

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

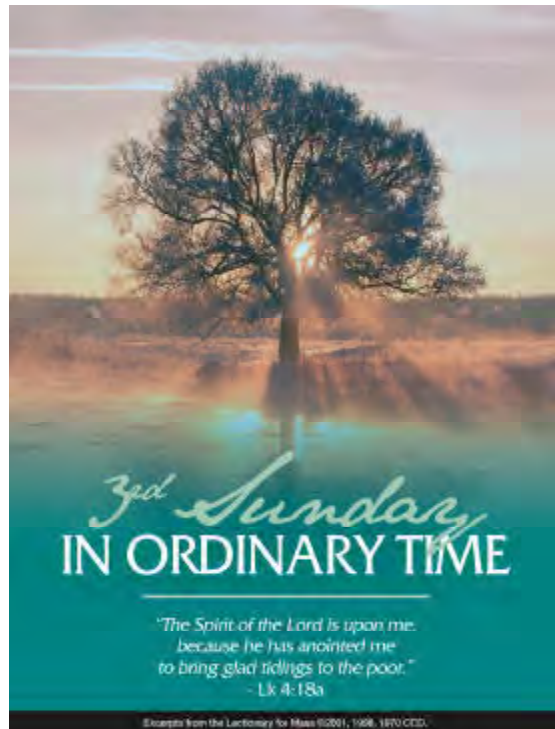
Parish Office: 814-899-5342

Office of Lifelong Faith Formation: 814-899-6132

Fax: 814-898-3306

Email: info@ourladyofmercychurch.org

January 27, 2019



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. 01/28	6:30 p.m.	Fruit of the Vine
Tue. 01/29	9:30 a.m.	Steel Magnolias
	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
	5:30 p.m.	Youth Open Gym
	7:30 p.m.	AA Meeting
Wed. 01/30	1:00 p.m.	Diamonds in the Rough
	7:00 p.m.	Parish Alive Team Meeting
Thur. 01/31	9:00 a.m.	Painting Class
	6:00 p.m.	Prayer Shawl
	6:45 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Fri. 02/01		
Sat. 02/02	10:00 a.m.	AA Meeting
	4:30 p.m.	Sacrament of Penance
Sun. 02/03		Casserole Club Drop Off
		Monthly Food Pantry Collection
	9:30 a.m.	Healing Ministry
	9:30 a.m.	Religious Ed. Gr. K-2
	9:45 a.m.	Study on Prayer
	12:00 p.m.	Religious Ed. Gr. 7&8

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 **Gerri Gallagher**.



FROM THE OFFICE OF RELIGIOUS ED.



First Reconciliation Parent Meeting

There will be a very important parent meeting on **Sunday, Jan. 27 at 9:45** for families with children preparing to celebrate First Reconciliation in March.

Family Faith Event

Families with children in the Sunday morning religious education ministry are reminded that we have a Family Faith Event on **Sunday, Feb. 10**. This event, which runs during the regularly scheduled religious education time slot, is for the entire family. At least one parent or grandparent should accompany children to class that day. The event will be held in Sperry Hall from **9:30-10:45**.

MASS INTENTIONS

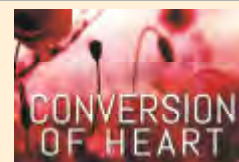
Mon. 01/28	8:30 a.m.	Sam Garwig <i>(Laina Pasquale)</i>
Tue. 01/29	8:30 a.m.	Eleanor Boris <i>(The Extein Family)</i>
Wed. 01/30	8:30 a.m.	Marlene Pirrelo
Thur. 01/31	8:30 a.m.	Marie Wenzel <i>(Family)</i>
Fri. 02/01	8:30 a.m.	
Sat. 02/02	8:30 a.m.	Leo Brooks
	6:00 p.m.	For the People of OLM
Sun. 02/03	8:30 a.m.	Millie Herrmann <i>(Family)</i>
	11:00 a.m.	Sal Frontino <i>(Mary Krebs)</i>

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Mon. 01/28	Heb 9:15, 24-28 / Mark 3:22-30
Tue. 01/29	Heb 10:1-10 / Mark 3:31-35
Wed. 01/30	Heb 10:11-18 / Mark 4:1-20
Thur. 01/31	Heb 10:19-25 / Mark 4:21-25
Fri. 02/01	Heb 10:32-39 / Mark 4:26-34
Sat. 02/02	Mal 3:1-4 / Heb 2:14-18 / Luke 2:22-40
Sun. 02/03	Jer 1:4-5, 17-19 / 1 Cor 12:31-13:13 / Luke 4:21-30

THIS SUNDAY'S REFLECTION

LUKE 1:1-4, 4:14-21



The returning exiles were disheartened by the staggering task of rebuilding their ruined temple. Ezra the priest encouraged them by proclaiming God's word. The people raised their hands and shouted, "Amen! Amen!" When they heard how they had forsaken God's word, they bowed low, prostrated themselves and wept. But Ezra told them not to mourn. "Eat and drink," he urged, "for today is holy."

The psalmist extolled God's word that refreshed the soul and gave joy and enlightenment to the heart and mind. "Your words are spirit and life!" Paul reminded the church that in baptism we are gathered by Christ into one Body and given to drink of the one Spirit. The gifts God gives must be shared for the benefit of all.

As Jesus taught God's word in the assembly, all were loud in his praises. But when he came to his hometown, the tongues grew silent. When Jesus read aloud from the book of the prophet Isaiah, his words made the people uneasy. God anointed Jesus to bring glad tidings to the poor and suffering and to announce God's favor to all men, women and children. Today, these words have yet to be fulfilled in our hearing. God's word must be proclaimed to all.

For Reflection: Who are the people in my community who feel excluded and deprived of God's gifts? How can I let them know that they are special to God?



SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWS

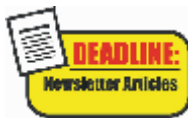
Saint Josephine Bakhita

St. Josephine was born in the Darfur region of southern Sudan, kidnapped at the age of 7, sold into slavery and given the name Bakhita, which means *fortunate*. She was resold several times, and finally was brought to Italy in 1885. Serving as a baby-sitter for the family that owned her, she accompanied their child to religious instruction taught by the Canossian Sisters where she found herself drawn to the Catholic faith. She was baptized and confirmed in 1890, taking the name Josephine. When the family made plans to return to Africa, Josephine refused to go. Because slavery was illegal in Italy, the courts declared that Josephine was free. In 1896, she professed vows with the Canossian Sisters. She assisted her community through cooking, sewing and greeting guests. She was loved by the children who attended the community run school and by those living in the area. She was canonized on Feb. 8, 2000 and named the patron saint of enslaved persons.

The weekend of Feb. 10, the Social Justice Committee will organize a letter writing campaign on behalf of those currently trafficked. Check out next week's bulletin to learn more about human trafficking.

For Mercy Sake Deadline

The deadline to submit items for the February issue of the parish newsletter is **TODAY**. Items can be sent to ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org or brought to the office.



Study on Prayer



It is not too late to join the 8 week study on prayer which will hold its 3rd session today, Jan. 27. The group meets Sunday from 9:45-10:45 AM in the Conference Room.

OLM Book Group

The OLM Book Group will meet on **Wednesday, Feb. 20**, at 7:00 PM to discuss Doc by Mary Dorea Russell. Our March book will be Tattoos on the Heart by Fr. Greg Boyle.



FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Offertory for the weekend of January 20, 2019

Envelopes sent:	392	
Envelopes returned:	43	\$1,433.00
Faith Direct Deposits:	118	\$3,122.00
Loose Change:		\$ 129.00
TOTAL OFFERTORY:		\$4,684.00

 ★ **QUESTION OF THE WEEK WINNER** ★
 ★ The Question-of-the-Week Winner for the ★
 ★ week of Jan. 20 was, **Lila Bly Gr. 4**, who knew ★
 ★ that the pope lives in Vatican City which is in ★
 ★ Rome, Italy. ★
 ★ *****



Question & Answer With the Pastor

On **Wednesday, Feb. 6 at 7:00 PM**, join Fr. Ritchie for a conversation about the Catholic faith focused on your questions. Bring a friend and enjoy this opportunity to ask or discuss what is on your mind regarding our faith. A glass of wine and light snacks will be provided. Participants are welcome to bring a snack to share, but not required.



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.



Parish Mardi Gras

Our annual parish Mardi Gras celebration will change things up this year. It will be held on **Saturday March 2 from 7:00-10:00 PM**. The night will include a Murder Mystery play, a homemade wine and beer taste-off, a taco bar, wine, beer and pop, and a reverse raffle for \$500. Admission tickets for \$10 include all of the above and will go on sale the weekend of Feb. 3. (You do not need to be present to win the raffle.) If you want to enter your wine or beer into the taste-off, please sign the easel in the Gathering Space. Wine/beer taste-off entries receive a free admission ticket.



OLM Young Adult Small Faith Group

We will meet on the first Monday of the month at **6 pm** in the OLM Parlor beginning **February 4th**. The inaugural Small Faith Community just for young adults! We will meet once a month to pray with the upcoming Sunday's readings to learn, reflect, discuss, and build community. This group can evolve to whatever we want, so come with ideas, input, and an open mind. **Contact Katie Stephenson at secretary@ourladyofmercychurch.org** with questions.



Hospital Visitation

If you know of a parishioner who is in the hospital, please **call the parish office** to let us know. We are unable to obtain accurate hospital reports because of the HIPPA laws.



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

3 Feb	Kathryn Lucas	16
5 Feb	Cassidy Hall	18
6 Feb	Thomas DeVore	18
9 Feb	Cooper Benson	9
10 Feb	Hunter Shoop	14
10 Feb	Brennan Murphy	14
11 Feb	Samuel Massella	3
11 Feb	Dean Massella	3
17 Feb	Conner Knepper	18
18 Feb	Patrick Gotham	17
18 Feb	Sydney Kisiel	13
19 Feb	Ziek Moreno	16
19 Feb	Jaden Rocco	15
24 Feb	Colin Gerrans	4
26 Feb	Blake Nguyen	9
29 Feb	Maddie Ross	11



Erie Catholic School System kicks off 'Week of Giving'

The Erie Catholic School System, consisting of six Catholic elementary schools in Erie, is celebrating Catholic Schools Week with a "Week of Giving." All gifts made to the system online or at one of the schools will be matched dollar for dollar. Please consider making a gift to ensure that Catholic education remains affordable for all families and that every child maximizes his or her academic and spiritual potential. See the bulletin tables for further details.



Women's Conference - save the date

Fifth Annual Catholic Women's conference in Erie is Saturday, March 30, from 9:00 am to 3:30 pm at Our Lady of Peace Parish For more information and to register visit www.138women.com or call 814-455-7364. This year the theme of the conference is "Live JOY-fully!", relating to Nehemiah 8:10: "The joy of the Lord is my strength."



Help for Heating - LIHEAP

The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) was open to help alleviate heating bill stress on low income families. A family of four with a gross annual income of \$37,650, qualifies for a grant. To find out if you qualify based on your household size and income, how to apply and what you need to apply, see the bulletin boards in the Gathering Space.



Interested in being renewed?

How are you taking care of yourself spiritually, physically and emotionally? Find out during Personal Days of Renewal **Feb. 4-8 or March 6-8** at the Bethany Retreat Center in Frenchville. Come for a day, stay overnight or for a few days. Daily prayer and Mass are included. Walk the grounds, enjoy home-cooked meals and take the opportunity for reconciliation. A free-will offering of \$80 per night (including meals) is requested. For more information, go to www.bethanyretreatcenter.org, or call 814-263-4855.



Young adults welcomed to Theology on Tap

Young adults, ages 21 to mid-30s, are invited to attend a series of Theology on Tap events sponsored by the St. George Parish Catholic Young Adult Ministry. The remaining programs this winter will be held **Jan. 28, Feb. 11 and Feb. 25**, each evening from **5:30 to 7 p.m.** at Brewerrie (Union Station) in Erie.



Divorced, Separated or Loss of a Loved One?

Transitions is a peer ministry of the Diocese of Erie that provides a safe place for grieving the loss of one's marriage because of divorce, death or separation. By offering monthly support groups and periodic specialized programs, Transitions offers companionship and hope to all who are currently traveling the journey of grief. Following a short program, participants will have an opportunity for reflection, sharing and discussion. An average of 25-35 women and men of all ages and stages of life attend this support group regularly. Each program includes reflection, sharing, discussion and refreshments. The next meeting is **February 24th**. Follow the bulletin for more announcements.



Souper Bowl Sunday!

Whether you are cheering on the Patriots or the Rams, please consider bringing in a can of soup or a \$1 donation next weekend, February 2nd or 3rd to benefit the

Ella Cochran Food Pantry.



February 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 8:30 & 11:00 AM MASS 9:30 AM Rel. Ed Gr. K-2 9:45 AM First Reconciliation Parent Mtg. 9:45 AM Study on Prayer 12:00 PM Gr. 7 & 8 Youth Event 12:15 PM Gr. 11 Interviews	28 8:30 AM Mass 6:30 PM Fruit of the Vine - SCC	29 8:30 AM Mass 9:30 AM Steel Magnolias - SCC 1:30 PM Legion of Mary 2:00 PM Prayer Shawl 4:00 PM Rel. Ed. Gr. 3-6 5:30 PM Children's Choir 5:30 PM Youth Open Gym 7:30 PM AA	30 8:30 AM Mass 1:00 PM Diamonds in the Rough - SCC 7:00 PM Parish Alive Team Meeting	31 8:30 AM Mass 9:00 AM Painting Class 6:00 PM Prayer Shawl 6:45 PM Choir Rehearsal	1 8:30 AM Mass	2 8:30 AM Mass 10:00 AM AA 4:30 PM Sacrament of Penance 6:00 PM MASS
3 8:30 & 11:00 AM MASS Casserole Club DROP OFF Monthly Food Pantry Collection 9:30 AM Healing Ministry 9:30 AM Rel. Ed Gr. K-2 9:45 AM Study on Prayer 12:00 PM Rel. Ed. Gr. 7 & 8	4 8:30 AM Mass 6:00 PM Young Adult Group 7:00 PM Pastoral Facilitator	5 8:30 AM Mass 9:30 AM Steel Magnolias - SCC 1:30 PM Legion of Mary 2:00 PM Prayer Shawl 4:00 PM Rel. Ed. Gr. 3-6 7:00 PM Pastoral Council 7:30 PM AA	6 8:30 AM Mass 1:00 PM Diamonds in the Rough - SCC 7:00 PM Q&A W/ Pastor Meeting	7 8:30 AM Mass 9:00 AM Painting Class 9:30 AM Potter's Clay SCC 6:00 PM Prayer Shawl 7:00 PM Creation Care Team Meeting	8 8:30 AM Mass	9 8:30 AM Mass 10:00 AM AA 4:30 PM Sacrament of Penance 6:00 PM MASS
10 8:30 & 11:00 AM MASS 9:30 AM Rel. Ed. Gr. K-2 Family Faith Event 9:45 AM Study on Prayer 12:00 PM Parish Alive Team Meeting 12:00 PM Rel. Ed. Gr. 7 & 8	11 8:30 AM Mass 6:30 PM Fruit of the Vine - SCC	12 8:30 AM Mass 9:30 AM Potter's Clay SCC 9:30 AM Steel Magnolias - SCC 9:30 AM Story Time 1:30 PM Legion of Mary 2:00 PM Prayer Shawl 4:00 PM Rel. Ed. Gr. 3-6 5:30 PM VBS Planning Team 7:00 PM Finance Council 7:30 PM AA	13 8:30 AM Mass 1:00 PM Diamonds in the Rough - SCC 6:30 PM AGIFT Meeting 7:00 PM Knights of Columbus	14 8:30 AM Mass 9:00 AM Painting Class 6:00 PM Prayer Shawl	15 8:30 AM Mass 6:00 PM Parish Alive	16 8:30 AM Parish Alive 8:30 AM Mass 10:00 AM AA 4:30 PM Sacrament of Penance 6:00 PM MASS - CSA Speaker & Video
17 8:30 & 11:00 AM MASS - CSA Speaker & Video 9:30 AM Healing Ministry 9:30 AM Rel. Ed Gr. K-2 9:45 AM Study on Prayer 12:00 PM Rel. Ed. Gr. 7 & 8	18 8:30 AM Mass 9:00 AM Newsletter Mailing Party 6:00 PM Sister Parish 7:00 PM Grief Support Group	19 8:30 AM Mass 9:30 AM Steel Magnolias - SCC 1:30 PM Legion of Mary 2:00 PM Prayer Shawl 4:00 PM Rel. Ed. Gr. 3-6 5:30 PM Core Team Mtg. 7:00 PM LFF Mtg. 7:30 PM AA	20 8:30 AM Food Pantry Distribution 8:30 AM Mass 1:00 PM Diamonds in the Rough - SCC 7:00 PM OLM BOOK GROUP	21 8:30 AM Mass 9:00 AM Painting Class 9:30 AM Potter's Clay SCC 6:00 PM Prayer Shawl 6:45 PM Choir Rehearsal	22 8:30 AM Mass	23 CSA Commitment Weekend Small Christian Community Sign-Up Weekend 8:30 AM Mass 10:00 AM AA 4:30 PM Sacrament of Penance 6:00 PM MASS
24 8:30 & 11:00 AM MASS CSA Commitment Weekend Small Christian Community Sign-Up Weekend 9:45 AM Study on Prayer 10:30 AM Gr. 7 & 8 Retreat -St Mark	25 8:30 AM Mass 3:00 PM Social Justice Committee Mtg. 6:30 PM Fruit of the Vine - SCC	26 8:30 AM Mass 9:30 AM Potter's Clay SCC 9:30 AM Steel Magnolias - SCC 9:30 AM Story Time 1:30 PM Legion of Mary 2:00 PM Prayer Shawl 4:00 PM Rel. Ed. Gr. 3-6 5:30 PM Children's Choir 5:30 PM Youth Open Gym 7:30 PM AA	27 8:30 AM Mass 1:00 PM Diamonds in the Rough - SCC	28 8:30 AM Mass 9:00 AM Painting Class 6:00 PM Prayer Shawl 6:45 PM Choir Rehearsal	1 8:30 AM Mass	2 8:30 AM Mass 10:00 AM AA 4:30 PM Sacrament of Penance 6:00 PM MASS 7:00 PM Sister Parish Mardi Gras Event

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