

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*

Marsha MacKinnon McKinley, *Admin. Assistant*

Geri Hadlock, *Youth Minister*

Kirk Mientkiewscz, *Maintenance Coordinator*

Andrea Maille, *Lifelong Faith Formation Secretary*

CONTACT INFORMATION

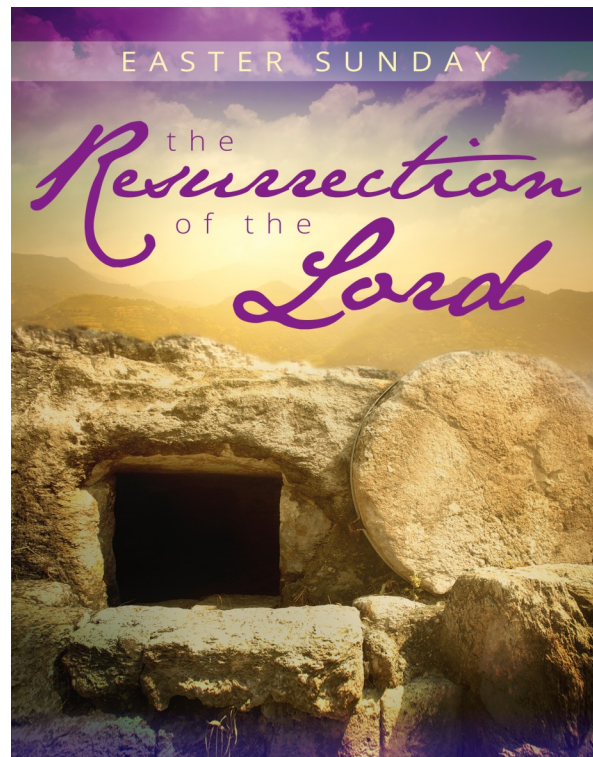
Parish Office: 814-899-5342

Office of Lifelong Faith Formation: 814-899-6132

Fax: 814-898-3306

Email: info@ourladyofmercychurch.org

April 16, 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

Monday 4/17

- 11:00 a.m. Meditation (Chapel)
- 7:00 p.m. Grief Support (Parlor)

Tuesday 4/18

- 12:30 p.m. Meditation (Chapel)
- 2:00 p.m. Prayer Shawl (Conference Room)
- 4:00 p.m. Religious Education (Grades 3-6)
- 6:00 p.m. Sister Parish Committee (Parlor)
- 7:00 p.m. Core Team (Library)
- 7:00 p.m. LFF Committee (Conference Room)

Wednesday 4/19

- Cursillo—Set-Up
- 8:30 a.m. Food Pantry Distribution
- 5:30 p.m. Men’s Cursillo Reunion (Chapel)
- 7:00 p.m. OLM Book Group (Off Campus)

Thursday 4/20

- Cursillo (women)
- 9:00 a.m. Painting Class (Sperry Hall)
- 1:30 p.m. Meditation (Chapel)
- 6:00 p.m. Prayer Shawl (Conference Room)
- 7:00 p.m. Centering Prayer (Chapel)
- 7:00 p.m. Tech Committee Meeting

Friday 4/21

- Cursillo (women)
- 1:30 p.m. Legion of Mary (Library)

Saturday 4/22

- 10:00 a.m. Men’s Cursillo Planning (Conference Room)
- 4:30 p.m. Sacrament of Penance (Reconciliation Room)

Sunday 4/23

- 9:30 a.m. Religious Education (Kindergarten—Grade 2)
- 12:00 p.m. Religious Education (Grades 7-8)

For Mercy Sake Deadline: The deadline to submit articles for the May issue of *For Mercy Sake* newsletter is **Sunday, April 23**. Items can be brought to the Lifelong Faith Formation Office or emailed to ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org.

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

Kitchen Reminder: Have you left any of your food containers behind after providing food donations? Check the kitchen and hallway shelves for your containers and please take them home.

MASS INTENTIONS & SCRIPTURE READINGS



Monday 4/17.....Easter Monday

8:30 a.m. Mass
Acts 2: 14, 22-33 Psalm 16 Matthew 28:8-15

Tuesday 4/18.....Easter Tuesday

8:30 a.m. Mass
Acts 2: 36-41 Psalm 33 John 20:11-18

Wednesday 4/19.....Easter Wednesday

8:30 a.m. Yvonne Costelloe
Acts 3: 1-10 Psalm 105 Luke 24:13-35

Thursday 4/20.....Easter Thursday

8:30 a.m. Mass
Acts 3: 11-26 Psalm 8 Luke 24:35-48

Friday 4/21.....Easter Friday

8:30 a.m. Communion Service
Acts 4: 1-12 / Psalm 118 John 21:1-14

Saturday 4/22.....Easter Saturday

8:30 a.m. NO MASS
6:00 p.m. Theresa Crosby
Acts 4: 13-21 Psalm 118 Mark 16:9-15

Sunday 4/23.....Second Sunday of Easter

8:30 a.m. For the People of Our Lady of Mercy
11:00 a.m. Connie Buffalari
Acts 2: 42-47 Psalm 118 John 20:19-31

IN LOVING MEMORY

We remember **Betty Williams**, mother of Don Williams. *Please keep her and her family in your prayers.*



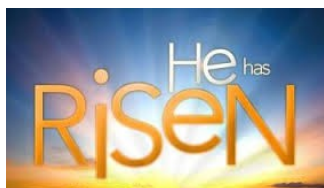
PRAYER LINE

9 a.m.—4 p.m. /Call **Donna Smicker** at 899-91089

4 p.m.—9 p.m. /Call **Gerri Extein** at 899-6875

Hospital Visitor for the week: **Donna Smicker**

REFLECTION FOR THE WEEK JOHN 20:1-9



Today we gather in joy. "This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad." Our day-long celebration nears its end as we reflect on all that we have seen and heard in this shortest of seasons, the Easter Triduum. We must not lose sight of the reason we have come together: death and life have been locked together in a unique struggle from the first moments of creation to Christ's victory over death. We too have contended with "things above" and "things below." We cannot celebrate this feast with the "old yeast" of corruption but with the "unleavened bread" of truth.

Today we gather with the disciples, filled with confusion and doubt. We want to believe that the risen Lord is among us, but we do not recognize him when he walks alongside us. We share our concerns with one another, but often we have no answers. That is when we must go side-by-side to gaze into the empty caverns of our lives and try to understand it together. Then, slowly, hesitantly, we begin to see and believe. Like the disciples of Emmaus, we who eat and drink with the risen Lord can testify to his presence in our midst, "The Lord has risen indeed!" Now we must go forth and share our joy with those who have not gathered us.

For Reflection: Can other people see that Christ is alive in my life? Do I give thanks to the Lord that his steadfast love endures forever? ©Copyright Kay Murdy

CSA 2017 UPDATE (AS OF APRIL 4)

Goal: \$194,000

Amount Pledged: \$79,447

Pledges: 169

CSA 2017 & Faith Direct: If you indicated you would use electronic payments in Faith Direct for your CSA, please sign into your Faith Direct account and initiate the payments.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Offertory for the weekend of April 9, 2017

Envelopes sent: 470

Envelopes returned: 147 \$5,380.00

Faith Direct Deposits: 103 \$2,813.00

Loose Change: \$296.00

TOTAL OFFERTORY: \$8,489.00

\$7,136 is needed to meet our regular operating expenses.

(This does not include our CSA or Mortgage Payment)

FAITH FORMATION

Question-of-the-Week Winner

for the week of April 4 was Cooper Benson, grade 1, who knew that on Easter, we celebrate Jesus rising from the dead.

First Eucharist Retreat

Families with children in the First Eucharist preparation process are reminded that **there is a mandatory retreat on Saturday, April 29 beginning at 8:45 a.m.** Bring your First Eucharist banners, a dozen cookies and a parent to share the day.

Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults

Are you an un-baptized 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 session is Wednesday, April 26 at 7:00 p.m.**

Sundae Sunday

He is Risen: Let us celebrate the Easter Season! **All are invited to a Make-Your-Own-Sundae-Bar and Cake Walk on Sunday, April 30 at noon in Sperry Hall.** Please RSVP to let us know if you are coming so that we buy enough ice cream. You can RSVP by contacting Irene at 899-6132 or ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org or signing up in the Gathering Space the weekend of April 22-23. **Deadline is April 25. We are looking for volunteers willing to bake and donate cakes for the Cake Walk.** When you RSVP, let us know if you plan to bring a cake.

Celebrate the
resurrection of
our Lord!

Happy
EASTER



CHRIST IS RISEN!

Alleluia!

May the Glory of our Risen Lord,
which we celebrate in the Easter season,
be with you, your family and friends.

Father Ritchie and Staff of Our Lady of Mercy

MINISTRY

Mission Statement of the Stewardship Committee

To create an environment of welcome and gratitude in which parishioners discover their God given strengths and through gratefulness give back to God by sharing their strengths.

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. Each session starts with discussion around a particular topic and includes a closing prayer. 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, how the use of affirmations can improve our health and insight into our call to discipleship and imitation of Christ. Pre-registration requested along with a \$15 donation for materials. Contact Donna Clark. Class size limited.

Nursery Ministry

A nursery room is available during all Masses. 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). 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.

Food Pantry Freezer Update

At long last the 8 year dream for a walk-in freezer has come true. The community of Harborcreek has raised \$26,409 for the walk-in freezer project. John Madigan and his team have a few final touches to add. Otherwise, the freezer is up and running and full of food.

CURSILLO OPPORTUNITIES



Ladies—A Cursillo Invitation for You:

Do you want a deeper more intimate relationship with Christ? Then Cursillo could be for you. Please visit the Cursillo website at www.ericursillo.org or contact Tim and Norma Lynch, parish coordinators, at 899 -2681. **The next Women's Cursillo is April 20 -23 at Our Lady of Mercy Church.**

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 fill the open Cursillo Coordinator position within our parish. This ministry is extremely rewarding. If interested, please contact the parish office to learn more.



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!

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.

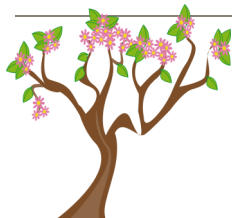
Women's Luncheon: **Save the Date—May 8 at 1:00 p.m.** For women who live alone and would like to share in some laughter.

Chicken Run: Needs a new coordinator. Manual and mentoring provided. Please contact Peggy Williams 490-5504.

Save the Date: The Menninger Retreat is Friday, September 15 from 4:00 p.m. to Saturday, September 16 to 8:30 p.m.

Catholic Daughters of the Americas invites all women to join them to do charitable works. **They meet the third Tuesday of the month in the Arundel Room at St. Andrew's Church, 1116 West 7th Street at 5:30 p.m.** If you have any questions, contact Mary Vitron at 814-838-7270.





Ministry to the Divorced and Separated

OLM Support Group

Our Lady of Mercy will host its first support group on: **Thursday, May 4 at 7:00 p.m.**
in the Parlor.

Know you are not alone. Journey with others through the challenges of divorce or separation.

One on One Supportive Conversation

Speak with a member of the Divorced and Separated Ministry from Our Lady of Mercy who has been through the experience and can offer an understanding ear.

Questions about Divorce

Can I still receive Communion?

- ⇒ Divorced and not remarried? Yes, you may receive communion.
- ⇒ Divorced and remarried? You are still a member of the church but are asked to refrain from receiving communion until you go through the healing process of an annulment.
- ⇒ Further guidance concerning the reception of the sacraments after divorce can be sought from a parish priest.
- ⇒ (It should be noted that a Catholic who has divorced and remarried is not excommunicated.)

Does an annulment mean my marriage did not exist?

- ⇒ Civil law and Church law explain marriage differently. Civilly the marriage did exist. Children are not illegitimate.
- ⇒ According to Church teaching marriage is more than a legal agreement. It is a covenantal bond that ideally happens only once. Hence the Church recognizes that sometimes this bond never truly formed. Through a healing process of annulment the church formally recognizes this so the person is free to marry again within the church.
- ⇒ For further help contact Fr Ritchie at 899-5342.

TRANSITIONS

a peer ministry for divorced, widowed and separated persons

TRANSITIONS provides a safe place for grieving the loss of one's marriage because of divorce, death or separation. This monthly support group 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. Upcoming Dates: April 30, May 21, June 25 from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Events are held at **St. Mark Catholic Center**, 429 E. Grandview Blvd., Erie, PA. For more information call (814) 824-1265 or familylife@ErieRCD.org.

Check out Catholicsdivorce.com

The Catholic's Divorce Survival Guide

CDSG Divorce Ministry

- Discover how to work through the emotions of separation and divorce.
- Experience personal healing and hope.
- Gain wisdom and comfort from others who share your experiences.
- Address questions of forgiveness and new family dynamics.
- Obtain an understanding of the annulment process.

Beginning September 2017

Wednesdays 6:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m.

St. Mark Catholic Center,

429 East Grandview Blvd., Erie, PA 16504 For information or to register, call (814) 824-1250 or email: familylife@ErieRCD.org.