

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

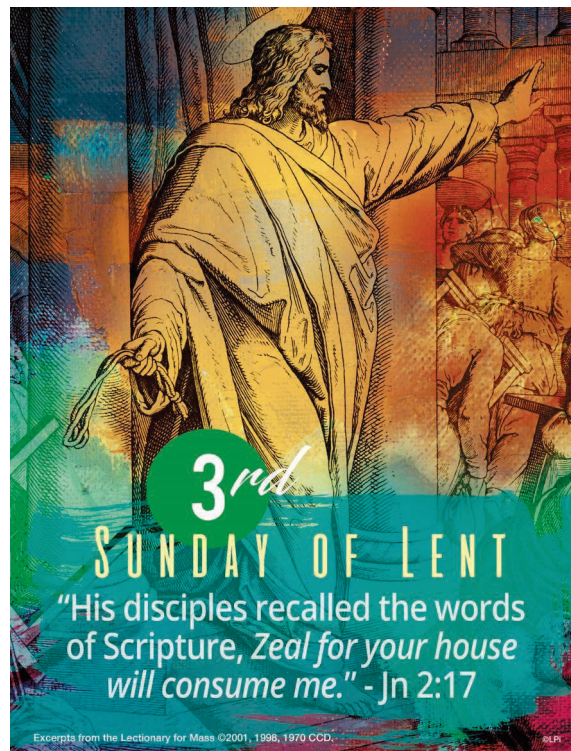
Parish Office: 814-899-5342

Office of Lifelong Faith Formation: 814-899-6132

Fax: 814-898-3306

Email: info@ourladyofmercychurch.org

March 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

Mon. 03/05	11:00 a.m.	Centering Prayer
	7:00 p.m.	Pastoral Facilitator Mtg
Tue. 03/06	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
Wed. 03/07	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. 03/08	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. 03/09	1:30 p.m.	Legion of Mary
	7:00 p.m.	Stations of the Cross
Sat. 03/10	9:00 a.m.	Morning of Reflection—Dan Schutte
	4:30 p.m.	Sacrament of Penance
Sun. 03/11	Fourth Sunday of Lent	
	Daylight Savings Time Begins	
	9:30 a.m.	Rel Ed Gr K-2
	12:00 p.m.	Rel Ed Gr 7 & 8
	7:00 p.m.	Parish Mission—Dan Schutte

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon. 03/05	8:30 a.m.	Olive Antolik <i>(George & Judy Gido)</i>
Tue. 03/06	8:30 a.m.	David Ross <i>(Linda Ross)</i>
Wed. 03/07	8:30 a.m.	
	5:30 p.m.	Dennis Cerami <i>(Barb Jones)</i>
Thur. 03/08	8:30 a.m.	Mabel Holodnak <i>(Eric Jacobs)</i>
Fri. 03/09	8:30 a.m.	
Sat. 03/10	8:30 a.m.	Joseph Walczak Sr. <i>(James Walczak)</i>
	6:00 p.m.	Mary Louise Pfadt <i>(Pfadt Family)</i>
Sun. 03/11	8:30 a.m.	For The People of OLM
	11:00 a.m.	Sal Frontino <i>(Helen Frontino)</i>

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Mon. 03/05	2 Kgs 5:1-15b	/ Luke 4:24-30
Tue. 03/06	Dn 3:25, 34-43	/ Matthew 18:21-35
Wed. 03/07	Dt 4:1, 5-9	/ Matthew 5:17-19
Thur. 03/08	Jer 7:23-28	/ Luke 11:14-23
Fri. 03/09	Hos 14:2-10	/ Mark 12:28-34
Sat. 03/10	Hos 6:1-6	/ Luke 18:9-14
Sun. 03/11	2 Chr 36:14-16, 19-23/Eph 2: 4-10/ John 3:14-21	

REMINDERS FROM THE OFFICE

Annual Contribution Statements

Annual contribution statements are available by contacting the parish office at 899-5342 or secretary@ourladyofmercychurch.org. No statements will be sent electronically.

Bulletin Announcements

All content for the bulletin is due 10 days before the bulletin date. All bulletin flyers are now one-half page. **Bulletin flyers also need to be scheduled in advance** for inclusion in any given bulletin.

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 and look for the Faith Direct icon on the left hand column.

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 Donna Smicker.

THIS SUNDAY'S REFLECTION

John 2:13-25



God spells out the conditions of our relationship; we are named as God's chosen ones, God's very own. Because God is faithful and delivered us from the slavery of our sins, we owe obedience to God. We must not worship the idols made by our hands or paid for by our money. We must honor the name of God, the one who saves us. We must keep holy the Sabbath day and all the days that God sanctifies. Honoring our parents brings a reward more precious than gold. Killing, infidelity, stealing, lying and cheating bring their own penalties.

In the dense cloud of our human perception, we still look for "signs" and miss the wisdom of God that Jesus shows us. Jesus knows our obstinate human nature and our hardened human hearts, so he turns over our preconceived notions of God and upsets our values. The temples we have erected to our pride, arrogance, greed, and selfishness need to be torn down. In their place, God will rebuild the true temple we have neglected: hearts where God longs to dwell.

For Reflection: What am I doing to cleanse my inner temple? Have I shown this by the way I live?

© Kay Murdy

Social Justice Committee News

Human Dignity



"Dear friends, it is certainly necessary to give bread to the hungry – this is an act of justice. But there is also a deeper hunger, the hunger for a happiness that only God can satisfy, the hunger for dignity. There is neither real promotion of the common good nor real human development when there is ignorance of the fundamental pillars that govern a nation, its non-material goods: life, which is a gift of God, a value always to be protected and promoted; the family, the foundation of coexistence and a remedy against social fragmentation; integral education, which cannot be reduced to the mere transmission of information for purposes of generating profit; health, which must seek the integral well-being of the person, including the spiritual dimension, essential for human balance and healthy coexistence; security, in the conviction that violence can be overcome only by changing human hearts."

Pope Francis



From the Office for the Protection of Children & Youth

Child Protection and Creating Safe Environments

The Diocese of Erie has committed significant resources to help those who were harmed by clergy sexual abuse to recover from their horrible experiences. We hope our efforts will help, but we realize that only the grace of God can provide the complete healing the victims need. In the midst of this sorrowful story, lessons have been learned and taken deeply to heart. Ineffective policies of the past have been rejected. Understandings that did not measure up to human realities have changed. New insights and policies can now offer protection to all our people. If now, or at any time in the past, a priest, deacon, or other person representing the Church has abused you, you are urged to contact our Victim Assistance Coordinator, Dr. Robert Nelson, at 814-871-7723. To learn more about what the Diocese of Erie is doing to help create safe environments, go to <http://www.eriecd.org/protectyouth.htm>

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Offertory for the weekend of **February 25, 2018**

Envelopes sent:	404	
Envelopes returned:	109	\$3,313.00
Faith Direct Deposits:	106	\$2,851.75
Loose Change:		\$216.00
TOTAL OFFERTORY:		\$6,380.75

Lenten Pastus Series

Our Wednesday Lenten Pastus will conclude Wednesday, March 7. Be fed in spirit at the 5:30 p.m. Eucharist, in body at the 6:15p.m. Soup Supper and/or in mind at the 7:00 p.m. Presentation. Our final Lenten guest speaker will be **Dr. Eric Dart of Gannon University**. "Transforming Death: the Scandal of the Cross." 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.



Next Week: Lenten Parish Mission with Dan Schutte – March 11-13 at 7p.m.

Join us for our 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 next week. 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 Pastoral Council this Friday at 7:00 p.m. for 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 East
Wednesday, March 21 at 7:00 p.m. at Our Lady of Mercy

24 Hours for the Lord

On March 9-10, the Diocese of Erie will celebrate 24 Hours for the Lord, an initiative of our Holy Father with an emphasis on adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and the Sacrament of Reconciliation. St. Peter Cathedral, Erie, will be open for the whole 24 hours, with adoration and confession available during that time. Bishop Lawrence Persico has asked that this year's 24 Hours for the Lord be devoted to prayer for the clergy and consecrated religious in our diocese, as well as for an increase in vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life.

Our Neighbor's Place Shelter Update

The first session of Our Neighbors' Place at St. John the Baptist was a great success thanks to the people of our eastside parishes. It was a wonderful two weeks! Many people worked together to provide a safe and warm place of comfort to our people who are homeless. Our schedule for volunteers for the second session (2/28-3/14) is complete. As far as donations for the second session, we can use winter gloves, jeans and sweats. God Bless you all for all you've done to bring this ministry alive. Contact Mary Hoffman at mymary14@gmail.com and Mary Ellen Lieb at melieb4@gmail.com

Grief Support Group

On Monday, March 19 at 7:00 p.m. the Grief Support Group will meet at Our Lady of Mercy Church. Each session has discussion around a topic pertaining to grief and includes prayer. Questions - Contact Donna Clark in the parish office, 899-5342. Invite a friend who is experiencing the loss of a loved one who needs to know they are not alone in their struggle.

Counseling Available

Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy are offering their professional skills as counselors for adults or teens or family counseling. Counseling meetings are at the church, in a confidential setting. To schedule an appointment contact Donna Clark at 899-5342.

Divorced & Separated Ministry

Our Lady of Mercy has a ministry to the divorced and separated. This one-on-one ministry allows those experiencing divorce or separation to talk to another person who has been through it. This person can provide support during a difficult time. Contact Donna Clark.

Parents of Toddlers or Nursing Babies

We always love to have children in church but sometimes an energetic toddler needs to move around. If that is the case, we have the Gathering Space or if you want a contained room, try the Nursery that has closed circuit TV so you can still see and hear Mass. It is available for all Masses. The Nursery is located in the school classroom area, the first door on the right past the Parish Parlor. The 11:00 a.m. Mass has a schedule of parents who take turns in the Nursery so other parents can be spiritually renewed at Mass without having to worry about their children. For more information, see Donna Clark or Peggy Williams.

Do you Shop at Gordon Food Service?

Please mention Our Lady of Mercy when you check out. We accumulate points and then our Funeral Meal Ministry can use these points to purchase food.

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.*

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, TODAY, Sunday, March 4 at 9:45 a.m.**

The Question-Of-The-Week Contest Winner

The winner for the week of February 20 was **Adaleen Mikolajewski, Grade 4**, who knew that the money from our Rice Bowls goes to Catholic Relief Services to help the poor around the world.



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

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.

The Letters of Stewardship

S: Sharing - When we recognize the gifts given from God we are compelled to share them. In the sharing of our gifts we find joy.

Beginning Next Weekend

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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