

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

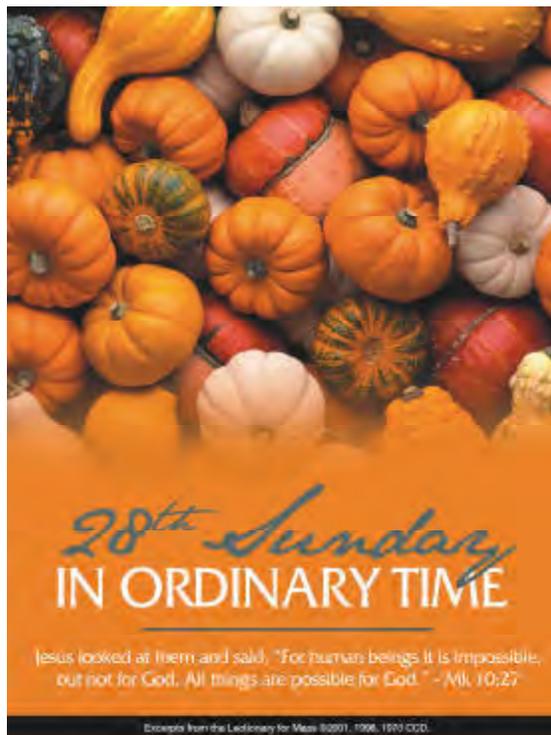
Parish Office: 814-899-5342

Office of Lifelong Faith Formation: 814-899-6132

Fax: 814-898-3306

Email: info@ourladyofmercychurch.org

October 14, 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. 10/15	7:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Grief Support Group Living the Liturgy Series
Tue. 10/16	9:30 a.m. 1:30 p.m. 2:00 p.m. 4:00 p.m. 5:30 p.m. 5:30 p.m.	Steel Magnolias SCC Legion of Mary Prayer Shawl Religious Ed. Gr. 3-6 Children's Choir Social Media Committee
	7:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Core Team Meeting Finance Council Lifelong Faith Formation Meeting
Wed. 10/17	7:30 p.m. 8.30 a.m.	AA Meeting Food Pantry Distribution
	10:00 a.m. 1:00 p.m.	Parish Counselor Diamonds in the Rough SCC
Thur. 10/18	7:00 p.m. 9:00 a.m. 3:00 p.m.	OLM Book Group Painting Class Social Justice Committee Meeting
	6:00 p.m. 6:45 p.m.	Prayer Shawl Choir Rehearsal
Fri. 10/19		
Sat. 10/20	10:00 a.m.	AA Meeting
	4:30 p.m.	Sacrament of Penance
Sun. 10/21	9:30 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 12:00 p.m. 12:00 p.m. 1:30 p.m.	K-2 Religious Ed. Healing Ministry 7 & 8 Gr. Religious Ed. Baptismal Prep Class Gr. 12 Confirmation Practice

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon. 10/15	8:30 a.m.	Joan Bowers <i>(Jim & Carol Perrotto)</i>
Tue. 10/16	8:30 a.m.	Paula Hidalgo <i>(Ann Bannon)</i>
Wed. 10/17	8:30 a.m.	Deceased members of the Cain Family
Thur. 10/18	8:30 a.m.	Casimir & Sofia Haraburda <i>(John & Irene Abbate)</i>
Fri. 10/19	8:30 a.m.	Sister Adrienne & Sister Aloysius <i>(Extein Family)</i>
Sat. 10/20	8:30 a.m.	Victor Nieset <i>(Fruit of the Vine)</i>
	6:00 p.m.	Helen Kaschak <i>(Chris & Dave & Family)</i>
Sun. 10/21	8:30 a.m.	Anna Mae Passerotti <i>(Jim & Sharon Hedlund)</i>
	11:00 a.m.	The People of OLM

In Loving Memory

We remember: **William Miller**, father of Sally Donikowski; and **Emma Royer**, mother of Sue Haynes and Michael Royer. Please keep them and their families in your prayers.

Liturgy is Life

‘Liturgy is Life’, a four-week interactive, educational, and spiritual look at the Mass begins TOMORROW evening, Monday, October 8 at 7p.m. in the chapel. Please consider attending this experience, presented by Brandon Vogt. Tomorrow’s presentation is “Liturgy of the Word”.

Special Thank You

Thank You to all of the ladies on the Funeral Dinners Ministry, Father Ritchie, Brandon and the rest of the staff at Our Lady of Mercy and to the Parish Community that surrounded us with love and prayers in our most difficult time. We are so grateful for all of you and your kindness.
-The Family of Denny Smith



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**.



SCRIPTURE READINGS

Mon. 10/15	Gal 4:22-24, 26-27, 31-5:1/ Luke 11:29-32
Tue. 10/16	Gal 5:1-6 / Luke 11:37-41
Wed. 10/17	Gal 5:18-25 / Luke 11:42-46
Thur. 10/18	2 Tm 4:10-17 / Luke 10:1-9
Fri. 10/19	Eph 1:11-14 / Luke 12:1-7
Sat. 10/20	Eph 1:15-23 / Luke 12:8-12
Sun. 10/21	Is 53:10-11/Heb 4:14-16/ Mark 10:35-45

THIS SUNDAY'S REFLECTION



Mark 10:17-30

We pray for wisdom to be one with God’s will, yet our hearts are divided by our attraction to things that lure us away from God. God’s word is like a two-edged sword that penetrates our very souls, revealing the vile and the virtuous in our thoughts and actions. God’s surgery is not meant to harm us but to heal us, to remove what is corrupt so that God’s remedy can be poured into our beings. The psalmist implores, “Fill us with your love, O Lord, and we will sing for joy!”

If we follow the commands of God’s life-giving prescription, we will find what we are looking for. The commandments are not meant to inhibit us but to offer us freedom and wholeness. But we wonder if there isn’t something else we can do?

Something easier? Cheaper? Faster? Jesus knows full well how indecisive we are in the simplest commitments. We complain and sadly walk away when asked to share what we have. “By human effort, it is impossible,” Jesus assures us that with God all things are possible. No matter how much we give up for the sake of God’s reign, God cannot be outdone in generosity. The kingdom is ours.

For Reflection: *Have I listened to God’s word? Do I try to obey what God tells me?*



Social Justice Committee

Nuns on the Bus Rally

NETWORK's Nuns on the Bus Tour is coming to Erie! Join the rally Monday, Oct. 22 at 2:00 in Perry Square Park. Who we elect matters. NETWORK's Nuns on the Bus is on the road again— for the first time in two years — to hold members of Congress accountable for their votes on the 2017 Tax Law and the many attempts to repeal the Affordable Care Act.

QUESTION OF THE WEEK WINNER

The Question-of-the-Week Winner for the week of Oct. 2 was Lilly Zielinski, Gr. 4, who knew that Elizabeth, the cousin of Mary, said "Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb." We now pray these words when we say the "Hail Mary".



NEW! Social Media Committee

Have you ever wanted to join a ministry, but felt more comfortable being "behind the scenes"? This is the perfect opportunity for you! OLM has formed a new committee focused on Social Media. The goal of the Social Media Committee is to bring the "social" aspect into our already established Social Media pages.

We will be working with Facebook and Twitter and would like to establish a presence on Instagram and YouTube as well. If you feel like you could contribute to the parish through this new ministry, please call **Katie or Irene in the Parish Office** for more information, or come to our first meeting on **Tuesday October 16th, at 5:30 pm** in the library.

Ministry Recommitment and New Ministry Sign-Ups

Current Ministry members, please take the time to verify the Ministries you are active in. If you are interested in signing up for a new ministry, please see the display table in the Gathering Space for an information brochure and sign-up sheet. The following Ministries are currently looking for new members: Social Justice, Sister Parish, Tech Committee, AGIFT and Lifelong Faith Formation.



Day of Reflection

There will be a special Day of Reflection for all adults in the parish, especially those in ministries of leadership. This day of reflection will take place on **Saturday, Nov. 3 from 9:00-1:00**. Dr. Eric Dart of Gannon Univ., will challenge and inspire us to fulfill Christ's Great Commission, "Go and make disciples of all people". If you plan to participate, please contact **Irene Lucas at 899-6132** or ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org by **Oct. 30** so that we can plan lunch.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Offertory for the weekend of **October 7, 2018**

Envelopes sent:	392	
Envelopes returned:	102	\$4,344.65
Faith Direct Deposits:	118	\$3,113.00
Loose Change:		\$ 220.00
TOTAL OFFERTORY:		\$7,677.65

OLM Day of Service

OLM Day of Service: Our Lady of Mercy is organizing a day to assist the elderly and/or disabled in our parish to complete their yard work in preparation for winter. If you are or you know a parishioner in need of help raking, putting away the lawn furniture, pulling out annuals, etc., please **contact Irene at 899-6132** with name, address and description of the work that needs to be done. Our Service Day will be **Saturday, Nov. 10 from 9:00-noon**.

Volunteers for the OLM Day of Service

OLM is a family and families help one another. On **Saturday, Nov. 10**, we are organizing teams of parishioners to assist the elderly or disabled in the parish to complete their yard work. Beginning next weekend, there will be sign up lists for those willing to volunteer. Please consider giving one morning to help those in our community who need a hand.



Book Group

Longer autumn nights and cooler, wetter autumn days are the perfect excuse to get lost in a good book. And a good book is made even better by sharing it with friends. All are invited to join us on **Wednesday, Oct. 17** at the home of Irene Lucas, 1019 Bartlett Rd., to discuss The Rent Collector by Camron Wright. Want to read ahead? Our November book will be Rose Kennedy: The Life and Times of a Political Matriarch by Barbara Perry.



Grief Support

On **Monday, October 15 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.

For Mercy Sake Deadline

The deadline to submit items for the November issue of For Mercy Sake is **October 21**.

Parking at OLM

Some of our older parishioners are looking for parking spaces closer to the door, especially for the 6pm Saturday Mass and the 11AM Sunday Mass. Although they are not officially listed as handicapped, they are unable to walk great distances. If you can walk easily, please consider parking a little further away from the doors to leave a few non-handicapped spaces open for our older parishioners who come just before Mass. This would be particularly helpful especially during the winter months.

Parish Counselor Available

Paula DeDionisio is available for one on one counseling for anyone who is in need. You can reach **Paula at 814-722-8805**. Paula will be at the parish each **Wednesday from 10am to 1pm** to receive walk ins. On **Wednesday Oct. 24** the Family Grace Support Group will begin. This is for people who have a family member diagnosed with a Mental Illness. For questions call Paula or Donna Clark in the parish office.



#ThinkAboutItOLM

This week's Social Media "Think About It" is:
[Do you prefer pumpkin painting or pumpkin carving?](#)

Due to privacy settings on Facebook, we are unable to see some of your #ThinkAboutItOLM posts. Please continue to share on your personal Social Media page, but we are now asking that you post your response directly to the #ThinkAboutItOLM Our Lady of Mercy Facebook post too. This way we can all stay connected!

Cathedral Prep's Open House

Open house will be on **Sunday, October 21st from 12:00-3:00 p.m.** Guided tours of the school will include classroom demonstrations, a look at our modern science labs and classrooms, and will highlight our STEM, Robotics, 3-D Printing and Technology programs. Cathedral Prep will have applications available and there is no fee to apply. Students in attendance will be entered in a drawing for discounts on tuition. Cathedral Prep is located at 225 West 9th Street, Erie PA, 16501. If you have any questions please call 453-7737, ext. 3.

Fall Luncheon and Auction

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Ladies' Guild will hold its Annual Fall Luncheon and Auction on **Sunday, October 21 from 2-5 pm** at Scheffner Hall, 1531 East Grandview Blvd. Tickets are \$7.00 in advance (not guaranteed at the door), and include lunch and a Fashion Show courtesy of Boscov's. Also on tap - a HUGE Chinese Auction, Dessert Auction, Vera Bradley and Gift Card raffles, and a 50/50 drawing. Reserve a table for your group today! For tickets or more information, call or text Michele at (814) 602-8107.

Special need of the Food Pantry



One of our families of five has three members who are **gluten free**. Because we do not get large amounts of gluten free food, we try to give this family a gift card. If you are able, please donate a gift card to Aldi's to the food pantry.

ANNULMENT INFORMATION SESSIONS

The Office of the Tribunal and Matrimonial Concerns is once again taking our services on the road and offering information sessions for persons in need of an annulment. We invite anyone in need of an annulment to consider attending a meeting on **October 24, 2018**, at Sacred Heart church, Erie. All sessions will begin at 6:30 PM and will include a presentation on the annulment process and the opportunity to meet one-on-one with members of the tribunal staff to answer individual questions. As always, please also feel free to **contact the tribunal office directly (814-824-1140)** with any questions.

Making a Connection: The Caregiver Journey

If you are a primary provider of care and support for a loved one with dementia please join us for our caregiver conference on **Thursday Nov 15th, 2018 8:45am-2:30pm** at the Sheraton Erie Bayfront Hotel on 55 W Bay Rd Drive, Erie, PA 16507. This event is FREE and will leave you feeling empowered with practical tools for caregiving! Questions? **Contact Debbie at 814-456-9200 x5101. To register please visit:**
<https://conta.cc/2N0IZHu>.

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.



Grade 4, 5 & 6 Retreat

There will be a special retreat for all youth in Grade 4, 5 & 6 religious education class on **Tuesday, Oct. 23**. The retreat will begin when the children arrive on the school bus and will conclude at 7:00 PM. Dinner will be served.

Confirmation Liturgy

Our Lady of Mercy will celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation at the **11:00 Mass on Oct. 28**. Please celebrate with the 21 young people who will be confirmed that day. If you have not yet sent your Prayer Pal a note of support and prayer, please do so in the coming weeks.

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 Oct. 24**.



Baptismal Preparation Session



Baptismal Preparation Session: Our next session for parents and godparents will be **next 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**.

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**.

Autumn Scripture Study

Autumn Scripture Study: All are invited to a 4 week Scripture Study on 1 Samuel **beginning Nov. 1**. The sessions will be held **Thursday mornings from 9:00-10:30** in the Conference Room. Nov. 1 - Samuel, Nov. 8 - Saul, Nov. 15 - David, Nov. 29 - David. There are no books to purchase, no need to register. All are welcome.



Family Faith Event

Families in the Sunday Morning religious education class are reminded that there is a special session for the entire family on **Nov. 4**. Parents, and the entire family, is asked to join their child for a time of faith formation. Activities at these Family Faith Events are accomplished between parent and child, so **no child should come to class alone on Nov. 4**. We will gather in Sperry Hall.



World Mission Sunday October 20 & 21

Infectious Love

The Holy Father expresses satisfaction that through numerous ecclesial groups such as parishes, associations, movements, and religious communities, young people find in missionary volunteer work a way of serving the “least” of our brothers and sisters, promoting human dignity and witnessing to the joy of love and of being Christian. “No one is so poor as to be unable to give what they have, but first and foremost what they are,” the Pope says.

Transmitting Faith

All Christians by Baptism, the Pope recalls, have received *the mission to bring the Gospel to everyone*. Young people too are part of that great stream of witnesses, in which elder persons with their wisdom and experience become a witness and encouragement to the young. This way, he says, the mission of the Church bridges the generations bringing about unity.

Gift of Self

“For those who stand by Jesus,” the Pope continues, “evil is an incentive to ever greater love,” because “from the cross of Jesus we learn the divine logic of self-sacrifice as a proclamation of the Gospel for the life of the world. The Pope thus invites young people to ask themselves, “What would Christ do if he were in my place?”

I am a Mission

The Pope says, “every man and woman is a mission.” “To be attracted and to be sent are two movements” of the heart that “hold out promise for our future and give direction to our lives.”

World Mission Sunday, our annual worldwide Eucharistic celebration for the Missions and missionaries of the world, will be on October 22. This collection on the next-to-last Sunday in October is a unique, global effort for the entire Church to provide for the building up of over one thousand local churches in Asia and Africa, the Pacific Islands, and parts of Latin America and Europe. Through the work of these churches, and their witness to Christ, the poor receive practical help and experience God’s love and mercy, His hope and peace.



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