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.

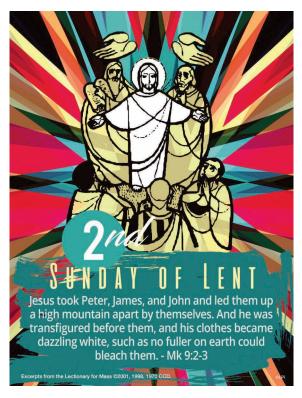
PARISH STAFF

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.

For a complete calendar of events, please visit

ourladyofmercychurch.org/calendar				
Mon. 02/26	11:00 a.m.	Centering Prayer		
	6:30 p.m.	Fruit of the Vine (SCC)		
	6:30 p.m.	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	8:30 a.m.	
		5:30 p.m.	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	/ Luke 6:36-38
Tue.	02/27	ls 1:10, 16-20	/ Matthew 23:1-12
Wed.	02/28	Jer 18:18-20	/ Matthew 20:17-28
Thur.	03/01	Jer 17:5-10	/ Luke 16:19-31
Fri.	03/02	Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a, 1	.7b-28a/
Matthew 21:33-34, 45-46			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 1:2	2-25/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



"Ready!" we say when we are willing to take the plunge into

Mark 9:2-10

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?

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Thank You and Congratulations! Thank you to all who made this year's Mardi Gras a fun and delicious success. The Sister Parish Committee Grass 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 Brown's Pizza Chili Red White & Blue Chili 1st Place 2nd Place 2nd Place

<u>Soup Cook-Off</u> Mo Rizzo

Ruben Hot Mamas Schneider/Hawryliw 1st Place 2nd Place 3rd Place Honorable Mention

<u>Best Decorated</u> Mo Rizzo Gabler Hot Mamas

1st Place 2nd Place 3rd Place

Family Trivia Game Rachel Ciotti

<u>Corn Hole Tournament</u> Caleb Mandel & Noah Hawryliw

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
Faith Direct Deposits:	106	\$2,851.75
Loose Change:		\$215.00
TOTAL OFFERTORY:		\$7,256.90

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 12 Dominick Scarpino Mar. 3 Milena Laskey 1 Mar. 4 Caleb Mandel 17 Cain Rozenek Mar.4 8 Mar. 5 Thomas Pohl 11 Mar. 5 Sophia Sartori 4 Mar. 6 7 **Baleigh Haislip** Mar. 9 Noah Sacco 14 Nicholas Sacco Mar. 9 14 Mar. 9 Lvnzev Reinsel 12 Mar. 13 Justin Tersigni 13 Mar. 16 Oliver Beckman 4 Mar. 16 Will Lunger 9 Mar.17 Leah Corev 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 5 Mar. 31 Antonio Hodzic





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

lay Saturday	3 8:30 AM Mass 8:30 AM AA 10:00 AM AA 1:00 DM First Reconciliation 4:30 PM Sacrament of Penance 6:00 PM Anointing of the Sick 6:00 PM MASS	10 8:30 AM Mass 9:00 AM Morning of Reflection - Dan Schutte 10:00 AM AA 4:30 PM Sacrament of Penance 6:00 PM <u>MASS</u>	17 St. Patrick's Day 8:30 AM Mass 10:00 AM AA 4:30 PM Sacrament of Penance 6:00 PM <u>MASS</u>	24 8:30 AM Mass 8:30 AM AA 10:00 AM Youth Event 4:30 PM Sacrament of Penance 6:00 PM <u>MASS</u>	31 HOLY SATURDAY 9:00 AM Morning Prayer 10:00 AM AA 11:30 AM Blessing of Easter Foods 9:00 PM EASTER VIGIL
Thursday Friday	2 8:30 AM Mass 1:30 PM Legion of Mary 1:30 PM First Reconciliation Practice 7:00 PM Stations of the Cross - Legion	9 8:30 AM Mass 1:30 PM Legion of Mary 7:00 PM Stations of the Cross - PC	16 8:30 AM Mass 1:30 PM Legion of Mary 7:00 PM Stations of the Cross - Youth	23 8:30 AM Mass 1:30 PM Legion of Mary 7:00 PM Stations of the Cross - SCC	30 31 GOOD FRIDAY 31 Parish Office Closed 9:00 AM Morning Prayer 9:00 AM Morning Prayer 10:00 AM AA 1:00 PM Outdoor Stations of 11:30 AM Blessing of Easter Cross 11:30 AM Blessing of Easter VIGIL 3:00 PM Liturgy of the Lord's 9:00 PM EASTER VIGIL
Wednesday Thu	1 8:30 AM Mass 9:00 AM Painting Class 9:00 AM Contemplative Prayer 6:00 PM Prayer Shawl 6:45 PM Choir Rehearsal	8 8:30 AM Mass 9:00 AM Painting Class - CR 9:00 AM Prayer Shawl 6:45 PM Choir Rehearsal	 15 8:30 AM Mass 8:30 AM Painting Class 9:00 AM Painting Class 2:00 PM Contemplative Prayer 6:00 PM Prayer Shawl 6:45 PM Choir Rehearsal 	 22 8:30 AM Mass 8:30 AM Painting Class 9:00 AM Painting Class 9:00 AM Contemplative Prayer 3:00 PM Social Justice Com. Meeting 6:00 PM Prayer Shawl 6:45 PM Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM Tech Committee Mtg 	29 HOLY THURSDAY 2:00 PM Contemplative Prayer 7:00 PM Mass of the Lord's Supper 9:00 PM Night Prayer
Wedn	28 8:30 AM Mass 1:00 PM Diamonds in the Rough (SCC) 5:30 PM Lenten Pastus	7 8:30 AM Mass 1:00 PM Diamonds in the Rough (SCC) 5:30 PM Lenten Pastus	14 8:30 AM Mass 1:00 PM Diamonds in the Rough (SCC) 3:00 PM Buildings & Grounds Mtg. 6:30 PM AGIFT Meeting 7:00 PM Knights of Columbus	21 8:30 AM FOOD PANTRY DISTRIBUTION B:30 AM Mass 1:00 PM Diamonds in the Rough (SCC) 7:00 PM Lenten Penance Service	28 8:30 AM Mass 1:00 PM Diamonds in the Rough (SCC) 7:00 PM PILGRIMAGE THROUGH THE SYMBOLS OF HOLY WEEK
Tuesday	27 8:30 AM Mass 8:30 AM Steel Magnolias (SCC) 9:30 AM Steel Magnolias (SCC) 2:00 PM Rel Ed Gr. 3-6 5:30 PM Children's Choir Rehearsal 6:00 PM Sister Parish 6:00 PM Sister Parish 7:00 PM OLM BOOK GROUP 7:30 PM AA	6 8:30 AM Mass 8:30 AM Steel Magnolias (SCC) 2:00 PM Rele G Gr. 3-6 5:30 PM Children's Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM Dance Class in Gym 7:00 PM Pastoral Council Meeting 7:30 PM AA	13 8:30 AM Mass 9:30 AM Steel Magnolias (SCC) 2:00 PM Prayer Nawl 2:00 PM Rel Ed Gr. 3-6 7:00 PM Dance Class in Gym 7:00 PM Parish Mission - Dan Schutte 7:30 PM AA	20 First Day of Spring 8:30 AM Mass 8:30 AM Steel Magnolias (SCC) 9:30 AM Frayer Shawl 4:00 PM Rel Ed Gr. 3-6 5:30 PM Children's Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM Core Team Mtg. 7:00 PM LFF Mtg. 7:00 PM LFF Mtg. 7:30 PM AA	27 8:30 AM Mass 9:30 AM Steel Magnolias (SCC) 2:00 PM Prayer Shawl 4:00 PM Rel.Ed. Gr. 3-6 5:30 PM Rel.Ed. Gr. 3-6 5:30 PM Rel Class in Gym 7:30 PM AA
Monday	26 8:30 AM Mass 8:30 AM Mass 6:30 PM Fruit of the Vine (SCC) 6:30 PM SCC-Isaiah's Community - CF	5 8:30 AM Mass 11:00 AM Centering Prayer 7:00 PM Pastoral Facilitator Mtg.	12 8:30 AM Mass 11:00 AM Centering Prayer 6:30 PM Isuit of the Vine (SCC) 6:30 PM Isaiah's Community (SCC) 7:00 PM Parish Mission - Dan Schutte	19 8:30 AM Mass 11:00 AM Centering Prayer 7:00 PM Grief Support Group	26 8:30 AM Mass 11:00 AM Centering Prayer 6:30 PM Fruit of the Vine (SCC) 6:30 PM SCC-Isalah's Community - CF 7:00 PM PARISH SEDER MEAL
Sunday	25 8:30 & 11:00 AM MASS Anointing of the Sick Second Sunday of Lent 9:30 AM First Reconciliation Retreat 9:30 AM Rel Ed Gr. Kg-2 10:30 AM Gr. 7 & 8 Retreat	4 8:30 & 11:00 AM MASS Casserole Club DROP OFF Ministry presentation weekend Monthly Food Pantry Collection Third Sunday of Lent 9:30 AM Rel Ed Gr. Kg-2 9:45 AM Rel Ed Gr. Kg-2 9:45 AM First Eucharist Parent Meeting 12:00 PM Cub Scouts 12:00 PM Rel. Ed. Gr. 7 & 8	11 8:30 & 11:00 AM MASS Baylight-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	18 8:30 & 11:00 AM MASS Firth Sunday of Lent 9:30 AM Healing Ministry 9:30 AM Pancake Breakfast - Maria House 9:30 AM Rel Ed Gr. Kg-2 9:30 AM Rel Ed Gr. Kg-2 12:00 PM Baptismal Preparation Session 12:00 PM Rel. Ed. Gr. 7 & 8	25 8:30 & 11:00 AM MASS PALM SUNDAY 9:30 AM Rel Ed Gr. Kg-2 12:15 PM Gr. 7 & 8 Youth Event

