

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 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

Mon. 03/19	11:00 a.m.	Centering Prayer
	7:00 p.m.	Grief Support Group
Tue. 03/20	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 Choir Rehearsal
	7:00 p.m.	Core Team Mtg
Wed. 03/21	7:00 p.m.	LFF Mtg
	8:30 a.m.	Food Pantry Distribution
	1:00 p.m.	Diamonds in the Rough (SCC)
	7:00 p.m.	Lenten Penance Service
Thur. 03/22	7:30 p.m.	OLM Book Group
	9:00 a.m.	Painting Class
	2:00 p.m.	Contemplative Prayer
	3:00 p.m.	Social Justice Committee
	6:00 p.m.	Prayer Shawl
	6:45 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Fri. 03/23	7:00 p.m.	Tech Committee Mtg
	1:30 p.m.	Legion of Mary
	7:00 p.m.	Stations of the Cross
Sat. 03/24	12:00 p.m.	Youth Event
	4:30 p.m.	Sacrament of Penance
Sun. 03/25		Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord
	9:30 a.m.	Rel Ed Gr K-2
	12:15 p.m.	Gr 7 & 8 Youth Event

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon. 03/19	8:30 a.m.	George Ritchie
Tue. 03/20	8:30 a.m.	Girolama Abbate (John & Irene Abbate)
Wed. 03/21	8:30 a.m.	
Thur. 03/22	8:30 a.m.	Dennis Hollarn (Tom Farmer & Michelle Oyler)
Fri. 03/23	8:30 a.m.	
Sat. 03/24	8:30 a.m.	Joanne Smith (Liana Pasquale)
	6:00 p.m.	For The People of OLM
Sun. 03/25	8:30 a.m.	Louis DeLuca (Rose Marie DeLuca)
	11:00 a.m.	Jim Sheridan (David & Jackie Felix)

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Mon. 03/19	2 Sm 7:4-5a,12-14a,16 / Rom 4:13, 16-18,22/ Matthew 1:16, 18-21, 24a
Tue. 03/20	Nm 21:4-9 / John 8:21-30
Wed. 03/21	Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95 / John 8:31-42
Thur. 03/22	Gn 17:3-9 / John 8:51-59
Fri. 03/23	Jer 20:10-13 / John 10:31-42
Sat. 03/24	Ez 37:21-28 / John 11:45-56
Sun. 03/25	Is 50:4-7/ Phil 2:6-11/Mark 14:1-15:47

REMINDERS FROM THE OFFICE

For Mercy Sake Deadline

The deadline to submit items for our May issue of *For Mercy Sake* is **Sunday, April 22**. Items can be submitted to ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org or brought to the office.

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 Elsie Mahon. Please keep her and her 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 **Andrea Maille**.

THIS SUNDAY'S REFLECTION

John 12:20-33



A caterpillar in a cocoon seems to die, yet a butterfly comes forth, bearing little resemblance to its old form. Something even more incredible happens when hearts of stone become hearts of flesh. In this new relationship, we know and understand our sacred partnership with God in a way that cannot be taught. "Against you alone have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight," we pray. "Wash me from my guilt; of my sin cleanse me."

Jesus knows how fickle-hearted we are; he shares our flesh, our prayers and tears. This is his 'hour' when he will be lifted up, not in glorification but on an inglorious cross. He does not plead to be saved from this hour; it is for this very purpose that he came. Jesus knows that holding on to life serves no one, and he willingly offers his life on our behalf. Because he learned obedience from what he suffered, he became the source of new life for all. For the Christian, death is a metamorphosis, a dying and rising, not just to a better life but to eternal life. The new life that emerges from the tomb is even more beautiful than the butterfly.

For Reflection: Where do I see signs of transformation in my life? What do I still need to let go of in order to attain new life?

© Kay Murdy

Social Justice Committee News

Human Dignity



The principle of Human Dignity means that Catholic Social Teaching takes a strong position on issues around the start and end of life (like the death penalty and abortion) but it also has big consequences for everything in-between. For example it can effect how we think about how our society supports those with disabilities, how we address global inequality and the approach we take to civil rights issues. It is from this idea that all people have inherent dignity that themes of 'Preferential Option for the Poor' and 'Authentic Human Development' develop within Catholic Social Teaching. <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.

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 11, 2018**

Envelopes sent:	404	
Envelopes returned:	108	\$3,370.00
Faith Direct Deposits:	106	\$2,851.75
Loose Change:		\$115.00
TOTAL OFFERTORY:		\$6,336.75



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

Stations of the Cross: Fridays During Lent

Join our members of our Small Christian Communities this Friday at 7:00 p.m. for the Stations of the Cross.



Our Holy Week Liturgies at Our Lady of Mercy

- Palm Sunday, March 25 at 8:30 a.m. & 11 a.m.
- Holy Thursday Mass of the Last Supper, March 29 at 7:00 p.m.
- Good Friday Celebration of the Lord's Passion, March 30 at 3:00 p.m.
- Easter Vigil, March 31 at 9:00 p.m. .
- Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord, April 1 at 8:30 a.m. & 11 a.m.

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.

Easter Dinners: Fill-a-Bag with Hope

This month the food pantry is collecting food for Easter Dinners. Please take a shopping list and bring in **your bag of food by Sunday, March 26.** If you can please buy one product for our gluten free family. We serve an average of 120 families each month. We expect to hand out 135 Easter Dinners. Thank you for your support.

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.

The Letters of Stewardship

U: Unwavering – God’s love for us is unwavering. Because of that love we receive God’s gifts. From that love we share God’s gifts.



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. There is no charge. To register call 453-5072.

Bus Trip to Berlin, Ohio

Book your reservations and make payment now with Barb Jones for a one day excursion to Amish country in Berlin, Ohio on Saturday, June 9. The bus leaves the OLM parking lot at 7:00 a.m. and returns before 10:00 p.m. Cost is \$38. 12 seats remain open, if interested please call Barb Jones at 899-9358 and leave a message. Reservations taken on a first come first serve basis.

Harborcreek Youth Services' Purse Bingo

Harborcreek Youth Services, an affiliate of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Erie, is hosting a Purse Bingo on **April 15 at Our Lady of Mercy**. Doors open at 12 noon 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 on **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

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.. This is an opportunity for OLM young adults who attend different masses to get to know one another.

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.**

Sunday Morning *C*A*F*E*

Save The Date: The final Sunday Morning CAFÉ of the season will be **Sunday, April 15 from 9:45 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. in Sperry Hall.** Watch the bulletin for more information.

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 **March 5** was **Nathan Henry, Grade 2** who knew that we celebrate God's forgiveness in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

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.

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.*

4th Annual Catholic Women's Conference

This year the theme of the conference is "Intimacy with God and Love For One Another," relating to 1 John 4:12-13. Our Lady of Peace Erie is hosting this conference on **Saturday, April 21 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.** The cost is \$40 per person, For more information and to register go to www.138women.com or call 455-7364.

The Pastoral Council at Our Lady of Mercy

Spiritual Growth: The mission of the Pastoral Council is the spiritual growth of the parish community. The Pastoral Council engages in the process of pastoral planning and helps to set the direction of the parish community through prayer, service and action.

Consensus: The Pastoral Council makes decisions through the process of discernment over long term planning and spiritual direction. Decisions are made with prayerful discernment, a merging of insights and consensus instead of a hard vote.

Discernment: Nominees for the Pastoral Council have been baptized into the Roman Catholic Church, are registered members of Our Lady of Mercy and have contributed to the betterment of the community. Nominees have demonstrated a commitment to prayer, our faith community, and have embraced teamwork and consensus building. **All nominees are led through a discernment process to determine if they are being called to serve on the council.**

Commitment: The commitment to the Pastoral Council involves members actively engaging church members in discussion about various issues and to gain a sense of where the parish community stands. Council members are given pre-meeting materials to review so they can make informed decisions for the parish. The time commitment for council members is about 2-4 hours per month including the council meeting.

If you would like to further explore or discuss this opportunity to serve the people of Our Lady of Mercy, contact Donna Clark in the church office.



Celebrating the Ministries of Our Lady of Mercy

On April 7 & 8 we are celebrating the Service Ministries of Our Lady of Mercy.

This weekend we will recognize all those involved in the Service Ministries:

Bakers Ministry

Building & Grounds Work Crew

Knights of Columbus

Landscaping Crew

Lenten Soup Supper

Painting Crew

Quilters – Patchwork of Friends

Transportation

To help celebrate we ask everyone in these ministries to wear **ORANGE**. We will continue to celebrate a group of ministries each month through September. This is also an opportunity to provide 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 recommitment ceremony for the whole parish.

Please check your e-mails in the coming weeks. If you feel drawn to witness at one of the Masses April 7 or 8 please contact Donna Clark in the parish office at 899-5342.

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