

OUR LADY OF MERCY CHURCH

837 Bartlett Road • Harborcreek, PA 16421 • 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.

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*

Katie Stephenson, *Administrative Assistant*

Geri Hadlock, *Youth Minister*

Kirk Mientkiewicz, *Maintenance Coordinator*

Andrea Maille, *Lifelong Faith Formation Secretary*

CONTACT INFORMATION

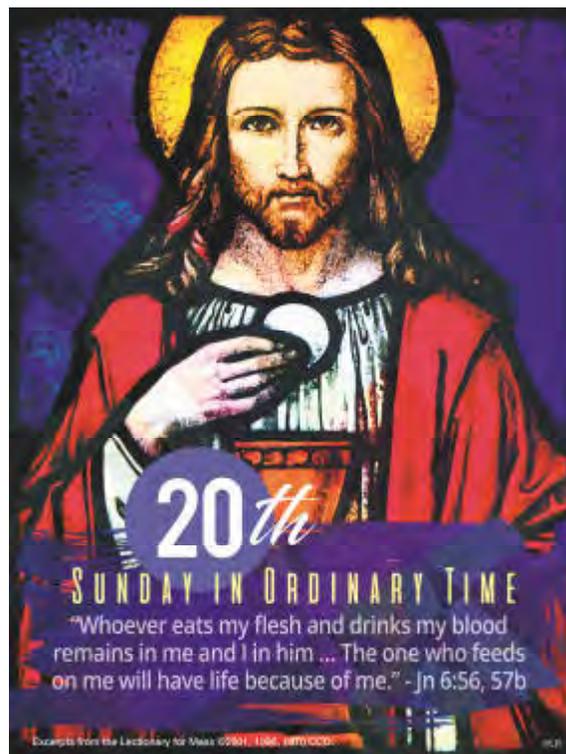
Parish Office: 814-899-5342

Office of Lifelong Faith Formation: 814-899-6132

Fax: 814-898-3306

Email: info@ourladyofmercychurch.org

August 19, 2018



THE WEEK AHEAD

For a complete calendar of events, please visit
ourladyofmercychurch.org/calendar

Mon. 08/20	7:00 p.m.	Grief Support Group
Tue. 08/21	9:30 a.m.	Families & Faith Formation Meeting
	7:00 p.m.	LFF Meeting
	7:30 p.m.	AA Meeting
Wed. 08/22	9:30 a.m.	Story Time
Thur. 08/23		
Fri. 08/24	1:30 p.m.	Legion of Mary
	7:00 p.m.	Young Adult Adoration
Sat. 08/25	10:00 a.m.	AA Meeting
	4:30 p.m.	Sacrament of Penance
Sun. 08/26	9:45 a.m.	Catechist Organizational Meeting

Religious Education Classes Begin September 4 at Our Lady of Mercy.

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 Donna Smicker.

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon. 08/20	8:30 a.m.	
Tue. 08/21	8:30 a.m.	
Wed. 08/22	8:30 a.m.	
Thur. 08/23	8:30 a.m.	Sally Talerico (Family)
Fri. 08/24	8:30 a.m.	Improved Health for Simon (Jane & Mike Chase)
Sat. 08/25	8:30 a.m.	
	6:00 p.m.	For The People of OLM
Sun. 08/26	8:30 a.m.	Sam Garwig (Marilyn Garwig)
	11:00 a.m.	Mabel Holodnak (Mark Howell)

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Mon. 08/20	Ez 24:15-24	/ Matthew 19:16-22
Tue. 08/21	Ez 28:1-10	/ Matthew 19:23-30
Wed. 08/22	Ez 34:1-11	/ Matthew 20:1-16
Thur. 08/23	Ez 36:23-28	/ Matthew 22:1-14
Fri. 08/24	Rv 21:9-14	/ John 1:45-51
Sat. 08/25	Ez 43:1-7	/ Matthew 23:1-12
Sun. 08/26	Jos 24:1-2, 15-17, 18 / Eph 5:23-32 or Eph 5:2, 25-32 / John 6:60-69	

Sunset Beach Mass



Our annual Sunset Beach Mass will be tonight, Sunday, Aug. 19 at 7:00 PM on the grounds of Glinodo Conference Center overlooking Lake Erie. Bring your own lawn chair. Fellowship with cookies will follow. Please bring a plate of cookies if you can. This outdoor mass is a wonderful opportunity to invite a friend who does not usually attend church to experience mass.

IN LOVING MEMORY



We remember **Scott Carney**, brother of Thomas Carney; **Palma Reed**, mother of Brad Reed; **Ann DePlatchett**, aunt of Carol Gilmore; **Patricia Erven**, mother of Cristine Stroker; and **Frank Gerlach**. Please keep them and their families in your prayers.

THIS SUNDAY'S REFLECTION

John 6:51-58

“Come, O children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the Lord” (Ps 34:11). Wisdom invites us to a wonderful banquet where we are fed and nourished by God. Folly invites us to loneliness and alienation. We are free to go to the table we choose. However, we are warned not to be foolish but to be wise and moderate in all our choices. We are urged to “be filled with the Spirit” (Eph 5:18) rather than be intoxicated with the ways of the world. Joined by God’s Spirit, we are exhorted always and everywhere to sing praise and give thanks to God for every good gift.



Jesus is the teacher of God’s ways: God’s wisdom personified. He invites us to a banquet of unity and harmony where divisions and quarrels are healed. Jesus explains in a metaphor of food and drink the intimate relationship that exists between the believer and himself. While the people in the desert were nourished by the manna that fell from the heavens, Jesus is living bread that comes directly from the hand of God to feed us. The life he gives is not merely symbolic but “flesh and blood” - real food and drink. Jesus is among the community that prays and celebrates God’s presence in word and Sacrament.

For Reflection: Do I nourish others in my community with Christ’s mercy and compassion?



Social Justice Committee News

Poverty

In May of this year, Pope Francis said, **“To ignore the poor is to despise God! We must learn this well: to ignore the poor is to despise God.”**

“If we don’t show mercy to others we shouldn’t expect to get it from God,” Pope Francis said, stressing that while “turning a blind eye to the poor might make life on earth easier, the eternal result will be much different.” [CNA/EWTN News](#) The Pope speaks to this issue weekly.

“God’s mercy toward us is linked to our mercy toward others,” Francis warned, cautioning that if this aspect is missing from our attitude, God’s mercy “cannot find space inside our closed hearts, it can’t enter.” The Pope urges us to pray for the poor. We must follow that prayer with action. On his Twitter account, @Pontifex he wrote, **“God, who cannot be outdone in generosity, still uses you and me to help our brothers and sisters.”** For 75 year’s, Catholic Relief Services has been “putting our faith into action to help the world’s poorest create lasting change.” Promoting access to food, education, and health care internationally and locally, CRS also offers guidance to individuals and parishes. You may be familiar with the Rice Bowl initiative. This website offers many other ways you can get involved. [crs.org](#)

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Travis and Kathryn Stauffer who celebrated the Baptism of their daughter **Claire Ellen Stauffer** on August 12.



Children’s Liturgy of the Word

The Children’s Liturgy of the Word Ministry is held during the 11:00 Mass every Sunday. It is open to children ages 3 to 6, providing them with an opportunity to hear and reflect on the Sunday readings at their age level. There has been interest in expanding this ministry to the 8:30 Mass. We can do this if we have 4 adults willing to serve as leaders on a rotating schedule. If you are interested in being part of this ministry at the 8:30 Mass, please contact **Irene Lucas at 899-6132**.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Offertory for the weekend of August 12, 2018

Envelopes sent:	392	
Envelopes returned:	106	\$4,031.00
Faith Direct Deposits:	118	\$3,122.00
Loose Change:		\$ 218.00
TOTAL OFFERTORY:		\$7,371.00

Women’s Luncheon

On Monday, August 27 at 1pm we will gather at Harborview Grill. (3730 Harbor Ridge Trail). If you live alone and are looking for companionship and laughter please join us. Questions? Call Donna Clark in the parish office.

Knights of Columbus Dance



The Knights of Columbus is sponsoring a dance **Saturday Sept 22nd** in conjunction with the OLM Feast Day weekend. The band "The Groove" Eries most popular band will be providing the entertainment from 7 to 11 in the gym. Complimentary beer and setups will be provided. Tickets will go on sale in the Gathering Space after all the masses beginning on August 12th and thru Sept. 16th, or until sold out. Tickets are limited to 250. Last year we were sold out, so purchase your tickets early. Tickets will also be available for purchase during the week in the parish office. Ticket price is \$15 or (2) for \$25. Co-Chairs Frank Kaleta and Phil Legler.

Book Group

Another school year is beginning. Kids are once again cracking open those books. It’s a great time to crack open your own book, only now you get to pick the title you want to read. And, you get to discuss that book with a glass of wine and some great ladies. This is a season of beginnings, a perfect time to try something new. Consider giving the OLM Book Group a try. There is no need to commit; come as often as you wish. Our September book will be [Eighty Days: Nellie Bly and Elizabeth Bisland’s History Making Race Around the World](#) by Matthew Goodman.

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Direct account. Simply sign in and make the adjustments. Alternatively, you can simply choose the onetime payment option.

Kitchen Coordinator for Feast Day

We need a small team of people to help coordinate the kitchen for our Feast Day on Sept 23rd. This group prepares the meatballs, receives the food before Mass, keeps things warm and puts the food out on the buffet tables. Then coordinates the clean-up. If you can help please **contact Donna Clark**.

Banners

Paul Turner

Banners That hang or are carried in procession may contribute to the religious environment that fosters worship. Catholic churches are noted for permanent installations of artwork—paintings, stained glass windows, and statues, for example. But removable art also has a place, especially to mark the ever-changing seasons of the year. Banners may fill this need, although some of them are designed for permanent installation. Fabrics offer an endless variety of colors, textures, and shapes that can summon forth a wide range of devotions among the faithful.

Banners may hang on the interior walls of a church. They may also flap in the wind on the outside, drawing the attention of passerby to an event of particular importance. They may also be carried in procession. They may then be placed on stands or removed when the procession ends.

Some banners carry words, but these are usually less effective than those that rely on symbols. "Fabric art in the form of processional banners and hangings can be an effective way to convey the spirit of liturgical seasons, especially through the use of color, shape, texture, and symbolic form. The use of images rather than words is more in keeping with this medium" (*Built of Living Stones* 127).

However banners are used, they should help draw people into an appropriate spirit of prayer.



Neighborhood Art House to host fundraising event

The children of the Neighborhood Art House, a ministry of the Benedictine Sisters of Erie, welcome the public to the 2018 "Taste of the Arts" event at 201 E. 10th St., Erie, Sept. 11 at 5 p.m. All proceeds fund the after-school and summer arts programs for inner-city youth. For more details and to register, visit www.neighborhoodarthouse.org/.

Hair Care Done in Your Home

Specializing in seniors and disabled, Annette will come to your home. She can do perms, shampoo and sets, haircuts, manicures, coloring and barbering. For more information or to get in touch with **Annette please call 814-616-6946**. Annette recently moved back to Erie and joined Our Lady of Mercy.



Married, Single Young Adults Holy Hour

Married and single young adults are welcome to an evening of Eucharistic Adoration, **Friday Aug. 24 beginning at 7 p.m.**, followed by dinner at 8 p.m. at a local eatery. The evening will include Eucharistic Adoration, confession, praise and worship music, and Benediction. Those who attend may come for as much or as little of the evening as their schedules permit. Bring a friend!

Grief Support

On Monday, August 20 at 7pm, we host a monthly grief support group. The journey through grief can be confusing and frustrating. Nothing seems normal. Sometimes talking about it helps, especially when sharing with people who can understand. For more information, contact Donna Clark in the parish office.

Story Time

There is something new for pre-school children and their parents! It is our **Wednesday morning Story**



Time: music, games, activities, snack and stories guarantee a fun-filled hour for all. We meet every other Wednesday morning at 9:30 under the skylight in the classroom area. All are welcome. Bring a

friend. There is no cost. Our next session is this **Wednesday, Aug. 22.**

Do you use a cell phone for your main communication?

Would it be helpful if the parish had your cell phone number? Please text **814-566-7593** to let us know or email secretary@ourladyofmercychurch.org. Tell us your name and cell phone number.

Ink Jet Fundraiser

Please donate used black or color ink jet cartridges to the Religious Education ministry. Previously refilled and remanufactured cartridges can not be redeemed, nor can laser toner cartridges.



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



Office of Lifelong Faith Formation

Irene Lucas—Director of Lifelong Faith Formation

814-899-6132

ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org

Catechist Organizational Meeting

There will be a brief organizational meeting for volunteer catechists before the start of the religious education year. The meeting will be next **Sunday, Aug. 26 at 9:45-10:45** in the Conference Room.

Catechists Needed

The start of religious education is only 6 weeks away. It is time to begin praying about God's call to become involved in the religious education ministry. For the coming academic year, we need a Jr. High catechist (12:00-1:15 Sunday afternoon), several Confirmation Home Session leaders for Gr. 9 (time of choosing) and a Sunday morning general aide (9:15-10:45). We also need adults willing to supervise Klein students who arrive half an hour prior to the start of class (3:15-3:50 Tuesday afternoon). All volunteers who work with youth must provide current background checks and view an on-line training for child safety. Training for the ministry of catechist will be provided. If you would like more information, contact **Irene Lucas @ 899-6132**.

Religious Education Classes Begin September 4 at Our Lady of Mercy.

Important Parent Meetings:

As the year of religious education kicks off at Our Lady of Mercy, there are a number of important parent meetings:

Sept. 5 @ 6:00 – Gr. 9 Parent & Candidate Mtg

Sept. 6 @ 6:00 – Gr. 11 Parent & Candidate Mtg

Sept. 9 @ 9:30 – Gr. K-2 Mtg

Sept. 9 @ 12:15 – Gr 7/8 Mtg

Gr. K-2 Sunday Morning RE Ministry will begin the year with a Parent/Child event.

Parents are asked to accompany their child to religious education on the first day of class, **Sept 9**. We will gather in Sperry Hall for a shared activity. After that, children will meet their teachers and go to class while parents will remain in Sperry Hall for a Parent Meeting. Siblings are welcome to share in this event.

Religious Education Registration

All new and returning youth planning to participate in the coming year of religious education classes at OLM must be registered prior to the start of class. Registration is accomplished by updating the contact information and a parent signature. If you have not yet registered your child and anticipate that s/he will be involved in the faith formation ministry, please stop by the Office of Lifelong Faith Formation during normal working hours. The process takes only a couple of minutes.

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