

# 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.

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

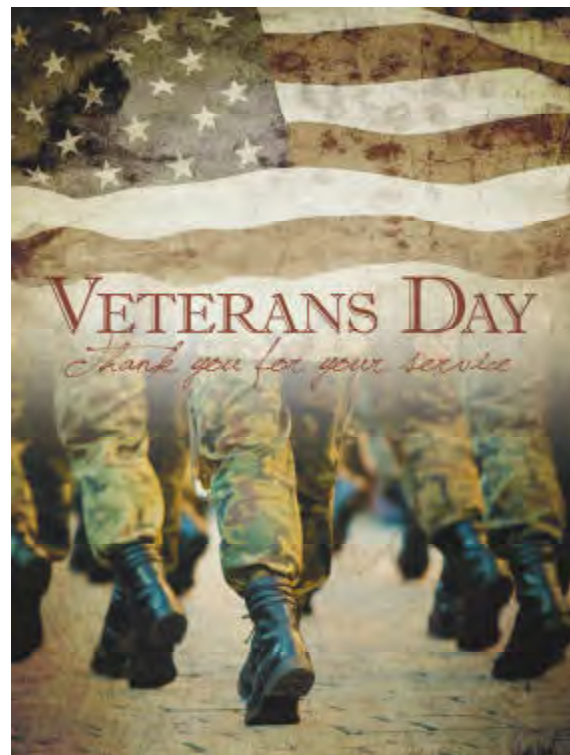
Parish Office: 814-899-5342

Office of Lifelong Faith Formation: 814-899-6132

Fax: 814-898-3306

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

November 11, 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](http://ourladyofmercychurch.org/calendar)

<b>Mon. 11/12</b>	9:00 a.m.	Newsletter Mailing
<b>Tue. 11/13</b>	9:30 a.m.	Steel Magnolias SCC
	9:30 a.m.	Story Time
	1:30 p.m.	Legion of Mary
	2:00 p.m.	Prayer Shawl
	4:00 p.m.	Religious Ed. Gr. 3-6
	5:30 p.m.	Children's Choir
	6:30 p.m.	Social Media
	7:30 p.m.	AA Meeting
<b>Wed. 11/14</b>	1:00 p.m.	Diamonds in the Rough SCC
	6:30 p.m.	AGIFT
	7:00 p.m.	Family Grace Support Group
	7:00 p.m.	Knights of Columbus
<b>Thur. 11/15</b>	9:00 a.m.	Autumn Scripture Study
	9:00 a.m.	Painting Class
	6:00 p.m.	Prayer Shawl
	6:45 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
<b>Fri. 11/16</b>		
<b>Sat. 11/17</b>		<b>Anointing of the Sick-All Masses</b>
	10:00 a.m.	AA Meeting
	4:30 p.m.	Sacrament of Penance
<b>Sun. 11/18</b>		<b>Anointing of the Sick-All Masses</b>
	9:30 a.m.	Gr. K-2 Religious Ed.
	9:30 a.m.	Healing Ministry
	12:00 p.m.	Gr. 7 & 8 Youth Event

## MASS INTENTIONS

<b>Mon. 11/12</b>	8:30 a.m.	<b>Larry Rogers</b> (Family)
<b>Tue. 11/13</b>	8:30 a.m.	<b>Don Hatheway</b> (Fran Hatheway)
<b>Wed. 11/14</b>	8:30 a.m.	<b>Leona Stankiewicz</b> (Marty Eisert)
<b>Thur. 11/15</b>	8:30 a.m.	<b>Bob Jones</b> (Barb Jones)
<b>Fri. 11/16</b>	8:30 a.m.	<b>Peggy Badach</b> (The Badach Family)
<b>Sat. 11/17</b>	8:30 a.m.	<b>David Ross</b> (Family)
	6:00 p.m.	<b>Mary Louise Pfadt</b> (The Pfadt Family)
<b>Sun. 11/18</b>	8:30 a.m.	<b>Sophia Moreno</b> (Sue Moreno)
	11:00 a.m.	<b>For the People of OLM</b>

## In Loving Memory

We remember **Stephanie Slomski**, niece of Patty Schofield (Richard); and **Christine Kowalski**, sister of Fran Hatheway. Please keep them and their family in your prayers.



### Mass of Remembrance

The annual Mass of Remembrance is Saturday, December 1st at 10AM. 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.

## THIS SUNDAY'S REFLECTION



**Mark 13:24-32**

Becoming saints of God may seem to be an impossible quest. But giving just one cup of water to another person brings an irrevocable reward. Elijah the prophet asked a poor widow for a cup of water and a bit of bread. It was the middle of a drought, and she and her son were on the verge of starvation, but she obeyed. The prophet calmed her fears; God cannot be outdone in generosity. God secures justice for the oppressed, provides food for the hungry, heals the afflicted, and uplifts those bowed down by adversity.

Jesus contrasted those who served for personal gain with a humble widow who assisted others in gratitude for the little she had. While the rich gave from their surplus wealth, she gave from her sustenance.

Jesus is our model of self-giving. In life he poured himself out through his service to all who were in need. In his death, he offered his own blood in expiation for sin. As high priest in the heavenly sanctuary, Jesus continues to intercede on our behalf.

For Reflection: Do I withhold my resources from those in need? How much am I willing to serve God today?



## OFFICE NEWS

Due to the approaching Holiday Season, all content for the November 25th bulletin needs to be submitted by November 13th. Please email any information to [secretary@ourladyofmercychurch.org](mailto:secretary@ourladyofmercychurch.org).

## 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**.



## SCRIPTURE READINGS

<b>Mon. 11/12</b>	Ti 1:1-9	/ Luke 17:1-6
<b>Tue. 11/13</b>	Ti 2:1-8, 11-14	/ Luke 17:7-10
<b>Wed. 11/14</b>	Ti 3:1-7	/ Luke 17:11-19
<b>Thur. 11/15</b>	Phlm 7-20	/ Luke 17:26-37
<b>Fri. 11/16</b>	2 Jn 4-9	/ Luke 17:26-37
<b>Sat. 11/17</b>	3 Jn 5-8	/ Luke 18:1-8
<b>Sun. 11/18</b>	Dn 12:1-3 / Heb 10:11-14, 18 / Mark 13:24-32	



## Social Justice Committee

### Upcoming Events

The Erie Pro-Life community has three events in January 2019 that provide you an opportunity to speak out on behalf of unborn children and the unalienable right to life.

**PRO-LIFE BREAKFAST** - Saturday, January 12th, 9:00 AM Erie Bayfront Convention Center, reservations are \$17 or \$9 for children 3-12; Featuring Uju Ekeocha, internationally acclaimed Pro-Life speaker and founder and president of Life Africa.

**DC MARCH FOR LIFE** - Friday, January 18th Annual bus trip sponsored by People For Life. \$55 per seat, \$50 if registered by 12/17.

**ERIE MARCH FOR LIFE** - Saturday, January 26th, 11:00 AM. Begins and concludes at Perry Square.

Contact People For Life at: [www.peopleforlife.life](http://www.peopleforlife.life) or **882-1333** for information/reservations. You can also call **Phil Legler at 504-1048** for information.

### QUESTION OF THE WEEK WINNER

The Question-of-the-Week Winner for the week of Oct. 30 was **Coltin Wuerstle, Gr. 4**, who knew that Catholics are obligated to attend Mass on Holy Days of Obligation such as All Saints Day.



### Newsletter Mailing Party

We will be stuffing the newsletter into envelopes at **9:00 AM Monday, Nov. 12**. If you can help for an hour, please contact Irene at **899-6132** or [ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org](mailto:ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org)



### Counseling Notice

Based on directives from the Diocesan Offices we are unable to host private counseling in the parish at this time. We will be putting together a resource so people will have options when seeking counseling. For assistance, please **contact Donna Clark in the parish office**.



### Autumn Scripture Study

Our Scripture Study has begun, but it is not too late to join. On **Nov. 15 from 9:00-10:30**, we will discuss King David. The study will conclude on **Nov. 29** with more of King David.



### FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Offertory for the weekend of **November 4, 2018**

Envelopes sent:	392	
Envelopes returned:	111	\$5,478.65
Faith Direct Deposits:	118	\$3,113.00
Loose Change:		\$ 156.00
<b>TOTAL OFFERTORY:</b>		<b>\$8,747.65</b>

### Advent Family Party



Mark your calendar for **Sunday, Dec. 2 from noon to 2:00 PM** for a time to "Prepare for Christmas in an Old Fashioned Way". Bring a treat that reminds you of Christmases of old. If you have a picture or ornament from your childhood Christmases, please bring it to share. There will be crafts and activities for children, fellowship and memories for adults, and the chance of a surprise guest for all. The event is free and open to everyone.

### Getting Through the Holidays after Losing a Loved One

**Monday November 19 at 7pm.** The first year of holidays can be difficult after losing someone we love because of all the traditions surrounding these events; the absence of our loved one feels more intense. The Grief Support Group offers a special session in November to talk through actions one can take to ease the pain and celebrate our loved one. Questions - **contact Donna Clark in the parish office.**



### A TIME TO HEAL



Are you or someone you know struggling with physical, mental, emotional or spiritual issues? The Healing Ministry of OLM will be offering "A Time to Heal" on **Monday December 3rd at 7 pm** for

anyone who has a need for healing in any area and on any level of their lives. The evening will include prayer, music, laying of hands and quiet reflection and is open to anyone who seeks healing and calm. Bring yourself and feel free to bring a friend.

### 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. Our November book will be Rose Kennedy: The Life and Times of a Political Matriarch by Barbara Perry. Because of the Thanksgiving holiday, we will meet on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of November. Join us **Wednesday, Nov. 28 at 7:00** at the home of Marilyn Garwig 1320 Boyer Rd. In December, we will gather to watch and discuss a movie, so come with suggestions for a good flick to view.



### Prayer Shawls for the Sick



The Prayer Shawl Ministry will be in the Gathering Space following the Anointing of the Sick at all the Masses on the **weekend of November 17-18**. If you have not yet

received a shawl or a prayer square and would like one, please stop at our table following the Mass.



### Do you Shop at GFS?

You can help Our Lady of Mercy accumulate points by telling the cashier to credit the church account. Then our regular shoppers who buy for parish events use those points to pay for the food. If the cashier does not ask you what organization you are with please mention Our Lady of Mercy. Judy Mitchelltree was just able to purchase food using our accumulated points.



### 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.

### 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](mailto:ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org).



### 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/2NOIZHu>.

### 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 4, 11 and 18**. Profits from this fundraiser are applied to the cost of Bibles for the Confirmation classes at Our Lady of Mercy. There are 16 terrific prizes in all. First prize is a 2019 Chevrolet Spark. Other prizes include vacations to Portugal & Spain, a Scandinavian Cruise and trips to California, New England and Las Vegas. Our very own Audrey and Dick Miller won the Southern Sound Tour prize last year. Tickets are \$1 each or a book of 8 for \$7 and will be available in the Gathering Space after all Masses and in the office during the week.



### #ThinkAboutItOLM

This week's Social Media "Think About It" is: Do you prefer "let it snow" or "let it (sun)shine"?

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!

### COMING NEXT WEEK...

A Thanksgiving gift from OLM's Small Christian Communities...A Prayer Cube. 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. There will be 2 different prayer cubes. Collect them both! \*\*Some assembly required.

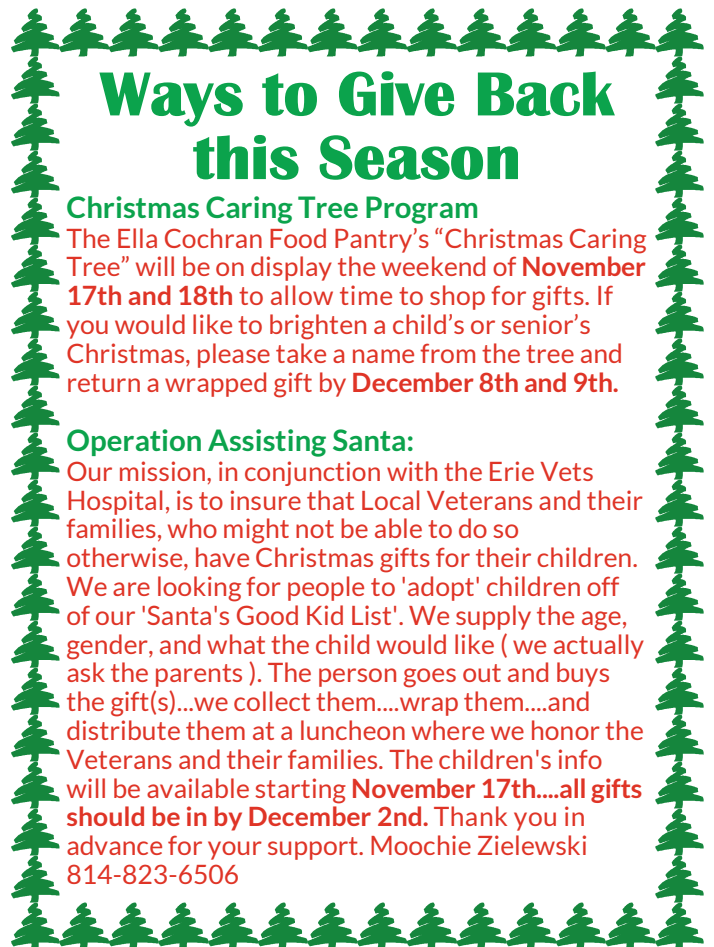


### Coat and Toy Collection November 17/18



We are collecting coats, clothing and gently used toys for the Community Outreach Group on **November 17 and 18**. 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 1 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.


  
**Ways to Give Back this Season**
  
**Christmas Caring Tree Program**
  
 The Ella Cochran Food Pantry's "Christmas Caring Tree" will be on display the weekend of **November 17th and 18th** to allow 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 8th and 9th**.

**Operation Assisting Santa:**
  
 Our mission, in conjunction with the Erie Vets Hospital, is to insure that Local Veterans and their families, who might not be able to do so otherwise, have Christmas gifts for their children. We are looking for people to 'adopt' children off of our 'Santa's Good Kid List'. We supply the age, gender, and what the child would like ( we actually ask the parents ). The person goes out and buys the gift(s)...we collect them....wrap them....and distribute them at a luncheon where we honor the Veterans and their families. The children's info will be available starting **November 17th....all gifts should be in by December 2nd**. Thank you in advance for your support. Mochie Zielewski 814-823-6506

### Smile for Our Lady of Mercy

To link to our Amazon Smile charity listing visit: <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/25-1563277>. If you shop Amazon please consider using Amazon Smile and naming "Our Lady of Mercy - Harborcreek" as your charity.



### Children's Worship Bulletins



Help the young child in your life to engage with the Sunday readings by using the Children's Worship Bulletins which can be found on the bulletin tables. Each weekly 4-page booklet has activities related to the Sunday readings designed for young children.

### Parish Quilt

New parish families are encouraged to decorate a quilt square for our parish quilt that hangs on the back wall of the worship space. You may find a square in the basket on the table next to classroom #1. After you decorate your family square please return it to the parish office.



### 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.

### Hearing Assisted Sound System

If you have difficulty hearing during Mass contact a staff member who can assist you with getting a receiver and ear piece.



### Hospital Visitation

We don't always get accurate reports of who is in the hospital because of the change in policy for the local hospitals. **If you know of a parishioner who is in the hospital please call the parish office to let us know.**



### Domestic Violence Support



Do you know someone who is living through domestic violence? You can help. Call the National Domestic Violence Hotline for resources and support **800-799-SAFE (7233)** {TTY 800-787-3224} or find help on line at [thehotline.org](http://thehotline.org).

### The 58<sup>th</sup> Annual Our Lady of Mount Carmel FEATHER PARTY

On **Saturday, November 17, 2018**, (the Saturday before Thanksgiving) from 6pm to 10pm in OLMC's Scheffner Hall, 1531 East Grandview Blvd (@ Davison Ave.) Admission to the event is FREE. There will be free refreshments, tips, a wine & craft beer booth, fruit basket raffles, and—of course—the opportunity to win a turkey dinner with all the trimmings as well as cash prizes! There will be snack food and munchies available for purchase. Please come and join in the fun and fellowship! For more information, you can visit [www.OLMC-erie.org](http://www.OLMC-erie.org) or call the OLMC Parish Office @ 825-7313.



## CATHOLIC CAMPAIGN FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

On the weekend of November 17-18, a second collection will be taken up in our parishes for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD).

Since 1970, the CCHD has contributed over \$300 million to more than 8,000 low-income led, community-based projects that strengthen families, create jobs, build affordable housing, fight crime, and improve schools and neighborhoods. CCHD requires that projects develop community leadership and participation so that their solutions to poverty will be long-lasting and effective, and so the CCHD's investment in people will help break the cycle of poverty.

All this is only possible with the help of generous Catholics like you. Half of the funds from this collection remain here in the Diocese of Erie to fight poverty in our local communities.

Please help us defend human dignity and show Christ's charity to those in need by giving generously to the second collection for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development.

You and your families remain in my prayer.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

*+Lawrence T. Persico*

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





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