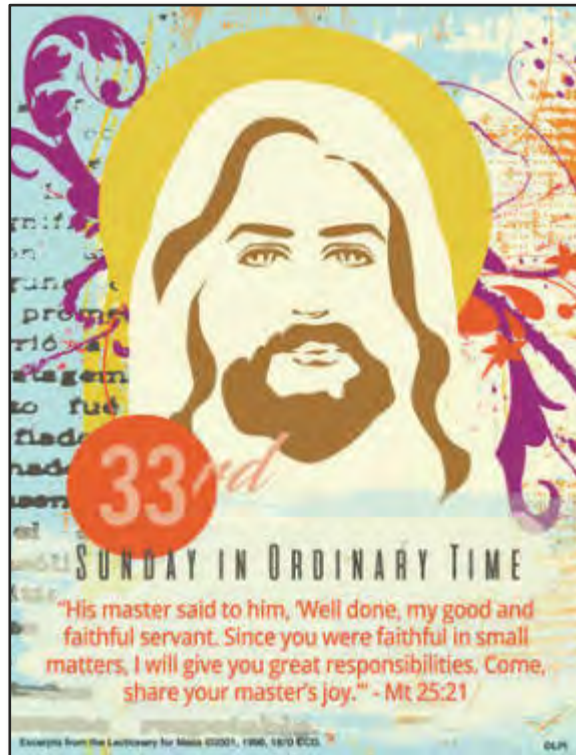
CONTACT INFORMATION

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. 11/16	9:00 a.m.	Quilters
	9:30 a.m.	Steel Magnolias SCC
	7:00 p.m.	Grief Support Group
Tue. 11/17	12:00 p.m.	HOPE: Restoring the Heart
	2:00 p.m.	Prayer Shawl
	7:00 p.m.	Lifelong Faith Formation
Wed. 11/18	8:30 a.m.	Food Pantry Distribution
	1:00 p.m.	Diamonds in the Rough SCC
	6:30 p.m.	PF Training
	7:00 p.m.	OLM Book Group
Thur. 11/19	9:15 a.m.	Painting Class
	6:00 p.m.	Prayer Shawl
Fri. 11/20		
Sat. 11/21		Gr. 11 Rite of Presentation - All Masses
	4:30 p.m.	Sacrament of Penance
Sun. 11/22		Gr. 11 Rite of Presentation - All Masses
	9:45 a.m.	Religious Ed Gr. K-8
	12:00 p.m.	Gr 7 & 8 Youth Event
	12:15 p.m.	Gr. 11 Candidate/Sponsor Meeting
	1:00 p.m.	HOPE: Restoring the Heart

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Mon. 11/16	Rv 1:1-4; 2:1-5	/ Lk 18:35-43
Tue. 11/17	Rv 3:1-6, 14-22	/ Lk 19:1-10
Wed. 11/18	Rv 4:1-11	/ Lk 19:11-28
Thur. 11/19	Rv 5:1-10	/ Lk 19:41-44
Fri. 11/20	Rv 10:8-11	/ Lk 19:45-48
Sat. 11/21	Rv 11:4-12	/ Lk 20:27-40
Sun. 11/22	Ez 34:11-12, 15-17	
	1 Cor 15:20-26, 28	/ Mt 25:31-46

We Remember...

Jerome Wurst, brother of Jeanne Kidder,
 who passed away recently.

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



CHRISTMAS WREATH WINNERS

Congratulations to the winners of our Christmas Wreath Raffle: The Snowman Wreath - Fr. Gallina. The Cardinal Wreath - Sami Eisert-Johnston. Thank you to Marty Eisert for your beautiful creations and thank you to everyone who donated. This raffle raised \$232 for our live-stream equipment.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Offertory for the weekend of November 8, 2020

Envelopes sent:	392	
Envelopes returned:	69	\$5,185.00
Faith Direct Deposits:	133	\$3,432.70
Loose Change:		\$ 20.00
TOTAL OFFERTORY:		\$8,637.70

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 490-9681



MASS INTENTIONS

Mon. 11/16	8:30 a.m.	Norm Schlosser (Diana Kirsch)
Tue. 11/17	8:30 a.m.	Mary Pfadt (Family)
Wed. 11/18	8:30 a.m.	Louis Spizarny
Thur. 11/19	8:30 a.m.	Don McCurdy (Janet Smith)
Fri. 11/20	8:30 a.m.	James Boris (The Extein Family)
Sat. 11/21	8:30 a.m.	-No Mass-
	6:00 p.m.	For the People of OLM
Sun. 11/22	8:30 a.m.	Ken Whitney (Laurie Whitney)
	11:00 a.m.	Lewis Peters (Carole Peters)

THIS SUNDAY'S REFLECTION

MATTHEW 25:14-30

"Since you were faithful in small matters. . ."



Some saints are known for the great works they accomplished-translating the Scriptures, writing multi-volume theological texts, converting thousands. Other saints are revered for giving their very lives for the faith, sometimes suffering great torture. And then there are saints like Therese of Lisieux.

Known as the Little Flower, St. Therese explained in her autobiography about the "little way" of following Jesus. Her idea was that what mattered in life was not great deeds, but great love. Throughout her life, Therese strove to do the ordinary with extraordinary love. She felt that life presented challenges enough that every situation gives us an opportunity for grace.

Perhaps, then, when we consider how we can make a return to the Lord, we should remember to offer a smile, a hand on a shoulder, an act of anonymous generosity. Sometimes the hardest things for us to do are found in daily challenges-like being patient with those we live with, showing kindness to people who do not like us. Such things will matter to the Master when he returns, and in the end they are not really small things at all.

For Reflection: What small things in my daily life can become an opportunity for spiritual growth?

Gregory C. Wolfe

First Eucharist Parent Meeting

There will be an important make-up meeting for parents with children beginning the preparation process for First Eucharist who were unable to attend last Sunday's meeting. The meeting will take place today, Sunday, Nov. 15 at 12:15 in the large classroom.



Grief Support Group

The monthly evening grief support group will meet Monday Nov. 16 at 7 p.m.. The holidays can pose difficulties for those in grief, perhaps even more so with the pandemic restrictions and cautions. This session will look at some of the options to get through the holidays. Questions contact Donna Clark.

OLM Book Group

Join us on Wednesday, Nov. 18 to discuss In An Instant by Suzanne Redfearn. In December we will gather for a movie. For those who want to read ahead, our January title will be The Hummingbird's Daughter by Luis Alberto Urrea



Hope – Restoring the Heart to Thrive

Many of us go through dark times in our lives. We are hurting, wounded, distraught, sad, angry anxious . . . the darkness seems to drown out our sense of hope. This sense of hopelessness can be brought on by any number of situations: the corona virus, losing a job, physical and mental abuse, substance abuse and also physical and mental illness. Often, it helps to hear a message from others who have seen the light in the midst of their own darkness. We will also listen to stories of forgiveness. The strength to forgive someone is so powerful, it helps our spirit to grow and heal at the same time. Join us for prayerful reflection and sharing. Tuesday Nov 17 at Noon in the church parlor, Sunday Nov 22 at 1:00 p.m. in the church parlor and a meeting via Zoom Thursday December 4 at 7:00 p.m. For more information contact: carrieo22@hotmail.com or Donna Clark.

Backpack Food Program

The Backpack Food Program started at Clark Elementary this month is off to a great start. There are over 50 volunteers to help with the food packing. Enthusiasm is high and the community of volunteers, working out of South Harborcreek United Methodist desires to start the program in the other two Harborcreek Elementary Schools. Starting these programs requires funding. Since the National Honor Society is running a food drive to collect the food for the annual thanksgiving dinners we will not be putting out a shopping list for thanksgiving dinners. Instead, we are asking our local church community members to make a donation to fund the new Backpack programs. If you would like to donate, please make checks payable to Our Lady of Mercy and mark it for the backpack program.



FORMED.ORG



If you are new to the parish subscription, you can enjoy formed.org for free by signing up as part of the parish subscription. All you need is your email, then select the option for an "institution or parish" subscription and search for Our Lady of Mercy Harborcreek.



OUR LADY OF MERCY SCRIP NEWS

With Christmas fast approaching, please 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. To guarantee your card is available by Christmas, we must receive your order form and money by December 7. YOU CAN NOW USE YOUR CREDIT CARD FOR ON-LINE PURCHASES! Go on-line to ShopWithScrip.com for more information. 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 Jacquel 725-9869 or e-mail piggywiggy59@yahoo.com for more information.

Scrip Coordinator Needed.

After many years Peggy Jacquel is retiring as our scrip coordinator. The job involves keeping a small supply of different cards in stock and ordering more as needed; manage the "shop-with-scrip" account and validate online orders. One needs to be comfortable with managing an online account. If you are interested in the position, please contact Donna Clark.

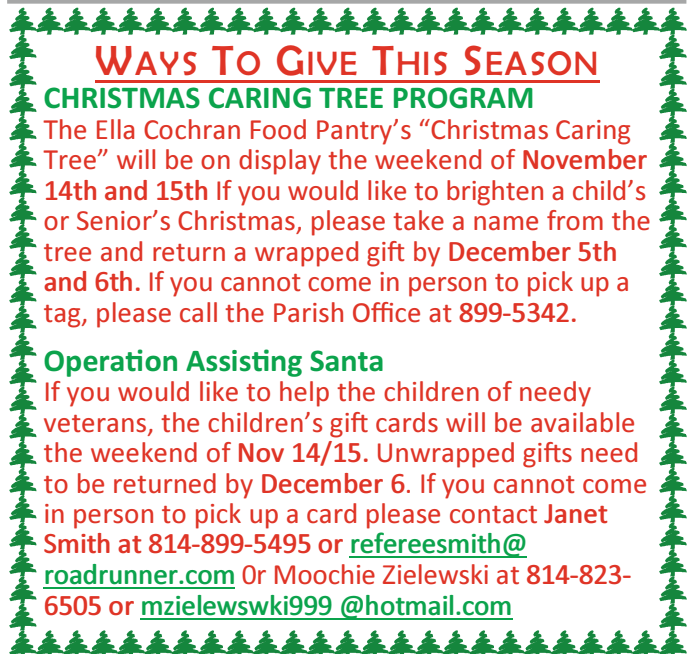
WAYS TO GIVE THIS SEASON

CHRISTMAS CARING TREE PROGRAM

The Ella Cochran Food Pantry's "Christmas Caring Tree" will be on display the weekend of November 14th and 15th. If you would like to brighten a child's or Senior's Christmas, please take a name from the tree and return a wrapped gift by December 5th and 6th. If you cannot come in person to pick up a tag, please call the Parish Office at 899-5342.

Operation Assisting Santa

If you would like to help the children of needy veterans, the children's gift cards will be available the weekend of Nov 14/15. Unwrapped gifts need to be returned by December 6. If you cannot come in person to pick up a card please contact Janet Smith at 814-899-5495 or refereesmith@roadrunner.com Or Mochie Zielewski at 814-823-6505 or mzielewski999@hotmail.com



Social Justice

As we enter the holiday season, we become more aware of our many blessings and of those who are in need in our community. Many people are inspired to give to those most in need at this time. Here are some local groups that are assisting those who struggle to meet their basic needs.

St. Martin Center

1701 Parade St. Erie, PA 16503

<https://www.stmartincenter.org/homepage-gift.html>

Provides housing and utility assistance, emergency food and low-income child care

Second Harvest Food Bank of N.W. PA.

1507 Grimm Dr. Erie, PA 16501

<https://nwpafoodbank.org/>

Supplies local food pantries in 11 counties of northwestern PA with food as well as providing direct emergency food to those in need. Every dollar donated provides 6 meals.

Boys & Girls Club of Erie

1515 East Lake Rd. Erie, PA 16511

<http://www.eriebgc.com/donate>

Provides educational, social, emotional athletic, artistic and health screening services in a safe haven to at risk youth.

Greater Erie Area Habitat For Humanity

4922 Pittsburgh Ave. 16509

<http://habitateerie.org/support-for-habitat/donate/>

Enables low income families to achieve home ownership by bringing together volunteers and the family to build simple homes that are affordable.

Emmaus Ministries

345 East 9th St. Erie, PA 16503

www.eriebenedictines.org/emmaus

A soup kitchen, food pantry, after school children's program are among the ministries serving those in need in the City of Erie.

Community Shelter Services

655 West 16th St. Erie, PA 16502

<https://www.eriecommunityfoundation.org/donors/give-today/give-to-a-nonprofit/community-shelter-services>

Supports those who are homeless or are in danger of homelessness through temporary, transitional and permanent housing, through referrals and advocacy.



SILVER LINING STORY

From one of our seniors who has been at home since March:

Over the last six months of "Home Vacation" it has been like a cloister. I attend daily Mass three times a day on EWTN. I also do the same in praying rosaries. I exercise by walking around the table during Hail Marys and meditate at the mysteries of the rosary. I also exercise by dong Tai-chi daily. Every day I try to do a special project like baking muffins and cookies, pick berries and make jam. All for the honor of God and the Blessed Mother.

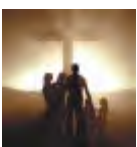
Lou Ann Nowosielski

Pastoral Facilitator Training

Beginning Wednesday November 18 our parish will host training for Pastoral Facilitators at 6:30 p.m. Please call Dave Jacquel in the evening at 602-4622 if you are interested or have any questions.



A Family Perspective



As the man in today's gospel entrusted his servants with his money, so God has 'entrusted' our family to us. Like the good servants we are expected, not to play it safe, but to selflessly and totally invest ourselves in each other.

Catholic Charities 2020 Annual Appeal



Throughout this pandemic, Catholic Charities agencies have remained open providing front-line care and emergency services wherever and whenever it's needed. Additionally, emergency financial support was extended to parishes for people in crisis around the diocese. To bridge a

substantial shortfall in funding needed to support those we are committed to serve, Catholic Charities has launched an Annual Appeal. Your support of Catholic Charities' Annual Appeal is important to the continuation of our work. Donations may be made online at www.erieccd.org/charities or checks may be made payable to "Catholic Charities, Inc." 429 East Grandview Boulevard, Erie, PA 16504. Thank you.

Daily Devotional

Do you use a daily devotional that you found helpful over the past seven months? Is it an e mail that you get each day from some organization? A book you read from each day? A website that you visit regularly? Share that resource with us so we can share that with others. Send thoughts and Ideas to Donna Clark 899-5342 or dclark@ourladyofmercychurch.org



Need suggestions for your daily devotional prayer?

Ideas on Reflections,
Meditations, Prayers,
Scripture Readings,
Videos



Daily Messages:

- ◆ Blessings from Dominican Sisters of Grand Rapids. <https://www.grdominicans.org/>
- ◆ Meditations from Richard Rohr at <https://cac.org/email-sign-up/sign-up/>

Daily Prayers:

- ◆ *Give Us This Day*: Inspiration from the lives of saints; Reflections on Scripture; Simplified daily prayer for morning and evening; Prayers and readings for daily mass. Subscribe at <https://www.giveusthisday.org>
- ◆ Free video series from *Give Us This Day*: Short meditative biographies of the “Cloud of Witnesses” to illuminate our path.

Books:

- ◆ By Sarah Young—
 - ◆ *Jesus Calling; Enjoying Peace in His Presence*
 - ◆ *Jesus Lives: Seeing His Love in Your Life*
 - ◆ *Jesus Today: Experience Hope through His Presence*
 - ◆ *Jesus Always: Embracing Joy in His Presence*
- ◆ *My Utmost for His Highest* by Charles Oswald Chambers
- ◆ *Common Prayer: A Liturgy for Ordinary Radicals* by Shane Claiborne, Jonathan Wilson-Hartgrove and Enuma Okoro.

mpc 2020

NOVEMBER YOUTH EVENT
SUNDAY NOVEMBER 22, 2020

MOVIE EVENT: THE INCREDIBLES

Theme: Family

Place: Meet in the church
gathering space

Time: 12-3pm

****Feel Free to bring a pre-
packaged snack or beverage
to share.**

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