

OUR LADY OF MERCY CATHOLIC CHURCH



837 Bartlett Road • Harborcreek, Pennsylvania 16421
www.ourladyofmercychurch.org

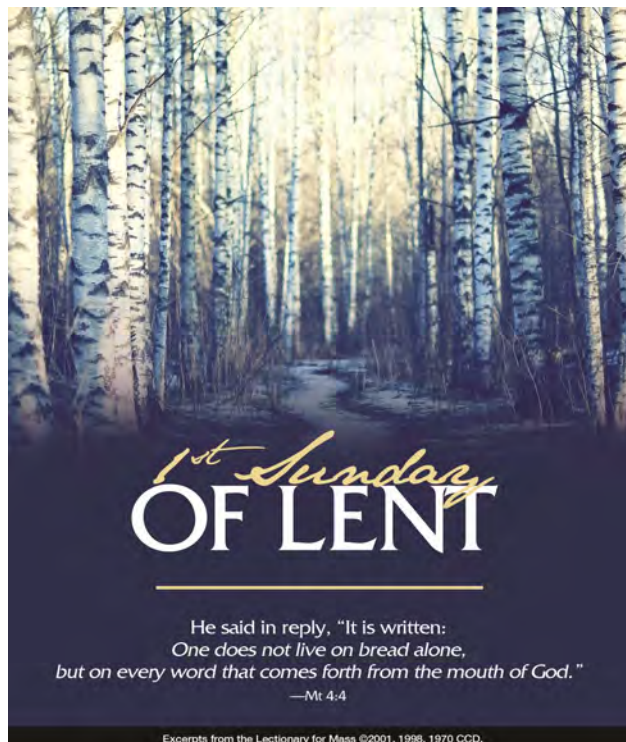
MARCH 5, 2017—FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

Mass Schedule

Saturday Evening: 6:00 p.m.
Sunday: 8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.
Weekdays & Saturdays: 8:30 a.m.
Holy Days: 8:30 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday: 4:30 p.m.



Parish Office: 899-5342
Office of Lifelong Faith Formation: 899-6132
Sperry Hall: 898-3306
Pastor Msgr. Gerald T. Ritchie
Pastoral Minister..... Donna Clark
Director of Lifelong Faith Formation Irene Lucas
Director of Liturgy and Music..... Brandon Vogt
Administrative Assistant..... Marsha MacKinnon McKinley
Youth Minister..... Geri Hadlock

The Week Ahead

Monday.....03/06	11:00 am	Meditation
	6:00 pm	Boy Scouts
	7:00 pm	Pastoral Facilitator Mtg
Tuesday.....03/07	2:00 pm	Prayer Shawl
	4:00 pm	Rel Ed Gr 3-6
	5:30 pm	Children's Choir Rehearsal
	7:00 pm	Ballroom Dance Class
	7:00 pm	Pastoral Council Mtg
	7:30 pm	AA
Wednesday...03/08	5:30 pm	Mass
	6:15 pm	Soup Supper
	7:00 pm	Lenten Pastus
Thursday.....03/09	9:00 am	Painting Class
	1:30 pm	Meditation
	6:45 pm	Choir Rehearsal
	7:00 pm	Centering Prayer
Friday.....03/10	1:30 pm	Legion of Mary
	5:00 pm	1st Reconciliation Practice
	7:00 pm	Stations of the Cross with Music
Saturday.....03/11	10:00 am	AA
	1:00 pm	1st Reconciliation
	4:30 pm	Sacrament of Penance
	6:00 PM	Mass—Anointing of the Sick
Sunday.....03/12	SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT	
	Anointing of the Sick at all Masses	
	Daylight Savings Time Begins	
	9:30 am	Rel Ed K-2
	9:45 am	1st Eucharist Parent Mtg
	11:00 am	CLW
	12:00 pm	Rel Ed Gr 7 & 8

Pray For... Don Ross; Dorothy & Lavern Miller, in-laws of Terry Miller; and Evelyn Taris, sister of Al Pohl. Please keep them and their families in your prayers.

Prayer Line: Call Donna Smicker at 899-9108 (9 a.m. - 4 p.m.) OR Gerri Extein at 899-6875 (4 p.m. - 9 p.m.)
The **Hospital** Visitor this week is Marilyn Garwig.

Mass Intentions

Mon. 03/06	8:30 am	Linda O'Connor
Tues. 03/07	8:30 am	Alma Peck
Wed. 03/08	8:30 am	Bea Plumb
	5:30 pm	
Thu. 03/09	8:30 am	
Fri. 03/10	8:30 am	Mary Louise Pfadt—Pfadt Family
Sat. 03/11	8:30 am	John Selleny—Angels in Training
	6:00 pm	Eleanor Boris—Extein Family
Sun. 03/12	8:30 am	Bill Trester—Kay & Fred Kaeberlein
	11:00 am	For the People of Our Lady of Mercy

Religious Education

Question-of-the-Week Winner for the week of Feb. 21 was , Bailey Haislip, Kindergarten, who knew that Lent begins on Ash Wednesday.

First Reconciliation Retreat: Reminder, there is a retreat **TODAY, Sunday, March 5** from 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. for all children preparing to celebrate First Reconciliation at OLM this year.

First Reconciliation Celebration will be **Saturday, March 11** at 1:00 p.m. Our parish family is invited to celebrate with us. **First Reconciliation practice** will be at 5:00 p.m. on **Friday, March 10**.

First Eucharist Parent Meeting: There will be a very important parent meeting for families with children preparing to celebrate First Eucharist at OLM in May. **The meeting will be held on Sunday, March 12 at 9:45 a.m. in Sperry Hall.**

Catholic Services Appeal for 2017

This week members of our Finance Council spoke to the community about the Catholic Services Appeal for 2017. As mentioned our parish goal is \$59,000, and our loan payment is \$45,000. Your support will help not only our parish, but when our Church joins together to further the mission and ministry of our Diocesan Church we truly witness Christ's presence. Please take the time to prayerfully consider what you are able to give to support the CSA 2017 Appeal. **Be prepared to make your pledge the weekend of March 18-19**, and please be as generous as you can. So much is done by our Church because of your gifts to the CSA.



Lenten

Series: Our Lenten Pastus will begin on Wednesday, March 8 with 5:30 p.m. Eucharist, 6:15 p.m. homemade soup supper (bring bread to share) and 7:00 p.m. presentation. Our first speaker will be Fr. Michael DeMartinis who will provide an overview of the Sermon on the Mount. These three chapters of the Gospel of Matthew are among the best well known passages in the New Testament. What is it about these verses that have captured the Christian imagination, produced endless theological books and inspired numerous saints? What can these chapters teach us about our call to follow Christ as disciple? Fr. Michael DeMartinis is well known for his engaging and challenging Scripture Studies and preaching.

Parish Mission: Mark your calendar for our annual Lenten Parish Mission on March 26-28 at 7:00 p.m.. Fr. Tom Hartle, OFM will be our presenter.

Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults: Are you an unbaptized adult who would like to learn more about the Christian faith? Have you been thinking about the possibility of joining the Catholic Church but need more information? Inquiry Sessions have begun for those who want to explore the Catholic Christian faith. To learn more, contact Irene Lucas at 899-6132 or ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org. **Our next Inquiry Session will be Wednesday, March 29 at 7:00 p.m.**

Pastus

Reflections:

Matthew 4:1-11



The story of Adam and Eve is the eternal question of good and evil. Adam and Eve personify each person who strives to have all the power and possessions. When we collaborate with evil, evil ends up destroying us.

Though sin abounds, Jesus offers life, forgiveness, and redemption. Where Adam fails, Jesus, the "new Adam," is the obedient son of God. At his baptism, Jesus was totally submissive to God's will. He overcame evil by having faith and trust in God's care despite the obstacles in his path. During Lent, each of us has the opportunity to be like Jesus. When the Elect come forward to declare their desire to be baptized in Christ, we make our own commitment to renounce the works of evil and strive to do God's will. God confirms our intention: "You are my beloved son; you are my beloved daughter."

Reflection: *Am I aware of the Spirit's guidance through the desert places in my life? How has the Spirit helped me to overcome temptations on my Lenten journey?*

©Copyright Kay Murdy



DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS: Turn your clocks ahead one hour before retiring on March 11. Daylight Savings time begins SUNDAY, MARCH 12, 2017.

Holy Hours for Vocations at St. Peter Cathedral During Lent: Holy hours will be held on Mondays following the 5:15 p.m. daily Mass from 6 to 7 p.m. On March 6, 13, 20, 27 and April 3. Participants will ask Jesus to give courage to young men and women called to be priests, deacons and consecrated men and women.

Meditation Opportunities: Mondays at 11:00 a.m., Thursdays at 1:30 p.m. and the second Thursday of the month (March 9) at 7:00 pm.

Weekly Readings

Mon...03/06...Lv 19:1-2, 11-18/Mt 25:31-46

Tue...03/07...Is 55:10-11/Mt 6:7-15

Wed...03/08...Jon 3:1-10/Lk 11:29-32

Thu...03/09...Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25/Mt 7:7-12

Fri....03/10...Ez 18:21-28/Mt 5:20-26

Sat....03/11...Dt 26:16-19/Mt 5:43-48

Sun...03/12...Gn 12:1-4a, 2 Tm 1:8b-10/Mt 17:1-9

Pastoral Council Nominations Start This Month: Please nominate yourself or someone else who can help to create spiritual goals for our parish community. A nominee must be an active member of our church who is at least 18 years old and contributes to the betterment of the parish community. Council Nominees attend an informational meeting about pastoral council responsibilities and are invited into a process of discernment to decide if this is a ministry to which they are called to serve. Contact Donna Clark with questions.

Our Neighbors' Place Winter Homeless Shelter: St. John the Baptist church is hosting the overnight shelter now through March 14th. **The team is accepting donations** of coffee, hot cocoa, creamer, pop, drink mixes, cereal, snacks such as potato chips, pretzels, and fresh fruit. Monetary support accepted as well. To make a donation contact Mary Hoffman at 873-2981 or mymary14@gmail.com. On Saturday, April 8th, there will be a 4:00 p.m. Mass and a celebration for the people who shared in Our Neighbors' Place ministry at St. John's.

OLM Book Group: Join us on Monday, March 13 at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Marilyn Garwig 1320 Boyer Rd. to discuss A Gentleman In Moscow by Amor Towles. Please note that this is a Monday in order not to overlap with our Lenten Pastus. On April 19, we will meet at the home of Irene Lucas to discuss The Silver Linings Playbook by Matthew Quick.

Thank you to all who made our Mardi Gras another success. The winners were:

Best Chili:

1st Place – Mystic Krewe of OLM
2nd Place – Brown
3rd Place – Hawryliw

Best Soup:

1st Place—Mo Rizzo
2nd Place—Morealli
3rd Place—Gallagher

Best Decorated:

1st Place – Mo Rizzo
2nd Place – Reinzel
3rd Place – Mystic Krewe of OLM

Family Trivia – Charlotte Dalton & Emma Maille

Corn Hole Tournament – Marty Barclay & Jamie Baker
50/50 – Lisa Schwartz

Baptismal Preparation Session: The next Baptismal Preparation Session to be held at OLM will be Sunday, March 19 at 12:15 p.m.. This session is required for all parents desiring to celebrate Baptism with their child. There will not be another scheduled session at OLM until the autumn. If you are expecting to celebrate this Sacrament with your child between April and September, you may want to register for this session. **To register, contact the Parish Office at 899-5342.**

Weekly Collection

For the weekend of February 26, 2017

Envelopes Sent: 470
Envelopes Returned: 112 \$3,711.00
Faith Direct Deposits: 100 \$2,787.50
Loose Change: \$173.00
TOTAL OFFERTORY: \$6,671.50

\$7,136 is needed weekly to meet Regular Operating Expenses.
This does not include CSA or Mortgage Payment.

Pastoral Council FAQ's

What

The primary purpose of the Pastoral Council is the spiritual growth of the parish community. The Pastoral Council engages in the process of pastoral planning and helps to set the direction of the parish community in prayer, leadership, service and pastoral action in

Who

A person of prayer, committed to our faith community and willing to share thoughts, ideas and observations in order to build a vibrant parish family. The Council fosters a climate of teamwork and operates using a consensus model.

Who is eligible to become a council member?

- Has been baptized or received into the Roman Catholic Church.
- By his/her free and consistent choice is a registered member of Our Lady of Mercy Parish.
- Contributes to the betterment of the parish

How

Decision making by Consensus – Means all members of the council need to voice their views and opinions. Everyone has to speak. No dumb ideas. Every thing adds to the discussion. Decisions are made with prayerful discernment, a merging of insights and consensus. These decisions have to do with long term planning and the spiritual direction of the parish. Most decisions are made as part of a process rather than a hard vote. This process usually takes a

Am I right for the Job?

All nominees are led through a discernment process to determine if they are being called to serve on the council at this time. There is an informational

What do I need to know?

If you bring with you a desire to learn, everything you need to know in order to create a vision and goals is provided. The council studies together any important documents or areas of church life as needed to form policy.

When

The First Tuesday of Each Month:

- 15 minutes in prayer.
 - 30 minutes in study & Discussion.
 - 30 minutes for other business.
 - 10 minutes to review upcoming events.
- Meetings last about 90 minutes

Commitment

As representatives of the people of the parish – you are the eyes and ears of the parish.

Members are encouraged to speak with a variety of parishioners about issues to gain a sense of where the parish community is.

Pastoral Council Homework – read material necessary to be informed to enable good decision making for the parish. You will receive minutes from other committees and groups on a regular basis to keep informed about what other groups are doing. The Council may study a church document in order to make a good pastoral decision regarding an issue for goal planning.

Current Council Members:

Paul Barko

Darrell Garwig

Nicholas Heise

Peggy Jacquell

Marge LeFaiver

Philip Legler

Margy Luniewski

Bill Matrogran

Nancy Mowery

Mike Royer

Karen Sweeney

Dan Szczesny

Lent



Lenten Pastus Series

Wednesday evenings have become an important part of our Lenten observance. This year's focus is the **SERMON ON THE MOUNT**.

Each Week's Schedule

5:30 p.m. nourish your spirit at *Mass*
6:15 p.m. nourish your body at the *Soup Supper*
7:00 p.m. nourish your mind at the *Presentation*

Lenten Pastus Speakers & Topics

- March 8: *The Sermon on the Mount: What's it all about*
Rev. Michael DeMartinis
- March 15: *Blessed Are the Merciful: Opening the Door of Mercy*
Sr. Michele Schroeck, RSM
- March 22: *Prayer, Breathing of the Soul: Reflections on the Lord's Prayer And other prayers*
Deacon Jim Moss

The Lord never tires
of forgiving, it is we
who tire of asking for
forgiveness.

Pope Francis



Stations of the Cross

... a time-honored devotion
every Friday at 7:00 p.m.

Various groups of the parish will lead the Stations of the Cross each week:

- March 3: Fr. Ritchie
March 10: Music Ministry/Choir
(with music, readings and imagery)
March 17: Small Christian Communities
March 24: Knights of Columbus
March 31: Youth
April 7: Legion of Mary



Taizé Prayer

Monday, March 20 at 7:00 p.m.

Take some time for yourself this Lent to rest in the embrace of God and prepare your hearts for the celebration of Easter.

Taizé prayer is a style of prayer from a small community of monks in France that is known and revered throughout the world.

The service consists of short chant-like melodies, sung over and over in a meditative environment with candles and religious icons, plus some short scripture readings and moments of silence for meditation.