

# 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

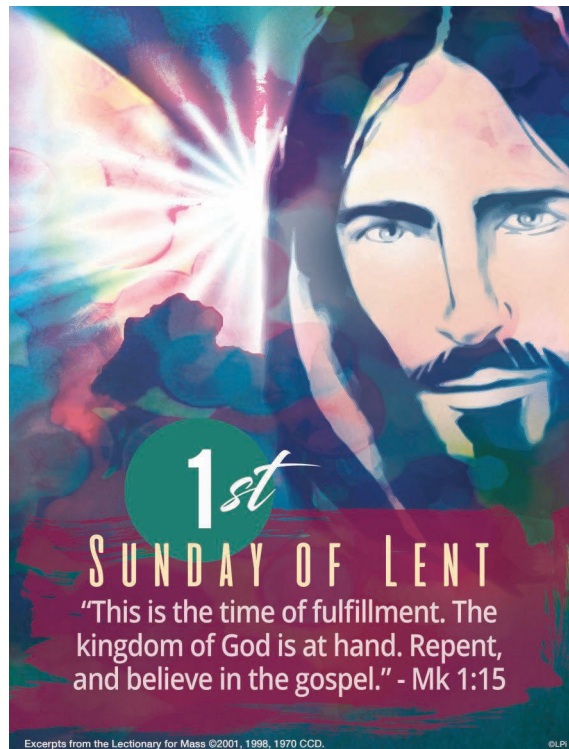
Parish Office: 814-899-5342

Office of Lifelong Faith Formation: 814-899-6132

Fax: 814-898-3306

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

February 18, 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. 02/19</b>	<b>6:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Taize Prayer</b>
	7:00 p.m.	Grief Support Group
<b>Tue. 02/20</b>	<b>9:30 a.m.</b>	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.	Core Team Mtg
	7:00 p.m.	LFF Mtg
<b>Wed. 02/21</b>	<b>8:30 a.m.</b>	Food Pantry Distribution
	1:00 p.m.	Diamonds in the Rough (SCC)
	<b>5:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Lenten Pastus</b>
<b>Thur. 02/22</b>	<b>9:00 a.m.</b>	Painting Class
	2:00 p.m.	Contemplative Prayer
	6:00 p.m.	Prayer Shawl
	6:45 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
	7:00 p.m.	Tech Committee Mtg
<b>Fri. 02/23</b>	<b>1:30 p.m.</b>	Legion of Mary
	<b>7:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Stations of the Cross</b>
<b>Sat. 02/24</b>	<b>4:30 p.m.</b>	Sacrament of Penance
<b>Sun. 02/25</b>	<b>Second Sunday of Lent</b>	
	9:30 a.m.	First Reconciliation Retreat
	9:30 a.m.	Rel Ed Gr K-2
	10:30 a.m.	Gr 7 & 8 Retreat

## REMINDERS FROM THE OFFICE

### 2018 CSA

Our parish goal for the 2018 Catholic Services Appeal is \$61,681.00. We appeal to every parishioner to make a generous pledge. All gifts, regardless of the size are important, needed and appreciated. **Thank you for your support.**

### 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.**



**Congratulations To:** Ryan and Emily Maloney

*on the baptism of their son, Cole Richard.*

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

## 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 Marilyn Garwig.

## MASS INTENTIONS

<b>Mon. 02/19</b>	8:30 a.m.	<b>Bob Jones</b> ( <i>Barb Jones</i> )
<b>Tue. 02/20</b>	8:30 a.m.	<b>Mary Ann Spiegel</b> ( <i>Family</i> )
<b>Wed. 02/21</b>	8:30 a.m.	<b>Fr. Tom Kelley</b>
	5:30 p.m.	
<b>Thur. 02/22</b>	8:30 a.m.	<b>Jack Ryan</b>
<b>Fri. 02/23</b>	8:30 a.m.	
<b>Sat. 02/24</b>	8:30 a.m.	
	6:00 p.m.	<b>For the People of OLM</b>
<b>Sun. 02/25</b>	8:30 a.m.	<b>George Ritchie</b>
	11:00 a.m.	<b>Maureen Cudicio</b> ( <i>Frank Laufft</i> )

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

<b>Mon. 02/19</b>	Lv 19:1-2, 11-18	/ Matthew 25:31-46
<b>Tue. 02/20</b>	Is 55:10-11	/ Matthew 6:7-15
<b>Wed. 02/21</b>	Jon 3:1-10	/ Luke 11:29-32
<b>Thur. 02/22</b>	1 Pt 5:1-4	/ Matthew 16:13-19
<b>Fri. 02/23</b>	Ez 18:21-28	/ Matthew 5:20-26
<b>Sat. 02/24</b>	Dt 26:16-19	/ Matthew 5:43-48
<b>Sun. 02/25</b>	Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18/ Rom 8:31b-34/ Mark 9:2-10	

## THIS SUNDAY'S REFLECTION

**Mark 1:12-15**



When rain is falling and the sun is shining at the same time, we may see a rainbow in the sky. When seen with the eyes of faith, the rainbow is a sign of God's presence in the storms of life. No matter how dark it may become, we know that God is faithful and will illuminate our way, guiding us when we are in danger of going astray from our baptismal promises.

Peter saw the flood as a metaphor for baptism. When we go our own way and refuse to walk the path God shows us, we find ourselves submerged in sin. Yet God is merciful and provides a way out. Ironically, though we drown in the waters of baptism, we rise to new life.

Jesus doesn't just stand by as we are submerged in the cleansing water. He joins us in the murky flood of our sinful state. Victorious over the powers of evil, he emerges to announce the good news of God's reign: "This is the time of fulfillment!" Reform your lives!" If we look up, we will see the light of Christ shining amidst the storm

**For Reflection: When have to storms of life put me to the test? Where have I seen rainbows in my life?**

© 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 today, **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.

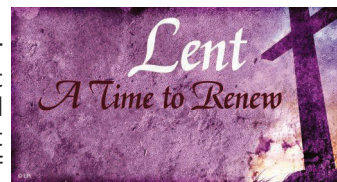
## FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Offertory for the weekend of **February 11, 2018**

Envelopes sent:	404	
Envelopes returned:	103	\$3,962.00
Faith Direct Deposits:	106	\$2,851.75
Loose Change:		\$114.00
<b>TOTAL OFFERTORY:</b>		<b>\$6,927.75</b>

## Taize Prayer

Take some time for yourself this Lent to rest in the embrace of God and prepare your heart for the celebration of Easter. Join us for a unique experience of Taize Prayer on **Monday, February 19 at 7:00 p.m.**



## 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.

## Anointing of the Sick

Saturday/Sunday, February 24/25 at all weekend Masses.

## 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.

## Lenten Parish Mission with 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 the Knights of Columbus this Friday at 7:00 p.m. for the Stations of the Cross.

## Sacrament of Reconciliation

Sunday, March 18 at 3:00 p.m. St. Mark, Lawrence Park  
Monday, March 19 at 7:00 p.m. St. James, Wesleyville  
Tuesday, March 20 at 7:00 p.m. St. Gregory, North East

**Wednesday, March 21 at 7:00 p.m.**  
at Our Lady of Mercy

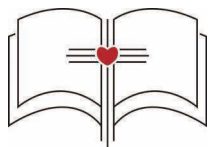
## Social Justice Committee News



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

A quote from Barbara De Angelis, an American writer, on the sanctity of marriage:

*"Marriage is not a noun; it's a verb. It isn't something you get. It's something you do. It's the way you love your partner every day."*



## Celebrating the Ministries of Our Lady of Mercy

March 3 & 4 is the start of Celebrating the ministries of our parish. 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**

If you are part of one of these ministries, please wear **GREEN** to Mass on March 3 & 4. We will have a special blessing of the ministers this weekend. We will have informational brochures available and there will be an opportunity to sign up for any of these ministries if you feel God is calling you to share your gifts in this way.

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

### Child Protection and Creating Safe Environments: Teen Dating Violence and Protecting our Youth

Teen dating violence is a serious problem in the US. A national survey found that 10% of teens had been victims of physical dating violence within the past year and approximately 29% reported being verbally or psychologically abused in the previous year. Teen dating violence can be physical, emotional or sexual. Teen dating violence can be prevented through empowering teens to lead healthy lives and establish healthy relationships. Healthy relationships consist of trust, honesty, respect, equality and compromise. To see what the Diocese of Erie is doing to help create safe environments for children and youth, learn more at <http://www.eriecd.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.

## 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.

## First Eucharist Parent Meeting

Parents with children preparing to celebrate First Eucharist this May are reminded that there will be a **very important meeting in Sperry Hall on Sunday, March 4 at 9:45 a.m.**

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

The winner for the week of February 6 was **Georgia weber, Grade 6** who knew that the Golden Rule is "Do to others what you would want done to you."

## 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.

## Pancakes for Fr. Pete

**Enjoy a breakfast benefit for Maria House on Sunday, March 18 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.** Tickets are \$5.00 each or \$20.00 for a family of 4 or more. Pancakes, sausage, coffee and juice will be served. In addition, there will be a basket raffle and 50/50 drawing. If you have any questions, please contact Tom Pearson at 450-7338.

## Lenten Fish & Pierogi Dinners

St. Stanislaus Parish is hosting their annual Lenten Fish and Pierogi Dinners on the following Fridays: **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.

## The Letters of Stewardship

**R: Relationships** – the giving of our gifts usually involves other people as well as acknowledging the source of the gifts. Our relationship with God allows us to see our giftedness and our giving of these gifts usually is of benefit to others.



# Lenten Pastus

Wednesday evenings during Lent have become an important part of the observation of Lent at Our Lady of Mercy.

Our traditional Pastus series feeds the spirit, the body and the head as we pray, eat and learn together.

## Wednesday, February 21: “Crucified Love”

**5:30 p.m. Mass**

**6:10 p.m. Soup Supper**

**7:00 p.m. Fr. John Jacquel**

During Lent, and in fact through our entire lives, we are beckoned to draw near to the cross of Christ. What does it mean to pray with the cross of Christ? Fr. Jacquel will explore and savor the spirituality of the cross of Christ, the outpouring of Divine Love.

## Wednesday, February 28: “Following Jesus as Disciples along the Way to the Cross in the Gospel of Mark”

**5:30 p.m. Mass**

**6:10 p.m. Soup Supper**

**7:00 p.m. Fr. Jason Mitchell**

This year we hear the Gospel of Mark proclaimed each Sunday as we gather for Mass. Fr. Mitchell will help us understand what the Gospel of Mark teaches us about the call to follow Jesus as disciples who must pick up our own cross and journey with Christ to Jerusalem.

## Wednesday, March 7: “Transforming Death: The Scandal of the Cross”

**5:30 p.m. Mass**

**6:10 p.m. Soup Supper**

**7:00 p.m. Dr. Eric Dart**

Our belief in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ stands at the center of our faith. How can death lead to salvation? Dr. Dart will explore the Christian belief that Jesus’ takes on our sins and brokenness with his sacrifice and death on the cross so that we might experience salvation.

### Reminders:

**March 11-13 7 p.m. Parish Mission**

**March 21 7 p.m. Our Lady of Mercy Penance Service**

**March 28 7 p.m. A Holy Pilgrimage through Holy Week**

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