

# OUR LADY OF MERCY CHURCH

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

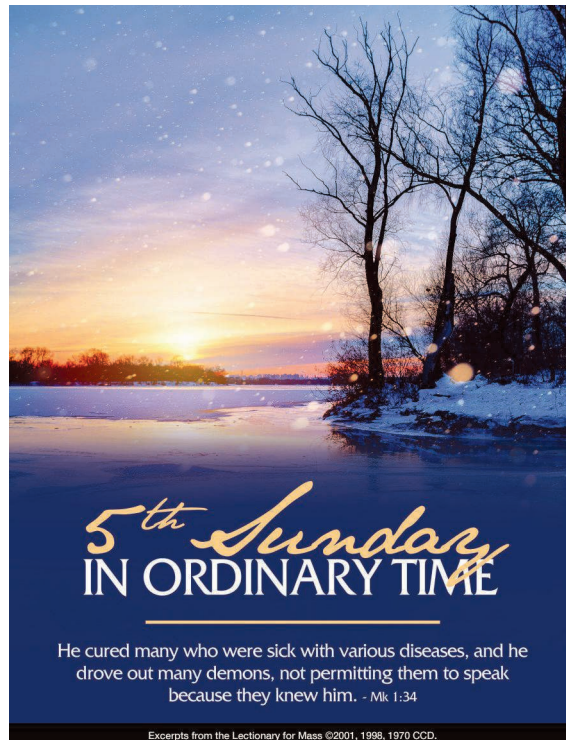
Parish Office: 814-899-5342

Office of Lifelong Faith Formation: 814-899-6132

Fax: 814-898-3306

Email: [info@ourladyofmercychurch.org](mailto:info@ourladyofmercychurch.org)

February 4, 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](http://ourladyofmercychurch.org/calendar)

<b>Mon. 02/05</b>	9:00 a.m.	Newsletter Stuffing/Mailing
	11:00 a.m.	Centering Prayer
	7:00 p.m.	Pastoral Facilitators Mtg
<b>Tue. 02/06</b>	9:30 a.m.	Steel Magnolias (SCC)
	2:00 p.m.	Prayer Shawl
	4:00 p.m.	Rel Ed Gr 3-6
	5:30 p.m.	Children's Choir Rehearsal
	7:00 p.m.	Pastoral Council Mtg
<b>Wed. 02/07</b>	9:00 a.m.	Scripture Study
	1:00 p.m.	Diamonds in the Rough (SCC)
	6:30 p.m.	Contemplative Prayer
<b>Thur. 02/08</b>	9:00 a.m.	RCIA Inquiry Session
	9:00 a.m.	Painting Class
	6:00 p.m.	Prayer Shawl
	6:45 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
<b>Fri. 02/09</b>	1:30 p.m.	Legion of Mary
	6:30 p.m.	Parish Alive Team Mtg
<b>Sat. 02/10</b>	9:00 a.m.	Mardi Gras Set-Up
	10:00 a.m.	Sophia's Circle (SCC)
	4:30 p.m.	Sacrament of Penance
<b>Sun. 02/11</b>	9:30 a.m.	Rel Ed Gr K-2
	12:00 p.m.	Parish Mardi Gras

## REMINDERS FROM THE OFFICE

### Newsletter Mailing

We will be preparing the newsletter for the mail **Monday, February 5 at 9:00 a.m. in the Conference Room.** If you can help stuff envelopes, please join us.

### 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](mailto:secretary@ourladyofmercychurch.org) **No statements will be sent electronically.**



### IN LOVING MEMORY

We remember Mark Erdely,  
nephew of Fred Kaerberlein.

Please keep him and his family in your prayers.

### 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 Extein** at 899-6875

The **Hospital Visitor** for the week is **Andrea Maille.**

## MASS INTENTIONS

<b>Mon. 02/05</b>	8:30 a.m.	<b>Yolanda DiRaimo</b> ( <i>Donelle Davey</i> )
<b>Tue. 02/06</b>	8:30 a.m.	<b>Chris Plonski</b> ( <i>Barb Jones</i> )
<b>Wed. 02/07</b>	8:30 a.m.	
<b>Thur. 02/08</b>	8:30 a.m.	<b>Sam Garwig</b> ( <i>John &amp; Irene Abbate</i> )
<b>Fri. 02/09</b>	8:30 a.m.	<b>Theresa Perrotto</b> ( <b>Family</b> )
<b>Sat. 02/10</b>	8:30 a.m.	<b>Francis Szuba Walczak</b> ( <i>James Walczak</i> )
	6:00 p.m.	<b>For The People of OLM</b>
<b>Sun. 02/11</b>	8:30 a.m.	<b>Anna Mae Passerotti</b> ( <i>Dave &amp; Patty Parmenter</i> )
	11:00 a.m.	<b>Mabel Holodnak</b> ( <i>Scott &amp; Connie Ellrich</i> )

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

<b>Mon. 02/05</b>	1 Kgs 8:1-7, 9-13	/ Mark 6:53-56
<b>Tue. 02/06</b>	1 Kgs 8:22-23, 27-30	/ Mark 7:1-13
<b>Wed. 02/07</b>	1 Kgs 10:1-10	/ Mark 7:14-23
<b>Thur. 02/08</b>	1 Kgs 11:4-13	/ Mark 7:24-30
<b>Fri. 02/09</b>	1 Kgs 11:29-32, 12:19	/ Mark 7:31-37
<b>Sat. 02/10</b>	1 Kgs 12:26-32, 13:33-34	/ Mark 8:1-10
<b>Sun. 02/11</b>	Lev 13:1-2, 44-46/ 1 Cor 10:31—11:1/ Mark 1:40-45	

## THIS SUNDAY'S REFLECTION

**Mark 1:29-39**



It is difficult to be faithful to God when our hearts are broken and our troubles seem endless. When life seems joyless and full of drudgery, with no hope in sight, we doubt that we will ever be happy again. Like Job, we may not curse God, but we might regret the day we were born.

God is not indifferent to our pain. If God knows the name of every star in the heavens, then surely God cares for us. Jesus reveals God's compassion to all who are afflicted. Grasping us by the hand, he raises us up to serve others. Strengthened and revived, we can proclaim the good news of God's mercy to all.

Paul shared Jesus' compulsion to spread the gospel. Paul was not a slave; what he had received without cost, he shared freely. He did this by imitating Jesus, who was a servant to all. Preaching the good news does not merit a reward or wages. Whatever we do must be for the sake of the gospel, knowing we will share in its blessings. Can we say like Paul, "This is what I came to do, that I might be a means of salvation for others?"

**For Reflection: Do I take pleasure in my ministry, or is it just a chore? What do I need to be renewed?**

© Kay Murdy



**Congratulations To:**

Joseph and Erica Lewandowski on the baptism  
of their son, **Beau Louis**.

Michael and Amanda Juhas on the baptism  
of their daughter, **Lily Jocelyn**.

Daniel and Samantha Flaherty on the baptism  
of their daughter, **Vivian Rose**.

**May God bless these parents in their commitment  
to be examples of faith to their children.**

**Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults**

Are you interested in learning more about the Catholic faith? Are you considering the possibility of joining the Catholic Church? Inquiry Sessions are now beginning. They are scheduled around the availability of the participants. For more information, call Irene Lucas at 899-6132.

**NOVA- A Remarriage Preparation Program**

Designed specifically for couples planning remarriage in the Catholic Church. Topics include blending families, expectations, legal issues and others. Pre-registration is required. Call The Family Life Office at 814-824-1261 to register. The next NOVA is scheduled for Saturday, March 10 in Erie.

**FINANCIAL SUPPORT**

*Offertory for the weekend of January 28, 2018*

Envelopes sent:	399	
Envelopes returned:	122	\$3,771.00
Faith Direct Deposits:	106	\$2,851.75
Loose Change:		\$165.00
<b>TOTAL OFFERTORY:</b>		<b>\$6,787.75</b>

**Winter Scripture Study**

Our Winter Scripture Study will conclude this Wednesday morning with an examination of the prophet Zachariah. Even if you were unable to attend the prior weeks, you are still welcome to join us.

**First Reconciliation Parent Meeting**

Today, 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 23 was **Sydney Kiesel, Grade 6** who knew that Jonah is the prophet who was swallowed by a large fish when he tried to run from God.

**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 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

**Baptismal Preparation Sessions for Parents**

Our semi-annual session for parents desiring the Sacrament of Baptism for their child will be held Sunday, March 18 at noon. If you have a child you wish to have baptized, or are expecting a child, you will want to sign up for this session. It is a requirement of the diocese that every parent participate in such a class prior to celebrating the sacrament. To register, call the Parish Office at 899-5342. The next session will be held in October.

**Catholic's Divorce Survival Guide**

The Catholic's Divorce Survival Guide (CDSG) a NEW 8-week group to help those who are separated or divorced is on Wednesdays; April 4 through May 23 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at St. Mark Catholic Center, 429 East Grandview Blvd. in Erie. The cost is \$10 for the book/journal. The presenters share from their own experience of divorce. Call the Family Life Office, 814-824-1250, email [familylife@eriercd.org](mailto:familylife@eriercd.org), or visit [www.eriercd.org/cdsg.htm](http://www.eriercd.org/cdsg.htm) for more information or to register.

**Transitions: A Monthly Peer Support Group**

Are you Widowed, Separated or divorced? Consider attending Transitions, a peer support group offered monthly at St. Mark Catholic Center, 429 E. Grandview Blvd. The next gathering is scheduled for Sunday, February 25, 2018 from 2:00-4:00 p.m. This month's topic is: "Forgiveness". Call 814-824-1265 or email: [familylife@eriercd.org](mailto:familylife@eriercd.org)

## Social Justice Committee News

In February, we will focus on the sanctity of marriage and family. This week, we begin with a quote from American author, Sheri L. Dew.



*"No marriage or family, no ward or stake is likely to reach its full potential until husbands and wives, mothers and fathers, men and women work together in unity of purpose, respecting and relying upon each other's strengths."*

### Getting Connected

One of the ways to get connected at Our Lady of Mercy is to become involved in a ministry. If you are a new member and have not received a ministry book, please contact Donna Clark in the Parish office.

### Contemplative Prayer Instruction Sessions

Are you interested in learning more about contemplative or centering prayer? On Wednesday, February 7 at 6:30 p.m. we will offer instruction on how to get started and how to handle the challenges and roadblocks to prayer. There will be an opportunity to practice this quiet form of meditative prayer that goes back to the early centuries of Christianity. Questions – call Donna Clark in the parish office.

### Looking for More in Your Faith Life?

Are you someone with a disability or do you know someone with a disability who wants more out of their Faith Life? The Office of Disabilities and Deaf Ministry has a number of groups that will provide the faith-filled social interaction you're looking for. Call Michele at 814-824-1257 or email at [d&dministry@erieRCD.org](mailto:d&dministry@erieRCD.org) for more details. You can also learn more about our ministry on the diocesan website [www.ErieRCD.org](http://www.ErieRCD.org) under Catholic Charities Disability Ministries.

### The Letters of Stewardship

**P: Prayer** – staying connected to God through prayer is needed to help us discern how to use our gifts. We are called at different times to share and at other times to receive.

### 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](http://www.ourladyofmercychurch.org) and look for the Faith Direct icon on the left hand column.

### 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.*

## Mardi Gras

Our annual parish Mardi Gras celebration is next Sunday, February 11. Mark your calendar and join us for an afternoon of fun for every age level: chili & soup cook-off, kid's corner with games and craft, Chinese Auction and 50/50, family trivia game and so much more. There is no cost (except for the Chinese Auction and 50/50). Proceeds will support our Sister Parish in Peto, Mexico.



## 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.

## Lenten Soup Suppers

Looking for soup makers and kitchen workers for Feb. 21, Feb. 28 and March 7. Provide soup for 30 people. Contact Sue McCreary at 814-602-0146 or sign up in the Gathering Space.

## "LORD, MAKE ME WHOLE"

### 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.

## 2018 CSA Commitment Sunday

Commitment Sunday for the 2018 Catholic Services Appeal will be February 11. The theme for the CSA this year is "**United in Service.**" As a diocese, let us offer to those who are in need the services which no single parish can afford. Please pray for a successful 2018 appeal. This is also an opportunity to support our parish project which is ongoing maintenance at Our Lady of Mercy.

# Our Lady of Mercy's Lenten Parish Mission

sponsored with our neighboring parishes (Saint Gregory, Saint James and St. Mark/Mt. Calvary)

## “Lord, Make Me Whole”

*Come and be fed. Refresh your spirit. Fill your heart. Know God's abundance.*



presented by  
**Dan Schutte**

Sunday, Monday and Tuesday  
**March 11, 12 and 13**

7:00 p.m.

at

**Our Lady of Mercy Church**  
(837 Bartlett Road, Harborcreek, PA 16421)

An unforgettable Lenten Parish Mission with Dan Schutte awaits us! As one of the best-known and most influential composers of Catholic music for liturgy, Dan's ministry has had an enormous impact on the spiritual journey of millions of people.

Dan's music has been a part of parish liturgies for many years. Some of his most celebrated songs are *“Here I Am, Lord”*, *“City of God”* and *“Sing a New Song”*, to name a few.

Our parish mission will be an evening of scripture, story, prayer and reflection woven around Schutte's songs. Dan says that this mission is “about the faithful God who loves us unconditionally.”



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