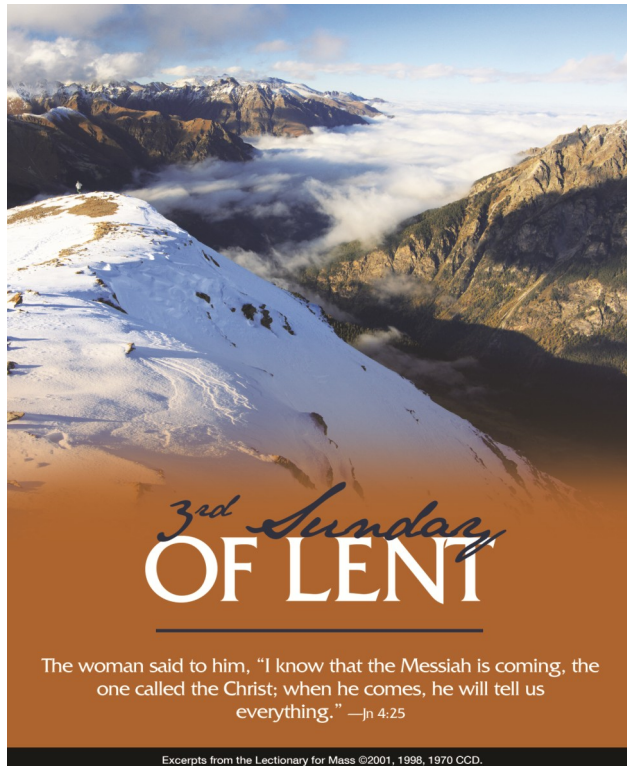


# OUR LADY OF MERCY CATHOLIC CHURCH



837 Bartlett Road • Harborcreek, Pennsylvania 16421  
[www.ourladyofmercychurch.org](http://www.ourladyofmercychurch.org)

**MARCH 19, 2017—THIRD 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.....03/20	11:00 am	Meditation
	6:00 pm	Boy Scouts
	<b>7:00 pm</b>	<b>Taize Prayer</b>
	7:00 pm	Grief Support Group
Tuesday.....03/21	2:00 pm	Prayer Shawl
	4:00 pm	Rel Ed Gr 3-6
	5:30 pm	Children's Choir Rehearsal
	7:00 pm	Core Team Mtg
	7:00 pm	LFF Mtg
	7:00 pm	Ballroom Dance Class
	7:30 pm	AA
Wednesday...03/22	<b>5:30 pm</b>	<b>Mass</b>
	<b>6:15 pm</b>	<b>Soup Supper</b>
	<b>7:00 pm</b>	<b>Presentation</b>
Thursday.....03/23	9:00 am	Painting Class
	1:30 pm	Meditation
	3:00 pm	Social Justice Committee
	6:00 pm	Prayer Shawl
	6:45 pm	Choir Rehearsal
Friday.....03/24	1:30 pm	Legion of Mary
	<b>7:00 pm</b>	<b>Stations of the Cross</b>
Saturday.....03/25	<b>9:00 am</b>	<b>OLM Craft Day</b>
	10:00 am	AA
	4:30 pm	Sacrament of Penance
Sunday.....03/26	<b>FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT</b>	
	9:30 am	Rel Ed K-2
	11:00 am	CLW
	12:15 pm	Youth Event Gr 7 & 8
	1:30 pm	Legion of Mary Event
	<b>7:00 pm</b>	<b>Parish Mission</b>

## Religious Education

**Question-of-the-Week Winner** for the week of March 6 was Amber Moore, in grade 1, who knew that our sins are forgiven in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

**Candidate/Sponsor Evening of Reflection:** A reminder to Confirmation candidates in their final year of preparation for Confirmation, **there is a mandatory Evening of Reflection for you and your sponsor on Sunday, April 2 from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.**

**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.

### Catholic Services Appeal for 2017:

**TODAY is Commitment Weekend for the Catholic Service Appeal.** Hopefully, everyone has taken time to reflect upon all the information that has been shared in the past few weeks. We hope that all parishioners have prayerfully considered and have taken the opportunity today to make a pledge. Thank you for your generosity. If you have not yet made a commitment, it is never too late to make a pledge. Everyone's help is needed and greatly appreciated.



**Lenten Pastus Series:** Our Lenten Pastus will conclude on Wednesday, March 22 with 5:30 Eucharist, 6:15 homemade soup supper (bring bread to share) and 7:00 presentation. Our third speaker will be Deacon Jim Moss who will reflect on the Lord's Prayer as the model of all prayer. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus taught his disciples to pray. In giving them the words of the Our Father, he instructed them on all prayer.

**Sunday Morning \*C\*A\*F\*E\*:** Our final Sunday morning CAFÉ of the season will be today, Sunday, March 19 from 9:45-10:45 in Sperry Hall. Jayne Suess will share the story of her cousin, Fr. Stanley Rother, who is being beatified by Pope Francis, the final step before being canonized a saint. Join us for an interesting presentation as we share fresh baked treats and great fellowship.

**Parish Mission:** Our annual parish mission is in one week. Fr. Tom Hartle, OFM, a native of the Erie Diocese, will present this year's Parish Mission. Fr. Hartle will inspire us to grow in our love for God as we surrender all we are and have in trust to a Love beyond understanding. **Join us Sunday, March 26-Tuesday, March 28 at 7:00 PM for an inspiring presentation in the context of prayer.** Whether you can attend all three evenings or only 1 night, make this Parish Mission a part of your Lenten journey.



*Pray for....* Yvonne Costelloe.

Please keep her and her family 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 Geri Gallagher.

## Mass Intentions

Mon. 03/20	8:30 am	Mary Ann Spiegel—Jim Spiegel
Tues. 03/21	8:30 am	Ray Shade
Wed. 03/22	8:30 am	Joanne Smith—Liana Pasquale
	5:30 pm	
Thu. 03/23	8:30 am	
Fri. 03/24	8:30 am	Frances McCammon—Diamonds in the Rough
Sat. 03/25	8:30 am	
	6:00 pm	For the People of Our Lady of Mercy
Sun. 03/26	8:30 am	Donald Holodnak—Family
	11:00 am	Sal Frontino—Helen Frontino

## Reflections: John 4:5-42



When God saved the Israelites from oppression, they passed through the waters of the sea into freedom. On their journey through the desert, the people were often thirsty. They complained that Moses had led them into the wilderness to die. In turn, Moses protested to God. "What am I going to do with this people?" Despite their grumbling, God was faithful. At the Lord's command, Moses struck a rock and water issued forth.

God's life-giving presence is not a dry cistern but a "fountain springing up from within." When Jesus met a despised Samaritan woman at a well, he revealed her inner need, not for ordinary water but for the living water of the Spirit. When her thirst was quenched by Jesus' words, she told others what she found. They came to know for themselves that Jesus was the Savior, the source of eternal life.

Today, we join the Elect as they scrutinize their lives. Together we examine and repent of our own thirst for power, prestige, or possessions. With God's grace we will uncover and heal anything that blocks the love of God from being poured out into our hearts. Then we can drink deeply from the life-giving springs of grace.

**Reflection:** *Am I spiritually dry? What do I need from God to satisfy this thirst on my journey of faith this Lent?*

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**Annual Contribution Statements:** Annual contribution statements are available by calling the parish office at 899-5342 to request your statement. Faith Direct users please go to [www.FaithDirect.net](http://www.FaithDirect.net) for a contribution statement.

### OLM Craft Day on March 25 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.:

Bring your own crafts to work on or sign up for a class. We are offering a painting class in the AM and a garden stepping stone class in the PM. Class sign-up is in the Gathering Space or call Teresa Shamburg at 897-8622. Lunch, coffee, tea and water will be provided. Please bring a snack to share.

## Weekly Readings

Mon...03/20...2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16/Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22/Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a

Tue...03/21...Dn 3:25, 34-43/Mt 18:21-35

Wed...03/22...Dt 4:1, 5-9/Mt 5:17-19

Thu...03/23...Jer 7:23-28/Lk 11:14-23

Fri....03/24...Hos 14:2-10/Mk 12:28-34

Sat....03/25...Is 7:10-14, 8:10/Heb 10:4-10/ Lk 1:26-38

Sun...03/26...1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a /Eph 5:8-14/  
Jn 9:1-41

**Counseling Help Available:** Individual and family counseling will be available from an experienced professional counselor. This parishioner will offer her gifts to Our Lady of Mercy faith community in a professional, respectful, and compassionate environment. The counselor will offer three meetings with each person. If four or more sessions are needed then we ask that a person make a small love donation to the church. Counseling meetings are at the church, in a confidential setting. To schedule an appointment contact Donna Clark at 899-5342.

**Baptismal Preparation Session:** The next Baptismal Preparation Session is **TODAY, 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.

**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](mailto:ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org). Our next Inquiry Session will be Wednesday, March 29 at 7:00PM.

**Divorce & Separated Ministry:** A monthly support group will start soon. If you are interested please contact Donna Clark so we can gather information to set a day and time.

**Grief Support Available:** The Grief Support group will meet on Monday, March 20 at 7:00 p.m. in the Parlor. Sharing the challenges of the grief process with others helps to lessen the pain of loss. Each session contains prayer and discussion.

**Meditation Opportunities (new day added):** Mondays at 11 a.m. including March 20 and 27. Tuesdays (new day) at 12:30 p.m. (ongoing). Thursdays at 1:30 p.m. (ongoing) and Thursday, April 20 at 7:00 p.m. (normally the second Thursday of the month but moved because of Holy Thursday.)

**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 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.

**OLM Book Group:** Join us on Wednesday, April 19 at the home of Irene Lucas 1019 Bartlett Rd for our discussion of Silver Linings Playbook by Matthew Quick.

## Weekly Collection

For the weekend of March 12, 2017

Envelopes Sent:	470
Envelopes Returned:	106 \$3,955.00
Faith Direct Deposits:	100 \$2,787.50
Loose Change:	\$188.00
<b>TOTAL OFFERTORY:</b>	<b>\$6,930.50</b>

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



# EVENING PRAYER

in the style of Taizé

Monday, March 20

7:00 p.m.

Prayer services in the style of Taizé have spread in popularity throughout the world in churches of all denominations. Its primary intention is to bring people together in simple, quiet, and contemplative prayer for peace and healing.

When you come to Evening Prayer, you will arrive in a dimly lit church. Once inside, your gaze will be drawn towards the illuminated altar area with its icons and many candles. The sweet aroma of incense reminds us that our prayers are lifted heavenward.

Lent is a perfect time to experience this beautiful prayer. Please come and bring a friend. There is no need to leave behind your worries or your troubles, nor should you forget the great burdens of the world. Rather, bring it all to the cross of Jesus in prayer.

## ABOUT THE TAIZÉ COMMUNITY

Taizé is a small village in the Burgundy region of France, which is home to a Christian monastic community, founded during the Second World War by Brother Roger. In the founder's words, *"It was essential to create a community where goodness of heart and simplicity would be at the center of everything."* The Taizé community is made up of more than 100 brothers from Catholic and Protestant backgrounds; they come from more than 25 countries.

Life at Taizé revolves around prayer, work, and hospitality. Since the 1960s, the hospitality has taken the form of welcoming large numbers of young adults – sometimes several thousand at a time – to stay for week-long meetings. They come to search in the light of the Gospel for meaning in their lives, though prayer, faith sharing, and practical work. At the heart of these weekly meetings is prayer with the Community three times a day.

## THE SONGS OF TAIZÉ

The prayer at Taizé is almost entirely sung, except for scripture readings and very short spoken prayers and blessings. The songs of Taizé are meant to help people take time in God's presence. Those who have experienced prayer in the style of Taizé often speak of being struck both by the beauty of the prayer and the ease with which all present take part.

All of the songs of Taizé have one feature in common: they are composed of short texts that are repeated many times. This repetition is closely allied to the meditative character of the prayer. The texts are

chosen with care: a few words taken directly from the Bible or inspired by a central theme of the Gospel. The meaning of each song can be quickly grasped by the mind, and then little by little take root in the heart as it is repeated. This reflects the ancient tradition of repeated short prayers, such as the Jesus prayer of the Orthodox tradition, or the Rosary and the Divine Mercy Chaplet in the west.

## THE POPES AND TAIZÉ

Popes over the past 60 years have spoken highly of the Taizé community and its work.

In 1986, Pope Saint John Paul II visited the Taizé community and said: *"Like you, pilgrims and friends of the community, the pope is only passing through. But one passes through Taizé as one passes close to a spring of water. The traveler stops, quenches his thirst and continues on his way."*

Pope Benedict XVI addressed those attending the 2012 Taizé Meeting in Rome: *"Like silence, singing has an important place in your community prayers. In these days, the songs of Taizé are filling the basilicas of Rome. Singing is a support and an incomparable expression of prayer. In singing to Christ, you also open yourselves to the mystery of his hope."*

In his 2013 meeting with Brother Alois, the prior of Taizé, Pope Francis expressed the deep respect he felt towards Brother Roger, the founder of Taizé, and strongly encouraged the community to continue on the road on which it is engaged.

# Parish Mission 2017

March 26–28

7:00–8:00 PM

(or 8:30–9:30 AM Mass & presentation

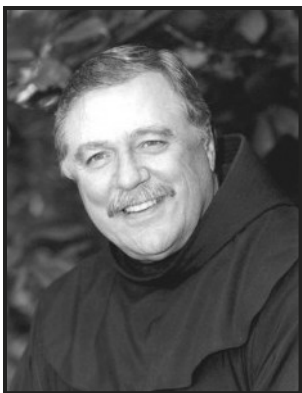
Monday & Tuesday)



## BECOMING A NEW CREATION IN CHRIST Presented by Fr. Tom Hartle

God's merciful love leads us to be transformed.  
Like St. Paul, we begin to live - - no, not I, but Christ lives in me.  
During our parish mission we will reflect upon our interior life  
and our call to be compassionate as our heavenly Father is compassionate.

**This mission will include various prayer experiences, inspiring presentation and sacramental celebrations. Whether you can attend all three evenings or only one, make this Parish Mission a part of your Lenten journey. Renew your heart and refresh your spirit March 26-28.**



*Fr. Tom Hartle is a Franciscan priest of the Holy Name Province and a former priest of the Erie Diocese. He was born in Clarion, the oldest of 7 children. **He conducts retreats internationally and leads pilgrimages to Italy.** He enjoys meeting people and experiencing new places. Fr. Hartle calls himself a student of life and all things Franciscan.*

**If you wish to attend, but need a ride,  
call the Parish Office at 899-5342.**