

# 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

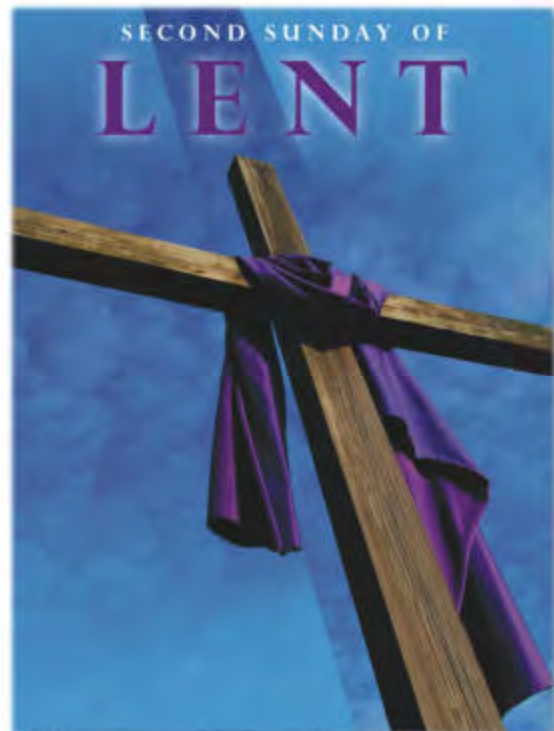
Parish Office: 814-899-5342

Office of Lifelong Faith Formation: 814-899-6132

Fax: 814-898-3306

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

March 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. 03/18</b>	7:00 p.m.	Grief Support Group
	7:00 p.m.	Parish Mission
<b>Tue. 03/19</b>	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
	7:00 p.m.	Parish Mission
	7:30 p.m.	AA Meeting
<b>Wed. 03/20</b>	8:30 a.m.	Food Pantry Distribution
	1:00 p.m.	Diamonds in the Rough SCC
	6:00 p.m.	AGIFT Meeting
<b>Thur. 03/21</b>	7:00 p.m.	Parish Mission
	9:00 a.m.	Painting Class
	9:30 a.m.	Potter's Clay SCC
	6:00 p.m.	Prayer Shawl
	6:45 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
	7:00 p.m.	Book Group
<b>Fri. 03/22</b>	7:00 p.m.	Stations of the Cross
<b>Sat. 03/23</b>	10:00 a.m.	AA Meeting
	4:30 p.m.	Sacrament of Penance
<b>Sun. 03/24</b>		<b>Third Sunday of Lent</b>
	9:30 a.m.	Religious Ed. Gr. K-2
	12:00 p.m.	Baptismal Prep Class
	12:00 p.m.	Religious Ed. Gr. 7 & 8


## SCRIPTURE READINGS


<b>Mon. 03/18</b>	Dn 9:4-10	/ Luke 6:36-38
<b>Tue. 03/19</b>	2Sm 7:4-5, 12-14, 16	/ Rom 4:13,16-18 / Luke 2:21-51
<b>Wed. 03/20</b>	Jer 18:18-20	/ Matthew 20:17-28
<b>Thur. 03/21</b>	Jer 17:5-10	/ Luke 16:19-31
<b>Fri. 03/22</b>	Gn 37:3-4, 12-13, 17-28	/ Matthew 21:33-46
<b>Sat. 03/23</b>	Mi 7:14-15, 18-20	/ Luke 15:1-3, 11-32
<b>Sun. 03/24</b>	Ex 3:1-8, 13-15	/ 1Cor 10:1-6, 10-12 / Luke 13:1-9

## 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 **Andrea Maille**.



\*\*\*\*\*  
★ **QUESTION OF THE WEEK WINNER** ★  
★ The Question of the Week winner for the week of March 10 was **Reagan Bradley, Gr. 1**, who knew that Lent lasts for 40 days. ★  
★  ★  
\*\*\*\*\*



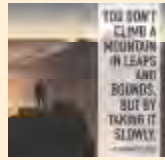
*We remember...*  
**Jeanne Costa** sister-in-law of **Candy Henry**.  
Please keep her and her family in your prayers.

### MASS INTENTIONS

<b>Mon. 03/18</b>	8:30 a.m.	<b>Emma Royer</b> <i>(John &amp; Sandi Matts)</i>
<b>Tue. 03/19</b>	8:30 a.m.	<b>George Ritchie</b>
<b>Wed. 03/20</b>	8:30 a.m.	<b>Mary Pfadt</b> <i>(Family)</i>
<b>Thur. 03/21</b>	8:30 a.m.	<b>Anthony &amp; Catherine Ann Sorbera</b>
<b>Fri. 03/22</b>	8:30 a.m.	<b>Agnes Barko</b> <i>(Judy Newara)</i>
<b>Sat. 03/23</b>	8:30 a.m.	
	6:00 p.m.	<b>For the People of OLM</b>
<b>Sun. 03/24</b>	8:30 a.m.	<b>Joanne Smith</b> <i>(Liana Pasquale)</i>
	11:00 a.m.	<b>Yolanda DiRaimo</b> <i>(Family)</i>

## THIS SUNDAY'S REFLECTION

### LUKE 9:28-36



Abraham is an example for all who put their faith and hopes in the Lord despite evidence to the contrary. Abraham and his wife were childless and advanced in years, yet God promised that their descendants would be as "numerous as the stars of the sky." God demands nothing of Abraham but trust. "The Lord is my light and my salvation," the psalmist declares as he waits with courage.

From the darkness of prison Paul writes to encourage the faithful: "Be imitators of me." No matter what the outcome, Paul has faith that his mortal body will be transformed by Christ's own death and resurrection.

As Jesus faces the dark night of the cross, he is transfigured in the light of God's glory. Before the eyes of Peter, John, and James, Jesus speaks with Moses and Elijah of his own "exodus" from death to life. When the vision passes, Peter wants to stay on the mountaintop to celebrate the event. The divine presence overshadows them and a voice declares, "This is my son, my chosen one. Listen to him!" There is no camping on the mountain. They must keep their eyes on Jesus and go forth to do his will in the world.

For reflection: Do I listen to what God is telling me? Do I see God's plan for me in the midst of trials?

### Grief Support



The journey through grief can be unpredictable. Just when things start to feel settled an event or word will bring on a wave of tears and sadness. This is normal. The ups and downs are easier to

manage when there is someone to share with who understands. The monthly grief support group will meet **March 18 at 7pm** in the parish parlor. (This is the first night of our Parish Mission. There is an option to attend as a group, followed by a short gathering.) Or if you feel the need for one on one, **contact Donna Clark in the parish office.**

### 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.

### Baptismal Preparation Parent Session



Are you anticipating the birth of a child in the coming months? Do you have a child that you would like to have celebrate the Sacrament of Baptism? The

next Baptismal Preparation Parent Session at OLM will be held **Sunday, March 24 from noon to 2:00** in the Conference Room. There will not be another Baptismal Prep Parent Session at OLM until the fall. Please register for this class by calling the Parish Office at 899-5342. The Diocese of Erie requires that parents and godparents (when possible) participate in a sacramental preparation session before this sacrament is celebrated with the child.

### Women's Stations of the Cross

Sophia's Circle, a Small Church Community of Our Lady of Mercy cordially invites the women of the parish and



guests to "Discover the Woman Within" as we walk with Jesus and Mary at the Stations of the Cross. Please join us on **Tuesday, April 9th at 7:00pm**. The evening will begin at 7:00 in the church and will last about an hour and a half. Invite a friend - all are welcome!



### Confirmation Evening of Reflection

Confirmation candidates in their final year of preparation are reminded that they have a special event with their sponsors on **Sunday, March 31 at 5:00-8:00.**

## FINANCIAL SUPPORT

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

Envelopes sent:	392	
Envelopes returned:	100	\$4,963.00
Faith Direct Deposits:	111	\$2,982.00
Loose Change:		\$ 164.00
<b>TOTAL OFFERTORY:</b>		<b>\$7,781.00</b>



### Parish Mission

Our annual parish mission is this week. Join us **Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday evenings from 7:00-8:00** to renew your spirit and deepen your faith. Fr. Michael DeMartinis will present the retreat which will draw us into a deeper encounter with the Persons of the Trinity.

### Stations of the Cross

The parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy are invited to join the following groups as we pray the Stations of the Cross on **Fridays at 7 p.m.** throughout the season of Lent:

<b>March 22</b>	<b>Small Christian Communities</b>
<b>29</b>	<b>Legion of Mary</b>
<b>April 5</b>	<b>Youth</b>

### Lenten Pastus

Our second Lenten Pastus evening will be **Wednesday, March 27, with 5:30 Mass, 6:10 Soup Supper and 7:00 Presentation.** Our series will continue with Fr. Shane Mathew, a professor in the Dept of Theology at Gannon Univ and native of Erie. Fr. Mathew was ordained in 2005. Immigration, Refugees and the Catholic Church: A Dialogue From DACA to border walls, from the fear of terrorists to the images of children separated from parents, from government shut-downs in the U.S. to riots in Europe, immigration has captured headlines. We may know what Democrats and Republicans, President Trump and Chancellor Merkel have to say about this important social issue, but do we know what our faith has to say? Fr. Shane Mathew will help us to see this current crisis in light of the Gospel and Catholic Social Teaching.



### 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.

## Mardi Gras Celebration

Our sincere thanks to all who supported our first Mardi Gras Celebration - we raised \$2110 for our Sister Parish! It was great to see so many of our parishioners and their family and friends join in the fun. Special thanks go to Six Mile Winery, Grist House Brewerrie & the home brew and wine entrants, Nick Heise & the murder mystery cast, Tom Palisin & the Knights of Columbus, Greg Wargo (MC), Josh Skarzenski (raffle/tips), Craig Fournier (taco bar), Tammy Steger (cupcakes), Stans Garden Center, Beer & Pop Discount Warehouse and all our volunteers. We welcome all comments and suggestions for making this an even better event and look forward to seeing everyone next year (February 22nd).



**Winner of the reverse raffle:** Dick Miller  
**Best brews/wines:**  
 (1st ) Bob Yount  
 (2nd ) Carol and Tony Gilmore  
 (3) Tom Palisin  
**Who done it:** Roxie

### Pancakes for Fr. Pete—April 7

The Annual Pancakes for Fr. Pete breakfast will be held on Sunday, April 7 from 9:30 to 11:30. The cost is still \$5.00 per person or a family of 4 or more for \$20.00. In addition to a fabulous breakfast, there will also be a basket raffle and 50/50. All proceeds from this event benefit the Maria House Projects. If you have any questions, please contact Tom Pearson at 450-7338.



### 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.

### Food Pantry News

On Feb 4<sup>th</sup> we collected 160 cans of soup and received \$70.00 in cash for the support of the food pantry from 4 area churches.



Thank you all. We continue to serve about 325 people each month. Our clients are very grateful for the food. Also we thank Katrina DeVore who recommended us for a \$5,000 grant from the UPS Foundation, which we received in January. We again received \$5,000 from the Moose Club as well. If you know a member of the Moose Club, please thank them. These funds will allow us to purchase 4 to 5 months' worth of food from Second Harvest and Shurfine when our grants run out. When our federal, state and local grants run out, we spend between \$1,500 and \$4,000 on food from Second Harvest.

### Used Medical Equipment?

Chosen International Medical Assistance will take used medical equipment. The equipment is cleaned, refurbished, then given to those in need, both at home and abroad. Wheelchairs, walkers, transfer benches, shower chairs, canes, hospital beds, etc. They also collect diabetic supplies in their original packaging. Rolling walkers are in great demand. Questions about what is accepted contact [jeff@chosenima.org](mailto:jeff@chosenima.org) or 833-3023. Bring to Chosen International located at 3638 West 26 St. 8am to 3pm M-F.



### Too Many Shoes?



Chosen International Medical Assistance will take gently worn, new or used shoes. They work with funds2orgs to raise money. The shoes are given to help create micro-enterprise opportunities for low income entrepreneurs in developing nations. This keeps the shoes out of the landfills as well. Bring them to Chosen International located at 3638 West 26 St. 8am to 3pm M-F.

### Lenten Fish and Pierogi Dinners

St. Stanislaus Parish, is hosting their Annual Lenten Fish and Pierogi Dinners on **Fridays, March 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.



### 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](mailto:familylife@ErieRCD.org), or visit [www.ErieRCD.org/familylifeoffice/sdm.html](http://www.ErieRCD.org/familylifeoffice/sdm.html).

### Just two more weeks until 1:38 Women— Register Now!

Are you looking for JOY in your life? Do you want to bring JOY to others? Then join women from across the Diocese of Erie and beyond for The 5<sup>th</sup> annual 1:38 Women's Conference at the Our Lady of Peace Parish in Erie on **Saturday, March 30, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.** Registration is only \$40 per person with special pricing for senior citizens, groups of 8, students and is free for Religious Sisters. The price includes lunch and free parking. This day of inspiration, spiritual growth and worship is open to all women of all faiths and will feature national speakers, adoration, reconciliation and Mass with Bishop Lawrence Persico. For more information and to register visit [www.138women.com](http://www.138women.com) or call 814-455-7364.



# ST. PATRICK'S DAY FUN FACTS

## St. Patrick wasn't Irish.

St. Patrick wasn't Irish, and he wasn't born in Ireland. Patrick's parents were Roman citizens living in modern-day England, or more precisely in Scotland or Wales (scholars cannot agree on which). He was born in 385 AD. By that time, most Romans were Christians and the Christian religion was spreading rapidly across Europe.

## St. Patrick was a slave.

At the age of 16, Patrick had the misfortune of being kidnapped by Irish raiders who took him away and sold him as a slave. He spent several years in Ireland herding sheep and learning about the people there. At the age of 22, he managed to escape. He made his way to a monastery in England where he spent 12 years growing closer to God.

## St. Patrick used the shamrock to preach about the trinity.

Many claim the shamrock represents faith, hope, and love, or any number of other things but it was actually used by Patrick to teach the mystery of the Holy Trinity, and how three things, the Father, The Son, and the Holy Spirit could be separate entities, yet one in the same. Obviously, the pagan rulers of Ireland found Patrick to be convincing because they quickly converted to Christianity.

## Patrick's color is blue.

The original color associated with St. Patrick is blue, not green as commonly believed. In several artworks depicting the saint, he is shown wearing blue vestments. King Henry VIII used the Irish harp in gold on a blue flag to represent the country. Since that time, and possibly before, blue has been a popular color to represent the country on flags, coats-of-arms, and even sports jerseys. Green was associated with the country later, presumably because of the greenness of the countryside, which is so because Ireland receives plentiful rainfall. Today, the country is also referred to as the "Emerald Isle."

## Legend says St. Patrick drove all the snakes from Ireland.

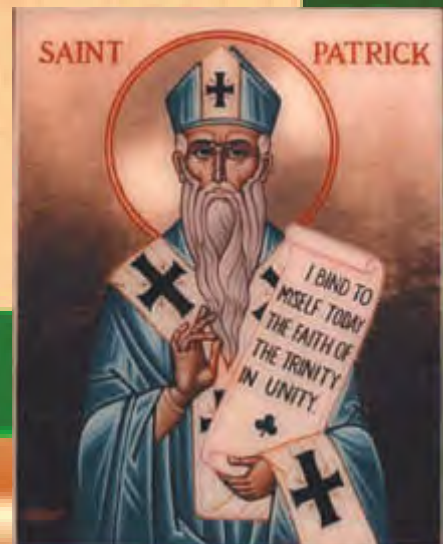
According to legend, St. Patrick drove all the snakes, or in some translations, "toads," out of Ireland. In reality, this probably did not occur, as there is no evidence that snakes have ever existed in Ireland, the climate being too cool for them to thrive. Despite that, scholars suggest that the term "snakes" may be figurative and refer to pagan religious beliefs and practices rather than reptiles or amphibians.

## March 17th is when Patrick died.

Saint Patrick is a saint of the Catholic Church, and his holy day is the day of his death, and subsequent entrance to heaven, rather than the day of his physical birth. After spending most of his adult life converting the pagans of Ireland to Christianity, St. Patrick went to his reward on March 17, 461 AD.

## Bonus Fact

Your odds of finding a four-leaf clover are about 1 in 10,000!



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