

# 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

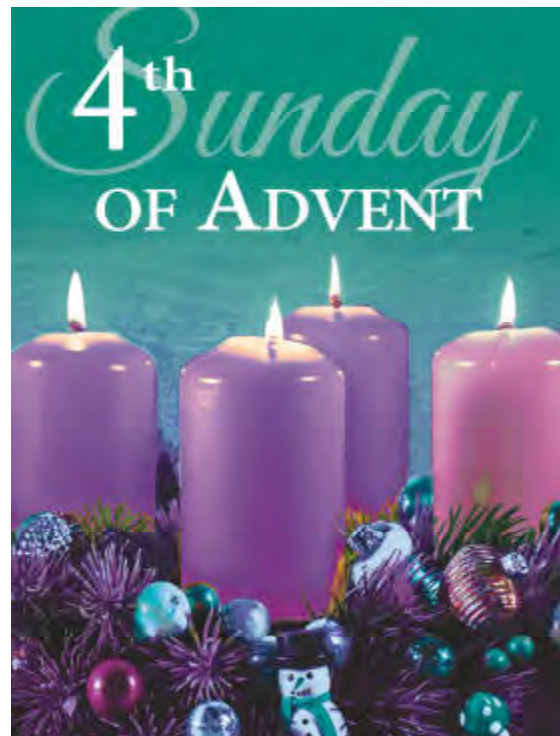
Parish Office: 814-899-5342

Office of Lifelong Faith Formation: 814-899-6132

Fax: 814-898-3306

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

December 23, 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. 12/24</b>	6:00 p.m.	Christmas Eve Mass
	9:20 p.m.	Christmas Music with Choir and Instruments
	10:00 p.m.	Christmas Night Mass
<b>Tue. 12/25</b>		<b><u>Christmas Day</u></b>
	10:00 a.m.	Christmas Day Mass
<b>Wed. 12/26</b>		
<b>Thur. 12/27</b>		
<b>Fri. 12/28</b>		
<b>Sat. 12/29</b>	10:00 a.m.	AA Meeting
	4:30 p.m.	Sacrament of Penance
<b>Sun. 12/30</b>		<b><u>Feast of the Holy Family</u></b>



## MASS INTENTIONS

<b>Mon. 12/24</b>	8:30 a.m.	<b>Joseph Wenzel</b> (Family)
<b>Tue. 12/25</b>	10:00 a.m.	<b>For the People of OLM</b>
<b>Wed. 12/26</b>	8:30 a.m.	
<b>Thur. 12/27</b>	8:30 a.m.	<b>Doris Extein</b> (The Extein Family)
<b>Fri. 12/28</b>	8:30 a.m.	<b>Lewis Peters</b> (Carole Peters)
<b>Sat. 12/29</b>	8:30 a.m.	
	6:00 p.m.	<b>Anna O'Hara May</b> (Barb Jones)
<b>Sun. 12/30</b>	8:30 a.m.	<b>For the People of OLM</b>
	11:00 a.m.	<b>Adam Yurkewicz</b> (The Stephenson Family)

## 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. 12/24</b>	2 Sm 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16	/ Luke 1:67-79
<b>Tue. 12/25</b>	Is 9:1-6 / Ti 2:11-14	/ Luke 2:1-14
<b>Wed. 12/26</b>	Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59	/ Matthew 10:17-22
<b>Thur. 12/27</b>	1 Jn 1:1-4	/ John 20:1-8
<b>Fri. 12/28</b>	1 Jn 1:5-2:2	/ Matthew 2:13-18
<b>Sat. 12/29</b>	1 Jn 2:3-11	/ Luke 2:22-35
<b>Sun. 12/30</b>	Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 / Col 3:12-17	/ Luke 2:41-52

## THIS SUNDAY'S REFLECTION

**LUKE 1:39-45**



Israel longed for a king like David, a mighty warrior who would vanquish the enemy and restore the nation to its former glory. The prophet Micah said that the savior of God's people would not come from Jerusalem, the city of David, but from David's birthplace, the insignificant town of Bethlehem. He would be a humble shepherd to his flock, not ruling by might but by God's strength. "Shepherd of Israel, come and save us," the psalmist entreats. "Show us your face and we shall be saved."

God comes in unexpected ways. God is manifest in shepherds instead of kings; in a village, not a metropolis; and in a simple girl, not a regal queen. Mary is our model of faith and obedience to God's will. Filled with grace through the Holy Spirit, she brings forth her holy child to the world. "Blessed are you among women," we pray, "and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus." In her presence, new life stirs within us and we are filled with joy. We too are blessed because we trust that the Lord's promises to us will be fulfilled.

**For Reflection:** How can I practice the virtue of humility as I was for the Lord? Do I need to exercise the virtue of trust today?



# SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWS

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.

## Study on Prayer

On **Jan. 6**, we will begin an 8-week series on prayer. This study will use video presentation and guided discussion. It will be held in the Conference Room from **9:45-10:45 Sunday mornings** (between the Masses). If you have ever wondered how to recognize the voice of God in prayer, struggled with distractions, wished you could pray with more attention or simply wished you knew how to get started with regular prayer, this study is for you. Both those new to a regular prayer life and those who have been faithful to prayer for years will find this study helpful. The study is free and there is no need to register or to commit to every week.



## Pastoral Council



This year's Pastoral council consists of the following parishioners: Todd Beckes, Maureen Brainard, Darrell Garwig, Nick Heise, Marge LeFaiver, Margy Luniewski, Bill Matrogran, Nathan Matusiak, Nancy Mowery, David Seyboldt, Mary Beth Smith, Katie Stephenson and Dan Szczesny. A recent Diocesan Pastoral Planning session asked us to consider how we as a parish create an atmosphere of welcoming. Also, how we help people to feel like they belong - that they are of value to the community. The parish council choose these topics to study and then formulate goals based on what we can improve in the areas of welcoming and belonging within the parish.

## #ThinkAboutItOLM

This weeks Think About It is...

**What is the best gift you ever gave? What is the best gift you have ever received?**

Please go to the OLM Facebook page, find this weeks #ThinkAboutItOLM post and share your answer in the comment section. Please take the time to share the #ThinkAboutItOLM post to your personal Facebook page as well.

## QUESTION OF THE WEEK WINNER

The Question-of-the-Week Winner for the week of Dec. 9 was **William Lunger**, Gr. 4, who knew that "Emmanuel" means "God With Us".



## OLM Book Group

The OLM Book Group will meet on **Wednesday, Jan. 16, at 7:00 PM** to



discuss Educated by Tara Westover. In February our book will be Doc by Mary Dorea Russell.

## Parish Alive



Make a New Year's resolution to ignite a deeper relationship with God or deepen your connection to the parish. Make a Parish Alive weekend **Feb. 15-16**. This retreat is open to all parish members over the age of

18. It begins with Friday evening supper and ends with Saturday evening Mass. The retreat is free, but registration by **Feb. 1** is required. To register, use the form in the November issue of For Mercy Sake or use the form at the parish website. For more information, contact **Irene Lucas at 899-6132** or [ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org](mailto:ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org).

## Sunday Morning \*C\*A\*F\*E\*

Our next Sunday Morning CAFÉ will be held **Jan. 20 from 9:45-10:45**. Three years ago, Pope Francis wrote the encyclical *On Care For Our Common Home: Laudato Si*. What does this papal document call us to do? What does it mean to live out *Laudato Si*? What does our faith say about our relationship to the created world? Celebrate *Laudato Si* with Secular Franciscans Mary Nelson, OFS and Chris Zurawski, OFS animators with the Global Catholic Climate Movement as we explore some of these ways with short videos, discussion and prayer.





## Jubilee Celebration for Clergy and Religious

The Diocese of Erie is honoring the Clergy and Religious who are celebrating Jubilee Anniversaries. Two of the 50 honorees come from Our Lady of Mercy! Please visit <https://www.eriecd.org/news/jubilee.html> to find our very own, Msgr. Ritchie who celebrated his 50th Anniversary this year and Sister Rosemary O'Brien who celebrated her 60th anniversary! As a Parish, Our Lady of Mercy congratulates them and thanks them for your years of service.



### Cards for some of our Homebound Parishioners



On the bulletin tables, you will find a sheet with the addresses for some parishioners who are unable to make it to mass. They miss the community. If you know any of them please send along a card letting them know you are thinking of them.

### 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.



### Smile for Our Lady of Mercy



To link to our Amazon Smile charity listing visit: [http://smile.amazon.com/ch/25-](http://smile.amazon.com/ch/25-1563277)

**1563277**. If you shop Amazon please consider using Amazon Smile and naming "Our Lady of Mercy - Harborcreek" as your charity.

### 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).

### MEN'S NIGHT OUT

The Men's Night Out Committee and the Knights of Columbus are very excited to announce that the next Men's Night Out event will take place **Wednesday, January 2nd at 6:00pm** in Sperry Hall. Our guest speaker will be President Judge John J. Trucilla! All men of the Parish are welcome as well as anyone you care to bring as a guest. Reservations are encouraged. A free-will offering will be accepted at the door. You can RSVP to **Tim Fuhrman** at [knoyle@yahoo.com](mailto:knoyle@yahoo.com) or text **814-873-5632**. You may also call into the **Church Office at 814-899-5342**. We look forward to seeing you and your friends on January 2nd!



### Overflow Shelter for the Homeless



Our Neighbors' Place is a faith based overflow shelter for the homeless. St. John the Baptist hosts two sessions every year. Parishioners from the Eastside Roman Catholic Churches are the backbone of this shelter. Dates for 2019 are: Session 1: **January 16th thru January 29th** and Session 2: **February 27th thru March 12th**. The shelter is open from 7:00pm to 7:00am daily. We need **fifteen volunteers** each night for three shifts. We need food; breakfast and dinner are served each day, enough to feed 60 people. If you would like to provide food, money or volunteer your time to the shelter, please contact **Mary Hoffman 873-2981** [mymary14@gmail.com](mailto:mymary14@gmail.com) **Mary Ellen Lieb 873-1284** [melieb4@gmail.com](mailto:melieb4@gmail.com) Make checks payable to "St. John the Baptist Outreach." They also accept donations of winter coats, boots, gloves, hats, sweatshirts, sweatpants, and jeans.

### 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.

### 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.



### Diocese Launches Free e-Newsletter



Have you subscribed to the *Diocese of Erie*-news? It is easy to do and it's free. To receive your email edition each week, simply visit [nwpaCatholic.com](http://nwpaCatholic.com), click on the "subscribe" button, and provide a few lines of basic information. Every Monday morning, you will receive headlines and photos with links to diocesan, national and Vatican news. You will also see a tweet sent out from Bishop Lawrence Persico or from the diocese. Sign up today and stay in the know!

# Christmas Mass Schedule

## Monday, December 24th

**6:00 p.m.—Christmas Eve Mass**

*(music by the Children's Choir)*

**9:20 p.m.—Music Selections**

*(Festival Choir and Instruments)*

**10:00 p.m.—Christmas Night Mass**

*(music by Festival Choir and instruments)*

## Tuesday, December 25th

**10:00 a.m.—Christmas Day Mass**





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