

# 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

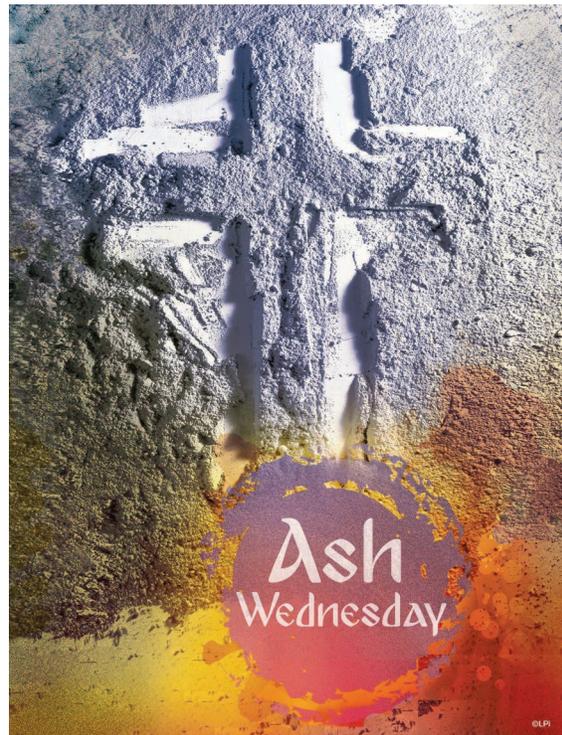
Parish Office: 814-899-5342

Office of Lifelong Faith Formation: 814-899-6132

Fax: 814-898-3306

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

February 11, 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. 02/12</b>	11:00 a.m.	Centering Prayer
	6:30 p.m.	Fruit of the Vine (SCC)
	6:30 p.m.	Isaiah's Community (SCC)
<b>Tue. 02/13</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
<b>Wed. 02/14</b>	<b>Ash Wednesday</b>	
	8:30 a.m.	<b>Mass</b>
	1:00 p.m.	Diamonds in the Rough (SCC)
	2:00 p.m.	Discussion Group
	6:00 p.m.	AGIFT Mtg
	7:00 p.m.	<b>Mass</b>
	7:00 p.m.	Knights of Columbus
<b>Thur. 02/15</b>	9:00 a.m.	Painting Class
	6:00 p.m.	Prayer Shawl
	6:45 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
<b>Fri. 02/16</b>	1:30 p.m.	Legion of Mary
	6:30 p.m.	Parish Alive Team Mtg
	7:00 p.m.	<b>Stations of the Cross</b>
<b>Sat. 02/17</b>	8:30 a.m.	Parish Alive
	4:30 p.m.	Sacrament of Penance
<b>Sun. 02/18</b>	<b>First Sunday of Lent</b>	
	9:30 a.m.	Healing Ministry
	9:30 a.m.	Rel Ed Gr K-2
	12:00 p.m.	Rel Ed Gr 7 & 8
	12:00 p.m.	Young Adult Mass & Mingle

## MASS INTENTIONS

<b>Mon. 02/12</b>	8:30 a.m.	
<b>Tue. 02/13</b>	8:30 a.m.	<b>Helen Blazek</b> (Jim & Claudette Terrill)
<b>Wed. 02/14</b>	8:30 a.m.	<b>Don Ross (Donna Ross)</b>
	7:00 p.m.	
<b>Thur. 02/15</b>	8:30 a.m.	<b>Dennis Hollarn</b> (Tom Farmer & Michelle Oyler)
<b>Fri. 02/16</b>	8:30 a.m.	
<b>Sat. 02/17</b>	8:30 a.m.	
	6:00 p.m.	<b>Yvonne Costelloe</b> (Kay & Fred Kaeberlein)
<b>Sun. 02/18</b>	8:30 a.m.	<b>For The People of OLM</b>
	11:00 a.m.	<b>Jack Steadman (Elsie Arnold)</b>

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

<b>Mon. 02/12</b>	Jas 1:1-11	/ Mark 8:11-13
<b>Tue. 02/13</b>	Jas 1:12-18	/ Mark 8:14-21
<b>Wed. 02/14</b>	Jl 2:12-18/2 Cor 5:20—6:2/ Mt 6:1-6, 16-18	
<b>Thur. 02/15</b>	Dt 30:15-20	/ Luke 9:22-25
<b>Fri. 02/16</b>	Is 58:1-9a	/ Matthew 9:14-15
<b>Sat. 02/17</b>	Is 58:9b-14	/ Luke 5:27-32
<b>Sun. 02/18</b>	Gn 9:8-15/ 1 Peter 3:18-22/ Mark 1:12-15	

## 2018 CSA COMMITMENT SUNDAY

Today is commitment Sunday for the 2018 Catholic Services Appeal. The theme for this year's Appeal is "United in Service." We are part of a larger family of faith—the Catholic Diocese of Erie. We share common needs that sometimes require special services. We are the Church in northwestern Pennsylvania—Catholics, Families, Parishes in thirteen counties. We all do God's work. Support of the 2018 Catholic Services Appeal is part of God's work.



### IN LOVING MEMORY

We remember Marie Buczynski, mother of Joe Buczynski. Please keep her and her 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 Florence Voelker.

### THIS SUNDAY'S REFLECTION

Mark 1:40-45



In Jesus' time, leprosy was considered a punishment for sins involving speech or language, such as gossip and slander. Since it was thought that persons with leprosy could contaminate others, they were separated from the community for the good of all. We sometimes feel as if we are being punished for our sins. Separated from family and friends, work and worship, we feel like the living dead. Somehow we get the courage to reach out to Jesus, begging like a leper: "If you will to do so, you can cure me!" Then we feel the touch of Jesus and hear him saying, "I do will it. Be cured!" How can we restrain ourselves from telling everyone we meet of the mighty deeds of God?

Paul insisted that everything should be done for the glory of God. Our call is given not for our own sake but for the sake of others. A Christian must be a good example to everyone, especially to the church of God, but even to our enemies. We cannot accomplish this by our own power. We have God's grace to help us imitate Christ in all we do and say.

**For Reflection: Do I pollute my environment by my words and actions? Do I take part in parish penance services to heal my wounds?**

© Kay Murdy

### 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.

### 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.

### 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)

### 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.**

### 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. Contact the Family Life Office at 814-824-1250 or [familylife@eriercd.org](mailto:familylife@eriercd.org) to register.

### Young Adult Mass and Mingle

Join in the young adult Mass & Mingle on Sunday, February 18 at 12 p.m. Here's a chance to meet other young adults and families in Sperry Hall after the 11:00 a.m. Mass. Bring a snack to share, if you'd like. Baby sitting will be available in the Nursery.

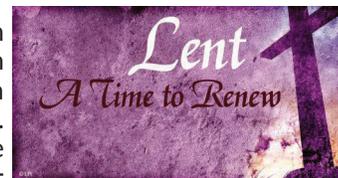
## FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Offertory for the weekend of **February 4, 2018**

Envelopes sent:	404	
Envelopes returned:	111	\$4,810.00
Faith Direct Deposits:	106	\$2,851.75
Loose Change:		\$130.00
<b>TOTAL OFFERTORY:</b>		<b>\$7,791.75</b>

### Lenten Pastus Series

Our Wednesday Lenten Pastus will begin February 21. Be fed in spirit at the 5:30 p.m. Eucharist, in body at the 6:15 p.m. Soup Supper and/or in mind at the 7:00 p.m. Presentation. The presenter at our first Pastus evening will be Fr. John Jacquel, pastor of Holy Rosary and St. John parish and former OLM member. In his talk "Crucified Love," Fr. Jacquel will explore what it means to pray with the cross of Christ. He will invite us to savor the spirituality of the cross of Christ, the outpouring of Divine Love.



### 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.

### Parish Alive

**The deadline to register for our annual Parish Alive retreat on February 16-17 has been extended by a week.** It is a wonderful way to kick-off your Lent, to renew your faith, to deepen your connection to the parish. Apply online at the parish website, 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

### LENTEN PARISH MISSION: DAN SCHUTTE - March 11-13 at 7p.m.

Mark your calendars now for what promises to be an unforgettable Lenten Parish Mission with Dan Schutte March 11-13. Schutte is one of the best known and most influential composers of Catholic music for liturgy in the English speaking world. Some of his most celebrated songs include: "Here I Am, Lord," "City of God," and "Sing a New Song," - are from his years of collaboration with the Saint Louis Jesuits.

Dan has served as liturgist and music director to various pastoral and academic settings. That experience, his deep knowledge of Sacred Scripture, and a strong sense of Ignatian spirituality form the basis of every event he leads. His ministry has had an enormous impact on the spiritual journey of millions of people, and we look forward to welcoming him this March.

### Stations of the Cross: Fridays During Lent

Join us every Friday at 7:00 p.m. during Lent for the Stations of the Cross.

## Social Justice Committee News

In February, we will focus on the sanctity of marriage and family.

Pope Francis on the solution to the threat against the family:



*"Every threat to the family is a threat to society itself. The future passes through the family. So protect your families! Protect your families! See in them your country's greatest treasure and nourish them always by prayer and the grace of the sacraments."*

## 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.** Please indicate if you would like the statement mailed or if you will be picking it up in the parish office.

## 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.

## 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.

## From the Office for the Protection of Children/Youth

### Human Trafficking and Protecting our Youth:

Trafficking of youth is a form of modern slavery. It includes both sex trafficking and forced labor. Any child under age 18 engaged in commercial sex is a victim of sex trafficking, even if the youth's participation is not forced or coerced. Be aware of recruiting tactics. Traffickers target victims through social media sites, telephone chat lines, afterschool programs, at shopping malls, bus depots, clubs/bars or through friends and acquaintances. To help protect your child, ask questions about your child's friends, monitor their computer use and know where he/she hangs out. To see what the Diocese of Erie is doing to help create safe environments for our children and youth, please visit <http://www.erieRCD.org/protectyouth.htm>

## Grief Support Group

On Monday, February 19 at 7:00 p.m. the Grief Support Group will meet in the Parlor. Each session has discussion around a topic pertaining to grief and includes prayer. Questions? Contact Donna Clark in the parish office. Invite a friend who is experiencing the loss of a loved one who needs to know they are not alone in their struggle. For an extra prayer experience come at 6:00 pm for the Taize Prayer.

## First Reconciliation Retreat & Celebration

Families with children preparing for First Reconciliation are reminded that we have a mandatory retreat on Sunday, February 25 from 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. This is a day of faith and fun in preparation for First Reconciliation. Children should dress comfortably. First Reconciliation practice will be held Friday, March 2 at 5:00 p.m.. All parish members are invited to celebrate First Reconciliation with us on March 3 at 1:00 p.m.

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

The winner for the week of January 30 was Emma Skelly, Grade K who knew that Ordinary Time is the longest season in the Church year.

## 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.

## Ink Jet Fundraiser

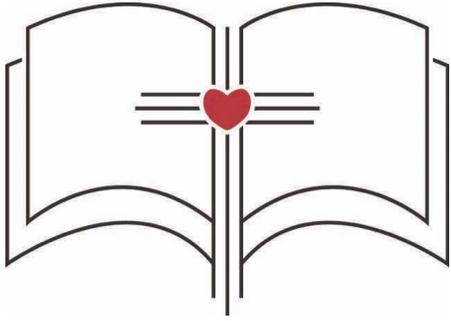
Please donate used black or color ink jet cartridges to the Religious Education ministry. Your donation of used printer cartridges helps to support our ministry to the children of the parish. Previously refilled and remanufactured cartridges cannot be redeemed, nor can laser toner cartridges.

## Lenten Fish & Pierogi Dinners

St. Stanislaus Parish is hosting their annual Lenten Fish and Pierogi Dinners on the following Fridays: **February 16, March 2 and March 16 in the Parish Hall from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.** The cost is \$10 for adults, \$5 for children 6–12 years of age, children 5 and under—free. Take-out dinners are \$10.25. Come and enjoy a delicious home cooked dinner with your family and friends.

## 5th Annual Men's Conference

Enjoy a dynamic experience with men from around the Diocese of Erie on **Saturday, March 3, 2018 at Our Lady of Peace in Erie.** This is an opportunity to strengthen your faith. The speakers include: Steve Wood, founder of Family Life center International; Mike McCoy, Cathedral Prep graduate and former NFL player and Father Larry Richards of the Erie Diocese and founder of The Reason for Hope foundation. For more information and a schedule about the 2018 conference go to [www.2232Men.com](http://www.2232Men.com)



## *Celebrating The Ministries of Our Lady of Mercy*

### *WHY*

This year, instead of our regular ministry sign-up in January, we are extending the celebration of the people involved in ministries over the next seven months.

### *WHEN*

Each month we will celebrate a group of ministries. During Mass on that weekend we will have a colorful banner with a special symbol to represent the ministries. The people in these ministries will be recognized and blessed at Mass. Someone will share his or her experience of being involved in the ministry.

### *HOW*

After Mass, informational brochures for each ministry celebrated will be available along with people to answer questions about the ministries. People will have an opportunity to sign-up for those ministries if they feel called.

### *WHAT*

#### **Celebrating Faith Formation Ministries**

**March 3 & 4 is the start of "Celebrating The Ministries of Our Lady of Mercy." This weekend we will recognize all those involved in the Faith Formation Ministries:**

**AGIFT - Adults Growing In Faith Together**

**Baptismal Preparation**

**Lifelong Faith Formation Committee**

**Pre Cana Program**

**RCIA**

**Religious Education Catechists**

**Religious Education Substitutes**

**Youth Ministry Support Team**

**To help celebrate we ask everyone in these ministries to wear **GREEN** to mass on March 3 & 4.**

Please check your emails in the coming weeks.  
If you feel drawn to witness at one of the Masses this weekend,  
please contact Donna Clark in the parish office at 899-5342.

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