

# OUR LADY OF MERCY CHURCH

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



## MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday Vigil: 6:00 p.m.

Sunday: 8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

Weekday: 8:30 a.m.

## 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.*

## PARISH STAFF

Msgr. Gerald T. Ritchie, *Pastor*

Deacon Paul Barko, *Deacon Assistant*

Donna Clark, *Pastoral Minister*

Irene Lucas, *Director of Lifelong Faith Formation*

Patti Reavel, *Music Director*

Katie Stephenson, *Administrative Assistant  
& Youth Minister*

Kirk Mientkiewicz, *Maintenance Coordinator*

Andrea Maille, *Lifelong Faith Formation Secretary*

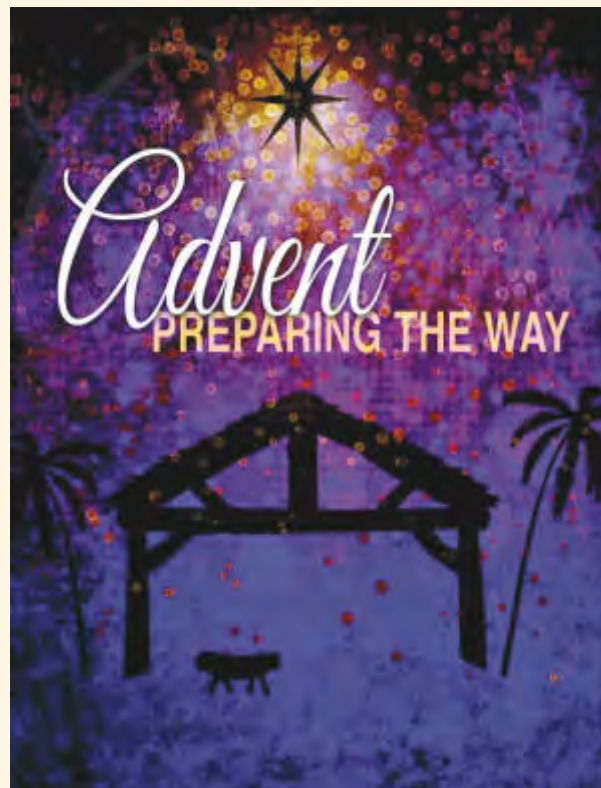
## CONTACT INFORMATION

Parish Office: 814-899-5342

Office of Lifelong Faith Formation: 814-899-6132

Fax: 814-898-3306

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



**NOVEMBER 28, 2021 - THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

## THE WEEK AHEAD

For a complete calendar of events, please visit [ourladyofmercychurch.org/calendar](http://ourladyofmercychurch.org/calendar)

<b>Mon. 11/29</b>	9:00 a.m.	Quilters
	9:30 a.m.	Steel Magnolias
	2:00 p.m.	Sofia's SCC
<b>Tue. 11/30</b>	1:00 p.m.	Potter's Clay SCC
	2:00 p.m.	Prayer Shawl
	4:00 p.m.	Religious Ed Gr. 3-6
<b>Wed. 12/01</b>	1:00 p.m.	Diamonds in the Rough
<b>Thur. 12/02</b>	9:00 a.m.	Painting Class
	12:00 p.m.	Mid Day Prayer
	1:00 p.m.	Legion of Mary
	6:00 p.m.	Prayer Shawl
	6:30 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
<b>Fri. 12/03</b>	6:00 p.m.	YM Babysitter's Club
	8:00 p.m.	YM Game Night
<b>Sat. 12/04</b>	10:00 a.m.	Memorial Mass
	4:30 p.m.	Sacrament of Penance
<b>Sun. 12/05</b>	<b>SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b>	
	<b>Anointing of the Sick—All Masses</b>	
	<b>Casserole Club Drop-Off</b>	
	<b>Monthly Food Pantry Collection</b>	
	9:30 a.m.	Religious Ed K-2 & 7-8
	12:00 p.m.	Soup for the Advent Soul
	6:30 p.m.	Drumming Circle

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

<b>Mon. 11/29</b>	Is 2:1-5	/ Mt 8:5-11
<b>Tue. 11/30</b>	Rom 10:9-18	/ Mt 4:18-22
<b>Wed. 12/01</b>	Is 25:6-10a	/ Mt 15:29-37
<b>Thur. 12/02</b>	Is 26:1-6	/ Mt 7:21-27
<b>Fri. 12/03</b>	Is 29:17-24	/ Mt 9:27-31
<b>Sat. 12/04</b>	Is 30:19-21, 23-26	/ Mt 9:35-10:1, 5-8
<b>Sun. 12/05</b>	Bar 5:1-9 / Phil 1:4-11	/ Lk 3:1-6

## PRAYER LINE

9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.  
 Call **Donna Smicker** at 814-899-9108  
 4:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.  
 Call **Gerri Extein** at 814-490-9681



## MASS INTENTIONS

<b>Mon. 11/29</b>	8:30 a.m.	<b>Kevin Wilcznski</b>
<b>Tue. 11/30</b>	8:30 a.m.	<b>Thomas Piskorski</b>
<b>Wed. 12/01</b>	8:30 a.m.	<b>Veronica Whitman</b>
<b>Thur. 12/02</b>	8:30 a.m.	<b>Janet Plovcan</b>
<b>Fri. 12/03</b>	8:30 a.m.	<b>Florence Adameck</b>
<b>Sat. 12/04</b>	8:30 a.m.	<b>-NO MASS-</b>
	6:00 p.m.	<b>Gertrude Peters</b> (Ross Peters)
<b>Sun. 12/05</b>	8:30 a.m.	<b>Don McCurdy</b> (Jim & Bunny Weber)
	11:00 a.m.	<b>For the People of OLM</b>

## THIS SUNDAY'S REFLECTION

Staying awake can often be a challenge, especially when we are exhausted. Life's demands have a way of zapping every last bit of energy out of us. When we are tired it affects us not only physically, but psychologically and spiritually as well. All of our senses are dulled and diminished. We can overlook details, become disinterested, lethargic and apathetic, and detached. Getting sufficient physical rest only helps so much. We need to be rejuvenated, refreshed, and reenergized in other ways. If we are psychologically exhausted, we need to understand what is draining our emotions and taxing our relationships. If we are spiritually tired, we need to find the necessary "shot in the arm" to put us back in touch with God. Unfortunately, exhaustion is seldom limited to just one part of who we are. When we lack energy and zeal it is usually the case that everything suffers. We not only are affected physically, but psychologically and spiritually as well. In short, when we run out of gas the engine stops.



And yet, our Lord's directive is clear, "Be vigilant at all times." Even Jesus knew what "the anxieties of daily life" can do to us. One day pours into another and time quickly flies by. Any one of us can take a moment and reflect on how many wonderful, creative opportunities we miss because there is always so much "stuff" to do and so little time to do it. Usually these are missed moments of love, and if we are missing love encounters we are also missing God. Sleepwalking through life, we check the boxes next to our list of "must and have to dos" and justify it all by convincing ourselves that tomorrow is another day and there'll be more time. It may surprise us, but tomorrow is here, and time is running out. While we may like to believe that we have an "eternity" of time to do all those things that require the focus, energy, and desire we do not currently have, we don't. We're on a limited ride and time is short.

Jesus is also clear on another point. "That day [will] catch you by surprise like a trap." If we are going to be judged on love and so easily justify not having all that much time to do so, then it seems we must shift focus a bit. St. Teresa of Calcutta tells us, "We desire to be able to welcome Jesus at Christmas-time, not in a cold manger of our heart, but in a heart full of love and humility, a heart so pure, so immaculate, so warm with love for one another." Getting to this place doesn't "just happen." It requires vigilance and discipline both with a knowledge of what is really of importance and what really needs to be the focus of our energy and time. Pray, starting now and not tomorrow, that we can stay alert, be strengthened in our faith, and prepared for whatever will come. Don't miss another opportunity to love.

### Book Group

On **Dec. 15 at 6:30**, we will gather at the home of Cheri Ruminski Longua for a movie night. We will watch "Hamilton". We will begin the new year with a discussion of The Plot by Jean Hanff Korelitz. Unvaccinated members, PLEASE wear masks.



## FORMED.ORG



If you are new to the parish, 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.

### Drumming Circle



On **Sunday Dec 5 at 6:30 p.m.** Our Lady of Mercy will host another Drumming Circle. Drumming calms the body and mind while reducing anxiety and stress. No experience or musical ability required. Age 12 and up invited to bring your own drum or contact Debbie by **December 1st** to reserve an instrument (text or ph: 814.397.1176). \$15 cash donation per person.

### Donor Match Money for Our Lady of Mercy

For every new parishioner who signs up for recurring monthly offertory donations through Faith Direct **before December 15th**, the Faith Direct Company will match that first gift, up to \$50 per parishioner. To be eligible for the matching gift, more than one installment must be set-up and the first recurring gift must be processed through Faith Direct by **December 31, 2021**.



### Soup For The Advent Soul



Mark your calendar for **Sunday, Dec. 5 from noon to 2:00** for our annual parish celebration of Advent. Warm up with a homemade soup lunch and time with parish friends. Kids will enjoy a craft and game and...., maybe a visit from a special guest.

### Soups Needed

We are looking for parish soup makers to bring a crock pot of homemade soup to our Advent celebration on **Dec. 5**. If you can help, please add your name to the list on the easel in the Gathering Space. Please let us know what kind of soup you will be bringing so that we can have labels prepared.



### Thanksgiving Prayer Cubes

A gift for you 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. These are available in the gathering area next to the bulletins. (some assembly required)



## The Season of Advent

### Mass of Remembrance

**Saturday, December 4— 10:00 a.m.**

### Anointing of the Sick

**December 4 & 5— All Masses**

### Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception

**Wednesday, December 8**

**—Mass 8:30 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.**

### Reconciliation Service

**Saturdays of Advent, 4:30 p.m.**

**Wednesday, December 15— 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.**

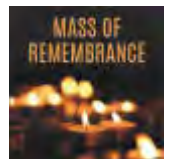
*There will be three priests available*

*Because of the pandemic there will be no Advent Penance Celebration with our neighboring parishes*

### Mass of Remembrance

The annual Mass of Remembrance is **Saturday, December 4th 2021, at 10 a.m.**

The Bereavement Ministry invites all members of Our Lady of Mercy to attend this annual Memorial Mass to support the families of our parish who have lost loved ones during the past year. Please join us for this special celebration. Due to the COVID 19 pandemic, some of our Parishioners may be uncomfortable attending this Mass, although they would dearly want to attend. Our Parish will be live streaming the Mass, through YouTube or, FaceBook from the OLM website at [www.ourladyofmercychurch.org](http://www.ourladyofmercychurch.org)



## Celebrating the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Our Lady of Mercy Parish

In 1975, the Five Decades Club, an organization for senior citizens, came into being. Then in 1978, the first Cursillo was held at the parish, and has been "at home" at Our Lady of Mercy ever since.





## Social Justice

"Fear grows out of the things we think; it lives in our minds. Compassion grows out of the things we are, and lives in our hearts."

Michael Garrison

### Religious Education Calendar

There is no religious education classes Nov. 23-28 for the Thanksgiving holiday. Classes will resume on Nov. 30.



### Would your child like to participate in a children's Christmas choir?

Patti Reavel, our music director, would like parents' feedback regarding their child's interest in participating in a Children's Christmas Choir which would

sing at the children's Christmas Eve liturgy, **Friday, Dec. 24, 2021 at 6 p.m.** Rehearsals would be minimal. If you have an interested child, please email Patti at [preavel@gmail.com](mailto:preavel@gmail.com). Please include your child's age and the best contact email/phone.

### Help needed to prepare and install OLM Advent Environment

\* Several crafty/artistically inclined youth or adults to help prepare wreaths for Advent/Christmas environments. Can be scheduled throughout November. Contact Theresa Horanic as soon as possible at **814-384-6477**.



\* A few guys/gals who climb ladders and can help hang wreaths, hangings, etc. in Worship Space and Gathering Space on the Saturday after Thanksgiving (November 27th) at 9am. Contact Nancy Mowery at **814-403-6621**.

## WAYS TO GIVE THIS SEASON

**CHRISTMAS CARING TREE PROGRAM**  
If you took a name for The Ella Cochran Food Pantry's "Christmas Caring Tree" please return the wrapped gift by **December 5th**.

**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 **November 27 and 28**. Unwrapped gifts and the card with the child's name need to be returned by **December 11 and 12**. If you cannot come in person to pick up a card please contact **Janet Smith at 814-899-5495 or [refereesmith@roadrunner.com](mailto:refereesmith@roadrunner.com)** Or Moochie Zielewski at **814-823-6505 or [mzielewski999@hotmail.com](mailto:mzielewski999@hotmail.com)**

**Food Pantry Book Drive**  
The Ella Cochran Food Pantry is looking for gently used children's books. Donations will be available to families during our Christmas distribution. Please place books in the book box in the Gathering Space. Thank you!

**Erie International Institute Donations Needed**  
Our Lady of Mercy will be collecting winter hats, coats, books, gloves and scarves, along with blankets for the International Institute of Erie. Senada Alihodzic, Program Coordinator for Community Resources at the Erie International Institute spoke to us at our November CAFE about the typical journey of a refugee arriving in Erie. It was then brought to our attention of their need for proper winter attire. Please drop off your donations to the program in the Gathering Space.

## December BIRTHDAYS

2 Dec.	William Drotar	3
4 Dec.	Aubrie Olson	18
5 Dec.	Blake Bleil-Tersigni	7
6 Dec	Milt Pearson	11
7 Dec.	Gabriella Licata	15
8 Dec.	Perrin Baker	5



9 Dec.	Morgan Wilhelm	16
11 Dec.	Samuel Camillo	12
12 Dec.	Ava Froess	15
13 Dec.	Raegan Andrews	14
15 Dec	Casey Brigham	3
21 Dec	Absidy Casillas	16
21 Dec.	Cole Marshall	17
21 Dec.	Alivia Smith	15
23 Dec.	Angel Gilbert	13
27 Dec.	Joey Bernatowicz	14
29 Dec.	Rosalie Gilchrist	4



# DECEMBER 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>28</b> <u>8:30 &amp; 11:00 AM MASS</u>	<b>29</b> <b>8:30 AM Mass</b> 9:00 AM Quilters 9:30 AM Steel Magnolias SCC 2:00 PM Sofia's SCC	<b>30</b> <b>8:30 AM Mass</b> 1:00 PM Potters Clay SCC 2:00 PM Prayer Shawl 4:00 PM Gr. 3-6 Religious Education 7:30 PM AA	<b>1</b> <b>8:30 AM Mass</b> 1:00 PM Diamonds in the Rough	<b>2</b> <b>8:30 AM Mass</b> 9:00 AM Painting Class 12:00 PM Midday Prayer 1:00 PM Legion of Mary 6:00 PM Prayer Shawl 6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	<b>3</b> <b>8:30 AM Mass</b> 6:00 PM YM Baby Sitters Club 9:00 PM Youth Ministry Game Night	<b>4</b> <b>10:00 AM AA</b> <b>10:00 AM Bereavement</b> Mass <b>4:30 PM Sacrament of</b> Penance <b>6:00 PM Mass</b>
<b>5</b> <u>8:30 &amp; 11:00 AM MASS</u> <b>Anointing of the Sick</b> <b>Casserole Club DROP</b> <b>OFF</b> <b>Monthly Food Pantry</b> <b>Collection</b> <b>9:30 AM</b> Gr. K-2 & 7-8 Religious Education <b>12:00 PM</b> Soup for the Advent Soul <b>6:30 PM</b> Drumming Circle	<b>6</b> <b>8:30 AM Mass</b> 9:00 AM Quilters 9:30 AM Steel Magnolias SCC <b>6:30 PM</b> Fireside Chatters SCC	<b>7</b> <b>8:30 AM Mass</b> 1:00 PM Potters Clay SCC 2:00 PM Prayer Shawl 4:00 PM Gr. 3-6 Religious Education <b>6:30 PM</b> Roman Candles SCC <b>7:00 PM</b> Pastoral Council Meeting <b>7:30 PM</b> AA	<b>8</b> <b>The Immaculate</b> <b>Conception</b> <b>8:30 AM Holy Day Mass</b> 9:00 AM Angels in Training 1:00 PM Diamonds in the Rough <b>6:30 PM</b> AGIFT Meeting <b>7:00 PM Holy Day Mass</b> Columbus	<b>9</b> <b>8:30 AM Mass</b> 9:00 AM Painting Class 12:00 PM Midday Prayer 1:00 PM Legion of Mary 6:00 PM Prayer Shawl <b>6:30 PM</b> Choir Rehearsal	<b>10</b> <b>8:30 AM Mass</b>	<b>11</b> <b>10:00 AM AA</b> <b>4:30 PM Sacrament of</b> Penance <b>6:00 PM Mass</b>
<b>12</b> <u>8:30 &amp; 11:00 AM MASS</u> Gr. 9 & 10 Advent Day of Service <b>9:30 AM</b> Gr. K-2 & 7-8 Religious Education <b>12:00 PM</b> GR Group	<b>13</b> <b>8:30 AM Mass</b> 9:00 AM Quilters 9:30 AM Steel Magnolias SCC <b>5:30 PM</b> Sisters of Scripture SCC	<b>14</b> <b>8:30 AM Mass</b> 1:00 PM Potters Clay SCC 2:00 PM Prayer Shawl 4:00 PM Gr. 3-6 Religious Education 7:30 PM AA	<b>15</b> <b>8:30 AM Food Pantry</b> <b>Distribution</b> <b>8:30 AM Mass</b> 1:00 PM Diamonds in the Rough <b>6:30 PM</b> OLM Book Group	<b>16</b> <b>8:30 AM Mass</b> 9:00 AM Painting Class 12:00 PM Midday Prayer 1:00 PM Legion of Mary 6:00 PM Prayer Shawl <b>6:30 PM</b> Choir Rehearsal	<b>17</b> <b>8:30 AM Mass</b>	<b>18</b> <b>10:00 AM AA</b> <b>4:30 PM Sacrament of</b> Penance <b>6:00 PM Mass</b>
<b>19</b> <u>8:30 &amp; 11:00 AM MASS</u> <b>9:30 AM</b> Gr. K-2 & 7-8 Religious Education <b>9:30 AM</b> Healing Ministry <b>12:00 PM</b> Gr. 7 & 8 Youth Event	<b>20</b> <b>8:30 AM Mass</b> 9:00 AM Quilters 9:30 AM Steel Magnolias SCC <b>6:30 PM</b> Fireside Chatters SCC <b>7:00 PM</b> Grief Support Group	<b>21</b> <b>8:30 AM Mass</b> 1:00 PM Potters Clay SCC 2:00 PM Prayer Shawl 4:00 PM Gr. 3-6 Religious Education 7:30 PM AA	<b>22</b> <b>8:30 AM Mass</b> 9:00 AM Angels in Training 1:00 PM Diamonds in the Rough	<b>23</b> <b>8:30 AM Mass</b> 9:00 AM Painting Class 12:00 PM Midday Prayer 1:00 PM Legion of Mary 6:00 PM Prayer Shawl <b>6:30 PM</b> Choir Rehearsal	<b>24</b> <b>8:30 AM Mass</b> <b>6:00 PM CHRISTMAS</b> <b>EVE MASS</b> <b>10:00 PM CHRISTMAS</b> <b>EVE MASS</b>	<b>25</b> <b>10:00 AM AA</b> <b>10:00 AM CHRISTMAS</b> <b>DAY MASS</b>
<b>26</b> <u>8:30 &amp; 11:00 AM MASS</u>	<b>27</b> <b>8:30 AM Mass</b> 9:00 AM Quilters 9:30 AM Steel Magnolias SCC <b>5:30 PM</b> Sisters of Scripture SCC	<b>28</b> <b>8:30 AM Mass</b> 1:00 PM Potters Clay SCC <b>7:30 PM</b> AA	<b>29</b> <b>8:30 AM Mass</b> 1:00 PM Diamonds in the Rough <b>4:00 PM</b> Blood Drive	<b>30</b> <b>8:30 AM Mass</b> 9:00 AM Painting Class 12:00 PM Midday Prayer 1:00 PM Legion of Mary <b>6:30 PM</b> Choir Rehearsal	<b>31</b> <b>8:30 AM Mass</b>	<b>1</b> <b>10:00 AM AA</b> <b>10:00 AM Mass</b> <b>4:30 PM Sacrament of</b> Penance <b>6:00 PM Mass</b>

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**OUR LADY OF MERCY CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
**Membership Form**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Change of Address     Moving out of the Parish

\_\_\_\_ New Parishioner  
 To start the new member process please call the parish office at 899-5342; or request a phone call by filling out this form and returning it to the office by mail or collection basket.