

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

September 2, 2018



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.	09/03	Labor Day	Parish Office Closed
Tue.	09/04	4:00 p.m.	Religious Education
		7:00 p.m.	Pastoral Council Meeting
		7:30 p.m.	AA
Wed.	09/05	6:00 p.m.	Gr. 9 Parent/Candidate Meeting
Thur.	09/06	6:00 p.m.	Gr. 11 Parent/Candidate Meeting
		6:45 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Fri.	09/07	1:30 p.m.	Legion of Mary
Sat.	09/08	10:00 a.m.	AA Meeting
		4:30 p.m.	Sacrament of Penance
Sun.	09/09	Outreach Ministries Celebration	
		9:30 a.m.	Religious Ed K-2
		12:00 p.m.	Religious Ed Gr. 7 & 8
		12:15 p.m.	Gr. 7 & 8 Parent Meeting

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

IN LOVING MEMORY

We remember **Larry Rogers**,
husband of Carol Rogers. Please
keep him and his family in your
prayers.



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**.

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon.	09/03	9:00 a.m.	
Tue.	09/04	8:30 a.m.	Michael Nagosky & Family (Family)
Wed.	09/05	8:30 a.m.	Leona Stankiewicz (Loretta Lipinski)
Thur.	09/06	8:30 a.m.	Sarah Noyer (Thursday Lady Painters)
Fri.	09/07	8:30 a.m.	
Sat.	09/08	8:30 a.m.	Francis Matusiak (James Walczak)
		6:00 p.m.	Diana Curtis (Whitney Family)
Sun.	09/09	8:30 a.m.	The People of Our Lady of Mercy
		11:00 a.m.	Lewis Peters (Carole Peters)

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Mon.	09/03	1 Cor 2:1-5	/ Luke 4:16-30
Tue.	09/04	1 Cor 2:10-16	/ Luke 4:31-37
Wed.	09/05	1 Cor 3:1-9	/ Luke 4:38-44
Thur.	09/06	1 Cor 3:18-23	/ Luke 5:1-11
Fri.	09/07	1 Cor 4:1-5	/ Luke 5:33-39
Sat.	09/08	Mi 5:1-4 or Rom 8:28-30	/ Matthew 1:1-16 or 1:18-23
Sun.	09/09	Is 35:4-7 / Jas 2:1-5 / Mark 7:31-37	

We celebrate the **Outreach Ministries** on Sept 8 & 9

These include:

Casserole Club
Cursillo Parish Coordinator
Dresses for Missions
Ella Cochran Food Pantry
Sister Parish Committee
Social Justice Committee
Praying for the Parish



On this weekend, please wear **INDIGO (dark blue)** if you are in one of these ministries. There will be an opportunity to learn more about each of these ministries and sign-up if the spirit is drawing you to participate in a ministry.

Sunday Morning *C*A*F*E*

Our first Sunday Morning CAFÉ of the season will take place on **Sept. 16 at 9:45 am** in the Worship Space. In *Prayerful, Welcoming and Nurturing Environment: The Liturgical Design of OLM*, Brandon Vogt will explain how the architecture, furnishings and works of art of our current worship space was inspired by the process of liturgical design.

THIS SUNDAY'S REFLECTION

Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23



The Ten Commandments that God gave to Moses on Mount Sinai contained statutes and ordinances that the people of God were required to observe.

These were not ten choices to obey or disregard as they chose. The people were not to add or subtract from the divine word. If God's people obeyed God's commands, everyone would recognize God's wisdom.

James asks us to welcome God's word as a perfect gift from above. We must have the humility to know that God's wisdom surpasses our own limited intelligence. God's word is life-giving; it has the power to save us. But simply hearing God's word is not enough; we must allow it to take root in our lives so that we can act on what we hear. We are deceiving ourselves if we fail to obey God's commands.

Jesus echoes the words of the prophet Isaiah 29:13, "This people honors me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me" (Mk7:6). Jesus summons us to ignore those who obscure the will of God with their human traditions and listen to his voice. Murder, greed, envy, deceit, and lust are all arrogant blasphemies against God's word. Jesus commands: "Hear me, all of you, and understand".

For Reflection: Do I merely hear God's word, or do I truly listen and then act on it?



Social Justice Committee News

Poverty

Last year, Pope Francis instituted the World Day of the Poor. In so doing, he termed it a call "to make a serious examination of conscience in order to understand if we are really capable of hearing them." This year it will be commemorated on Sunday, November 18.

In responding to this challenge, we can participate in local anti-poverty efforts. Within our own parish, we can volunteer or donate to the Food Pantry. In the Erie community, there are many opportunities such as supporting or volunteering with the Emma's Soup Kitchen, St Martin's Center, Catholic Charities, Second Harvest Food Bank, Homeless Shelters, and the many programs run by the Sisters of St. Joseph, the Benedictine Sisters of Erie, and the Sisters of Mercy.

eriercd.org provides information regarding services and charities available in the Erie Diocese. You can also search VolunteerMatch.org will help to find other local opportunities to help those in need.

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.

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**.



Baptismal Preparation Session

Our next session for parents and godparents will be **Sunday, Oct. 21 at 12:15** in the Conference Room. If you have or are expecting a baby and hope to celebrate baptism with the child in the next 6 months, you need to attend a preparation session. To register for this class, call the **Parish Office at 899-5342**.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Offertory for the weekend of **August 26, 2018**

Envelopes sent:	392	
Envelopes returned:	114	\$3,198.00
Faith Direct Deposits:	118	\$3,122.00
Loose Change:		\$ 219.00
TOTAL OFFERTORY:		\$6,539.00

Catholic Education Collection

The 2018 Catholic Education Collection will take place on **September 15-16**. This important collection supports lifelong faith formation for all generations throughout our diocese. Please give generously and know that half of what you give will remain here at Our Lady of Mercy to support our own religious education and faith formation programs.

Knights of Columbus Family Communion Breakfast

Join us on **Sunday, September 9th** following 8:30 a.m. Mass at Blessed Sacrament, 1626 West 26th Street, for a family Communion Breakfast. Our featured speaker is Phil Scrimenti "Journey of Faith" Adult tickets (ages 13 & up) are \$10 and include scrambled eggs, sausage, fresh fruit and a danish with your choice of coffee, orange juice or milk. Children's tickets (ages 6-12) cost \$5 and include: french toast, fresh fruit and a danish with a choice of orange juice or milk. Tickets are available at the Blessed Sacrament parish office on Monday - Friday from 8:00a.m. - 4:00p.m.

NOVA- A Remarriage Preparation Program

NOVA is designed specifically for couples planning remarriage in the Catholic Church. Topics include blending families, expectations, legal issues and others. Pre-registration is required. **Call The Family Life Office at 814-824-1261** to register. The next NOVA is scheduled for Saturday, **October 6th** in Erie.

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. On **Sept. 19**, we will gather at the home of Irene Lucas 1019 Bartlett Rd. to discuss Eighty Days: Nellie Bly and Elizabeth Bisland's History Making Race Around the World by Matthew Goodman. For those who want to read ahead, our October book will be The Rent Collector by Camron Wright.



Counseling Available



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

Employment Opportunity

Mount Saint Benedict Monastery is currently recruiting experienced nurse aides, personal care assistants interested in full time, part time or casual hours in our health care infirmary. These positions involve providing physical care and supervision to a group of Sisters in a faith focused community setting. Shift work is required and previous nursing home or assisted living experience is preferred. If you are interested in learning more about these employment opportunities, please contact Mary Rita Groucutt RN at 814-899-0641, ext 2601 or email Groucutt@mtstbenedict.org.



CHILD PROTECTION AND CREATING SAFE ENVIRONMENTS

Diocesan Child Protection Policies

The Diocese of Erie, along with all dioceses of the United States, have policies and procedures in place to address the national problem of child abuse and to aid in creating safe environments. The diocese is committed to on-going screening and training of paid or volunteer persons who have regular contact with our children and youth under the age of 18. It is also committed to the yearly inservicing and training of our children, youth and parents regarding touching-safety and safe environments. To see what the Diocese of Erie is doing to help create safe environments, check out <http://www.eriecd.org/protectyouth.htm>

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.



Free Food Box Program for Qualifying Seniors

The Second Harvest Food Bank of Northwest Pennsylvania invites all seniors who are 60 years of age or older and meet certain income requirements to register to receive a FREE senior food box. The Second Harvest Senior Box Program provides FREE nutritious food once a month to supplement a recipient's current grocery needs. To qualify, you must be a Pennsylvania resident, 60 years of age or older and have a gross household monthly income at or below the following:

<u>Household Size</u>	<u>Monthly Income</u>
1	\$1,316
2	\$1,784

Each Additional Person—Add \$468 for each person
For more information about the Senior Box Program, please contact **Sheilah Dauson at the Second Harvest Food Bank at 814-459-3663 x111**.

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 the 2nd and 4th Wednesday mornings

at 9:30 under the skylight in the classroom area. All are welcome. Bring a friend. There is no cost. Our next session is **Sept. 12**.

#ThinkAboutItOLM

The "Think About It" statement for the week of September 2, 2018 is:

My wish for the 2018/2019 school year is (your answer here).

Don't forget to add **#ThinkAboutItOLM** to the end of your social media post so we can all stay connected.



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 – Grade 9 Parent & Candidate Mtg
Sept. 6 @ 6:00 – Gr. 11 Parent & Candidate Mtg
Sept. 9 @ 9:30 – Gr. K-2 Mtg Parent Mtg
Sept. 9 @ 12:15 – Gr 7/8 Mtg Parent Mtg

Catechists Needed

The start of religious education is only 1 week 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 at 899-6132**.



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.



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.

Children's Liturgy of the Word

There has been a request to have Children's Liturgy of the Word at the 8:30 Mass. We can only make this possible if we have 4 volunteer leaders willing to be on a rotating schedule. If you are interested in being part of this ministry at the 8:30 Mass, contact **Irene to learn more at 899-6132 or ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org**



September 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 8:30 & 11:00 AM MASS Casserole Club DROP OFF Monthly Food Pantry Collection 9:30 AM Healing Ministry	3 Labor Day Parish Office Closed 9:00 AM Mass	4 8:30 AM Mass 3:00 PM Rel. Ed Gym & Sperry Hall 4:00 PM Rel. Ed. Gr. 3-6 7:00 PM Pastoral Council Meeting 7:30 PM AA	5 8:30 AM Mass 6:00 PM Gr. 9 Parent/Candidate Meeting	6 8:30 AM Mass 6:00 PM Gr. 11 parent/Candidate Meeting 6:45 PM Choir Rehearsal	7 8:30 AM Mass 1:30 PM Legion of Mary	8 8:30 AM Mass 10:00 AM AA 4:30 PM Sacrament of Penance 6:00 PM MASS
9 8:30 & 11:00 AM MASS Outreach Ministries Celebration 9:30 AM Rel. Ed Gr. K-2 12:00 PM Rel. Ed. Gr. 7 & 8 12:15 PM Gr. 7 & 8 Parent Meeting	10 8:30 AM Mass 6:30 PM Fall PF & Core Team Kickoff - Potluck - Sperry Hall	11 8:30 AM Mass 2:00 PM Prayer Shawl 4:00 PM Rel. Ed. Gr. 3-6 5:30 PM Children's Choir 7:30 PM AA	12 8:30 AM Mass 6:30 PM AGIFT Meeting 7:00 PM Fruit of the Vine (SCC) - CR 7:00 PM Knights of Columbus	13 8:30 AM Mass 6:00 PM Prayer Shawl 6:45 PM Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM Tech Committee Mtg.	14 8:30 AM Mass 1:30 PM Legion of Mary	15 SCC Sign-Up Weekend 6 pm 8:30 AM Mass 10:00 AM AA 4:30 PM Sacrament of Penance 6:00 PM MASS
16 8:30 & 11:00 AM MASS SCC Sign-Up Weekend 8:30 am & 11 am 8:00 AM Pre Cana 9:30 AM CAFE Presentation: Liturgical Design 9:30 AM Healing Ministry 9:30 AM Rel. Ed Gr. K-2 12:00 PM Rel. Ed. Gr. 7 & 8	17 8:30 AM Mass 7:00 PM Grief Support Group	18 8:30 AM Mass 2:00 PM Prayer Shawl 4:00 PM Rel. Ed. Gr. 3-6 5:30 PM Children's Choir 7:00 PM Core Team Mtg. 7:00 PM LFF Mtg. 7:30 PM AA	19 8:30 AM Food Pantry Distribution 8:30 AM Mass 7:00 PM OLM BOOK GROUP	20 8:30 AM Mass 3:00 PM Social Justice Committee Mtg. 6:00 PM Prayer Shawl 6:45 PM Choir Rehearsal	21 8:30 AM Mass 12:00 PM Dance-Set Up 1:30 PM Legion of Mary	22 8:30 AM Mass 10:00 AM AA 6:00 PM NO MASS - only one Mass this weekend 7:00 PM 2nd Annual Dance with The Groove
23 FEAST OF OUR LADY OF MERCY First Day of Autumn 10:30 AM FEAST DAY MASS - only one Mass this weekend	24 8:30 AM Mass	25 8:30 AM Mass 2:00 PM Prayer Shawl 4:00 PM Rel. Ed. Gr. 3-6 5:30 PM Children's Choir 6:00 PM Sister Parish Mtg. 7:30 PM AA	26 8:30 AM Mass 7:00 PM Fruit of the Vine (SCC)	27 8:30 AM Mass 5:00 PM Men's Night Out 6:00 PM Prayer Shawl 6:45 PM Choir Rehearsal	28 8:30 AM Mass 1:30 PM Legion of Mary	29 8:30 AM Cub Scout Lion Event 8:30 AM Mass 10:00 AM AA 4:30 PM Sacrament of Penance 6:00 PM MASS
30 8:30 & 11:00 AM MASS 9:30 AM Rel. Ed Gr. K-2 12:00 PM Gr. 7 & 8 Youth Event 12:15 PM Gr. 12 Interviews	1 8:30 AM Mass 7:00 PM Pastoral Facilitator Meeting	2 8:30 AM Mass 2:00 PM Prayer Shawl 4:00 PM Rel. Ed. Gr. 3-6 5:30 PM Children's Choir 7:00 PM Pastoral Council Meeting 7:30 PM AA	3 8:30 AM Mass	4 8:30 AM Mass 6:00 PM Prayer Shawl 6:45 PM Choir Rehearsal	5 8:30 AM Mass 1:30 PM Legion of Mary	6 8:30 AM Mass 10:00 AM AA 4:30 PM Sacrament of Penance 6:00 PM MASS

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