

# 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*

Marsha MacKinnon McKinley, *Admin. 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 3, 2017**



## 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. 12/04</b>	11:00 a.m.	Centering Prayer
	7:00 p.m.	Evening of Healing
	7:00 p.m.	Knights of Columbus Mtg
<b>Tue. 12/05</b>	9:30 a.m.	SCC– Steel Magnolias
	2:00 p.m.	Prayer Shawl
	4:00 p.m.	Rel Ed Gr 3-6
	5:30 p.m.	Children’s Choir Rehearsal
	7:00 p.m.	Pastoral Council Mtg
<b>Wed. 12/06</b>	11:00 a.m.	RCIA Inquiry
	1:00 p.m.	SCC–Diamonds in the Rough
	2:00 p.m.	Contemplative Prayer
	6:30 p.m.	AGIFT Mtg
<b>Thur. 12/07</b>	9:00 a.m.	Painting Class
	6:00 p.m.	Prayer Shawl
	6:45 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
<b>Fri. 12/08</b>	<b>Immaculate Conception</b>	
	8:30 am	MASS (Holy Day)
	1:30 p.m.	Legion of Mary
	7:00 p.m.	MASS (Holy Day)
<b>Sat. 12/09</b>	4:30 p.m.	Sacrament of Penance
<b>Sun. 12/10</b>	<b>Second Sunday of Advent</b>	
	9:30 a.m.	Rel Ed Gr K-2
	9:30 a.m.	Stewardship Mtg
	12:00 p.m.	Frosty Family Party
	12:00 p.m.	Rel Ed Gr 7 & 8
	12:00 p.m.	Mother Daughter Workshop
	3:00 p.m.	Penance Service at Mt. Calvary

## MASS INTENTIONS

<b>Mon. 12/04</b>	8:30 a.m.	<b>Mary Kusustra</b> <i>(Pat &amp; Rog Urmann)</i>
<b>Tue. 12/05</b>	8:30 a.m.	<b>Jack Steadman</b> <i>(McCurdy Family)</i>
<b>Wed. 12/06</b>	8:30 a.m.	
<b>Thur. 12/07</b>	8:30 a.m.	
<b>Fri. 12/08</b>	8:30 a.m.	<b>Ruth Extein</b> <i>(Extein Family)</i>
	7:00 p.m.	<b>Frederick Trester Sr.</b> <i>(Peter &amp; Faye Froess)</i>
<b>Sat. 12/09</b>	8:30 a.m.	<b>Lewis Peters</b> <i>(Carole Peters)</i>
	6:00 p.m.	<b>Helen Hemmis</b> <i>(Bruce &amp; Audrey Kazmaier)</i>
<b>Sun. 12/10</b>	8:30 a.m.	<b>For the People of OLM</b>
	11:00 a.m.	<b>Randy Check</b> <i>(Andrews Sisters)</i>

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

<b>Mon. 12/04</b>	Is 2:1-5	/	Matthew 8:5-11
<b>Tue. 12/05</b>	Is 11:1-10	/	Luke 10:21-24
<b>Wed. 12/06</b>	Is 25:6-10a	/	Matthew 15:29-37
<b>Thur. 12/07</b>	Is 26:1-6/	/	Matthew 7:21,24-27
<b>Fri. 12/08</b>	Gn 3:9-15,20	/	Eph 1:3-6/ Luke 1:26-38
<b>Sat. 12/09</b>	Is 30:19-21,23-26/		Matthew 9:35–10:1,5a,6-8
<b>Sun. 12/10</b>	Is 40:1-5,9-11/2 Pt 3:8-14/		Mark 1:1-8

## OLM PARISH OFFICE REMINDERS

Due to the publisher’s filing deadlines for the Christmas and New year’s Holidays, bulletin content is due as follows:

- December 8—content due for the Dec. 17 bulletin
- December 11—content due for the Dec. 24 bulletin
- December 14—content due for the Dec.31 bulletin
- December 20—content due for the Jan. 7 bulletin



The OLM Parish Office will be closed Monday, December 25 through Monday, January 1, 2018 in observance of the Christmas and New Year’s Holidays.

## 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 Geri Gallagher.

## THIS SUNDAY'S REFLECTION

Mark 13:33-37



When we face misfortunes in our lives, we sometimes blame God for our troubles: “You are our Father - why did you allow us to wander from your ways?” The problem is not God’s faithfulness. It is our infidelity to God, who longs to guide us as a shepherd leads his flock. “Lord, let us turn to you. Show us your face and we shall be saved.”

Paul is a faithful witness to God’s loving—kindness. In gratitude, he thanks God for the favors bestowed on us. He prays that we will recognize that we are the work of God’s hands. When we do, the work of our hands will be as beautiful.

Jesus compares himself to a master who has gone on a journey and left his servants in charge of the household. They are warned to be constantly vigilant, keeping watch at the gate of the house he built. If we stay awake, we will be ready to greet him when he comes again.

**For Reflection: Am I keeping careful watch over my household? Am I using God’s gifts to advance God’s reign.**



**Evening of Healing**

In what areas of your life do you need healing? “A Time to Heal,” is a parish healing service, open to everyone, on Monday, December 4 at 7:00 p.m.

**Taize Prayer**

Mark your calendars for an evening of meditative sung prayer on Monday, December 11 at 6:00 p.m. Take some time to slow down amidst the busy holiday season to allow your heart to rest quietly and prepare a place for the coming of the Savior.

***The Season of Christmas 2017-2018  
at Our Lady of Mercy***

**Masses for Christmas:**

**Christmas Eve: Sunday, December 24  
6:00 p.m. & 10:00 p.m.**

**(music with choir and instruments at 9:20 p.m.)**

**Christmas Day:**

**Monday, December 25  
10:00 a.m.**

**Mass for New Year's:**

**Solemnity of Mary: Monday, January 1  
10:00 a.m.**

**(Note: There is no evening Vigil Mass on  
Sunday, December 31)**

**Epiphany Concert of Christmas Music:**

**Sunday, January 7  
3:00 p.m.**



**FINANCIAL SUPPORT**

*Offertory for the weekend of November 26, 2017*

Envelopes sent:	399	
Envelopes returned:	111	\$4,288.00
Faith Direct Deposits:	103	\$2,813.00
Loose Change:		\$136.00
<b>TOTAL OFFERTORY:</b>		<b>\$7,237.00</b>

**Advent Celebrations of the  
Sacrament of Reconciliation**



We will gather as a local faith community on the following days:

- Sunday, December 10** at 3 p.m. at Mount Calvary
- Monday, December 11** at 7 p.m. at St. Gregory
- Tuesday, December 12** at 7 p.m. at St. James
- Wednesday, December 13** at 7 p.m. at OLM

***East Erie Area***

***Christmas Mass Schedule 2017***

**Saint James—Wesleyville**

**Christmas Eve/Dec. 24** at 5:00 pm and 9:30 p.m.  
**Christmas/Dec. 25** at 7:30 a.m. ,9:30 a.m. , 11:30 a.m.

**St Mark the Evangelist—**

**Lawrence Park/Mt. Calvary**

**Christmas Eve/Dec. 24** at 4 :00 p.m. (Mt. Calvary)  
**Christmas Eve/Dec. 24** at 9:00 p.m. (St. Mark)  
**Christmas Morning/Dec. 25** at 10:30 a.m. (St. Mark)

**St. Gregory—North East**

**Christmas Eve/Dec. 24** at 5:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m.  
**Christmas Morning/Dec. 25** at 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.

**Praying for Our Loved Ones Who Have Passed**

The Grief Support Group meets on Monday, December 18 at 7:00 p.m. in the Parlor for a special session for the Holidays. We will focus on the gifts of the person who has died. How can we make our loved ones present to us as we move through the Christmas Season? This can be a particularly difficult time when we feel the loss more acutely. Questions? Contact Donna Clark in the parish office at 899-5342.

**Parents of Toddlers or Nursing Babies**

We always love to have children in church but sometimes an energetic toddler needs to move around. If that is the case, we have the Gathering Space or if you want a contained room try the Nursery that has closed circuit TV so you can still hear Mass. It is available for all Masses and is located in the school classroom area, the first door on the right past the Parlor. The 11:00 a.m. Mass has a schedule of parents who take turns in the Nursery so other parents can be spiritually renewed at Mass without having to worry about their children. For more information, see Donna Clark or Peggy Williams.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,



Another year has passed, and we are again approaching the annual **collection for our Retired Religious on December 9th and 10th**. This collection has significant benefits for the retired Sisters, Brothers and religious order priests, here in the Diocese of Erie, as well as the 32,000-retired religious throughout the country.

Senior religious are a treasure in the Church. Their dedication and hard work laid the foundation for Catholic schools, religious education programs, hospitals and countless other ministries that still serve the Church today. Look around and see the good work these consecrated persons have done and continue to do in our diocese: St. Mary's Home, Benetwood, the Mercy Terrace Apartments and Mercy Hilltop Center, the Neighborhood Art House and the Sisters of St. Joseph Neighborhood Networks, Emmaus Ministries, and Erie Dawn, all stand as a legacy to those generous religious who have given and continue to give their lives in service to this diocese. I join you in praising God for the faithful and generous service to the Church of all our retired religious.

The Retirement Fund for Religious offers financial support for these religious who often worked for years for small stipends. Your generous gift provides vital support for medications, nursing care and more, while ensuring that younger community members can continue the good works of their predecessors. I understand that you are asked to support many worthy causes. I invite you only to give what you can. Most importantly, please pray for an increase of vocations to the consecrated life and for God's continued blessing on all our women and men religious.

Sincerely yours in Christ,  
Lawrence T. Persico  
The Most Reverend Lawrence T. Persico, JCL  
Bishop of Erie

### The Letters of Stewardship

**H: Hospitality** - The mission statement for the Stewardship committee of Our Lady of Mercy contains a line about helping every parish group to create a welcoming environment. We want everyone who comes through our doors to feel at home.

### We have Electronic Giving Available

Our Lady of Mercy uses the company Faith Direct to manage our electronic giving. You may have your donation deducted from your checking or savings account. You may also use a credit card. Simply go to our web site: [www.ourladyofmercychurch.org](http://www.ourladyofmercychurch.org) and look for the Faith Direct icon on the left hand column.

### Christmas Caring Tree Program

The Ella Cochran Food Pantry would like to remind anyone who took a name from the Christmas Caring Tree to **please return a wrapped gift to the Gathering Space by December 10**. If you have any questions, contact Aimee McKinney at 899-1361.

### Frosty Party

You are invited to a **Frosty Party on Sunday, December 10 from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. in Sperry Hall**. Crafts, games, food, fun and maybe even a special guest surprise. Come and celebrate Advent with us. Please bring a plate of cookies to share.

### OLM Book Group

Because the holidays keep us all so busy, rather than read a book in December, we will meet on Tuesday, **December 12 at 6:30 p.m.** at the home of Claudette Terrill, 6821 East Lake Rd. to watch a movie, "The Zookeeper's Wife". Our January book will be "The Boy In The Boat" by Daniel Brown.

### Order Scrip Now for Christmas

Need a stocking stuffer? Order gift cards for Christmas stockings from the SCRIP Program. Pick up your order form from the Scrip table after Mass or pick one up in the parish office. **Orders must be placed no later than December 10 for guaranteed delivery before Christmas.**

Order  
Now!

### The Question-Of-The-Week Contest Winner

The winner for the week of November 20 was, **Seamus Marshall, Grade 5**, who knew that "Eucharist" means "to give thanks."

### New Video Series

A new biweekly video series for young adult Catholics, launches this week on YouTube. Designed with the young -adult Catholic in mind. Catholic Central features chat about faith, the Bible, Catholicism, and prayer (with tons of puns, costume changes, and sketches thrown in).

### Children of Veteran's Gift Program

Thank you to everyone who purchased a gift for the child of a veteran. Our lady of Mercy served 36 children who will celebrate with their families at a luncheon on Dec 2. During this luncheon the parents receive the gifts in a sealed tote to be opened on Christmas day. Moochie Zielewski coordinates this program through the Veteran's Hospital and Tops Grocery Store. 65 veteran families participate with over 232 children.

### Our Neighbors' Place

St. John the Baptist is hosting the overflow shelter for the homeless on January 17 through January 30 and February 28 through March 13. If you would like to help, contact Mary Hoffman at 873-2981 or [mymary14@gmail.com](mailto:mymary14@gmail.com) or Mary Ellen Lieb at 873-1284 or [melieb4@gmail.com](mailto:melieb4@gmail.com). Make checks payable to "St. John the Baptist Outreach."

## Social Justice Committee News

As a gift from God, every human life is sacred from conception to natural death. The life and dignity of every person must be respected and protected at every stage and in every condition. The right to life is the first and most fundamental principle of human rights that leads Catholics to actively work for a world of greater respect for human life and greater commitment to justice and peace. USCCB



## Up-Coming Events

**The Erie Pro-Life community** has three events in January 2018 that provide you an opportunity to speak out on behalf of unborn children and the unalienable right to life.

**Pro-Life Breakfast:** Saturday, January 13 at 9:00 a.m. Erie Bayfront Convention Center. Cost \$16 for adults and \$8 for children 3-12 years of age. The featured speaker is Ann McElhinny, author of "Gosnell."

**DC March for Life:** Friday, January 19, 2018. Annual bus trip sponsored by People for Life. \$55 per seat, \$50 if registered by December 1.

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

## Peter Mayer Group Performs at OLP

Peter Mayer, the lead guitarist for Jimmy Buffett, will perform with his band Dec. 12 at 7 p.m. at Our Lady of Peace Parish, 2401 W. 38th St., Erie. The concert, titled "Stars and Promises 2017," will feature singing and stories on the theme "When You Come Home." The cost is \$50 for artist circle seating, available online only at [www.itickets.com](http://www.itickets.com). General admission tickets are \$25, available online and at the church office. For more information, contact Cynthia Berarducci 814-833-7701, ext. 201.

## Diocesan Youth Board Members Wanted

Youth interested in participating in the Diocesan Youth Board and adults interested in joining the DYB's adult team are encouraged to apply by Dec. 1. Students in grades 8 through 12 may apply at <http://www.onthevine.us/2018-diocesan-youth-board-information-and-application/>. Adults interested in becoming a team member may apply at <http://www.onthevine.us/2018-dyb-adult-team-member-application/>.

## Ink Jet Fundraiser

Please donate used black or color ink jet cartridges to the Religious Education ministry. Your donation of used printer cartridges helps to support our ministry to the children of the parish. Previously refilled and remanufactured cartridges can not be redeemed.

# FROSTY PARTY

**Sunday, Dec. 10, 2017  
Noon-2:00 PM in Sperry Hall**

**Games, Crafts, & Fun for the  
Family  
Lunch will be served.  
A surprise guest?  
Bring a plate of cookies  
to share**



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