

# 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*

Katie Stephenson, *Administrative Assistant*

Geri Hadlock, *Youth Minister*

Kirk Mientkiewicz, *Maintenance Coordinator*

Andrea Maille, *Lifelong Faith Formation Secretary*

## CONTACT INFORMATION

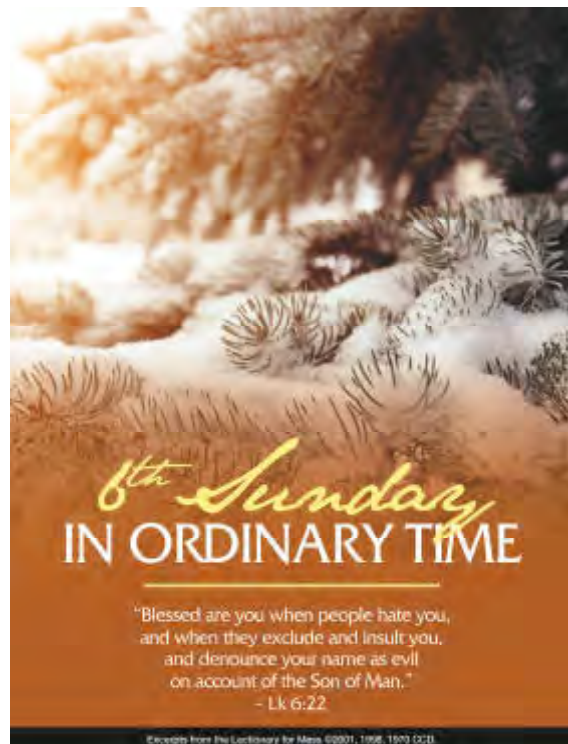
Parish Office: 814-899-5342

Office of Lifelong Faith Formation: 814-899-6132

Fax: 814-898-3306

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

February 17, 2019



## 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)

<b>Mon. 02/18</b>	9:00 a.m.	Newsletter Mailing Party
	6:00 p.m.	Sister Parish
	7:00 p.m.	Grief Support Group
<b>Tue. 02/19</b>	9:30 a.m.	Steel Magnolias
	1:30 p.m.	Legion of Mary
	2:00 p.m.	Prayer Shawl
	4:00 p.m.	Religious Ed. Gr. 3-6
	5:30 p.m.	Children's Choir
	7:00 p.m.	Core Team Meeting
	7:00 p.m.	Lifelong Faith Formation
<b>Wed. 02/20</b>	7:30 p.m.	AA Meeting
	8:30 a.m.	Food Pantry Distribution
	1:00 p.m.	Diamonds in the Rough
<b>Thur. 02/21</b>	7:00 p.m.	OLM Book Group
	9:00 a.m.	Painting Class
	9:30 a.m.	Potter's Clay
	6:00 p.m.	Prayer Shawl
	6:45 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
<b>Fri. 02/22</b>		
<b>Sat. 02/23</b>		<b>CSA Commitment Weekend</b>
		<b>Small Christian Community Sign-Up</b>
	10:00 a.m.	AA Meeting
	4:30 p.m.	Sacrament of Penance
<b>Sun. 02/24</b>		<b>CSA Commitment Weekend</b>
		<b>Small Christian Community Sign-Up</b>
	9:30 a.m.	Religious Ed. Gr. K-2
	9:45 a.m.	Study on Prayer
	9:45 a.m.	Sunday CAFE
	10:30 p.m.	Gr. 7&8 Retreat -St. Mark



*In Loving Memory*

*We remember  
Marion Klocko.  
Please keep her and her family in your prayers.*

## MASS INTENTIONS

<b>Mon. 02/18</b>	8:30 a.m.	
<b>Tue. 02/19</b>	8:30 a.m.	<b>Bob Jones</b> (Barb Jones)
<b>Wed. 02/20</b>	8:30 a.m.	<b>Bill Wagner</b>
<b>Thur. 02/21</b>	8:30 a.m.	<b>Fr. Tom Kelley</b>
<b>Fri. 02/22</b>	8:30 a.m.	<b>*NO MASS*</b>
<b>Sat. 02/23</b>	8:30 a.m.	<b>David Ross</b> (Family)
	6:00 p.m.	<b>Richard Mueller</b> (Rick Mueller)
<b>Sun. 02/24</b>	8:30 a.m.	<b>Joan Bowers</b> (Gary & Cindy Miller)
	11:00 a.m.	<b>For the People of OLM</b>

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

<b>Mon. 02/18</b>	Gn 4:1-15, 25	/ Mark 8:11-13
<b>Tue. 02/19</b>	Gn 6:5-8; 7:1-5, 10	/ Mark 8:14-21
<b>Wed. 02/20</b>	Gn 8:6-13, 20-22	/ Mark 8:22-26
<b>Thur. 02/21</b>	Gn 9:1-13	/ Mark 8:27-33
<b>Fri. 02/22</b>	1 Pt 5:1-4	/ Matthew 16:13-19
<b>Sat. 02/23</b>	Heb 11:1-7	/ Mark 9:2-13
<b>Sun. 02/24</b>	1 Sm 26:2, 7-9, 13-13, 22-23	/ 1Cor 15:45-49 / Luke 6:27-38

## 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 **Florence Voelker**.

## HEALING MINISTRY UPDATE

There will be no Healing Ministry on **Sunday February 17th** and **Sunday March 3rd**. We apologize for this inconvenience, as a lot of our healers are soaking up some vitamin C in sunny Florida. We will resume on **Sunday March 17th**.

## THIS SUNDAY'S REFLECTION

**LUKE 5:1-11**



Jeremiah's own people betrayed him and persecuted him for speaking God's word. The prophet knew that those who turned away from the Lord were like the dry and withered foliage in the desert, a wasteland with no water to nourish them. In contrast, those who were faithful to God's word were like trees with deep, well-watered roots. No matter what the changing season brought, in scarcity or abundance, they bore good fruit.

Paul was a messenger of hope and trust in Jesus's life-giving gospel. His faith in Jesus reached beyond the grave. If our hope is limited to this life, we are to be pitied, for we are the deadest of the dead. Jesus has been raised from the dead; he is the firstfruit of all who will one day reign with him.

Jesus tells us where we can find true happiness. The reign of God belongs to anyone who hungers and thirsts for it. Whoever suffers persecution for the sake of the truth will be filled with joy and eternal happiness.

**For Reflection:** Do I find happiness in the things of the world or in living God's word? Who needs to hear a word of hope in my community?



### For Mercy Sake Mailing Party

We need help preparing the parish newsletter for the mail. If you can fold and stuff envelopes on **Monday, Feb. 18** at 9:00 AM, please let **Irene Lucas** know by calling **899-6132** or send a message to [ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org](mailto:ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org)



### Grief Support

The grief journey is different for each person. For one-on-one support contact **Donna Clark** who can match you with someone from the grief ministry. Our Monthly support group meets on the **third Monday of the month at 7pm** in the parish parlor. The next group meeting is **February 18**.



### OLM Book Group

The OLM Book Group will meet on **Wednesday, Feb. 20**, at **7:00 PM** to discuss Doc by Mary Dorea Russell. Our March book will be Tattoos on the Heart by Fr. Greg Boyle.



### Story Time

Calling all preschoolers and their parents/grandparents! Enjoy a morning of music, games, activities and, of course, stories, on **Tuesday, Feb. 26 at 9:30**. All are invited; there is no lower age limit. The event is free and open to all.



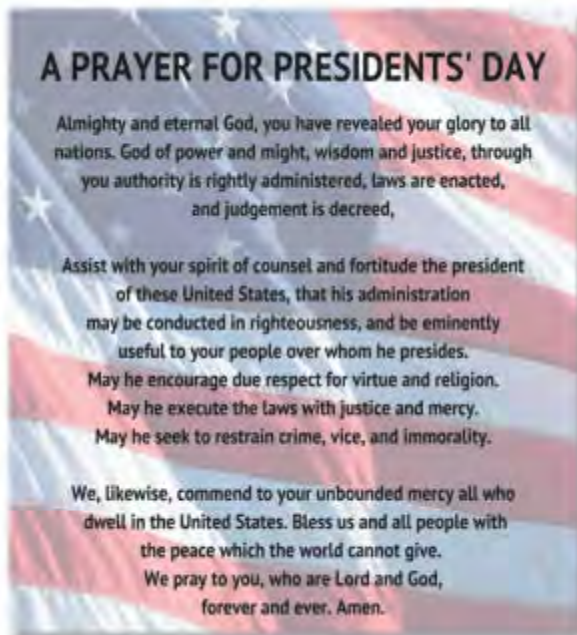
### Youth Open Gym

Our next monthly Open Gym for parish youth will be **Tuesday, Feb. 26 from 5:30-6:30**. During these winter months when it is not very inviting to play outside, this is an opportunity to get some exercise and have a bit of fun.



### Parish Mardi Gras

Our annual parish Mardi Gras celebration will change things up this year. It will be held on **Saturday March 2 from 7:00-10:00 PM**. The night will include a Murder Mystery play, a homemade wine and beer taste-off, a taco bar, wine, beer and pop, and a reverse raffle for \$500. Admission tickets for \$10 include all of the above and are on sale after weekend Masses or at the Parish Office. (You do not need to be present to win the raffle.) If you want to enter your wine or beer into the taste-off, please sign the easel in the Gathering Space. Wine/beer taste-off entries receive a free admission ticket.



### QUESTION OF THE WEEK WINNER

The Question-of-the-Week Winner for the week of Feb. 10 was **Alivia Smith, Gr. 6**, who knew that the Law of Love is to love God above all else and to love our neighbor as ourselves.



### First Reconciliation Retreat

Children preparing to celebrate First Reconciliation in March are reminded that there is a retreat for the children on **Sunday, March 3 from 9:30-1:00**. The Celebration of First Reconciliation will be held **Saturday, March 9 at 1:00** with practice taking place **Friday, March 8 at 5:00**.



### First Eucharist Parent Meeting

Families with children preparing to celebrate First Eucharist in May are reminded that there will be an important parent meeting on **Sunday, March 10 at 9:45** in Sperry Hall.



### Parish Mission

Save the date! Our annual parish mission will be held **Monday, March 18- Wednesday, March 20**. Fr. Michael DeMartinis will present the mission which will draw us into a deeper encounter with the Persons of the Trinity.



### Cursillo

Are you looking to enhance your relationship with Christ? Maybe get to know Him on a more personal basis? Why not consider making a Cursillo! The next women's Cursillo is **March 14-17** right here at OLM, and the next men's will be **May 16-19** also here at OLM. We ask that you prayerfully consider a Cursillo Weekend, you'll be glad you did! For more information call **Tim or Norma Lynch at 899-2681**



## FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Offertory for the weekend of **February 10, 2019**

Envelopes sent:	392	
Envelopes returned:	114	\$3,803.00
Faith Direct Deposits:	115	\$3,022.00
Loose Change:		\$ 99.00
<b>TOTAL OFFERTORY:</b>		<b>\$6,924.00</b>

## Healing the Hurt

Within our faith journeys, we may struggle from time to time with our image of God, with our faith, or with the institutional church. Perhaps there was an experience or an exchange of words that stimulated the struggle, which became a hurt and fostered anger, despair or discouragement. If you or someone you know is struggling with their faith or spirituality and would like to talk in confidence, call **814-303-9282**. This is a google voice number set up to receive calls outside of our regular church channels. **Donna Clark** is the person receiving these private calls.



## Want to meet new members of the Parish?



A great way to do that is to become involved in a ministry. Each ministry has a brochure found in the brochure stand in

the Gathering Space. Questions about a ministry? Contact the ministry leader listed on the brochure or Donna Clark.

## Our Lady of Mercy Young Adult Service Group

Are you 21ish - 40ish years old and interested in doing various service projects throughout the Erie community? Please contact



**Katie Stephenson** at

[secretary@ourladyofmercychurch.org](mailto:secretary@ourladyofmercychurch.org) so you can be added to our email list to stay up to date on when and where our next service project will be.

## Erie's Best Coffee Fundraiser Event

It's on **Sunday, February 24<sup>th</sup>** from **10AM-1PM** at the Bayfront Convention Center (1 Sassafras Pier). Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$15 at the door (kids ages 12 and under are free). They can be purchased at Erie Federal Credit Union (3503 Peach Street), Mill Creek Coffee (1222 Linden Ave), or online at [www.smcerie.org](http://www.smcerie.org). This is a great opportunity to try lots of different coffee and then vote for who you think has Erie's Best Coffee! A celebrity judge panel will also cast their votes. The event is family friendly with children's activities, and we'll have live music. Erie's Best Coffee is proudly sponsored by Mill Creek Coffee, Catholic Charities, Moniuszko Singing Society, Pulaski Club, Americo Federal Credit Union, and Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield.

## Thank You...

Our family would like to thank everyone for all the special gifts given for Gert Peters. Your gifts came in many forms, maybe it was a visit, cards, phone calls, food and treats taken to the house, food prepared for the luncheon after her funeral, prayers, flowers, or a special intension done in her honor, and for everything we are thankful. Her faith and friends from Our Lady of Mercy have always been held special in her heart, and may those that knew her continue to hold her special in their own way. Please know our family greatly appreciates everything that everyone has done for Gert, and for us.

*Thank You!*

Thank you again,  
Family of Gert Peters

## Hearing assist receivers are available.

If you or a relative or visitor needs help hearing at Mass or other events. Please check with Donna or Brandon.



## Overflow Shelter Update



Thank you for being part of a beautiful team of volunteers who made the first two weeks of Our Neighbors' Place a reality at St. John the Baptist! This could never be done without each and everyone of us!

From January 16<sup>th</sup> thru the 31<sup>st</sup> over 100 volunteers made life a little easier for an average of 47 guests each night (our lowest number of guests was 33 and our highest was 68) Over 15 people made dinner for 60 people each night! What an awesome team of people! Our schedule is complete for the second session - if you know of anyone that might want to consider volunteering for second (11pm-3am) or third (3am-7am) shift, please have them contact us. We do have these times covered, but would like to add people to our contact list for these times. If anyone would like to check it out, it would be great if they could come and try it out with experienced volunteers for the March session. We do have a need for some items: Men's underwear and long underwear, warm winter gently used boots, warm winter gloves, sweatpants, hoodies, and t shirts. We do need some perishable food items, please call/email us if you would like to donate. Walking together on this journey of faith allows each of us to put our very own faith into action! Thank you all for making this a reality! God Bless and Thank YOU! Mary Hoffman 873-2981 [mymary14@gmail.com](mailto:mymary14@gmail.com) and Mary Ellen Lieb 873-1284 [melieb4@gmail.com](mailto:melieb4@gmail.com)

## Divorced, Separated or Loss of a Loved One?



Transitions is a peer ministry of the Diocese of Erie that provides a safe place for grieving the loss of one's marriage because of divorce, death or separation.

By offering monthly support groups and periodic specialized programs, Transitions offers companionship and hope to all who are currently traveling the journey of grief. Following a short program, participants will have an opportunity for reflection, sharing and discussion. An average of 25-35 women and men of all ages and stages of life attend this support group regularly. Each program includes reflection, sharing, discussion and refreshments. The next meeting is **February 24th**.

## Women's Conference - save the date

Fifth Annual Catholic Women's conference in Erie is **Saturday, March 30, from 9:00 am to 3:30 pm** at Our Lady of Peace Parish For more information and to register visit [www.138women.com](http://www.138women.com) or call **814-455-7364**. This year the theme of the conference is "Live JOY-fully!", relating to Nehemiah 8:10: "The joy of the Lord is my strength."



## Ink Jet Fundraiser



Please donate used black or color ink jet cartridges to the Religious Education ministry. Previously refilled and remanufactured cartridges can not be redeemed, nor can laser toner cartridges.



# Experience the Joy of Giving

“Forward together,  
with Truth,  
with Faith,  
with Hope.”

Christ has no body on earth but ours,  
No hands but ours,  
Ours are the eyes through which the compassion of Christ looks out upon the world,  
Ours are the feet with which He goes about doing good,  
Ours are the hands with which He blesses his people.  
-St. Teresa of Avila

## What The Catholic Services Appeal does for Our Lady of Mercy

- Formation for Religious Education Teachers
- Video Lending Library for Faith Formation
- Formation for Liturgical Ministers
- Lectors, Eucharistic Minister, Musician
- Study days for Clergy and Pastoral Staff
- Pre Cana & Engaged Encounter for those preparing for Marriage
- NOVA for those planning to remarry
- Marriage Tribunal - Annulments & Dispensations
- Youth Ministry - Retreats and Youth Days
- Faith Magazine
- Child Protection in-service
- Aid to our Sister Parish program
- Support for our Small Faith Community
- Catholic Charities
- Marriage Counseling, Counseling, and Adoptions
- Refugee Ministry

## Agencies of Programs supported by

### The Catholic Services Appeal

- St. Martin's Center
- Support for Seminarians
- Rainbows - for kids who have lost parents
- Separated & Divorced Ministry
- Bereavement Ministry
- Family Ministries
- Campus Ministry
- Catholic Rural Ministry
- Housing for the homeless
- Soup Kitchens and Food Pantries

◆◆The Catholic Services Appeal◆◆  
is more than just another collection.

◆◆The Catholic Services Appeal◆◆  
It is a means & opportunity  
by which we can respond to God's call  
and serve God's people in our Diocese.

It allows us to meet the needs of our 200,000 brothers and sisters in our Diocese, the 13 counties of Northwestern PA through varied ministries and services.



◆◆The Catholic Services Appeal◆◆  
**Benefits our Parish Community**  
Last year it provided \$19,000 for a new copier, new hot water heaters and repairs on HVAC units in the Chapel and Gathering Space, along with 2 new driers for our gas wells.

This year, besides present needs, we are saving for future projects like roofs, parking lot and boiler.

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