

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

April 7, 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. 04/08	6:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Fruit of the Vine SCC Isaiah SCC
Tue. 04/09	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.	Potter's Clay SCC Steel Magnolias SCC Legion of Mary Prayer Shawl Religious Ed. Gr. 3-6 Children's Choir VBS Planning Meeting Women's Reflection— Stations of the Cross
Wed. 04/10	7:30 p.m. 1:00 p.m.	AA Meeting Diamonds in the Rough SCC
	7:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Knights of Columbus Lenten Penance Celebration
Thur. 04/11	9:00 a.m. 6:00 p.m. 6:45 p.m.	Painting Class Prayer Shawl Choir Rehearsal
Fri. 04/12	7:00 p.m.	Stations of the Cross
Sat. 04/13	10:00 a.m. 4:30 p.m.	AA Meeting Sacrament of Penance
Sun. 04/14		Palm Sunday
	9:30 a.m. 12:00 p.m.	Religious Ed. Gr. K-2 Religious Ed. Gr. 7 & 8

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Mon. 04/08	Dn 41-62	/ John 8:12-20
Tue. 04/09	Nm 21:4-9	/ John 8:21-30
Wed. 04/10	Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95	/ John 8:31-42
Thur. 04/11	Gn 17:3-9	/ John 8:51-59
Fri. 04/12	Jer 20:10-13	/ John 10:31-42
Sat. 04/13	Ez 37:21-28	/ John 11:45-56
Sun. 04/14	Luke 19:28-40	/ Is 50:4-7 / Phil 2:6-11 Luke 22:14-23:56 or 23:1-49

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon. 04/08	8:30 a.m.	Bill Morschhauser (Loren & Linda Prichard)
Tue. 04/09	8:30 a.m.	Anniversary of the Dedication of OLM
Wed. 04/10	8:30 a.m.	Robert Latchford
Thur. 04/11	8:30 a.m.	Evelyn Seyboldt (Barbara & Norman Schlosser)
Fri. 04/12	8:30 a.m.	Denny Smith (Susan & Kevin Grant)
Sat. 04/13	8:30 a.m. 6:00 p.m.	For the People of OLM
Sun. 04/14	8:30 a.m.	Louie DeLuca (RoseMarie DeLuca)
	11:00 a.m.	Lewis Peters (Carole Peters)

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**.



FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Offertory for the weekend of March 31, 2019

Envelopes sent:	392	
Envelopes returned:	112	\$3,718.00
Faith Direct Deposits:	113	\$2,941.00
Loose Change:		\$ 197.50
TOTAL OFFERTORY:		\$6,856.50

OFFICE HOURS

The Parish Office will be closed on Good Friday-**April 19th** and Easter Monday-**April 22nd**.
 Regular office hours will resume on
Tuesday, April 23rd from 9am-3pm.

QUESTION OF THE WEEK WINNER

The Question-of-the-Week Winner for the week of March 25 was **Thomas Pohl, Gr. 6**, who could name at least 3 of the Apostles.



THIS SUNDAY'S REFLECTION



JN 8:1-11

"Remember not the events of the past. See I am doing something new!" The prophet Isaiah warns us not to engage in useless daydreaming about the past but to reflect on what God is doing now. Once again we are invited to scrutinize our lives on the progress we have made. Paul looked at his past life and declared all as loss in the light of the surpassing knowledge of Jesus Christ. Since Paul had been rescued by a merciful God, he had the courage to push on to what lay ahead, like a runner racing to grasp the prize. Although he had not reached the finish line, he had unshakable faith that Christ would be with him to the end.

There are always those who are eager to point out our past failures. Such were those who accused a woman caught in the adultery. Jesus refused to condemn her and challenged her accusers to take a careful look at their own sins. One by one they drifted away. It's easy to condemn them for their actions, but often, we too deny our sinful behavior. We need to stand before Christ, look into his merciful eyes, and accept his command, "Go and avoid this sin." Then with the psalmist we can announce to the assembly, "The Lord has done great things for us."

For reflection: Have I reflected on what God has done for me today? Am I optimistic in my hopes for the future?

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.



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.

Journeying Through Grief

The three N's of grief are that it is normal, natural and necessary. Sometimes people feel the need to apologize for becoming emotional when talking about losing someone they love. We must remember that emotions rising up in us is normal, natural and necessary. Learn more about how to journey through grief at the monthly grief support group on **April 15 at 7pm** in the parish parlor. Or if you prefer one on one ministry please contact **Donna Clark** in the parish office.



Creation Care Team

Do you care about the Earth? Pope Francis, in his encyclical, Laudato Si, calls it our "common home" and implores us to work towards its care. The parish social justice committee is beginning a new sub-committee with this theme. Please join us for our inaugural meeting, **Tuesday, April 23 at 7PM** in the Church Parlor. Questions? email **Michelle** at michellem.knight@gmail.com or **202-997-5069**.

Caring for God's Creation



OLM Book Group



OLM Book Group: Our April title will be The Tea Girl of Hummingbird Lane by Lisa See. Join us at the home of Irene Lucas, 1019 Bartlett Rd at **7:00 PM on April 24** a week later than usual because of Holy Week) for great

conversation over a glass of wine. For those who want to read ahead, our May title will be Plainsong by Kent Haruf.

First Eucharist Retreat

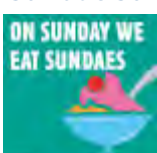
Families with children preparing to celebrate First Eucharist in May are reminded that there is a mandatory retreat on **Saturday, April 27 from 8:45-1:00**.

Children must bring their completed banner, cookies to share and a parent with them.



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.



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:

April 12 Legion of Mary
19 Outdoor Stations of the Cross @ 1 p.m.

Lenten Penance Celebration

Lent is a beautiful season to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation. We will gather as a local faith community on the following days:

Sunday, April 7 - 3:00 p.m. at St. Mark
Tuesday, April 9 - 7:00 p.m. at St James in Wesleyville
Wednesday, April 10 - 7:00 p.m. at Our Lady of Mercy

Discover the Woman Within 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**. The evening will begin at 7:00 p.m. in the church and will last about an hour and a half. Invite a friend-all are welcome!

Pilgrimage Through The Symbols of Holy Week

Join us **Wednesday, April 17 at 7:00 PM** for a pilgrimage through the sights and rituals of the Holy Triduum liturgies. This is a powerful and unique experience that invites the participants into a deeper appreciation of the meaning behind what we do during these most sacred days. Bring a wine glass. Wear comfortable shoes. Gather in Classroom #1.

Welcoming Guests for Holy Week and Easter

Please be mindful of people attending services and Easter Masses here who may not worship with us regularly. They could be returning home for a visit or trying out this community to see if they want to join. Please make these people feel welcome and be attentive to their needs. We have extra hearing assisted devices in the sacristy. We have the nursery in classroom area down the hallway near the front doors. If a new face is sitting near you please introduce yourself.

Holy Week Liturgies at Our Lady of Mercy

- **Palm Sunday**
April 14 at 8:30 a.m. & 11 a.m.
- **Holy Thursday Mass of the Last Supper**
April 18 at 7:00 p.m.
- **Good Friday Celebration of the Lord's Passion**
April 19 at 3:00 p.m.
- **Easter Vigil**
April 20 at 9:00 p.m.
- **Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord**
April 21 at 8:30 a.m. & 11 a.m.

Easter Dinners: Fill-a-Bag with Hope



This month the Food Pantry is collecting food for Easter dinners. Please take a shopping list and bring in your bag of food by **Sunday, April**

14th. If you can please buy one product for our gluten free family. We serve an average of 120 families each month. We expect to hand out 135 Easter Dinners. Thank you for your support.

Knights of Columbus 26th Annual Golf & Sports Raffle

The Knights invite you to attend our 26th Annual Golf & Sports Raffle to be held on **May 10 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 7, 28 and May 5**. Due to Palm Sunday on April 14th and Easter on April 21, the Knights will not have tables in the Gathering Space on those weekends for ticket sales. However, tickets and posters will be available on the counter in the office after Masses and in the office Monday through Friday from 9 a.m.–3 p.m. 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.



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**.



Our Lady of Mercy Online



The website for Our Lady of Mercy is getting a make over. Check it out at <https://www.ourladyofmercychurch.org/index.html> While you are there, notice our latest feature, a link to a video which changes monthly.



What does the Pastoral Council do?

The primary purpose of the Pastoral Council is the continued spiritual growth of the parish community. The Pastoral Council engages in the process of pastoral planning and helps to set the direction of the parish community in prayer, leadership, service and pastoral action in consultation with the Pastor and staff. After prayer and study of the areas of parish life the council identifies for improvement. The council prioritizes the list and forms two or three goals to be accomplished over a five-year period. E.g. Last year's Goal was to "Create a Culture in the Parish that helps people take message out to others/ community."

Please nominate yourself or someone else for the council. See the display in the gathering space.

Food Pantry News



The Ecumenical Food Pantry Board recently held a volunteer appreciation lunch for 33 volunteers who regularly give of their time to keep the food pantry in operation. Of the 33 volunteers 22 people work on distribution day, the third

Wednesday of the month; six men offer their trucks to pick up the food order from Second Harvest and are joined by 11 more who help unload the 2,000 to 4,000 pounds of food when the trucks return to the pantry. There is a leadership team of five people who organize the pantry storage, order food, manage the paperwork, submits the monthly statistics to Second Harvest, regularly records the temperatures of the storage room, refrigerators and freezer, and manages the senior box program. Together all these volunteers also give love, compassion and respect to the clients. It is really about more than just food

Harborcreek Fire Dept. Spring Chicken Dinner



The Harborcreek Fire Department will be hosting our Spring Chicken Dinner on **Sunday, April 7 from 11:30 a.m.–2:00 p.m.** at the Harborcreek Fire Department Social Hall. Reservations of eight or more may be made by calling 860-1271 and leaving a message. The buffet style meal includes baked chicken, scalloped potatoes, fruit salad, tossed salad, dessert, roll with butter and a beverage. The cost for adults is \$10, children 4 to 12 years is \$5, and children under 4 are free. Thank you for your support.

Hearing Assistance



Hearing assisted devices are available for anyone who has trouble hearing in the church. You can be assigned one to take with you or leave it at the church. **See Donna Clark.**

The 26th Annual Knights of Columbus Golf & Sports Raffle May 10, 2019

Time to Distribute & Sell Tickets



Tables will be set up in the Gathering space after Masses on April 7, 28 and May 5.



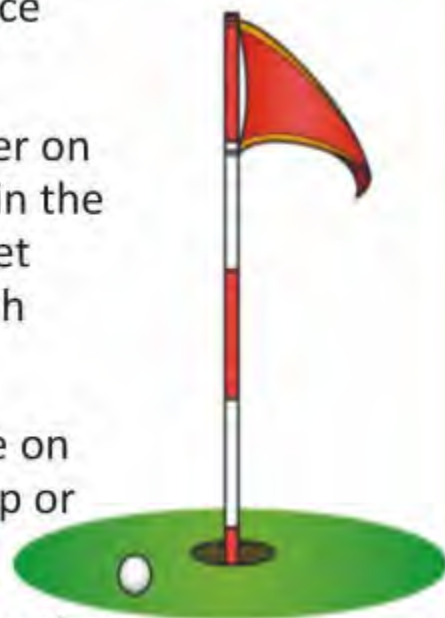
Due to Palm Sunday on April 14 and Easter on April 21, the Knights will not have tables in the Gathering Space those weekends for ticket sales. Tickets will be available in the Parish Office.



There will be tickets and posters available on the counter in the parish office for pick-up or purchase Monday-Friday from 9am-3pm.



Please sign out tickets as you take them so that we can track sales.



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