

OUR LADY OF MERCY CATHOLIC CHURCH



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

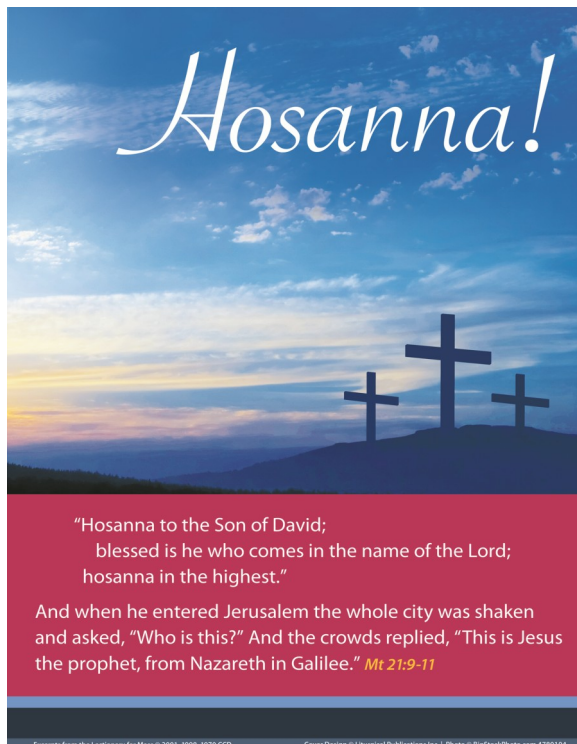
APRIL 9, 2017—PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

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

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|--------------------|----------------------|--|
| Monday.....04/10 | 11:00 am | Meditation |
| | 6:00 pm | Boy Scouts |
| | 7:00 pm | Parish Seder Meal |
| Tuesday.....04/11 | 12:30 PM | Meditation |
| | 6:00 pm | Music Rehearsal |
| | 7:00 pm | Ballroom Dance Class |
| | 7:30 pm | AA |
| Wednesday...04/12 | 7:00 pm | Pilgrimage through the Symbols of Holy Week |
| Thursday.....04/13 | HOLY THURSDAY | |
| | 1:30 pm | Meditation |
| | 7:00 pm | Mass of the Lord's Supper |
| | 8:30 pm | Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament |
| | 9:00 pm | Night Prayer |
| Friday.....04/14 | GOOD FRIDAY | |
| | 9:00 am | Morning Prayer |
| | 1:00 pm | Outdoor Stations of the Cross |
| | 7:00 pm | Liturgy of the Lord's Passion |
| Saturday.....04/15 | HOLY SATURDAY | |
| | 9:00 am | Morning Prayer |
| | 10:00 am | AA |
| | 11:30 am | Blessing of Easter Foods |
| | 9:00 pm | The Great Easter Vigil |
| Sunday.....04/16 | EASTER SUNDAY | |
| | 8:30 am | Easter Sunday Mass |
| | 9:30 am | Healing Ministry |
| | 11:00 am | Easter Sunday Mass |
| | 11:00 am | CLW |

Just a Reminder:
The OLM Parish Office
will be closed on Good Friday, April 14.

Mass Intentions

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|-------------|----------|--|
| Mon. 04/10 | 8:30 am | Robert Latchford |
| Tues. 04/11 | 8:30 am | Mark Rutkowski—Joanne & Craig Fournier |
| Wed. 04/12 | 8:30 am | |
| Thu. 04/13 | 7:00 pm | MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER |
| Fri. 04/14 | 7:00 pm | LITURGY OF THE LORD'S PASSION |
| Sat. 04/15 | 9:00 pm | THE GREAT EASTER VIGIL |
| Sun. 04/16 | 8:30 am | For the People of Our Lady of Mercy |
| | 11:00 am | For the People of Our Lady of Mercy |

Religious Education

Question-of-the-Week Winner for the week of March 28 was Shania Martin, grade 5, who knew that Jesus died on Golgotha or Mt. Calvary

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.

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.



Daily Mass: 8:30 a.m. Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday of Holy Week.

Parish Seder Meal: Monday, April 10 at 7:00 p.m. The Seder Meal connects the Old Testament remembrance of the Passover with the New Testament celebration of Eucharist.

Pilgrimage Through the Symbols of Holy Week: Join us for our annual prayerful journey through the significant symbols that make up our Holy Week liturgies. **We begin at 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, April 12 in Classroom #1.** Wear comfortable shoes since this is a walking pilgrimage. Bring a wine glass.

Holy Thursday Liturgy of the Lord's Supper, April 13: We enter into the Paschal Triduum at sundown on Holy Thursday. Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7:00 p.m., Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 8:30 p.m.—9:00 p.m., then Night Prayer at 9:00 p.m.

Good Friday of the Lord's Passion, April 14: Morning Prayer at 9:00 a.m. in Mary's Chapel, Outdoor Stations of the Cross at 1:00 p.m., and Liturgy of the Lord's Passion at 7:00 p.m. We gather for liturgy on Friday to listen to scripture, and we pray at length for the world's needs.

Holy Saturday, April 15: Morning Prayer begins at 9:00 a.m. in Mary's Chapel and then the Blessing of Easter Foods at 11:30 a.m. in Sperry Hall. **The Great Easter Vigil begins at 9:00 p.m.**

Note: Hearing assisted devices are available for those who have difficulty hearing at Mass. Contact Donna Clark.



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 Florence Voelker.

Reflections:

Mathew 26:14—27:66



The prophet Isaiah knew that God had not abandoned the people in exile; they were there due to their sins. This suffering servant endured mistreatment because of his message, yet he refused to turn back from God’s call. He set his face “like flint” toward his destiny, knowing God was his help, and he would not be put to shame.

As Jesus prepared to meet his fate in Jerusalem, he celebrated the feast of Passover, his last supper with his disciples, one of whom planned to betray him. In the garden of Gethsemane, Jesus’ heart was nearly broken with sorrow. Still, he willingly submitted to God’s will. Jesus was arrested, abused and mocked, The verdict of death was pronounced, and he was scourged and crucified. Judas regretted his treacherous deed and committed suicide. By contrast, Peter wept in repentance for having denied Jesus. In agony on the cross at Calvary, Jesus felt as though even God had abandoned him . It was a pagan soldier who declared the truth that Jesus was indeed the “Son of God.”

Jesus did not grasp at equality with God. Rather he emptied himself of glory and power and willingly suffered death for the sale of humanity. He is God’s suffering servant who died so that we may live.

For Reflection: Do I see myself in the people who condemned and betrayed Jesus? Have I repented of my sins and accepted God’s mercy? ©Copyright Kay Murdy

OLM Book Group: Join us on **Wednesday, April 19** at the home of Irene Lucas 1019 Bartlett Rd for our discussion of Being Mortal by Atul Gawande. (There are 10 copies in circulation. If you have finished reading your copy, please return to Irene. If you need a copy, please see Irene.) If you want to read ahead, in May, we will discuss Silver Linings Playbook by Matthew Quick.

Women’s Luncheon: **Save the Date—May 8 at 1:00 p.m.** For women who live alone and would like to share in some laughter.

Deadline for the May issue of “For Mercy Sake” is Sunday, April 23. Articles can be brought to the Office of Lifelong Faith Formation or emailed to ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org.

Weekly Readings

- Mon...04/10...Is 42:1-7/Jn 12:1-11
- Tue...04/11...Is 49:1-6/Jn 13:21-33,36-38
- Wed..04/12....Is 50:4—9a/Mt 26:14-25
- Thu...04/13...Ex 12:1-8, 11-14/1 Cor 11:23-26/
Jn 13:1-15
- Fri.....04/14...Is 52:13-53/Heb 4:14-16, 5:7-9/
Jn 18:1—19:42
- Sat....04/15...Gn 22:1-18/Ex 14:15—15:1/Mt 28:28:1-10
- Sun...04/16...Acts 10:34a, 37-43/Col 3:1-4/Jn 20:1-9

“Bags of Hope” - Easter Dinner

Donations: TODAY, April 9, is the last day to make a monetary donation or food donations to provide Easter Dinners for the clients of the food pantry. A shopping list is available in the Gathering Space.



Grief Support Group: **Monday, April 17 at 7:00 p.m. in the Parlor.** Learn from others who have experienced similar loss of loved ones how to walk the journey of grief. For more information or for one on one ministry contact Donna Clark.

Healing Workshop: Learn how our thoughts and behaviors affect our bodies and our health. This healing workshop on **Saturday, May 13 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.** will give us: a basic understanding of the body’s energy centers, explain how the use of affirmations can improve our health, and insight into the parallels to our call to discipleship and imitation of Christ. Preregistration requested along with a \$15 donation for materials. Contact Donna Clark. Class size limited.

Cursillo Coordinator Needed: Are you on fire with your faith and seeking a great ministry to share your talents? **We are currently looking for someone to serve as Cursillo Coordinator within our parish.** This ministry is extremely rewarding. If interested, please contact the parish office. **The next Cursillo for Woman is April 20 -23 at Our Lady of Mercy.** To sign-up, contact Tim and Norma Lynch at 899-2681.



Nursery Ministry: A nursery room is available during Mass. When the toddler learns how to run and you want an enclosed space where you can continue to hear and watch Mass on TV head to the nursery in the classroom area (the hallway to the right near the Bartlett Rd doors). Available during all Masses. Currently the 11:00 Mass has a rotating schedule of parents who take turns watching each other’s children. For more information please contact Donna Clark.

Knights of Columbus Golf & Sports Raffle: **The 24th Annual Knights of Columbus Golf & Sports Raffle will be held on Friday, May 12 from 6:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. at Our Lady of Mercy’s Sperry Hall and gym.** Tickets will not be sold after Mass on the weekends of Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday. **However, tickets will be available for the following three weekends after Mass and weekdays in the parish office for buying and selling.** Our Golf Raffle has been blessed over the years to use our proceeds to successfully support parish youth programs, such as scholarships for high school seniors. In addition, some parish projects are funded as needed. The Knights thank all parishioners and friends for producing a fun and successful event!

Weekly Collection

For the weekend of April 2, 2017

| | |
|-------------------------|-------------------|
| Envelopes Sent: | 470 |
| Envelopes Returned: | 118 \$5,001.00 |
| Faith Direct Deposits: | 103 \$2,813.00 |
| Loose Change: | \$242.00 |
| TOTAL OFFERTORY: | \$8,056.00 |

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



A CATHOLIC CALL TO JUSTICE

The Roots of Parish Social Mission

The roots of this call to justice and charity are in the Scriptures, especially in the Hebrew prophets and the life and words of Jesus. Parish social ministry has clear biblical roots.

In the gospel according to Luke, Jesus began his public life by reading a passage from Isaiah that introduced his ministry and the mission of every parish. The parish must proclaim the transcendent message of the gospel and help:

bring "good news to the poor" in a society where millions lack the necessities of life; bring "liberty to captives" when so many are enslaved by poverty, addiction, ignorance, violence, or disabling conditions; bring "new sight to the blind" in a culture where the excessive pursuit of power or pleasure can spiritually blind us to the dignity and rights of others; and "set the downtrodden free" in communities where crime, racism, family disintegration, and economic and moral forces leave people without real hope (cf. Lk 4:18).

Our parish communities are measured by how they serve "the least of these" in our parish and beyond its boundaries—the hungry, the homeless, the sick, those in prison, the stranger (cf. Mt 25:31). Our local families of faith are called to "hunger and thirst for justice" and to be "peacemakers" in our own communities (cf. Mt 5:6, 9). A parish cannot really proclaim the gospel if its message is not reflected in its own community life. The biblical call to charity, justice, and peace claims not only each believer, but also each community where believers gather for worship, formation, and pastoral care.

Over the last century, these biblical mandates have been explored and expressed in a special way in Catholic social teaching. The central message is simple: **our faith is profoundly social**. We cannot be called truly "Catholic" unless we hear and heed the Church's call to serve those in need and work for justice and peace. We cannot call ourselves followers of Jesus unless we take up his mission of bringing "good news to the poor, liberty to captives, and new sight to the blind" (cf. Lk 4:18).

The Church teaches that social justice is an integral part of evangelization, a constitutive dimension of preaching the gospel, and an essential part of the Church's mission. The links between justice and evangelization are strong and vital. We cannot proclaim a gospel we do not live, and we cannot carry out a real social ministry without knowing the Lord and hearing his call to justice and peace. Parish communities must show by their deeds of love and justice that the gospel they proclaim is fulfilled in their actions. This tradition is not empty theory; it challenges our priorities as a nation, our choices as a Church, our values as parishes. It has led the Church to stand with the poor and vulnerable against the strong and powerful. It brings occasional controversy and conflict, but it also brings life and vitality to the People of God. It is a sign of our faithfulness to the gospel.

The center of the Church's social teaching is the life, dignity, and rights of the human person. We are called in a special way to serve the poor and vulnerable; to build bridges of solidarity among peoples of differing races and nations, language and ability, gender and culture. Family life and work have special places in Catholic social teaching; the rights of the unborn, families, workers, immigrants, and the poor deserve special protection. Our tradition also calls us to show our respect for the Creator by our care for creation and our commitment to work for environmental justice. This vital tradition is an essential resource for parish life. It offers a framework and direction for our social ministry, calling us to concrete works of charity, justice, and peacemaking.

SUNDAE SUNDAY



**Sunday April 30
12:00 Noon in
Sperry Hall
All Welcome!**

**Celebrate the Easter
Season
Make-Your-Own
Sundae Bar**



Please RSVP by Tuesday April 25

By phone at 899-6132

By email at ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org or

By signing up in the Gathering Space the weekend of April 22/23.

Please tell us if you can bake & donate a cake for the Cake Walk.