## 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

February 25, 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

| Mon. 02/26 | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 11:00 a.m. } \\ & \text { 6:30 p.m. } \\ & \text { 6:30 p.m. } \end{aligned}$ | Centering Prayer <br> Fruit of the Vine (SCC) <br> Isaiah's Community (SCC) |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Tue. 02/27 | 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 |
|  | 6:00 p.m. | Sister Parish Committee Mtg |
|  | 7:00 p.m. | OLM Book Group |
| Wed. 02/28 | 1:00 p.m. | Diamonds in the Rough (SCC) |
|  | Lenten Pastus |  |
|  | 5:30 p.m. | Mass |
|  | 6:10 p.m. | Soup Supper |
|  | 7:00 p.m. | Presentation |
| Thur.03/01 | 9:00 a.m. | Painting Class |
|  | 2:00 p.m. | Contemplative Prayer |
|  | 6:00 p.m. | Prayer Shawl |
|  | 6:45 p.m. | Choir Rehearsal |
| Fri. 03/02 | 1:30 p.m. | Legion of Mary |
|  | 5:00 p.m. | First Reconciliation Practice |
|  | 7:00 p.m. | Stations of the Cross |
| Sat. 03/03 | 1:00 p.m. | First Reconciliation |
|  | 4:30 p.m. | Sacrament of Penance |
|  | 6:00 p.m. | Anointing of the Sick |
| Sun. 03/04 | Third Sunday of Lent Casserole Club Drop Off Monthly Food Pantry Collection |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  | 9:30 a.m. | Healing Ministry |
|  | 9:30 a.m. | Rel Ed Gr K-2 |
|  | 9:45 a.m. | First Eucharist Parent Meeting |
|  | 12:00 p.m. | Rel Ed Gr 7 \& 8 |


| MASS INTENTIONS |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Mon. 02/26 | 8:30 a.m. | Dennis Rapp |
| Tue. 02/27 | 8:30 a.m. | Francis Ritchie |
| Wed. 02/28 | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 8:30 a.m. } \\ & \text { 5:30 p.m. } \end{aligned}$ | Robert Tobin (Kosin \& Sokal Families) |
| Thur. 03/01 | 8:30 a.m. | Thomas Liebel (Liebel Family) |
| Fri. 03/02 | 8:30 a.m. |  |
| Sat. 03/03 | 8:30 a.m. |  |
|  | 6:00 p.m. | For the People of OLM |
| Sun. 03/04 | 8:30 a.m. | Helen Bandur (Teri Duvall) |
|  | 11:00 a.m. | Yolanda DiRaimo (Family) |

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

Mon. 02/26 Dn 9:4b-10
Tue. 02/27 Is 1:10, 16-20
Wed. 02/28 Jer 18:18-20
Thur. 03/01 Jer 17:5-10
Fri. 03/02 Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a/
Matthew 21:33-34, 45-46
Sat. 03/03 Mi 7:14-15, 18-20 /Luke 15:1-3, 11-32
Sun. 03/04 Ex 20:1-17 1 Cor 1:22-25/John 2:13-25

## REMINDERS FROM THE OFFICE

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


## In LOVING MEMORY

We remember Joseph Sosnowski, father of Robert Sosnowski. 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 Geri Gallagher.

## THIS SUNDAY'S

## REFLECTION

Mark 9:2-10
"Ready!" we say when we are
 willing to take the plunge into God's saving power. Before we do, we better know what sort of commitment we are making. Can we be like Abraham, who did not withhold anything from God? Abraham bound his son and laid him on the alter, but he also bound his heart and will to God. Because Abraham was faithful to God, God was faithful to Abraham and all generations are blessed in him.

Jesus invites us to go up the mountain with him to show us how bright things can be in the midst of darkness. Though a cloud overshadows the light, we hear God's voice, "This is my Son, this is my daughter, my beloved, Listen to him." As we come down the mountain, we wonder what it means to die. What does it mean to rise from the dead?

God the Father did not withhold Jesus the Son from suffering and death but offered him for the sake of us all. If we walk in the presence of the Lord, then God will release us from our bondage to sin, and we, who appeared to be dead, will walk in the land of the living. Since God is ready to do that for us, we can say with Paul, "If God is for us, who can be against us?"

For Reflection: What have I offered to God? How has God rewarded by obedience?
© Kay Murdy


Thank You and Congratulations!
Thank you to all who made this year's Mardi Gras a fun and delicious success. The Sister Parish Committee is so grateful to all who volunteered their time, donated prizes for our auction, spent their Sunday afternoon with us and especially for those who shared their fantastic soups and chilies. You are all winners in our opinion. The winners are...
Chili Cook-Off

| Amigos | 1st Place |
| :---: | :---: |
| Brown's Pizza Chili | 2nd Place |
| Red White \& Blue Chili | 2nd Place |
| Soup Cook-Off |  |
| Mo Rizzo | 1st Place |
| Ruben | 2nd Place |
| Hot Mamas | 3rd Place |
| Schneider/Hawryliw | Honorable Mention |
| Best Decorated |  |
| Mo Rizzo | 1st Place |
| Gabler | 2nd Place |
| Hot Mamas | 3rd Place |
| Family Trivia Game |  |
| Rachel Ciotti |  |
| Corn Hole Tournament |  |
| Caleb Mandel \& Noah H | wryliw |

## Social Justice Committee News

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


Pope John Paul II on the family as the "sanctuary of life."
"The family has a special role to play throughout the life of its members, from birth to death. It is truly the sanctuary of life: the place in which life -the gift of God- can be properly welcomed and protected against the many attacks to which it is exposed, and can develop in accordance with what constitutes authentic human growth".

## FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Offertory for the weekend of February 18, 2018
Envelopes sent: 404

Envelopes returned: 117 \$4,190.15
$\begin{array}{lr}\text { Faith Direct Deposits: } 106 & \$ 2,851.75 \\ \text { Loose Change: } & \$ 215.00 \\ \text { TOTAL OFFERTORY: } & \$ 7,256.90\end{array}$

Lenten Pastus Series
Our Wednesday Lenten Pastus Series will continue February 28. 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 second Pastus evening will be Fr. Jason Mitchell, who teaches in the Dept. of Theology at Gannon University. This year, our Sunday Gospel readings come from the Gospel of Mark. 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.

## Lenten Parish Mission with Dan Schutte March 11-13 at 7p.m.

Join us for ourLenten 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. If you wish to attend, but need a ride call the Parish Office at 899-5342.

## Stations of the Cross: Fridays During Lent

Join the Legion of Mary this Friday at 7:00 p.m. for the Stations of the Cross. On March 9, the Pastoral Council will lead the Stations of the Cross.

## Sacrament of Reconciliation

The season of Lent calls us to examine our lives and see where reconciliation and penance for our sins and failings may aid our preparation for the celebration of Easter.
Penance Services:
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
Wednesday, March 21 at 7:00 p.m. at Our Lady of Mercy

## Lenten Fish \& Pierogi Dinners

St. Stanislaus Parish is hosting their annual Lenten Fish and Pierogi Dinners on Friday, March 2 and Friday, 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.

## MARCH 2018 HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

| Mar. 1 | Jared Anderson | 17 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Mar. 3 | Dominick Scarpino | 12 |
| Mar. 3 | Milena Laskey | 1 |
| Mar. 4 | Caleb Mandel | 17 |
| Mar. 4 | Cain Rozenek | 8 |
| Mar. 5 | Thomas Pohl | 11 |
| Mar. 5 | Sophia Sartori | 4 |
| Mar. 6 | Baleigh Haislip | 7 |
| Mar. 9 | Noah Sacco | 14 |
| Mar. 9 | Nicholas Sacco | 14 |
| Mar. 9 | Lynzey Reinsel | 12 |
| Mar. 13 | Justin Tersigni | 13 |
| Mar. 16 | Oliver Beckman | 4 |
| Mar. 16 | Will Lunger | 9 |
| Mar. 17 | Leah Corey | 12 |
| Mar. 18 | Eric Morris | 15 |
| Mar. 21 | Charlie Giambrone | 14 |
| Mar. 21 | Ryan MacGurn | 18 |
| Mar. 24 | Tyler Bryan | 2 |
| Mar. 29 | Raegan Roche | 6 |
| Mar. 29 | Rian Roche | 6 |
| Mar. 31 | Angelina Carideo | 7 |
| Mar. 31 | Antonio Hodzic | 5 |



## 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. Informational brochures will be 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.

Please check your emails in the coming weeks. We are looking for people from these ministries to be at a table in the Gathering Space after Mass to answer any questions. Questions? Contact Donna Clark.

## First Reconciliation Celebration

Families with children preparing for First Reconciliation are reminded that we have a mandatory practice Friday, March 2 at 5:00 p.m. All parish members are invited to celebrate First Reconciliation with us on Saturday, 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 13 was Lillian Festa, Grade 1, who knew that Lent begins on Ash Wednesday.

## 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.

## 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.

## 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.

## Powerful Tools for Caregivers Workshop

Tuesdays, March 6 - April 10 from 2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. at Lifeworks Erie, 406 Peach Street. This workshop is designed for people who are taking care of a family member or friend. Participants will learn about tools and strategies to better handle the unique caregiver challenges they face. Planned topics include: reducing personal stress, communicating feelings and needs, setting limits, and asking for help. There is no charge. To register call 453-5072.
March 2018

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday |  | Wednesday | Thursday | ay Saturday |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 25 <br> 8:30 \& 11:00 AM MASS <br> Anointing of the Sick Second Sunday of Lent 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 <br> Community - 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 <br> Rehearsal <br> 6:00 PM Sister Parish <br> 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 | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 1 } \\ & \text { 8:30 AM Mass } \\ & \text { 9:00 AM Painting Class } \\ & \text { 2:00 PM Contemplative Prayer } \\ & \text { 6:00 PM Prayer Shawl } \\ & \text { 6:45 PM Choir Rehearsal } \end{aligned}$ | 2 <br> 8:30 AM Mass <br> 1:30 PM Legion of Mary 5:00 PM First Reconciliation Practice <br> 7:00 PM Stations of the Cross - Legion | $3$ <br> 8:30 AM Mass <br> 10:00 AM AA <br> 1:00 PM First Reconciliation 4:30 PM Sacrament of Penance 6:00 PM Anointing of the Sick 6:00 PM MASS |
| 4 <br> 8:30 \& 11:00 AM MASS <br> Casserole Club DROP OFF <br> Ministry presentation weekend <br> Monthly Food Pantry <br> Collection <br> Third Sunday of Lent <br> 9:30 AM Healing Ministry <br> 9:30 AM Rel Ed Gr. Kg-2 <br> 9:45 AM First Eucharist Parent <br> Meeting <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> 9:30 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 <br> Rehearsal <br> 7:00 PM Dance Class in Gym <br> 7:00 PM Pastoral Council <br> Meeting <br> 7:30 PM AA | 7 <br> 8:30 AM Mass <br> 1:00 PM Diamonds in the Rough (SCC) <br> 5:30 PM Lenten Pastus | 8 <br> 8:30 AM Mass <br> 9:00 AM Painting Class - CR <br> 2:00 PM Contemplative Prayer <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> 7:00 PM Stations of the <br> Cross - PC | 10 <br> 8:30 AM Mass <br> 9:00 AM Morning of Reflection - <br> Dan Schutte <br> 10:00 AM AA <br> 4:30 PM Sacrament of Penance <br> 6:00 PM MASS |
| 11 <br> 8:30 \& 11:00 AM MASS <br> Daylight-Saving Time Begins Fourth Sunday of Lent 9:30 AM Rel Ed Gr. Kg-2 12:00 PM Rel. Ed. Gr. 7 \& 8 7:00 PM Parish Mission - Dan Schutte | 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 (SCC) <br> 7:00 PM Parish Mission - Dan <br> Schutte | 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> 7:00 PM Dance Class in Gym <br> 7:00 PM Parish Mission - Dan <br> Schutte <br> 7:30 PM AA | 14 <br> 8:30 AM Mass <br> 1:00 PM Diamonds in the Rough (SCC) <br> 3:00 PM Buildings \& Grounds Mtg. <br> 6:30 PM AGIFT Meeting <br> 7:00 PM Knights of Columbus | 15 <br> 8:30 AM Mass <br> 9:00 AM Painting Class <br> 2:00 PM Contemplative Prayer <br> 6:00 PM Prayer ShawI <br> 6:45 PM Choir Rehearsal | 16 <br> 8:30 AM Mass <br> 1:30 PM Legion of Mary <br> 7:00 PM Stations of the <br> Cross - Youth | 17 <br> St. Patrick's Day <br> 8:30 AM Mass <br> 10:00 AM AA <br> 4:30 PM Sacrament of Penance 6:00 PM MASS |
| 18 <br> 8:30 \& 11:00 AM MASS <br> Fifth Sunday of Lent 9:30 AM Healing Ministry 9:30 AM Pancake Breakfast Maria House 9:30 AM Rel Ed Gr. Kg-2 12:00 PM Baptismal Preparation Session 12:00 PM Rel. Ed. Gr. 7 \& 8 | 19 <br> 8:30 AM Mass <br> 11:00 AM Centering Prayer <br> 7:00 PM Grief Support Group | 20 <br> First Day of Spring <br> 8:30 AM Mass <br> 9:30 AM Steel Magnolias (SCC) <br> 2:00 PM Prayer ShawI <br> 4:00 PM Rel Ed Gr. 3-6 <br> 5:30 PM Children's Choir <br> 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 DISTRIBUTION <br> 8:30 AM Mass <br> 1:00 PM Diamonds in the Rough (SCC) <br> 7:00 PM Lenten Penance Service | 22 <br> 8:30 AM Mass <br> 9:00 AM Painting Class <br> 2:00 PM Contemplative Prayer <br> 3:00 PM Social Justice Com. <br> Meeting <br> 6:00 PM Prayer Shawl <br> 6:45 PM Choir Rehearsal <br> 7:00 PM Tech Committee Mtg | 23 <br> 8:30 AM Mass <br> 1:30 PM Legion of Mary 7:00 PM Stations of the Cross - SCC | 24 <br> 8:30 AM Mass <br> 10:00 AM AA <br> 12:00 PM Youth Event <br> 4:30 PM Sacrament of Penance <br> 6:00 PM MASS |
| 25 <br> 8:30 \& 11:00 AM MASS PALM SUNDAY 9:30 AM Rel Ed Gr. Kg-2 12:15 PM Gr. 7 \& 8 Youth Event | 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 <br> Community - CF <br> 7:00 PM PARISH SEDER MEAL | 27 <br> 8:30 AM Mass <br> 9:30 AM Steel Magnolias (SCC) <br> 2:00 PM Prayer ShawI <br> 4:00 PM Rel.Ed. Gr. 3-6 <br> 5:30 PM Children's Choir <br> Rehearsal <br> 7:00 PM Dance Class in Gym <br> 7:30 PM AA | 28 <br> 8:30 AM Mass <br> 1:00 PM Diamonds in the <br> Rough (SCC) <br> 7:00 PM PILGRIMAGE <br> THROUGH THE SYMBOLS OF HOLY WEEK | 29 <br> HOLY THURSDAY <br> 2:00 PM Contemplative Prayer 7:00 PM Mass of the Lord's Supper 9:00 PM Night Prayer | 30 <br> GOOD FRIDAY <br> Parish Office Closed <br> 9:00 AM Morning Prayer <br> 1:00 PM Outdoor Stations of <br> the Cross <br> 3:00 PM Liturgy of the Lord's Passion | 31 <br> HOLY SATURDAY <br> 9:00 AM Morning Prayer 10:00 AM AA <br> 11:30 AM Blessing of Easter <br> Foods <br> 9:00 PM EASTER VIGIL |



