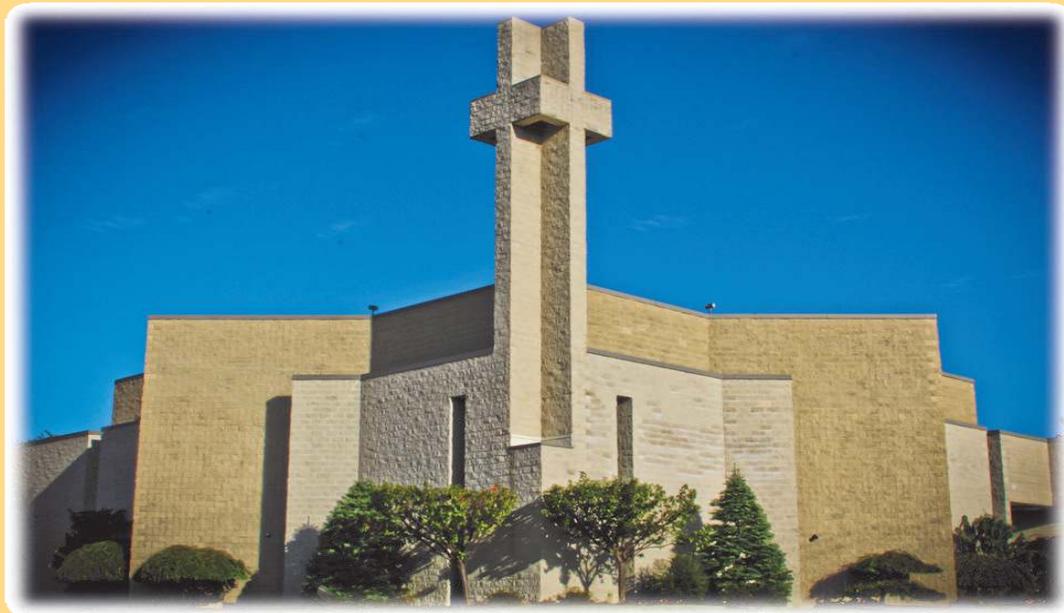


OUR LADY OF MERCY CHURCH

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



MASS SCHEDULE

November 12, 2017

Saturday Vigil: 6:00 p.m.

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

Weekday: 8:30 a.m.

Holy Day of Obligation: 8:30 a.m. & 7:00 p.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*

Marsha MacKinnon McKinley, *Admin. Assistant*

Geri Hadlock, *Youth Minister*

Kirk Mientkiewicz, *Maintenance Coordinator*

Andrea Maille, *Lifelong Faith Formation Secretary*

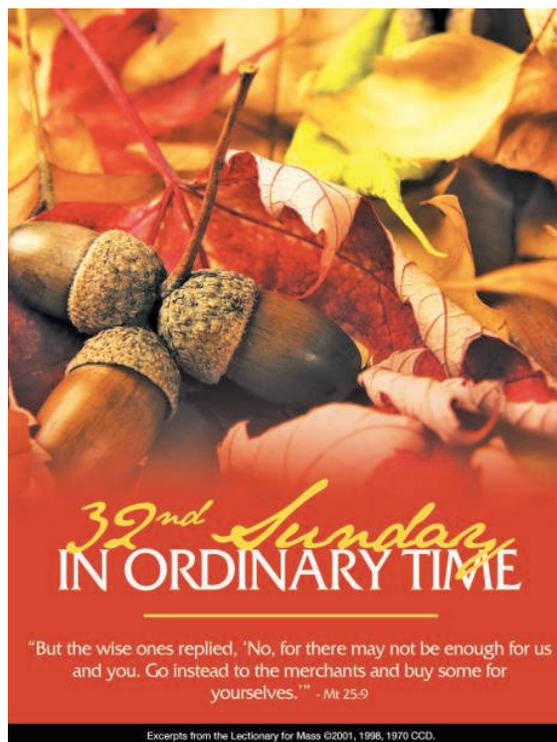
CONTACT INFORMATION

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. 11/13** 9:00 a.m. Newsletter Mailing
 11:00 a.m. Centering Prayer
 6:30 p.m. Fruit of the Vine
- Tue. 11/14** 9:30 a.m. SCC- Steel Magnolias
 2:00 p.m. Prayer Shawl
 4:00 p.m. Rel Ed Gr 3-6
 5:30 p.m. Children's Choir Rehearsal
 7:00 p.m. Finance Council
 7:00 p.m. LFF Mtg
- Wed. 11/15** **Cursillo (Set-Up)**
 1:00 p.m. SCC-Diamonds in the Rough
 2:00 p.m. Contemplative Prayer
 7:00 p.m. OLM Book Group
- Thur. 11/16** **Cursillo (Women's)**
 9:00 a.m. Painting Class
 6:00 p.m. Prayer Shawl
 6:45 p.m. Choir Rehearsal
- Fri. 11/17** **Cursillo (Women's)**
 1:30 p.m. Legion of Mary
- Sat. 11/18** **Cursillo (Women's)**
Anointing of the Sick
 9:00 a.m. Family Service Day
 4:30 p.m. Sacrament of Penance
- Sun. 11/19** **Cursillo (Women's)**
Anointing of the Sick
Coat & Toy Collection
 9:30 a.m. Healing Ministry
 9:30 a.m. Rel Ed Gr K-2

MASS INTENTIONS

- Mon. 11/13** 8:30 a.m. **Don Hatheway** (*Fran Hatheway*)
Tue. 11/14 8:30 a.m. **David Ross** (*Linda Ross*)
Wed. 11/15 8:30 a.m. **Robert Jones** (*Linda Jones*)
Thur. 11/16 8:30 a.m.
Fri. 11/17 8:30 a.m. **Mary Louise Pfadt** (*Pfadt Family*)
Sat. 11/18 8:30 a.m.
 6:00 p.m. **Florence Reske** (*Family*)
Sun. 11/19 8:30 a.m. **Helen Heise** (*Heise Family*)
 11:00 a.m. **For the People of OLM**

SCRIPTURE READINGS

- Mon. 11/13** Wis 1:1-7 / Luke 17:1-6
Tue. 11/14 Wis 2:23-3:9 / Luke 17:7-10
Wed. 11/15 Wis 6:1-11 / Luke 17:11-19
Thur. 11/16 Wis 7:22b-8:1 / Luke 17:20-25
Fri. 11/17 Wis 13:1-9 / Luke 17:26-37
Sat. 11/18 Wis 18:14-16 / Luke 18:1-8
Sun. 11/19 Prv 31:10-13/ 1 Thes 5:1-6/Mt 25:14-30

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**.



IN LOVING MEMORY

We remember Sally Benson, mother of Michael Benson and sister of Peggy Williams; Norma Gehric, sister of Lorraine Bucklin; and Ken Whitney. Please keep them and their families in your prayers.

NEWSLETTER MAILING PARTY

We will be preparing the newsletter for the mail tomorrow **Monday, November 13, 2017 at 9:00 a.m. in the Conference Room**. If you can help, contact Irene Lucas at 899-6132 or ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org

OLM PARISH OFFICE REMINDER

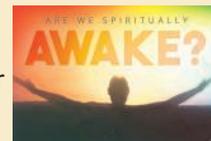
Content for the December 3rd bulletin—The First Sunday of Advent—is due by **November 22**. If you have content for this bulletin please submit by the deadline.

Due to the Thanksgiving Holiday the parish office will be closed on **Thursday, November 23** and **Friday, November 24**.

THIS SUNDAY'S REFLECTION

Matthew 25:1-13

"Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out."



Wouldn't it be great if we could compete in a marathon by borrowing the necessary strength, skill speed and endurance from a world-class runner? What if we could get slimmer and smarter by having other people diet and study for us? We could let someone else do all the training, and we could cash in on his or her hard work and preparation.

Obviously, there are some things we cannot borrow from others. We cannot borrow another person's intelligence, artistry, integrity, or character, to name a few. We may benefit from these qualities in other people, but we cannot make them our own by simply wishing it so.

In Today's gospel all ten virgins were waiting for the bridegroom, but only five had thoughtfully and carefully prepared to meet him. The five foolish virgins wanted to meet the groom, but their preparations were not sufficient, and they could not borrow preparedness from the five wise.

We are called to prepare today, tomorrow, and every day to meet the Lord, so that we will not hear those terrible words, "I do not know you." We all want to meet the Lord with our lamps burning, but are we properly prepared?

For Reflection: What am I doing to prepare myself to meet the Lord in each and every day?

© Little Rock Scripture Study

Dear Sisters & Brothers in Christ,



On the weekend of **November 18-19**, parishes in our Diocese will be taking up a special collection for the "Catholic Campaign for Human Development" (CCHD). In the United States, more than 46 million people are living in poverty. The CCHD is an anti-poverty program to help them find hope and a way to a more secure life. Support offered through this collection reaches those living on the margins and gives them a hand up, not a hand out.

For example, around Charleston, South Carolina, many children live in poverty, creating undue stress and uncertainty in their lives. Compounding these problems, deteriorating school systems struggle to provide quality education and appropriate discipline, and there is a high rate of school-based arrests. By engaging congregations and communities all over the city, the Charleston Area Justice Ministry is working to improve the education system, and keep kids in school and out of the juvenile justice system. With your support of the CCHD Collection, the Charleston Area Justice Ministry is able to provide community engagement to reduce youth arrests and violence.

Each year, nearly half of the funds raised in our diocese from this collection remain here in the Diocese of Erie to fund local anti-poverty projects. We have been able to use our Diocesan share of this collection to provide children and adults with food, clothing, shelter, medical assistance and counseling.

Your support of this collection makes a difference for people living in poverty across the United States. Please prayerfully consider how you are able to help the CCHD this year. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

The Most Reverend Lawrence T. Persico, JCL
Bishop of Erie

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Offertory for the weekend of **November 5, 2017**

Envelopes sent:	389	
Envelopes returned:	133	\$5,948.40
Faith Direct Deposits:	103	\$2,813.00
Loose Change:		\$150.00
TOTAL OFFERTORY:		\$8,911.40

The Question-Of-The-Week Contest Winner

The winner for the week of October 31 was, Landon Ford Grade 3, who knew that the four Gospels are Matthew, Mark Luke and John.

Grade 10 Retreat

Candidates in the second year of Confirmation preparation are reminded that they have a mandatory retreat **TODAY, Sunday, November 12 at OLM**. The retreat begins with the 11:00 Mass and concludes at 4:30 p.m. Lunch will be provided.

Sunday Morning *C*A*F*E*

Join us **TODAY, Sunday, November 12** for a cup of fresh brewed coffee, home baked treats and a challenging presentation by Mary Hoffman and Mary Ellen Leib. After retiring from a career in special education, Mary and Mary Ellen continued their dedication to serve in the name of Christ. They minister as co-directors of Our Neighbors' Place, a winter overflow shelter sponsored by Community Shelter Services. Many members of Our Lady of Mercy have assisted with this ministry. This is an opportunity to learn more about this important Erie outreach to those on the streets. "When I was homeless, you sheltered me."

Family Service Day Help Available

Are you a senior who could use a bit of help getting your yard cleaned up before winter? **On Saturday, November 18**, volunteer teams from OLM will be fanning out to rake and trim and help in any way needed to help our older parishioners complete their fall yard clean up. If you would like our help or if you know someone who would need our help, **please contact Irene Lucas in her office at 899-6132 or ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org by Nov. 15.**

Teen Help Needed

If you love to baby sit we could use you in the Nursery about once a month during the 11:00 a.m. Mass. If you are interested please Donna Clark at 899-5342 or dclark@ourladyofmercychurch.org



Mass of Remembrance

The annual **Mass of Remembrance** is **Saturday, December 2 at 10:00 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.

Electronic Giving Available

Our Lady of Mercy uses **Faith Direct** to manage our electronic giving. Donations can be deducted from checking or savings accounts, or you may also use a credit card. Go to: www.ourladyofmercychurch.org and look for the Faith Direct icon on the left hand column.



Social Justice Committee News

As we continue to reflect on the call to respect the dignity of all human life, we turn to the social issue of capital punishment. During the month of November, this section will offer the teaching of Scripture and the Church on this pro-life issue.

“One has to strongly affirm the condemnation of the death penalty, that it is an inhuman measure that humiliates personal dignity, in whatever form it is carried out. And [it] is, of itself, contrary to the Gospel, because it is freely decided to suppress a human life that is always sacred in the eyes of the Creator, and of which, in the final analysis, God alone is the true judge and guarantor.”

Pope Francis Oct. 11, 2017

Up-Coming Events

The Erie Pro-Life community has three events in January 2018 that provide you an opportunity to speak out on behalf of unborn children and the unalienable right to life.

Pro-Life Breakfast: Saturday, January 13 at 9:00 a.m. Erie Bayfront Convention Center. Cost \$16 for adults and \$8 for children 3-12 years of age. The featured speaker is Ann McElhinny, author of “Gosnell.”

DC March for Life: Friday, January 19, 2018. Annual bus trip sponsored by People for Life. \$55 per seat, \$50 if registered by 12/1

Erie March for Life: Saturday, January 27 at 11:00 a.m. Begins and concludes at Perry Square

Go to People for Life at: www.Peopleforlife.life or call 882-1333 for information/reservations. You can also call Phil Legler at 504-1048.

STEWARDSHIP

As a stewardship parish we celebrate the gifts of the whole person. We celebrate that each person has been uniquely gifted by God with certain abilities and talents. We celebrate how the body of Christ becomes more complete as each of us shares our gifts and talents. We recognize that when we are sharing from our God given gifts we experience Joy. Come celebrate with us; share your gifts – help to complete the body of Christ. You may have noticed a word relating to stewardship in previous bulletins. How do you live out your understanding of stewardship?



Coat and Toy Collection November 18/19



We are collecting coats, clothing and gently used toys for the Community Outreach Group on November 18 and 19. Items can be brought to the Gathering Space that weekend only. **This will be the only collection time.** The annual clothing distribution party is on Saturday, December 2 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, located at 2216 Peach Street. Any items not distributed are given to other local organizations and shelters for distribution to those in need. If you have any questions, you can call Tom Pearson at 814-450-7338.

Chance of a Lifetime Sweepstakes

The Our Lady of Mercy Knights of Columbus are selling tickets for the Annual Statewide Chance of a Lifetime Sweepstakes (C.O.A.L.) the weekends of November 12 and 19. Profits from this fundraiser are applied to the cost of Bibles for the Confirmation classes at Our Lady of Mercy. There are 16 major prizes including: a 2018 Chevrolet Spark, several vacation trips and cash prizes. Tickets are \$1 each or a book of 8 for \$7. Tickets will be available in the Gathering Space after all Masses and in the office during the week.

Cursillo Opportunities

Looking to enhance your relationship with our Lord? A Cursillo weekend may be just what you need! Sign-up now for the Women's Cursillo November 16-19 2017. Call Tim and Norma Lynch at 899-2681.

OLM Book Group

As the nights grow longer and the days grow cooler, autumn is a perfect season to curl up with a good book and to gather in warm conversation about them. **New members are always welcome.** There is no need to commit to every month. **On November 15** we will meet at the home of Marilyn Garwig, 1320 Boyer Rd. to discuss two books: The Lighthouse Keeper's Daughter by Lenore Skomal and Little Mercies by Heather Gudenkauf. Because the holidays keep us all so busy, rather than read a book in December, we will meet to watch a movie, “The Help”.

Music Concert on November 12

Enjoy an afternoon of joyful music **TODAY Sunday, November 12 at 3:00 p.m.** here at OLM. In addition to the Adult and Children's Choirs of Our Lady of Mercy and Holy Cross, we will welcome Brian Kuzmin, Kathy Felong, and nationally recognized liturgical guitarist Steve Petrunak.

Community Thanksgiving Service

Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church is hosting the annual Harborcreek Thanksgiving Service on Sunday, November 19 at 7:00 pm. Clergy and congregation members from East Erie Assembly of God, Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church, First Presbyterian Church of Harborcreek, Grace Church, Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church, North Harbor Baptist Church, and South Harborcreek United Methodist Church are participating in the service. There will also be a combined choir singing at the service with practice scheduled for 5:30 pm that evening. Those attending are encouraged to bring nonperishable food donations.



Getting Through the Holidays after Losing a Loved One

On Monday, November 20 at 7:00 p.m. in the Parish Parlor the Grief Support Ministry will host a special session for those who have lost loved ones. Sometimes the holidays can be difficult because of all the tradition and the loss of someone close to us is more keenly felt. At this session we will give some ideas for making our loved ones present during those first holidays without their physical presence.

A Time To Heal

The OLM healing ministry invites you to an evening of prayer, music, laying of hands and reflection led by Sharon Kestler on Monday, December 4 at 7:00 p.m. Come for yourself and bring someone who may need healing and calm in their life.

Counseling Available

Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy are offering their professional skills as counselors for adults or teens or family counseling. Counseling meetings are at the church, in a confidential setting. To schedule an appointment contact Donna Clark, 899-5342.

Caregivers Need Support Too

The Alzheimer's Association in Erie will offer "Empowerment for Caregivers: A Caregiver Conference" on November 17 from 8:45 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Erie Art Museum. The event is free and lunch is included. For more information or to register, contact Debbie at the Alzheimer's Association at 814-456-9200, ext. 5101.

Special Thanks To Our Lady of Mercy

The family and friends of Ken Whitney would like to thank Father Ritchie, Brandon Vogt, the OLM Choir, and all the members of the Bereavement Committee for a wonderful, memorable Funeral Mass and luncheon. Our Sincere Thanks with Love, The Whitneys

Bishop's Breakfast collection for Christmas

Celebrate the "Season of Giving" by providing gently used or new items for distribution at the annual Christmas gathering of the Bishop's Breakfast. Donations will be accepted through Dec. 5. Contact Jennie Hagerty at jhagerty94@gmail.com or Mary Therese Riley at mtriley1@verizon.net. The Bishop's Breakfast provides thousands of warm meals to those in need throughout the year.



Christmas Caring Tree Program

Pick a Name Tag on November 18/19

Return a Wrapped Gift by December 9/10

The Ella Cochran Food Pantry's "Christmas Caring Tree" will be on display **next weekend November 18 and November 19 to allow extra time to shop for gifts.**

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 9 and 10.



If you have any questions, contact Aimee McKinney at 899-1361.

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