

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*

Katie Stephenson, *Administrative Assistant*

Geri Hadlock, *Youth Minister*

Kirk Mientkiewicz, *Maintenance Coordinator*

Andrea Maille, *Lifelong Faith Formation Secretary*

CONTACT INFORMATION

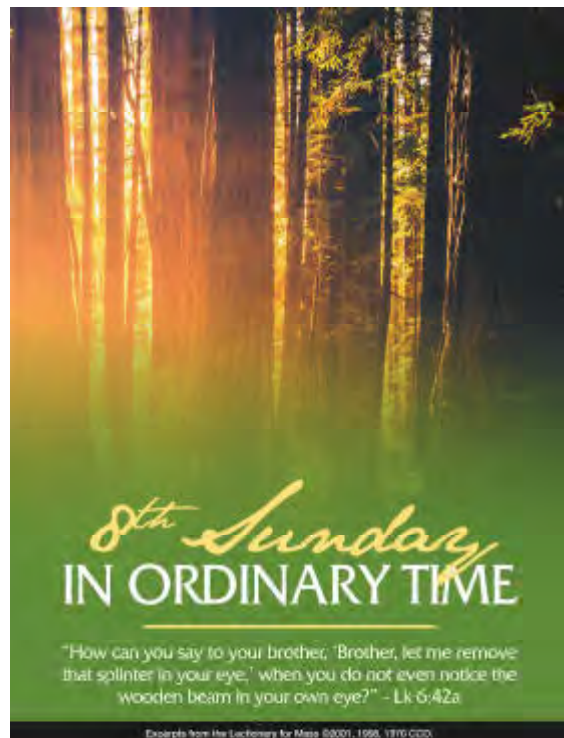
Parish Office: 814-899-5342

Office of Lifelong Faith Formation: 814-899-6132

Fax: 814-898-3306

Email: info@ourladyofmercychurch.org

March 3, 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

Mon. 03/04	6:00 p.m.	Young Adult Group
Tue. 03/05	9:30 a.m.	Steel Magnolias SCC
	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
	6:00 p.m.	Sister Parish Meeting
	7:00 p.m.	Pastoral Council
	7:30 p.m.	AA Meeting
Wed. 03/06	Ash Wednesday	
	8:30 a.m.	Mass
	1:00 p.m.	Diamonds in the Rough SCC
	7:00 p.m.	Mass
Thur. 03/07	9:00 a.m.	Painting Class
	9:30 a.m.	Potter's Clay SCC
	6:00 p.m.	Prayer Shawl
Fri. 03/08	5:00 p.m.	First Reconciliation Practice
	7:00 p.m.	Stations of the Cross
Sat. 03/09	10:00 a.m.	AA Meeting
	1:00 p.m.	First Reconciliation
	4:30 p.m.	Sacrament of Penance
Sun. 03/10	First Sunday of Lent	
	9:30 a.m.	Religious Ed. Gr. K-2
	9:45 a.m.	First Eucharist Parent Meeting
	12:00 p.m.	Religious Ed. Gr. 7 & 8

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Mon. 03/04	Sir 17:20-24	/ Mark 10:17-27
Tue. 03/05	Sir 35:1-12	/ Mark 10:28-31
Wed. 03/06	Jl 2:12-18	/ 2Cor 5:20-6:2 / Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18
Thur. 03/07	Dt 30:15-20	/ Luke 9:22-25
Fri. 03/08	Is 58:1-9	/ Matthew 9:14-15
Sat. 03/09	Is 58:9-14	/ Luke 5:27-32
Sun. 03/10	Dt. 26:4-10/ Rom 10:8-13/ Luke 4:1-13	

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**.



THE SEASON OF LENT BEGINS

ASH Wednesday March 6th is Ash Wednesday. Ashes will be distributed during the **8:30 a.m.** and **7:00 p.m.** Mass.

As a reminder: during Lent, we will celebrate the Stations of the Cross each **Friday at 7:00 p.m.**



WITH THE MOST SINCEREST OF THANKS

To all who made food or took the time to help us during our father's funeral. For all the prayers and well wishes we thank you very much. The family of Neil Ferringer.



MASS INTENTIONS

Mon. 03/04	8:30 a.m.	Evelyn Seyboldt <i>(Loren & Linda Prichard)</i>
Tue. 03/05	8:30 a.m.	William Morschhauser <i>(Bill & Judy Sinclair)</i>
Wed. 03/06	8:30 a.m. 7:00 p.m.	
Thur. 03/07	8:30 a.m.	Hank & Marie Wienczowski <i>(John & Irene Abbate)</i>
Fri. 03/08	8:30 a.m.	
Sat. 03/09	8:30 a.m. 6:00 p.m.	Tom Rinke <i>(Linda & Doug Poust)</i>
Sun. 03/10	8:30 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	Leo Heise <i>(The Heise Family)</i> For the People of OLM

THIS SUNDAY'S REFLECTION

LUKE 6:39-45



Many gardeners practice crop rotation. Where this year's peas grew, next year's carrots are planted. Last year's lettuce is replaced by beets. Families with young helpers can find more surprising results. The frothy leaves of a young carrot crop up between the smooth, rounded sides of an eggplant. A neatly spaced row of radishes is broken by a single pepper plant. Try as it might the misplaced vegetable cannot hide what it is, and no gardener will misidentify a plant simply because of its location.

Today's gospel teaches the same lesson about God's garden of growing Christians. "Every tree is known by its fruit. People do not pick figs from thorn bushes... or grapes from brambles." When God looks at the fruit of our lives, he sees the truth, no matter what row we've planted ourselves in. If we are the lone onion in a petunia patch, it shows, and vice versa. Jesus' words are a call to each Christian, reminding us to dig deep into the rich soil of the gospel, watering our roots with prayer, that we might bear good fruit and be known by it.

QUESTION OF THE WEEK WINNER

The Question-of-the-Week Winner for the week of Feb. 17 was Zoe Redford, Gr. 3, who knew that in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, our sins are forgiven.



Healing Ministry Update



There will be no Healing Ministry on **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**.

Lenten Pastus

Our Lenten Pastus series will begin on **Wednesday, March 13**, with **5:30 Mass, 6:10 Soup Supper and 7:00 Presentation**. Our series will kick off with Dr. Vilella. For more than 2 decades, Dr. Vilella has been traveling to Central America to provide free eye care to some of the world's poorest patients. With hospitals in Guatemala, Mexico, Haiti, Nicaragua and Peru, Vision For the Poor treats around 300,000 patients each year. Operated and staffed by indigenous doctors, the 8 hospitals run by this organization are largely self-supporting for operating costs. Dr. Vilella will share the story of his call to "give sight to the blind".



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.



OLM Book Group

The OLM Book Group invites you to join us **Thursday, March 21 at 7:00** to discuss Tattoos on the Heart by Fr. Greg Boyle. Join us at the home of Irene Lucas 1019 Bartlett Rd for a great conversation with lovely ladies around a glass of wine. Want to read ahead? Our April title will be The Tea Girl of Hummingbird Lane by Lisa See.



Ride to Y

One of our parishioners is looking for a ride to the "Y" periodically. If you can help **contact Donna Clark** in the parish office.



FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Offertory for the weekend of **February 24, 2019**

Envelopes sent:	392	
Envelopes returned:	98	\$2,924.00
Faith Direct Deposits:	111	\$2,982.00
Loose Change:		\$ 122.00
TOTAL OFFERTORY:		\$6,028.00

Religious Education



First Reconciliation Retreat

Children preparing to celebrate First Reconciliation in March are reminded that there is a retreat for the children today, **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.



Pastoral Council

One objective of the June 2018 goal was **Participate in local community events as a group from Our Lady of Mercy**. The council came up with these 4 events: 1. support and participate in the overflow shelter held at St. John the Baptist (Jan-March), 2. The Relay for Life, 3. A Blood Drive held in Harborcreek (April) and 4. "Take Back the Site" prayer service held wherever there has been a local murder. Look for more information about the upcoming event in our bulletin.

Council Nominations

Please start to pray that the Holy Spirit will inspire those who are called to serve on the Pastoral Council. The Pastoral Council, in consultation with the pastor and staff, helps to discern and set the direction for the parish community in prayer, leadership, service and pastoral action. In the coming months everyone will have an opportunity to nominate themselves or someone else. Please listen and pray. Current Council members are: Todd Beckes, Maureen Brainard, Darrell Garwig, Nick Heise, Marge LeFaiver, Margy Luniewski, Bill Matrogran, Nathan Matusiak, Nancy Mowery, David Seyboldt and Katie Stephenson, Mary Beth Smith and Dan Szczesny. If you have questions about Pastoral Council seek out one of the members.

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**

Lenten Fish and Pierogi Dinners

St. Stanislaus Parish, is hosting their Annual Lenten Fish and Pierogi Dinners on **Fridays, March 8, 22 and April 5**, in the Parish Hall, serving from **4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.** Cost: adults - \$10.00; children (6-12) - \$5.00; children 5 and under – free. Take out dinners are \$10.25. Come enjoy a delicious home cooked dinner with your family and friends.



Diocese E-Newsletter



The Diocese of Erie news delivers news, features and photos from across the 13-county diocese and beyond to your inbox every Monday morning. Read archived issues and subscribe to the free digital publication at <https://www.eriercd.org/news/enewsletter.html>.

Divorce Ministry offered in April

Surviving Divorce Ministry, also known as the Catholic's Divorce Survival Guide (CDSG), will be held on **Wednesdays, April 3 to May 22, from 6:30 to 8 p.m.** at Mark Catholic Center, 429 E. Grandview Blvd., Erie. Each week features a 30-minute DVD that covers topics such as shock, denial, anger, forgiveness, the courts, kids and more. Whether someone was divorced 10 days ago or 10 years ago, this program offers valuable insights for all. See the attachments for the brochures for each location. For more details, contact the **Family Life Office at 814-824-1261, familylife@ErieRCD.org**, or visit www.ErieRCD.org/familylifeoffice/sdm.html.



Fifth Annual Catholic Women's Conference...

...is less than one month away! The conference will be held on **Saturday, March 20, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.** at Our Lady of Peace Parish in Erie. Check-in begins at 8 a.m. Cost is only \$40 per person, \$35 for senior citizens or groups of 8, \$25 for college students, \$10 for high school students, and free for religious sisters, and includes lunch. Enjoy fellowship and inspiring national speakers: Amanda Vernon, an internationally-known recording artist; Beth Davis Director of Ministry Advancement of Blessed is She, and Sonja Corbitt an accomplished author, speaker and broadcaster. The event will conclude with Mass offered by Bishop Lawrence Persico. For more information and to register visit www.138women.com or call (814)455-7364.



Catholic Services Appeal



A sincere thank you to all who made a pledge or gift to the Catholic Services Appeal. If you have not yet made a commitment, see the display in the Gathering Space. You may also drop your pledge card or envelope marked 'CSA' in the collection basket or turn it in at the parish office. CSA donation envelopes are available in the Gathering Space.

The theme of this year's CSA is "Forward Together: With Truth, With Hope, With Christ." You may wonder why you should support the CSA. The truth is, we all must. Our diocese still has work to do on behalf of the Lord. The church needs your help to remain focused on Christ and the needs of the people of God. Our bishop assures us that CSA donations are designated to fund the projects, ministries and departments of the Diocese of Erie. No funds donated to the CSA have been or will be used to defray expenses related to the sexual abuse crisis. Check out the video link on our website. Your generosity is appreciated.

2019 Prayer for the Catholic Services Appeal

*Loving, forgiving and ever-present God,
in your Son, you gave us a model
of self-giving love and openness.
Jesus, the Christ,
forgave those who misunderstood,
ignored or mistreated him,
yet steadfastly announced
God's presence in our world.
Through compassion for others
and an eternal hope for unity
among all peoples,
he modeled for us
a path of fulfillment and salvation.
Help us to unite our work with his,
to give of ourselves—even in times
of doubt and difficulty— and to be his
hands, feet and words in our world
as we move forward together.
We pray through Christ our Lord
in unity with the Holy Spirit.
Amen.*

Parish Mission 2019

An Intimate Encounter With The Trinity

Fr. Michael DeMartinis

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, March 18-Wednesday, March 20

7:00-8:00 PM

At the heart of all existence, at the heart of each human story, is the Mystery of the Holy Trinity. The Trinity, a community of Divine Love so intimate that there is only one God, a Divine Love so expansive, it draws us into the Divine embrace. In this 3 day parish mission, Fr. Michael DeMartinis will invite participants to a renewed and deepened awareness and experience of the enfolding and empowering love of the Trinity.

Monday:

Good, Good God

God loves us with a relentless love. During this first night of the mission, Fr. DeMartinis will help us to look at God in new ways.

Tuesday:

A Savior's Job Is To Save

We call Jesus "Savior", but do we understand what we are saying? On the second night of the mission, Fr. DeMartinis will invite us to a fuller appreciation of Jesus, our Savior, and to discover what makes Christianity unique among world religions.

Wednesday:

Abundant Life Now

The Holy Spirit, the Font of Life, dwells in us through our Baptism. Because of this gift, the eternal life we long for is already unfolding with in us. On the final night of the mission, Fr. DeMartinis will encourage us to rejoice for we already know the end of the story and we win!

Fr. Michael DeMartinis is a priest of the Diocese of Erie. He was raised in Hermitage where he attended Notre Dame Parish. He was ordained in April 1997. He has served in a number of parishes around the diocese including Our Lady of Peace, Blessed Sacrament, St. Joseph, St. Andrew and Mount Calvary, as well as ministering as faculty member and campus minister at Cathedral Prep and Villa Maria High Schools.

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