## 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 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

January 28, 2018


## 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 |  |

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

Mon. 01/29 2 Sm 15:13-14,30,16:5-13/Mark 5:1-20
Tue. 01/30 2 Sm 18:9-10, 14b, 24-25a, 30-19:3/ Mark 5:21-43
Wed. 01/31 2 Sm 24:2,9-17 /Mark 6:1-6
Thur. 02/01 1 Kgs 2:1-4, 10-12 /Mark 6:7-13
Fri. 02/02 MaI 3:1-4/Heb 2:14-18/Luke 2:22-40
Sat. 02/03 1 Ks 3:4-13 /Mark 6:30-34
Sun. 02/04 Jp 7:1-4,6-7/ 1 Cor 9:16-19/Mark 1:29-39

## Feast of St. Blaine

This Saturday, February $3^{\text {rd }}$, is the Feast of St. Blaise. As is the custom we will bless throats Saturday at the 8:30 Mass in the morning and at 3:00 p.m. in the afternoon.

## Annual Contribution Statements

Annual contribution statements are available. Please call the parish office at 899-5342 or send your request via email to secretary@ourladyofmercychurch.org. No statements will be sent electronically.


## 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 Extern at 899-6875
The Hospital Visitor for the week is Tom \& Linda Bleil.

## THIS SUNDAY's REFLECTION

Mark 1:21-28


The people who heard God speak on their journey through the wilderness were afraid of the demands God made on their lives. They said "Let us not hear again the voice of the Lord." Because the people refused to listen, God would raise up a prophet from among their own kinsmen, to whom they must listen. They must not harden their hearts as in the desert.

Jesus came to speak God's words of healing, justice, love, and people. He spoke words of deliverance to those constrained by sin. All who witnessed the liberation of those in torment were amazed at the one who taught with the authority of the prophets. Even the demons acknowledged Jesus's power over the forces of evil.

Paul believed that the time was short for him to proclaim the gospel. Everything, even the dearest human relationships, must be laid aside if they prevented him from obeying God's call.

For Reflection: Do I listen to the words Jesus speaks in the Scriptures? What am I willing to sacrifice to obey his voice?
© Kay Murdy


## Contemplative Prayer Instruction Sessions

Are you interested in learning more about contemplative or centering prayer? You are welcome to attend one of these sessions; January 31 or February 7. These Wednesday evening sessions begin at 6:30 p.m. and will provide some instruction and an opportunity to practice this quiet form of meditative prayer that goes back to the early centuries of Christianity.

## FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Offertory for the weekend of January 21, 2018

| Envelopes sent: | 399 |  |
| :--- | ---: | ---: |
| Envelopes returned: | 112 | $\$ 4,231.00$ |
| Faith Direct Deposits: | 106 | $\$ 2,851.75$ |
| Loose Change: |  | $\$ 192.00$ |
| TOTAL OFFERTORY: |  | $\$ 7,274.75$ |

Winter Scripture Study
A Scripture Study on the minor prophets is underway. We are meeting Wednesday mornings January 17 through February 7 at 9:00 a.m. in the Conference Room.
 We will study Micah this week. At our final session, we will explore Zachariah. There is no cost and no registration. Because each week we will look at a different biblical prophet, you do not have to commit to attend every week

## First Reconciliation Parent Meeting

On Sunday, February 4 at 9:45 a.m. in Sperry Hall, there will be a very important meeting for all parents of children enrolled in the First Reconciliation Sunday morning religious education class.

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

The winner for the week of January 16 was Ava Moore, Grade 4 who knew that the 3rd Commandment is "Keep holy the Lord's Day." It tells us to gather for Mass on Sunday.

## Family Faith Event

Families with children enrolled in the Sunday morning,
K-Gr. 2 religious education ministry are reminded that we have a Family Faith Event TODAY Sunday, January 28 during the regularly scheduled class time. Parents are expected to share this class time with their child. Siblings are welcome.

## Parish Alive

The deadline to register for our annual Parish Alive retreat on Feb. 16-17 is just around the corner. It is a wonderful way to kick off your Lent, to renew your faith, to deepen your connection to the parish. Apply on-line at the parish website, by paper using the form in last week's bulletin or find applications on the bulletin tables. The retreat is free but space is limited.
Here is what one participant had to say about the weekend. 'Parish alive revived my prayer life and reminded me to be open to God's word and Christ's love! We often times, after all the wear and tear on life, forget how close Christ walks to us; and become less aware of God's great world in our life. Parish alive brought all this back to realization for me!"

Nick Heise

## Divorced \& Separated Ministry

Our Lady of Mercy has a ministry to the divorced and separated. This one-on-one ministry allows those experiencing divorce or separation to talk to another person who has been through it. This person can provide support during a difficult time. Contact Donna Clark.

## Ink Jet Fundraiser

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

## Social Justice Committee News

The Church observes World Refugee Day on January 14. In union with this international recognition, the Social Justice Committee will present the teaching of Scripture and Church leaders on this topic during the month of January.

MERCIFUL AND LOVING FATHER,
We beseech you, open our hearts so that we may provide hospitality and refuge to migrants who are lonely, afraid, and far from their homes.
Give us the courage to welcome every stranger as Christ in our midst, to invite them into our communities as a demonstration of Christ's love for us.
We pray that when we encounter the other, we see in her the face of your Son, when we meet a stranger, that we take his hand in welcome.
Help us to live in solidarity with one another, to seek justice for those who are persecuted and comfort for those who are suffering.
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen

Prayer by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

## Getting Connected

One of the ways to get connected at Our Lady of Mercy is to become involved in a ministry that attracts you. If you are a new member and have not received a ministry book as part of your registration process, please contact Donna Clark in the Parish office. Each month starting in March you will have an opportunity to learn more about the ministries of the parish.

## The Letters of Stewardship

O: Openness - As good stewards of God's gifts we are open to where we are being called to serve by sharing our gifts.

## 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 and look for the Faith Direct icon on the left hand column.

## 125th Anniversary Celebration at St. Peter

 Join Bishop Lawrence Persico at St. Peter Cathedral in downtown Erie, for 11 a.m. Mass on Sunday, February 11, in celebration of the 125 th year of worship at the cathedral, the mother church of the diocese. Guided tours of the church, including the crypt, will immediately follow Mass. Social time will include coffee and donuts.
## Wine Social

Join the parish family for a wine social next Saturday, February 3 immediately after the Vigil Mass. Bring a bottle of wine and/or a snack to share. Meet new parish members and renew friendships with long
 standing members. Enjoy this opportunity to share some good food, a glass of wine, laughter before the Season of Lent begins.

## Mardi Gras

The time is growing close for our annual parish Mardi Gras celebration on Sunday, February 11. Sign-up sheets are in the Gathering Space. The Chili and Soup Cook-Off Teams are the highlight of the event. Gather family or friends and sign-up your team. We are also collecting items for our Chinese Auction, so consider re-gifting those unwanted Christmas gifts to OLM. Bring Chinese Auction items to the Faith Formation Office. The money we raise at this event will be sent to assist our sister parish to complete a small convent for the sisters who minister in Peto.

## OLM Book Group

Join us on Tuesday, February 27 at 7:00 p.m. in the OLM Parlor to discuss "The Ballroom" by Anna Hope. Please note, this is not our usual meeting day. We have shifted to the Tuesday after our regular time due to the Parish Lenten Pastus program. Whether you are interested in joining a book group or just want to talk about one particular title, the door is open to you. In March, we will share "The Ninth Hour" by Alice McDermott.

## "LORD, MAKE ME WHOLE" <br> LENTEN PARISH MISSION WITH DAN SCHUTTE - March 11-13 at 7p.m.

Our parish is collaborating with our neighboring parishes (Our Lady of Mercy, Saint Gregory, Saint Mark/Mt. Calvary and Saint James), to welcome Dan Schutte for our Lenten Parish Mission. The title of Dan's three-night mission is "Lord, Make Me Whole." Lent is the time of the Church's annual retreat: a time to examine our life of faith, a time to focus on our relationship with the Lord and beseech God to make us whole.
Our Parish Mission is Sunday thru Tuesday, March 11,12 \& 13 at 7p.m. On these evenings, Dan will weave together his music and the spiritual reflections behind them.

Dan is one of the best-known and most influential composers of Catholic music in the English-speaking world. Steeped in Sacred Scripture and Ignatian spirituality, Dan Schutte's music has anchored people of faith for generations. Some of his most celebrated songs, such as "Here I Am, Lord," "City of God," and "Sing a New Song," are from his years of collaboration with the St. Louis Jesuits.
February 2018

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 28 <br> $8: 30$ \& 11:00 AM MASS <br> Painting Class Art Exhibit 9:30 AM Family Faith Event 12:00 PM Gr. 11 Interviews <br> 12:15 PM Gr. 7 \& 8 Youth Event | 29 <br> 8:30 AM Mass <br> 11:00 AM Centering Prayer <br> 6:30 PM Fruit of the Vine (SCC) | 30 <br> 8:30 AM Mass <br> 9:30 AM Steel Magnolias (SCC) <br> 2:00 PM Prayer Shawl <br> 4:00 PM Rel Ed Gr. 3-6 <br> 5:30 PM Children's Choir Rehearsal <br> 7:00 PM Dance Class in Gym <br> 7:30 PM AA | 31 <br> 8:30 AM Mass <br> 9:00 AM Scripture Study <br> 12:00 PM Food Pantry Volunteer <br> Lunch <br> 1:00 PM Diamonds in the Rough (SCC) <br> 6:30 PM Contemplative Prayer | 1 <br> 8:30 AM Mass <br> 9:00 AM Painting Class <br> 6:00 PM Prayer Shawl <br> 6:45 PM Choir Rehearsal | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 2 } \\ & \text { 8:30 AM Mass } \\ & \text { 1:30 PM Legion of Mary } \end{aligned}$ | 3 <br> 8:30 AM Mass <br> 10:00 AM AA <br> 3:00 PM Blessing of Throats <br> 4:30 PM Sacrament of Penance <br> 6:00 PM MASS <br> 6:00 PM SCC Sign-Up Weekend <br> 7:00 PM Wine Social |
| 4 <br> 8:30 \& 11:00 AM MASS <br> Casserole Club DROP OFF <br> CSA Promotion Weekend <br> Monthly Food Pantry Collection <br> Sign-Up Weekend 8:30 am \& 11 <br> am <br> 9:30 AM Healing Ministry <br> 9:30 AM Rel Ed Gr. Kg-2 <br> 9:45 AM First Reconciliation Parent <br> Meeting <br> 11:00 AM Moreno Family - Gym <br> 12:00 PM Cub Scouts <br> 12:00 PM Rel. Ed. Gr. 7 \& 8 | 5 <br> 8:30 AM Mass <br> 11:00 AM Centering Prayer 7:00 PM Pastoral Facilitator Mtg. | 6 <br> 8:30 AM Mass <br> 9:00 AM Painters in the Gym <br> 9:30 AM Steel Magnolias (SCC) <br> 2:00 PM Prayer Shawl <br> 4:00 PM Rel Ed Gr. 3-6 <br> 5:30 PM Children's Choir Rehearsal <br> 7:00 PM Dance Class in Gym <br> 7:00 PM Pastoral Council Meeting <br> 7:30 PM AA | 7 <br> 8:30 AM Mass <br> 9:00 AM Scripture Study <br> 1:00 PM Diamonds in the Rough <br> (SCC) <br> 6:30 PM Contemplative Prayer | 8 <br> 8:30 AM Mass <br> 9:00 AM Painting Class <br> 9:00 AM RCIA Inquiry Session <br> 6:00 PM Prayer Shawl <br> 6:45 PM Choir Rehearsal | 9 <br> 8:30 AM Mass <br> 1:30 PM Legion of Mary <br> 6:30 PM Parish Alive Team <br> Meeting | 10 <br> CSA Appeal Weekend <br> 8:30 AM Mass <br> 9:00 AM Mardi Gras Set Up <br> 10:00 AM AA <br> 10:00 AM Sophia's Circle (SCC) <br> 4:30 PM Sacrament of Penance <br> 6:00 PM MASS |
| 11 <br> 8:30 \& 11:00 AM MASS <br> CSA Appeal Weekend <br> 9:30 AM Rel Ed Gr. Kg-2 <br> 12:00 PM Parish Mardi Gras | 12 <br> 8:30 AM Mass <br> 11:00 AM Centering Prayer <br> 6:30 PM Fruit of the Vine (SCC) <br> 6:30 PM Isaiah's Community <br> (SCC) | 13 <br> 8:30 AM Mass <br> 9:30 AM Steel Magnolias (SCC) <br> 2:00 PM Prayer Shawl <br> 4:00 PM Rel Ed Gr. 3-6 <br> 5:30 PM Children's Choir Rehearsal <br> 7:00 PM Dance Class in Gym <br> 7:30 PM AA | 14 <br> ASH WEDNESDAY <br> 8:30 AM Mass <br> 1:00 PM Diamonds in the Rough (SCC) <br> 3:00 PM Buildings \& Grounds Mtg. <br> 6:00 PM AGIFT Meeting <br> 7:00 PM Knights of Columbus <br> 7:00 PM Mass | 15 <br> 8:30 AM Mass <br> 9:00 AM Painting Class <br> 6:00 PM Prayer Shawl <br> 6:45 PM Choir Rehearsal | 16 <br> 8:30 AM Mass <br> 1:30 PM Legion of Mary <br> 6:00 PM Parish Alive <br> 7:00 PM Stations of the Cross | 17 <br> 8:30 AM Mass <br> 8:30 AM Parish Alive <br> 10:00 AM AA <br> 4:30 PM Sacrament of Penance <br> 6:00 PM MASS |
| 18 <br> 8:30 \& 11:00 AM MASS <br> 9:30 AM Healing Ministry <br> 9:30 AM Rel Ed Gr. Kg-2 <br> 12:00 PM Rel. Ed. Gr. 7 \& 8 <br> 12:00 PM Young Adult Mass \& Mingle | 19 <br> 8:30 AM Mass <br> 11:00 AM No Centering Prayer <br> 6:00 PM Taize Prayer <br> 7:00 PM Grief Support Group | 20 <br> 8:30 AM Mass <br> 9:30 AM Steel Magnolias (SCC) <br> 2:00 PM Prayer Shawl <br> 4:00 PM Rel Ed Gr. 3-6 <br> 5:30 PM Children's Choir Rehearsal <br> 7:00 PM Core Team Mtg. <br> 7:00 PM Dance Class in Gym <br> 7:00 PM LFF Mtg. <br> 7:30 PM AA | 21 <br> 8:30 AM FOOD PANTRY <br> DISTRIBUTION <br> 8:30 AM Mass <br> 1:00 PM Diamonds in the Rough (SCC) <br> 5:30 PM Lenten Pastus | 22 <br> 8:30 AM Mass <br> 9:00 AM Painting Class - <br> Conference Room <br> 6:00 PM Prayer Shawl <br> 6:45 PM Choir Rehearsal | 23 <br> 8:30 AM Mass <br> 1:30 PM Legion of Mary <br> 7:00 PM Stations of the Cross | 24 <br> 8:30 AM Mass <br> 10:00 AM AA <br> 4:30 PM Sacrament of Penance <br> 6:00 PM MASS |
| 25 <br> 8:30 \& 11:00 AM MASS <br> 9:30 AM First Reconciliation Retreat <br> 9:30 AM Rel Ed Gr. Kg-2 <br> 10:30 AM Gr. 7 \& 8 Retreat | 26 <br> 8:30 AM Mass <br> 11:00 AM Centering Prayer <br> 6:30 PM Fruit of the Vine (SCC) <br> 6:30 PM SCC-Isaiah's Community <br> - CF | 27 <br> 8:30 AM Mass <br> 9:30 AM Steel Magnolias (SCC) <br> 2:00 PM Prayer Shawl <br> 4:00 PM Rel Ed Gr. 3-6 <br> 5:30 PM Children's Choir Rehearsal <br> 6:00 PM Sister Parish Committee <br> 7:00 PM Dance Class in Gym <br> 7:00 PM OLM BOOK GROUP <br> 7:30 PM AA | 28 <br> 8:30 AM Mass <br> 1:00 PM Diamonds in the Rough (SCC) <br> 5:30 PM Lenten Pastus | 1 <br> 8:30 AM Mass <br> 9:00 AM Painting Class <br> 6:00 PM Prayer Shawl <br> 6:45 PM Choir Rehearsal | 2 <br> 8:30 AM Mass <br> 1:30 PM Legion of Mary <br> 5:00 PM First Reconciliation <br> Practice 7:00 PM <br> 7:00 PM Stations of the Cross | 3 <br> 8:30 AM Mass <br> 10:00 AM AA <br> 1:00 PM First Reconciliation <br> 4:30 PM Sacrament of Penance <br> 6:00 PM Anointing of the Sick <br> 6:00 PM MASS |



