

# 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

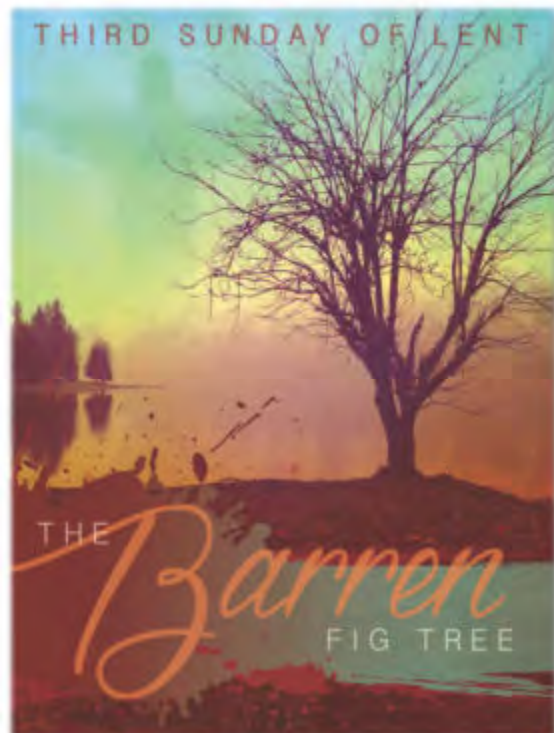
Parish Office: 814-899-5342

Office of Lifelong Faith Formation: 814-899-6132

Fax: 814-898-3306

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

March 24, 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. 03/25</b>	6:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Fruit of the Vine SCC Isaiah SCC
<b>Tue. 03/26</b>	9:30 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 1:30 p.m. 2:00 p.m. 4:00 p.m. 5:30 p.m. 5:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Potter's Clay SCC Steel Magnolias SCC Legion of Mary Prayer Shawl Religious Ed. Gr. 3-6 Children's Choir Youth Open Gym Core Team Meeting Lifelong Faith Formation Meeting
<b>Wed. 03/27</b>	7:30 p.m. 12:00 p.m.  1:00 p.m.	AA Meeting Food Pantry Volunteer Luncheon Diamonds in the Rough SCC
<b>Thur. 03/28</b>	5:30 p.m. 9:00 a.m. 6:00 p.m. 6:45 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Lenten Pastus Painting Class Prayer Shawl Choir Rehearsal Tech Committee Meeting
<b>Fri. 03/29</b>	7:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Stations of the Cross Young Adult Eucharistic Adoration
<b>Sat. 03/30</b>	10:00 a.m. 4:30 p.m.	AA Meeting Sacrament of Penance
<b>Sun. 03/31</b>	<u>Fourth Sunday of Lent</u>	
	9:30 a.m. 12:00 p.m. 5:00 p.m.	Religious Ed. Gr. K-2 Gr. 7 & 8 Youth Event Gr.11 Candidate/Sponsor Evening of Reflection

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

<b>Mon. 03/25</b>	Is 7:10-14; 8:10	/ Heb 10:4-10 / Luke 1:26-38
<b>Tue. 03/26</b>	Dn 3:25, 34-43	/ Matthew 18:21-35
<b>Wed. 03/27</b>	Dt 4:1, 5-9	/ Matthew 5:17-19
<b>Thur. 03/28</b>	Jer7:23-28	/ Luke 11:14-23
<b>Fri. 03/29</b>	Hos 14:2-10	/ Matthew 12:28-34
<b>Sat. 03/30</b>	Hos 6:1-6	/ Luke 18:9-14
<b>Sun. 03/31</b>	Jos 5:9, 10-12	/ 2Cor 5:17-21 / Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

## 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**.

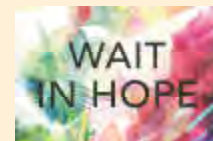


## QUESTION OF THE WEEK WINNER

The Question-of-the-Week Winner for the week of March 11 was **Addy Mikolajewski, Gr. 5**, who knew that the ashes used on Ash Wednesday come from burning the palms from last year's Palm Sunday.



## THIS SUNDAY'S REFLECTION



### LUKE 13:1-9

With the elect preparing for baptism, we take a careful look at how we are progressing in our own faith. Like Moses, we discover God's presence in the ordinary circumstances in our lives. No matter how common, the place where we stand is holy ground. God calls us each by name, at the same time disclosing the divine name: "I AM." God is the God of the present, eternally tending to all our needs here and now.

"The Lord is kind and merciful," the psalmist rejoices in the surpassing compassion of God, who secures justice for the oppressed. Paul reflects on the events throughout sacred history and says that they are examples to encourage us and help us to live in faith and trust.

When we suffer adversity in our lives, Jesus tells us that God is not punishing us. Tragic events happen to people, not because we are the worst of sinners but to wake us up to our own mortality. Jesus gives us a sober warning lest we become presumptuous of God's mercy. God is patient, giving us ample time to change our ways. But if we refuse to reform our lives, like the fruitless fig tree, there will be a time when God's forbearance will come to an end.

For reflection: Have I taken time to scrutinize my life?  
 Have I found a holy place that helps me to be holy?

## MASS INTENTIONS

<b>Mon. 03/25</b>	8:30 a.m.	<b>Edward Laughlin</b> <i>(Kosobucki Family)</i>
<b>Tue. 03/26</b>	8:30 a.m.	<b>Evelyn Seyboldt</b> <i>(Janet Smith)</i>
<b>Wed. 03/27</b>	8:30 a.m.	<b>Jean Costas</b> <i>(Terry Miller)</i>
<b>Thur. 03/28</b>	5:30 p.m. 8:30 a.m.	<b>Gert Peters</b> <i>(Ross Peters)</i>
<b>Fri. 03/29</b>	8:30 a.m.	<b>Christine Britton</b> <i>(Marilyn Garwig)</i>
<b>Sat. 03/30</b>	8:30 a.m. 6:00 p.m.	<b>Bernice "Bea" Martin</b> <i>(The Stephenson Family)</i>
<b>Sun. 03/31</b>	8:30 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	<b>Harry Extein</b> <i>(The Extein Family)</i> <b>For the People of OLM</b>



### Open Gym

The youth of the parish are invited to an hour of open gym on **Tuesday, March 26, from 5:30-6:30.**

### 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.**



### 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. We are currently looking for donations for our basket raffle. All proceeds from this event benefit the Maria House Projects. If you have any questions or are able to donate to our basket raffle, please contact **Tom Pearson at 450-7338.**

### Vacation Bible School

Efforts are underway to bring back Vacation Bible School to OLM. If you are interested in being a part of this project, join us at **5:30 on Tuesday, April 9** or call **Irene at 899-6132** to share your ideas.



### 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

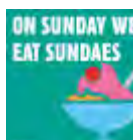
to "Discover the Woman Within" as we walk with Jesus and Mary at the Stations of the Cross. Please join us on **Tuesday, April 9th at 7:00pm.** The evening will begin at 7:00 in the church and will last about an hour and a half. Invite a friend - all are welcome!

### For Mercy Sake Deadline

The deadline to submit items for the May issue of For Mercy Sake is **Sunday, April 14.** Send submissions to [ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org](mailto:ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org).



### Sundae Sunday



Mark your calendar for our third annual **Sundae Sunday, April 28 at noon** in Sperry Hall. With a make-your-own-sundae bar, a cake walk and lots of fun, we will celebrate the end of another year of religious classes and the joy of Easter. This is for the entire

parish, not specifically for religious education families.

## FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Offertory for the weekend of **March 17, 2019**

Envelopes sent:	392	
Envelopes returned:	92	\$3,126.00
Faith Direct Deposits:	111	\$2,982.00
Loose Change:		\$ 223.00
<b>TOTAL OFFERTORY:</b>		<b>\$6,331.00</b>



### Stations of the Cross + Holy Hour

**Friday March 29, 7pm** Join the OLM community to pray the Stations of the Cross, followed by Eucharistic Exposition and Adoration, led by the Young Adult Small Faith Community. Come for as much of the evening as your schedule allows.

### 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 29</b>	<b>Young Adult Ministry</b>
<b>April 5</b>	<b>Youth</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>Legion of Mary</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.



### Who can be on Pastoral Council?

A person of prayer, committed to our faith community and willing to share thoughts, ideas and observations in order to build a vibrant parish family. The Council fosters a climate of teamwork and operates using a consensus model.

### Who is eligible to become a council member?

- Has been baptized or received into the Roman Catholic Church.
- By his/her free and consistent choice is a registered member of Our Lady of Mercy Parish.
- Contributes to the betterment of the parish community.

See the nomination cards in the gathering space.



## Ministries

Did you know there are 57 ministries in the parish? There is something for everyone whatever your gifts. Do you have an interest in ongoing spiritual education? Then perhaps the AGIFT committee would be a good match (Adults Growing In Faith Together). Do you like planning ways to reach out to and engage young adults and families to help them become more involved, connecting with the parish community and their faith? Then perhaps the Lifelong Faith Formation Committee would be a good place to express creative ideas. Check out the information about these ministries on the Ministry brochure rack.



### OLM Book Group

Our April title will be The Tea Girl of Hummingbird Lane by Lisa See.

### Dresses for Missions Baby Boxes

The birthing center is not fully open in our mission in Haiti. Our contact person, Dorothy, has found a company to manufacture baby boxes, which are beds for the newborn babies. They are filled with receiving blankets, onesies, socks, hats, diapers, etc.; and given to the mothers as a gift for taking classes. The babies then do not have to be born and placed on the ground. I am collecting the blankets, onesies, hats, socks or booties to help fill the boxes. Please bring donated items to the parish office. If you have any questions or comments, call **Carole Peters at 899-4470** and leave a message with your name and phone number. Thank you and God Bless you for your support and prayers.



### 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 men's Cursillo will be **May 16-19** 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**



### Job Opening at Local Church

Faith Lutheran Church, located in Harborcreek, seeks a part-time (20-25 hours a week) Parish Administrator. The Parish Administrator provides overall support and coordination for the office and ongoing ministry of the church. For details, see: [faithlutheranerie.com/new-job-posting/](http://faithlutheranerie.com/new-job-posting/). If interested, please submit a cover letter and résumé to [faithlepastor@gmail.com](mailto:faithlepastor@gmail.com) or mail to 5414 East Lake Road, Erie, PA, 16511, by March 26, 2019.



## Used Medical Equipment?



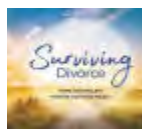
Chosen International Medical Assistance will take used medical equipment. The equipment is cleaned, refurbished, then given to those in need, both at home and abroad. Wheelchairs, walkers, transfer benches, shower chairs, canes, hospital beds, etc. They also collect diabetic supplies in their original 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**.



## 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).

## Final Call: Register Today for the 2019 Catholic Women's Conference!

The 5th annual 1:38 Women's Conference for Catholic Women in the Diocese of Erie, is scheduled for this coming **Saturday, March 30** at Our Lady of Peace Parish from **9am to 3:30pm** (check-in begins at 8am.) 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**.



# **Pancakes for Fr. Pete**

**Pancake and Sausage Breakfast**

**Sunday April 7**

**Sperry Hall**

**9:30am - 11:30am**

**Donation \$5.00 per person.**

**\$20.00 per family of 4 or more**

**Basket Raffle**

**Proceeds benefit Maria House Projects**

# **BLOOD DRIVE**

**DATE: Saturday, April 6th    TIME: 9 a.m.—12 p.m.**

**PLACE: Our Lady of Mercy**

## **DONORS MUST...**

- Be at least 17 years old or 16 with parental consent
- Weigh at least 110 pounds
- No tattoo or body piercing in past 12 months
- Be in general good health and eat before donating

**PHOTO ID REQUIRED!**

Donate & Win—  
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