

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

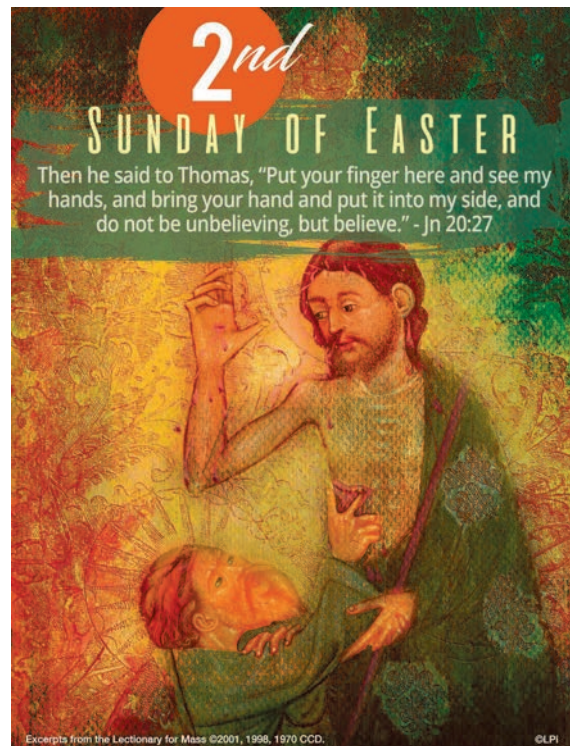
Parish Office: 814-899-5342

Office of Lifelong Faith Formation: 814-899-6132

Fax: 814-898-3306

Email: info@ourladyofmercychurch.org

April 8, 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. 04/09	6:30 p.m.	Fruit of the Vine (SCC)
	6:30 p.m.	Isaiah's Community (SCC)
Tue. 04/10	9:30 a.m.	Steel Magnolias (SCC)
	2:00 p.m.	Prayer Shawl
	4:00 p.m.	Rel Ed Gr 3-6
Wed. 04/11	1:00 p.m.	Diamonds in the Rough (SCC)
	3:00 p.m.	Buildings & Grounds Mtg
	6:30 p.m.	AGIFT Mtg
	7:00 p.m.	Knights of Columbus
Thur. 04/12	9:00 a.m.	Painting Class
	2:00 p.m.	Contemplative Prayer
	6:00 p.m.	Prayer Shawl
Fri. 04/13	1:30 p.m.	Legion of Mary
Sat. 04/14	4:30 p.m.	Sacrament of Penance
Sun. 04/15	9:30 a.m.	Healing Ministry
	9:30 a.m.	Rel Ed Gr K-2
	9:45 a.m.	Sunday CAFE
	12:00 p.m.	Rel Ed Gr 7 & 8

Special Thanks

Many thanks to the OLM Family for all the kind thoughts of encouragement and prayers during my surgery recovery and rehabilitation. We truly appreciate the beautiful cards and flowers as they brighten my day. We are truly grateful for being part of this loving community.

Yours in Christ, Kathy Lacy

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon. 04/09	8:30 a.m.	Communion Service
Tue. 04/10	8:30 a.m.	Mabel Holodnak (<i>Sue Haynes</i>)
Wed. 04/11	8:30 a.m.	Communion Service
Thur. 04/12	8:30 a.m.	David Ross (<i>Linda Ross</i>)
Fri. 04/13	8:30 a.m.	Communion Service
Sat. 04/14	8:30 a.m.	
	6:00 p.m.	Sam Garwig (<i>Liana Pasquale</i>)
Sun. 04/15	8:30 a.m.	For The People of OLM
	11:00 a.m.	Jim Sheridan (<i>David & Jackie Felix</i>)

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Mon. 04/09	Is 7:10-14,8:10/ Heb 10:4-10/ Luke 1:26-38
Tue. 04/10	Acts 4:32-37 / John 3:7b-15
Wed. 04/11	Acts 5:17-26 / John 3:16-21
Thur. 04/12	Acts 5:27-33 / John 3:31-36
Fri. 04/13	Acts 5:34-42 / John 6:1-15
Sat. 04/14	Acts 6:1-7 / John 6:16-21
Sun. 04/15	Acts 3:13-15,17-19/ 1 John 2:1-5a/ Luke 24:35-48

REMINDERS FROM THE OFFICE

Folk Mass April 21

Our Lady of Mercy will have a Folk Mass on Saturday, **April 21 at 6:00 p.m.** The OLM String Ensemble will debut that evening, playing some nostalgic musical classics that will warm your heart and lift your soul. We hope to see you there.

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.

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.

Having Trouble Hearing at Mass?

Hearing Assisted devices are available. Please see the staff.

PRAYER LINE

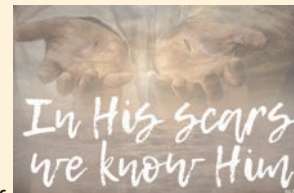
9:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m. Call **Donna Smicker** at 899-9108

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

John 20:19-31



Through the waters of baptism we are born into a diverse community struggling to be of "one heart and one mind." Becoming children of God doesn't happen overnight, nor does it automatically protect us from pain and suffering. Being fully alive means that we are fully human, which entails joy and grief, love and hatred, security and fear.

In the aftermath of the cross, the fearful disciples hid themselves behind locked doors. In the cold darkness, it was hard to recall all that they had seen and heard in the warmth of the light. They forgot that Jesus promised to be with them, not just in victory but in failure. In that moment of apparent defeat, the disciples became aware of Jesus' presence. His consoling words filled them with peace, forgiveness, and joy. The breath of life revived their dead spirits.

Thomas was absent when the community shared this experience, and he refused to believe their testimony. But the risen Christ reminded Thomas, just as he reminds us, to embrace pain and suffering and have faith even in confusion and doubt.

For Reflection: When do I find it the hardest to believe? How has the Christian community helped me to have faith?

© Kay Murdy

Social Justice Committee News



Care for God's Creation

The Catholic Climate Covenant (catholicclimatecovenant.org) is joining Earth Day Network's campaign to end plastic pollution. From contributing to land and marine pollution to increasing our use of carbon producing fuels, our reliance on single-use plastics has a devastating impact on God's creation. The good news is that we can solve this problem. We can all play a role in reducing plastic pollution and minimizing our contribution to what Pope Francis calls "a throwaway culture" by working together as a community. "I would therefore like us all to make the serious commitment to respect and care for creation, to pay attention to every person, to combat the culture of waste and of throwing out so as to foster a culture of solidarity and encounter." – *Pope Francis*.

Celebrating Parish Ministries

As They Promote Social Justice: Catholic Social Justice Tradition recognizes two types of necessary responses to God's love called the "Two Feet of Love in Action": social justice and charitable works. We walk with the Social Justice foot when we work to foster peace and justice and work for long-term change in local and global communities. We step with the Charitable Works foot when we work to aid or assist others both locally and globally to meet their immediate, short-term needs. This month we celebrate our Ministries of Service. People who serve in these ministries are serving social justice by doing charitable works, such as creating quilts, caring for our environment on the grounds and landscaping ministries, and giving rides to those who need them.

Sundae Sunday

We will celebrate the end of winter and the blessings of the year of religious education with an ice cream social and cake walk on **Sunday, April 29 at noon**. **The entire parish is invited to this celebration, whether or not your family is involved in religious education.** We will need donations of cakes for our cake walk. Beginning April 8, there will be a sign-up list in the Gathering Space for those willing to bake a cake for this event.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Offertory for the weekend of **April 1, 2018**

Envelopes sent:	404	
Envelopes returned:	145	\$5,967.00
Faith Direct Deposits:	106	\$2,851.75
Loose Change:		\$773.00
TOTAL OFFERTORY:		\$9,591.75

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 **TONIGHT, Sunday, April 8 from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at OLM.**

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 a.m. 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.

Active Shooter Preparedness Training

If someone opened fire during Mass or a parish function, would you know what to do? In light of the shootings during Sunday worship or Bible Studies in recent years, this is not an irrelevant question. **On Monday, April 30 at 7:00 p.m.** Tom Wager, retired police officer, will provide "Active Shooter Preparedness Training" and "Stop the Bleed" for area churches. It will be held at OLM. All parish members are encouraged to attend. There is no cost.

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, call Irene Lucas at 899-6132.

Children's Liturgy of the Word

The Children's Liturgy of the Word Ministry is in need of volunteer leaders. If you enjoy working with young children but do not have the time to commit to a weekly RE class, this ministry may be perfect for you. CLW Leaders conduct the Liturgy of the Word on a child's level: reading the Sunday Scriptures, assisting the children to understand their meaning, leading the young people in a Child's Creed and Prayers of the Faithful. Children's Liturgy of the Word takes place during the 11:00 Sunday Mass. CLW leaders **MUST** have required clearances. Training is provided. If you can help, contact Irene at 899-6132 or ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org.

The Question-Of-The-Week Contest Winner

The winner for the week of **March 26** was **Delaney Andrews, Grade 2** who knew that on Easter we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus from the dead.

Summer on the Hill Open House

The Mercyhurst Preparatory School Summer on the Hill camp lineup has something for everyone. Attend the Summer on the Hill Open House on **April 26 from 5:30-7:30 p.m.** Classes fill up fast, and registration is now open at mpluslakers.com/summer.

Are You Passionate about the Community of Our Lady of Mercy?

There are some vacancies on our Pastoral Council. We need input from the community to find candidates to fill these vacancies. Pastoral Council members minister to our entire community. They have a unique opportunity to join the parish staff to share a vision of Church family, to understand the activities of our various committees, to participate in long range planning and to grow in knowledge and faith by prayer education and discussion. Council nominees will attend an informational session then take some time to discern their call to become a council member. If you are interested or know a parishioner who you would like to recommend, fill out a nomination form located in the Gathering Space. Questions contact Paul Barko, council chair or Donna Clark.

Discover Your Strengths

"You will be most successful in whatever you do by building your life around your greatest natural abilities rather than your weaknesses. Your talents should be your primary focus. The problem is that most people don't even know what their greatest talents are or how to go about discovering them." (Pg. 11, Living Your Strengths by Albert Winseman and Donald Clifton.) Sign-up for the Strengthfinder workshop on **Thursday, April 26 at 6:00 pm**. Pick up a book before the workshop at the display in the Gathering Space. Before coming, complete the online survey and print out the report of your gifts. 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 monthly support group meets on **Monday, April 16 at 7:00 p.m.** in the OLM Parlor (the third Monday of each month). Join us for prayer and support. Our Lady of Mercy also has a one on one grief ministry. Contact Donna Clark.

Letters of Stewardship

V: Vocation –a vocation is a strong feeling of suitability for a particular career or occupation. Other words for vocation that apply to us: calling, life's work, mission, purpose, function. All of us are called to be stewards.

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

Whether you are interested in joining a book group or just want to talk about one particular title, the door is open to you. On **Wednesday, April 18 at 7:00 p.m.**, we will meet in the Parlor at Our Lady of Mercy to discuss Killers of the Flower Moon by David Grann. Want to read ahead? Our May title will be Before We Were Yours by Lisa Wingate.

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.

Saint Mark Seminary Auxiliary Fundraiser

Members of the St. Mark auxiliary will be selling raffle tickets **April 14/15** after Masses at OLM. This is their only major fundraiser and the drawing will be held at their Annual Card Party on April 19. We are blessed to have ten seminarians studying in our diocese. We ask that you pray for the vocations of these young men as they continue on their journeys of discernment and commitment.

Free Online Correspondence Course

Catholic Home Study Service is offering free correspondence courses on the Catholic Faith. A list of the courses may be found online at Catholic Home Study. Enroll by mail or online. Call 573-547-4084 to order materials by phone. This is a great way to learn more about your Catholic faith in the convenience of your own home, on your schedule!

SAVE THE DATE: Men's Night Out

Mark your calendar for the next Men's Night Out on **Friday, May 4 at 6:00 p.m.** in Sperry Hall. The keynote speaker is Congressman Glenn Thompson. More information to follow!

SAVE THE DATE: Cleveland Baseball Game

Our 2018 Baseball Excursion to Cleveland will be on **Sunday, August 5**, as the Indians take on the Los Angeles Angels. Details to follow.



Join us April 15, 2018
9:45-10:45 a.m.
@ the OLM CAFE

Continuing Adult Faith
Enrichment

Dave Seyboldt

Life Giving Water:

Since 2013, Dave Seyboldt has made several trips to rural Africa to assist Marion Medical Missions provide clean water to communities in Malawi, Zambia and Tanzania. Dave Seyboldt will share his experiences of bringing life and hope to sisters and brothers a world away and the life and hope which his encounter brought to him.



SUNDAE SUNDAY

**Celebrate the Easter Season
Make-Your-Own Sundae Bar
& Cake Walk**

**Sunday, April 29 at 12:00 Noon
in Sperry Hall. All Welcome!**

Please RSVP by Tuesday, April 24

By phone at 899-6132

Email at ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org

Or Sign-Up in the Gathering Space the weekend of April 21/22.

Please tell us if you can bake & donate a cake for the Cake Walk.

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