

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

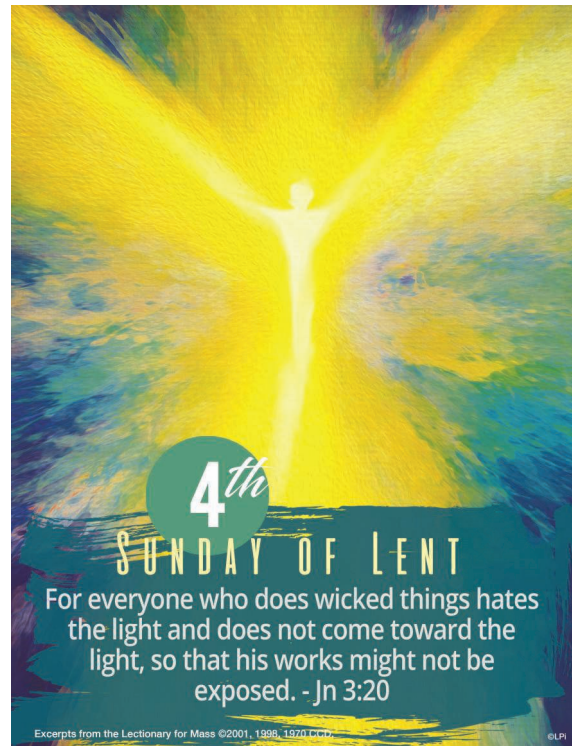
Parish Office: 814-899-5342

Office of Lifelong Faith Formation: 814-899-6132

Fax: 814-898-3306

Email: info@ourladyofmercychurch.org

March 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

Mon. 03/12	11:00 a.m.	Centering Prayer
	6:30 p.m.	Fruit of the Vine (SCC)
	6:30 p.m.	Isaiah's Community
	7:00 p.m.	<i>Parish Mission—Dan Schutte</i>
Tue. 03/13	9:30 a.m.	Steel Magnolias (SCC)
	2:00 p.m.	Prayer Shawl
	4:00 p.m.	Rel Ed Gr 3-6
	7:00 p.m.	<i>Parish Mission—Dan Schutte</i>
Wed. 03/14	1:00 p.m.	Diamonds in the Rough (SCC)
	6:30 p.m.	AGIFT Mtg
	7:00 p.m.	Knights of Columbus
Thur. 03/15	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. 03/16	1:30 p.m.	Legion of Mary
	7:00 p.m.	<i>Stations of the Cross</i>
Sat. 03/17	4:30 p.m.	Sacrament of Penance
Sun. 03/18	<i>Fifth Sunday of Lent</i>	
	9:30 a.m.	Healing Ministry
	9:30 a.m.	Pancake Breakfast-Maria House
	9:30 a.m.	Rel Ed Gr K-2
	12:00 p.m.	Rel Ed Gr 7 & 8

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon. 03/12	8:30 a.m.	
Tue. 03/13	8:30 a.m.	Marie Ritchie
Wed. 03/14	8:30 a.m.	Olga Towell
Thur. 03/15	8:30 a.m.	
Fri. 03/16	8:30 a.m.	Bill Wagner
Sat. 03/17	8:30 a.m.	Anna Mae Passerotti <i>(Rose & Bill Evans)</i>
	6:00 p.m.	For The People of OLM
Sun. 03/18	8:30 a.m.	James Murphy <i>(Rick Mueller)</i>
	11:00 a.m.	Mary Ann Spiegel <i>(Family)</i>

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Mon. 03/12	Is 65:17-21	/ John 4:43-54
Tue. 03/13	Ez 47:1-9, 12	/ John 5:1-16
Wed. 03/14	Is 49:8-15	/ John 5:17-30
Thur. 03/15	Ex 32:7-14	/ John 5:31-47
Fri. 03/16	Wis 2:1a, 12-22	/ John 7:1-2, 10, 25-30
Sat. 03/17	Jer 11:18-20	/ John 7:40-53
Sun. 03/18	Jer 31:31-34/ Heb 5:7-9/ John 12:20-33	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.



IN LOVING MEMORY

We remember William Behringer, brother of Dave Behringer. 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 Visitors** for the week are Tom & Linda Bleil.

THIS SUNDAY'S REFLECTION

John 3:14-21



We are a displaced people, alienated from God by sin. The songs of joy we once sang are silent; our music is still. Searching our memories, we recall God's fidelity, sending messengers over and over to warn us of our sin. When there was no remedy to heal our wounds, God delivered us up to our own depravity. Yet God is rich in mercy. Because of God's great love for us, we are brought to life when we were dead in sin. With Christ we are raised up to heavenly places.

Jesus reminds us that it is due to God's love that the world was saved. Moses gave us a glimpse of what this means. In their desert wanderings, the people were bitten by venomous snakes, and they cried out to be saved. God told Moses to mount a bronze replica of the serpent on a staff and hold it up for all to see. All who looked at the instrument of affliction were healed. When we can look at Jesus on the cross, we know that we are saved through his suffering and death. We have a choice. We can turn toward the darkness of sin or turn toward the light of Christ's love. There is healing in that wonderful light.

For Reflection: Am I an instrument of God's love? What healing do I need so that I can bring healing to others?

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Social Justice Committee News

Human Dignity



The basis for the theme of Human Dignity, the bedrock of Catholic Social Teaching, is that humans were created in the image and likeness of God. Regardless of any factors or reasons we can think of, individuals have an inherent and immeasurable worth and dignity; each human life is considered sacred. This theme is about our radical equality before God that leads us to think no less of somebody because they are from a different place or culture, because they believe something different than you, or because of their work or employment situation. <http://www.catholicsocialteaching.org.uk/themes/human-dignity/>

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.

Share Your Info about Those in the Hospital

If you know of a parishioner in the hospital, please call the parish office at 899-5342. The hospitals' records do not always put in the name of the parish for each patient.

Do We Have Your Latest Contact Information?

If you have moved or have changed your home phone and/or cell phone number or email address, please update the office. Thank you!

Electronic Giving Available

Our Lady of Mercy uses **Faith Direct** to manage our electronic giving. Donations can be deducted from checking or savings accounts, or you may also use a credit card. Go to: www.ourladyofmercychurch.org and look for the Faith Direct icon on the left hand column.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

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

Envelopes sent:	404	
Envelopes returned:	124	\$6,278.65
Faith Direct Deposits:	106	\$2,851.75
Loose Change:		\$166.00
TOTAL OFFERTORY:		\$9,296.40



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

Join us for our **Lenten Parish Mission with Dan Schutte beginning today**. 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 our Youth 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



Pilgrimage Through The Symbols of Holy Week

Mark you calendar for a special evening of prayerful reflection on the sights and smells that permeate our most holy celebrations of the Passion and Resurrection of Christ. **Our Holy week pilgrimage will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 28.** Gather in Classroom #1. Wear comfortable shoes and bring a wine glass.

Lenten Fish & Pierogi Dinners

St. Stanislaus Parish is hosting their annual Lenten Fish and Pierogi Dinners on **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.

The Letters of Stewardship

T=Trust - This is the heart of stewardship. If I cannot trust God to care and provide for me, I will continue to believe that gifts are scarce, and I will hoard them.



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.

Powerful Tools for Caregivers Workshop

Tuesdays, now through 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.

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. If you have any questions, please contact Tom Pearson at 450-7338.

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.

Smile for Our Lady of Mercy

To link to our Amazon Smile charity listing visit: <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/25-1563277>. If you shop Amazon please consider using Amazon Smile and naming "Our Lady of Mercy - Harborcreek" as your charity.

St. Patrick's Day Party

St. Boniface is hosting a St. Patrick's Day Party on Saturday, March 17. Doors open at 5:45 p.m. Buffet starts at 6:30p.m. The cost is \$40 per couple. Advance ticket sales only by calling the office at 825-4439.



Baptismal Preparation Sessions for Parents

Our semi-annual session for parents desiring the Sacrament of Baptism for their child will be held next **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.

Candidate/Sponsor Evening of Reflection

Confirmation candidates in their final year of preparation to celebrate Confirmation are reminded that they have a mandatory event with their sponsor on **Sunday, April 8 from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at OLM.**

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.

The Question-Of-The-Week Contest Winner

The winner for the week of February 27 was **Clara Camilla, Grade 3** who knew that the 5th Station of the Cross is "Simon Helps Jesus Carry His Cross."

OLM Book Group

The days are getting longer. Time to come out of hibernation. Why not spend an evening around great book talk with a glass of wine. 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 meet on **Wednesday the 21st in the Parish Parlor immediately after the Lenten Penance Service** to discuss The Ninth Hour by Alice McDermott. Want to read ahead? Our April book is Killers of the Flower Moon by David Grann and our May title will be Before We Were Yours by Lisa Wingate.

Young Adult Gathering

If you are in your 20's or 30's, single or married, with or without children, this is for you. **Join other young adults for an informal social in Sperry Hall between the 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Masses on Sunday, April 8.** If you have children not yet old enough to be in religious education class at this time, bring them with you. Feel free to bring a snack to share, but don't feel obligated.

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.*

Scrip Available

Order your Easter gift cards now. Stop at the Scrip table after Mass to pick-up an order form or go to the parish office during regular business hours to complete an order form. The parish office is open Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.



Harborcreek Youth Services' Purse Bingo

Save the date for the April 15 designer purse bingo event hosted by Harborcreek Youth Services, an affiliate of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Erie. Doors open at 12 noon at Our Lady of Mercy, with bingo starting at 1 p.m. Reservations can be made by emailing pursebingo@hys-erie.org or by calling 814-899-7664, ext. 330. Must be 18 to attend. All proceeds benefit the clients of Harborcreek Youth Services.

Mother & Daughter Annual Tea

All mothers and their daughters, ages 11 to 13, are invited to the annual Mother & Daughter Tea sponsored by the Chastity Education Office of the Diocese of Erie. **This event is April 15 from 12 noon to 4:30 p.m. at St. Mark Catholic Center, 439 East Grandview Blvd., Erie.** The cost is \$15 per family. For more information and to register, go to www.ErieRCD.org/chastity.htm and click on "TEA" under the Events tab. To register by phone, call Kate Whiteford at 814-824-1259.

Celebrating the Ministries of

Our Lady of Mercy



Faith Formation Ministries

If you are interested in joining one of these ministries please fill out a form found in the gathering space and the ministry leader will contact you.

- **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**

Each month we will celebrate a different group of ministries. These monthly celebrations are to recognize and bless the many people involved in ministry and to give more information about our ministries so people can discern if they are being called to serve in this way. In October, we will have a ministry re-commitment for the whole parish.



United Way's 2-1-1 Information and Referral Service Now Available

2-1-1 is the social service equivalent of 9-1-1, connecting people in need with the vast array of health, human and social services available in Erie County.

This is a much-needed service in Erie County since the demise the volunteer-led Erie Hotline. **2-1-1 service** specifically addresses the 2016 Erie County Community Health Improvement Plan which concluded the lack of a central information and referral system as one of the "overarching challenges" impacting the

health of Erie County residents.

Think 2-1-1 for social services much like people now think 9-1-1 for emergency services.

CALL 2-1-1

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