

# OUR LADY OF MERCY CHURCH

837 Bartlett Road • Harborcreek, PA 16421 • [www.ourladyofmercychurch.org](http://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

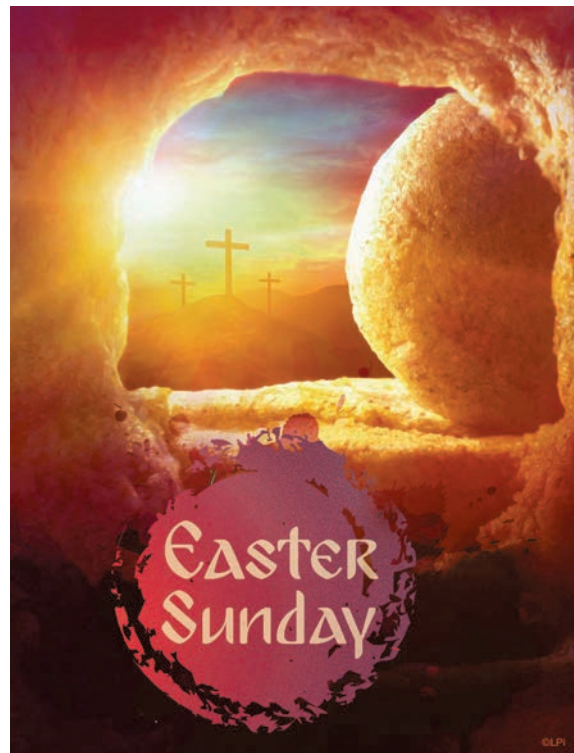
Parish Office: 814-899-5342

Office of Lifelong Faith Formation: 814-899-6132

Fax: 814-898-3306

Email: [info@ourladyofmercychurch.org](mailto:info@ourladyofmercychurch.org)

April 1, 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](http://ourladyofmercychurch.org/calendar)

Mon. 04/02		
Tue. 04/03	9:30 a.m.	Steel Magnolias (SCC)
	2:00 p.m.	Prayer Shawl
	6:00 p.m.	Sister Parish Committee
	7:00 p.m.	Pastoral Council Mtg
Wed. 04/04	1:00 p.m.	Diamonds in the Rough (SCC)
Thur. 04/05	9:00 a.m.	Painting Class
	2:00 p.m.	Contemplative Prayer
	6:00 p.m.	Prayer Shawl
Fri. 04/06	1:30 p.m.	Legion of Mary
Sat. 04/07	4:30 p.m.	Sacrament of Penance
Sun. 04/08	9:30 a.m.	Mass & Mingle
	9:30 a.m.	Rel Ed Gr K-2
	12:15 p.m.	Rel Ed Gr 7 & 8
	5:00 p.m.	Candidate/Sponsor Evening of Reflection

### Hearing Device Assistance Available

Having trouble hearing the Homily? Hearing Assisted devices are available. Please see the staff.

### Parish Quilt

If you have taken a blank quilt square for our parish quilt which hangs in the Worship Space, please bring your decorated square back so we can hang a new row of family names. Quilt squares are in the Gathering Space near Classroom #1.

## MASS INTENTIONS

Mon. 04/02	8:30 a.m.	Robert Latchford
Tue. 04/03	8:30 a.m.	Nancy Dill
Wed. 04/04	8:30 a.m.	Communion Service
Thur. 04/05	8:30 a.m.	Robert Wayand
Fri. 04/06	8:30 a.m.	
Sat. 04/07	8:30 a.m.	NO MASS
	6:00 p.m.	Helen Hemmis (Friends of St. Benedict)
Sun. 04/08	8:30 a.m.	For The People of OLM
	11:00 a.m.	Yolanda DiRaimo (Family)

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

Mon. 04/02	Acts 2:14, 22-33	/ Matthew 28:8-15
Tue. 04/03	Acts 2:36-41	/ John 20:11-18
Wed. 04/04	Acts 3:1-10	/ Luke 24:13-35
Thur. 04/05	Acts 3:11-26	/ Luke 24:35-48
Fri. 04/06	Acts 4:1-12	/ John 21:1-14
Sat. 04/07	Acts 4:13-21	/ Mark 16:9-15
Sun. 04/08	Acts 4:32-35/ 1 Jn 5:1-6	/ John 20:19-31

## REMINDERS FROM THE OFFICE

### Parish Office Closed

The OLM parish office will be closed on Easter Monday, April 2.

### For Mercy Sake Deadline

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

### Visiting Parishioners in the Hospitals

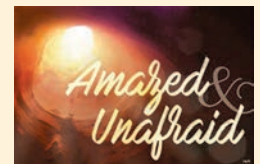
We are no longer able to obtain a list of parishioners who are in the hospital. If you know of someone who is in the hospital please contact the parish office to let us know.

## 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 Marilyn Garwig.

## THIS SUNDAY'S REFLECTION

Mark 16: 1-7



“This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad.” Our “day-long” celebration nears its end as we gather once more to reflect on all that we have seen and heard in this shortest of seasons, the Easter Triduum. We must not be so captivated by the festivities of the day that we lose sight of the reason why we have come together. We remember that death and life have been ‘locked together.’ We remember that death and life have been “locked together in a unique struggle,” a continuous battle from the first moments of creation to its climax in Christ’s victory over death. We too have engaged in a contest between the “things above” and the “things below.” We cannot celebrate this feast with the “old yeast” of corruption and sin but with the “unleavened bread” of sincerity and truth.

Sometimes we are like Mary Magdalene at the empty tomb, filled with confusion and doubt. We want to believe that Christ is among us, but we do not know where to find him. That is when we must go side by side to gaze into the empty caverns of our lives and begin to see and believe again. Then, like Peter, we can witness to the Christ-event in our lives: “We were dead, but God raised us up.” Like the pilgrims of Emmaus, we who eat and drink with the risen Lord can joyfully testify to his presence in our midst.

**For Reflection: Can other people see Christ in my life?**

© Kay Murdy

## Social Justice Committee News



### Care for God's Creation

During this month of Earth Day we recognize that care for the earth is not just an Earth Day slogan, it is a requirement of our faith. We are called to protect people and the planet, living our faith in relationship with all of God's creation. This environmental challenge has fundamental moral and ethical dimensions that cannot be ignored. ([www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org)) We can start by familiarizing ourselves with Pope Francis' encyclical, *Laudato Si, On Care for our Common Home*. The Vatican produced a beautiful, multi-lingual 6 minute YouTube video that summarizes the teachings. Spend a few moments of your Easter Sunday appreciating Creation and learning more about our responsibilities for the Earth. Search for Vatican Laudato Si video or find it here: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KXA5\\_juFgDg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KXA5_juFgDg)

### Serve Erie in Harborcreek

On **Saturday, April 21**, from 8:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., the Harborcreek churches will join forces to improve our community. The event will begin at 8:00 a.m. at South Harbor United Methodist Church where volunteers will gather to get their assignments. The event will focus on cleaning up three empty lots in Harborcreek. Childcare will be available for children under age 7. In April, sign-up lists will be posted in the Gathering Space for those willing to participate.

### Parents of Toddlers or Nursing Babies

We always love to have children in church but sometimes an energetic toddler needs to move around. We have the Gathering Space or there's the Nursery which has closed circuit TV so you can still see and hear Mass. The Nursery is available for all Masses and is located in the school classroom area. 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.

### 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](http://www.ourladyofmercychurch.org) and look for the Faith Direct icon on the left hand column.

## FINANCIAL SUPPORT

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

Envelopes sent:	404	
Envelopes returned:	133	\$4,743.00
Faith Direct Deposits:	106	\$2,851.75
Loose Change:		\$180.00
<b>TOTAL OFFERTORY:</b>		<b>\$7,774.75</b>



## Alleluia!

**May the Glory of our Risen Lord,  
which we celebrate in the Easter season,  
be with you, your family and friends.  
Father Ritchie and Staff of Our Lady of Mercy**

### 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.

### Sunday Morning \*C\*A\*F\*E\*

**Dave Seyboldt** will present our final Sunday Morning CAFÉ of the season on **Sunday, April 15** from 9:45-10:45 in Sperry Hall. Since 2013, Dave Seyboldt has made several trips to Africa with Marion Medical Missions to help provide clean water to rural villages in Malawi, Zambia and Tanzania. Dave will share his experiences in these impoverished communities and the way a well can transform life for these people. Join us for fresh brewed coffee and baked treats as we hear about a modern Easter miracle, compassion bringing life-giving water to those who long for it.

### 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 **March 19** was **Piper Neilsen, Grade 2** who knew that Palm Sunday is the only week on which we hear 2 Gospel readings proclaimed at Mass.

## Pastoral Council Seeking New Members

Every year the Pastoral Council seeks out parishioners who can help us envision the future of this community. The Pastoral Council engages in the process of pastoral planning and helps to set the direction of the parish community in prayer, leadership, service and pastoral action in consultation with the Pastor and Staff. A nominee must be a parishioner who:

- Has been baptized or received into the Roman Catholic Church.
- By his or her free and consistent choice is a registered member of Our Lady of Mercy Parish.
- Contributes to the betterment of the parish community.

We ask your prayerful consideration in nominating either yourself or another member of the parish community. See the display in the Gathering Space.

## Discover Your Strengths

And come alive! "God didn't make you well-rounded!" Start now and begin appreciating your unique, God-given talents? When we focus on our talents, we are more effective . . . more successful, happy and fulfilled." (Pg. 11, Living Your Strengths by Albert Winseman and Donald Clifton.) **A Strengthfinder workshop will be held Thursday, April 26 at 6:00 p.m.** Pick up a book before the workshop to take the online survey. Questions contact Donna Clark.

## Celebrate Recovery: Healing from Life's Hurts, Habits and Hang-ups

Doors open at 6:30 p.m. on Mondays at South Harborcreek United Methodist Church, 7929 McGill Rd. This program celebrates God's healing power to help us recover from any of life's challenges; overeating, fear, gambling, codependency, depression, alcohol, drugs, guilt, shame, and anger. This Christ centered ministry helps people resolve their pain through sharing experiences, strengths and hopes. Based on biblical principles and the 12 steps, the prayer service starts at 6:30 p.m. followed by discussion groups at 7:30 p.m. A light meal is provided. All are welcome. For more go to <http://www.southharborcreekumc.org/celebrate-recovery.html>

## Journeying through Grief

There is no "accepted grief period," after which we no longer grieve for the person who has died. In one sense there is no "getting over" someone we love. We simply learn to live with the loss. Our Lady of Mercy has a monthly support group on the third Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. Join us for prayer and support. Our Lady of Mercy also has a one-on-one grief ministry. Contact Donna Clark. **April 16 is the next date.**

## CDSG Divorce Ministry to Return in April

The Catholic's Divorce Survival Guide (CDSG Divorce Ministry) will be held weekly from April 4 to May 23 (eight weeks only) at St. Mark Catholic Center in Erie. For more information, contact the Family Life Office at 814-824-1261 or at [familylife@ErieRCD.org](mailto:familylife@ErieRCD.org), or visit [www.ErieRCD.org/cdsg.htm](http://www.ErieRCD.org/cdsg.htm). See the brochure on the bulletin tables.

## Knights of Columbus Golf & Sports Raffle

The 25th Annual Knights of Columbus Golf & Sports Raffle will be held on Friday, May 11 from 6:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. at Our Lady of Mercy's Sperry Hall and gym. Advance Tickets and posters are available in the parish office during the week from 9 am to 3 pm and on weekends after Masses. **Regular tickets sales will be held in the Gathering Space starting on April 15** and the following three weekends. Our Golf Raffle has been blessed. Over the years the proceeds have successfully supported parish youth programs, scholarships for high school seniors and various parish projects. It has become one of the largest in the Erie area. Thanks to the loyal support of our parishioners.



## 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. **Join us on Wednesday, April 18 at 7:00 p.m. in the Parlor at OLM.** Whether you are interested in joining a book group or just want to talk about one particular title, the door is open to you. Our April selection is Killers of the Flower Moon by David Grann and our May title will be Before We Were Yours by Lisa Wingate.

## Mercy Sisters Host Spring Tea

The Sisters of Mercy's House of Mercy in Erie will host its annual spring tea **April 15 from 1 to 3 p.m. at Our Lady of Mount Carmel's Scheffner Hall, 1553 E. Grandview Blvd.,** Enjoy a traditional tea with sandwiches, cookies, fruit, tea and punch, along with a gift auction. Tickets are \$25. For reservations, contact Mercy Sister Michele Schroeck at [michele.schroeck@gmail.com](mailto:michele.schroeck@gmail.com) or at 814-898-0167.

## 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](http://www.138women.com) or call 455-7364.

## Next Cursillo Scheduled for April

**A Men's Cursillo will be held April 19-22 at Our Lady of Mercy.** Cursillo is a personal encounter weekend with Christ that is open to both men and women 18 and older. If women are married, the husband must attend a Cursillo first. Please submit an application for the upcoming men's Cursillo as soon as possible. Applications and more information may be found at [www.eriecursillo.org](http://www.eriecursillo.org). To learn more, call 814-824-1119.

## Bus Trip to Lancaster, PA

St. Mark Church in Lawrence Park is hosting a Bus Trip to Lancaster PA June 5-6, 2018. The trip includes: round trip deluxe motor coach transportation, one night lodging, 3 meals (breakfast buffet, family style dinner, lunch) Reserved seating at Sight & Sounds Theatre's "JESUS." For more information or to reserve your seat please call Marion Armstrong at 897-7707.



## 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 involve 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

If you are part of one of these ministries, **please wear ORANGE to Mass on April 7 & 8.** We will have a special blessing of the ministers this weekend. We will have informational brochures 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.

### 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.

### 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](mailto:pursebingo@hys-erie.org).

### Ink Jet Fundraiser

Please donate used black or color ink jet cartridges to the Religious Education ministry. Your donation of used printer cartridges helps to support our ministry to the children of the parish. Previously refilled and remanufactured cartridges can not be redeemed, nor can laser toner cartridges.

### Taize Postponed

The Taize Prayer scheduled for April 9 has been cancelled and will be rescheduled.

### Special Thank You

*Thank you to all of those who donated, volunteered, and/or ate at "Pancakes for Fr. Pete." Through your generosity, we raised \$1,167.00 for the Maria House Projects.*

*Thank you, Tom Pearson*

# Young Adult Gathering

Sunday, April 8

9:30-10:30 AM

Sperry Hall

All young adults, in their 20s & 30s, married or single, with or without children....

Gather for an informal social.

Meet other young adults in the parish.

Bring some food to share, if you wish.

If your children are not in the RE class at this time,  
feel free to bring them with you.



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