

# 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

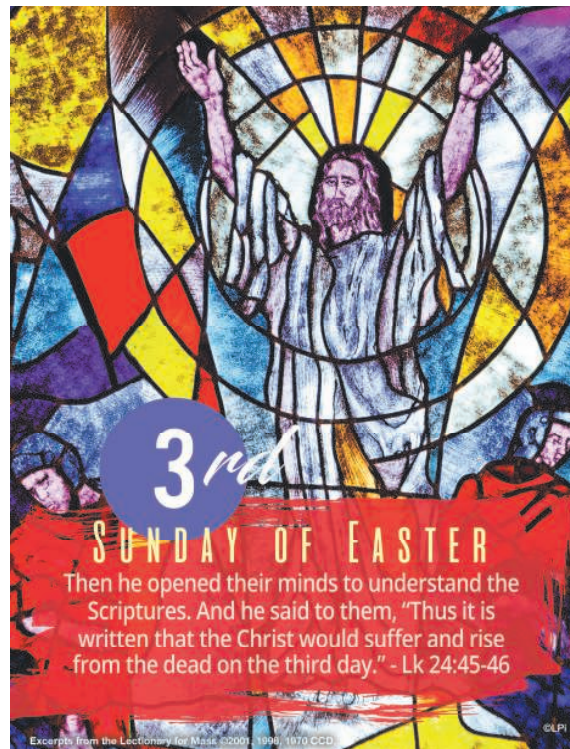
Parish Office: 814-899-5342

Office of Lifelong Faith Formation: 814-899-6132

Fax: 814-898-3306

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

*April 15, 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. 04/16** 7:00 p.m. Grief Support Group
- Tue. 04/17** 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. Core Team Mtg  
7:00 p.m. LFF Mtg
- Wed. 04/18** **Cursillo—(Men) Set-Up**  
8:30 a.m. Food Pantry Distribution  
1:00 p.m. Diamonds in the Rough (SCC)  
7:00 p.m. OLM Book Group
- Thur. 04/19** **Cursillo—(Men)**  
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. 04/20** **Cursillo—(Men)**  
1:30 p.m. Legion of Mary
- Sat. 04/21** **Cursillo—(Men)**  
**Knights of Columbus Ticket Sales**  
4:30 p.m. Sacrament of Penance -Cancelled
- Sun. 04/22** **Cursillo—(Men)**  
**Knights of Columbus Ticket Sales**  
9:30 a.m. Rel Ed Gr K-2  
12:00 p.m. Rel Ed Gr 7 & 8

## MASS INTENTIONS

- Mon. 04/16** 8:30 a.m. James Wenzel
- Tue. 04/17** 8:30 a.m. Deceased Members of the Urmann Family
- Wed. 04/18** 8:30 a.m.
- Thur. 04/19** 8:30 a.m.
- Fri. 04/20** 8:30 a.m. Michael Whitman
- Sat. 04/21** 8:30 a.m.  
6:00 p.m. For The People of OLM
- Sun. 04/22** 8:30 a.m. Dennis Hollarn  
(Ray & Carol Laughlin)  
11:00 a.m. Maureen Cudicio (Kim Laufft)

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

- Mon. 04/16** Acts 6:8-15 / John 6:22-29
- Tue. 04/17** Acts 7:51–8:1a / John 6:30–35
- Wed. 04/18** Acts 8:1b-8 / John 6:35-40
- Thur. 04/19** Acts 8:26-40 / John 6:44-51
- Fri. 04/20** Acts 9:1-20 / John 6:52-59
- Sat. 04/21** Acts 9:31-42 / John 6:60-69
- Sun. 04/22** Acts 4:8-12/ 1 John 3:1-2/ John 10:11-18



## CHILD PROTECTION AND CREATING SAFE ENVIRONMENTS

### **Child Abuse Prevention Month: Preventing Child Abuse is Everyone's Responsibility**

It is every adult's moral responsibility to protect possible victims by reporting the suspected abuse or neglect to the responsible authorities. Sexual abuse of minor is a pervasive societal problem, and only concerted and sustained efforts by all adults in every segment of society can help to protect children and youth. *To report suspected abuse of a minor, call Childline at 1-800-932-0323.* To see what the Diocese of Erie is doing to help create safe environments, check out <http://www.erieecd.org/protectyouth.htm>

## 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

**Luke 24:35-48**



In season and out, we must continue to allow Christ to transform us. God's mercy toward Peter gives us courage to believe that our sins can be wiped away too. When we repent of our faults and failures like Peter did, we will have a resurrection story to share with others.

On their journey home to Emmaus, two disciples shared their dreams, which were dashed to pieces at Calvary. They had hoped that Jesus was the one who would liberate them and their nation. Because their eyes were fixed on their own ambitions, they could not see that Jesus was present to them. When they heard him recount the story of salvation, they were able to recognize him at the table. Then they could tell a new story: "The Lord has risen! It is true!"

In the midst of the community, Jesus confronts our doubts and fears with a message of peace. In word and sacrament, and in a repentant, faith-filled community, we know that the risen Christ is among us. Because we are changed, the whole world can be transformed.

**For Reflection: Have I been true to Christ's words? How does the Christian community help me to recognize Christ in the Eucharistic community?**

## Social Justice Committee News



### Care for God's Creation

"The earth, our home, is beginning to look more and more like an immense pile of filth." - *Laudato Si* 21, Pope Francis.

"Currently about 300 million tons of plastic are produced each year to make bags, bottles, packages, and other commodities for people all over the world. Unfortunately, only about ten percent of this plastic is properly recycled and reused. The rest ends up as waste in land-fills or as litter in our natural environment, where it leaches dangerous chemicals into the nearby soil and water, endangering humans and wildlife alike." - *Earth Day Network website*.

Consider how you and your family can move away from a throwaway culture. **Say NO** to disposable plastic whenever and wherever possible. Choose items that are not packaged in plastic, and carry your own bags, containers and utensils. Say, "no straw, please." **Reuse** durable, non-toxic straws, utensils, to-go containers, bottles, bags, and other everyday items. Choose glass, paper, stainless steel, wood, ceramic and bamboo over plastic.

### 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.

## FINANCIAL SUPPORT

### Offertory for the weekend of April 8, 2018

Envelopes sent:	404	
Envelopes returned:	159	\$6,911.00
Faith Direct Deposits:	106	\$2,851.75
Loose Change:		\$159.00
<b>TOTAL OFFERTORY:</b>		<b>\$9,921.75</b>

### 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. at OLM**, Tom Wager, retired police officer, will provide "Active Shooter Preparedness Training" and "Stop the Bleed" for area churches. All parish members are encouraged to attend. There is no cost.

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

**Dave Seyboldt** will present our final Sunday Morning CAFÉ of the season **TODAY, 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.

### 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](mailto:ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org).

### 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 27** was **Samantha Bryan, Grade 4**, who knew that fire and water is blessed at the Easter Vigil.

### 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.

### 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.

## 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.

## 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.**

## Men's Night Out

Join us for Men's Night Out as U.S. Congressman Glenn 'GT' Thompson will be our featured speaker on **Friday, May 4 at 6:00 p.m. at Our Lady of Mercy Church.** Congressman Thompson is a strong voice for protecting the unborn and will be speaking on the status of pro-life legislation in Washington D.C. and other issues important to Pennsylvania's 5<sup>th</sup> Congressional District. Food and refreshments will be provided. Free will offering accepted. Event sponsored by the Knights of Columbus/Our Lady of Mercy.

## Special Thanks

*We want to thank everyone at Our Lady of Mercy for your thoughts and prayers for Dave Behringer's brother who died February 28.*

*Thank you, Dave & Helen Behringer*

## Knights of Columbus 25th Annual Golf & Sports Raffle



The Knights invite you to attend our 25th Annual Golf & Sports Raffle to be held on **May 11 from 6:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. at OLM.** Tickets will be on sale in the **Gathering Space after Masses on the weekends of April 15, 22, 29 & May 6.** Tickets and posters will also be available in the parish office during the week. Our raffle has become the largest in the Erie area thanks to the support of our parishioners and our many ticket sellers. Proceeds from the raffle are used to support youth programs, to provide scholarships for high school seniors and to fund capital improvement projects for the parish. Please help the Knights help OLM.

## 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.

## 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. **On Wednesday, April 18 at 7:00 p.m. we will meet in the Parlor at OLM 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.

## Free Online Correspondence Course

The Missouri Knights of Columbus and the Vincentian Community have developed a Catholic Home Study Service. The Catholic Home Study Service offers free correspondence courses on the Catholic Faith. When people enroll (either by mail or via the Internet), you will receive the requested book and workbook for the course. Call 573-547-4084 to order materials by phone. Students may give answers to the workbook questions over the Internet or by mail. When they finish a course, they receive a certificate of completion and may take other courses. This is a great way to learn more about your Catholic faith in the convenience of your own home, on your schedule!

## Register Now for Families at the Center of Faith

The Religious Education Office of the Diocese of Erie is hosting a one-day event April 24 featuring John Roberto, a national leader in the fields of faith formation. Register by **April 17** at <https://form.jotform.com/eriediocese/families-at-the-center-of-faith-420>.

## 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.



## Ministry Presentation Weeks for Areas of Ministry at Our Lady of Mercy

### Did I miss the Ministry Sign up in January?

*No – we did not have a ministry sign up in January. We are moving the ministry sign up to the fall. In October, we will have a ministry ceremony at Mass, asking people to recommit to their ministries, join a new ministry or indicate that they wish to retire.*

### Why was there no Ministry Sign up In January?

*The Stewardship Committee wanted to look at a more efficient way to track the people involved in ministries. Ninety-five percent of the parish simply signed up for the same ministries year after year. For the 10 to 15 people who made a change or joined a new ministry we were handling 300 papers and making mistakes in the process.*

### What do I do if I want to sign up for a new ministry?

*You may sign up during the month that we celebrated the ministry (see chart below) or wait until October during the ministry commitment weekend. If you would like to join a new ministry sooner, then please contact Donna Clark in the parish office.*

### What do I do if I want to retire from a ministry?

*Simply contact the person who coordinates that particular ministry and tell them you wish to retire. If you do not know who that person is, please contact Donna Clark in the parish office.*

<b>May 12 &amp; 13</b>	<b>Pastoral Care</b>	<b>Violet</b>
<b>Jun 2 &amp; 3</b>	<b>Liturgical</b>	<b>Blue</b>
<b>Jun 30 &amp; Jul 1</b>	<b>Spiritual/Prayer</b>	<b>Red</b>
<b>Aug 4 &amp; 5</b>	<b>Administrative</b>	<b>Yellow</b>
<b>Sep 8 &amp; 9</b>	<b>Outreach</b>	<b>Indigo</b>
<b>Oct 14</b>	<b>Ministry Celebration &amp; Recommitment</b>	



### Why are we celebrating the ministries at Mass?

*The stewardship committee wanted to draw more attention to the ministries within the parish; honor and bless those people involved in the ministries and give more information about each ministry so newer members of the parish can discern how God is calling them to share their gifts within a ministry. Once a month we are celebrating a different group of ministries.*

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