

# 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

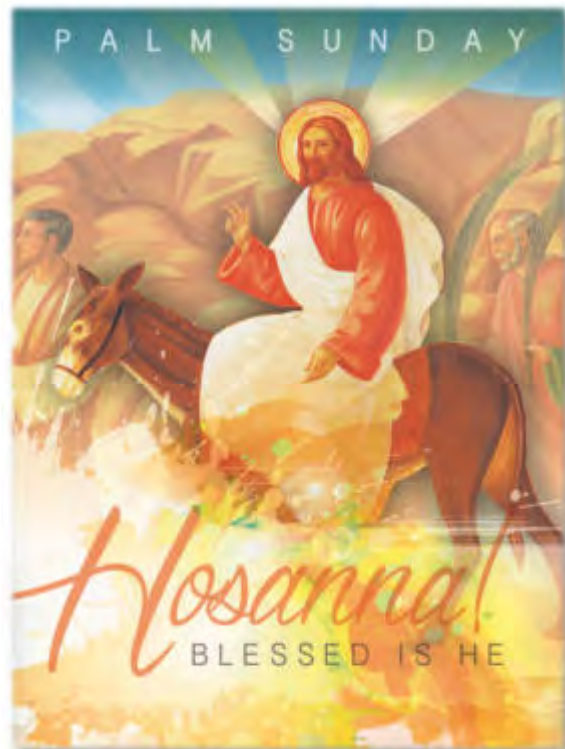
Parish Office: 814-899-5342

Office of Lifelong Faith Formation: 814-899-6132

Fax: 814-898-3306

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

April 14, 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. 04/15</b>	7:00 p.m.	Grief Support Group
	<b>7:00 p.m.</b>	Seder Meal
<b>Tue. 04/16</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
	5:30 p.m.	Children's Choir
	6:15 p.m.	Music Ministry Rehearsal
<b>Wed. 04/17</b>	7:30 p.m.	AA Meeting
	8:30 a.m.	Food Pantry Distribution
	1:00 p.m.	Diamonds in the Rough SCC
	<b>7:00 p.m.</b>	Pilgrimage Through the Symbols of Holy Week
<b>Thur. 04/18</b>		<b>HOLY THURSDAY</b>
	9:00 a.m.	Painting Class
	<b>7:00 p.m.</b>	Mass of the Lord's Supper
	<b>9:00 p.m.</b>	Night Prayer
<b>Fri. 04/19</b>		<b>GOOD FRIDAY</b>
		Parish Office Closed
	<b>9:00 a.m.</b>	Morning Prayer
	<b>1:00 p.m.</b>	Outdoor Stations of the Cross
	<b>3:00 p.m.</b>	Liturgy of the Lord's Passion
<b>Sat. 04/20</b>		<b>HOLY SATURDAY</b>
	<b>9:00 a.m.</b>	Morning Prayer
	10:00 a.m.	AA Meeting
	<b>11:30 a.m.</b>	Blessing of Food
	<b>9:00 p.m.</b>	The Great Easter Vigil
<b>Sun. 04/21</b>		<b>EASTER SUNDAY</b>
	<b>8:30 a.m.</b>	Easter Mass
	9:30 a.m.	Healing Ministry -Cancelled
	<b>11:00 a.m.</b>	Easter Mass

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

<b>Mon. 04/15</b>	Is 42:1-7	/ John 12:1-11
<b>Tue. 04/16</b>	Is 49:1-6	/ John 13:21-33, 36-38
<b>Wed. 04/17</b>	Is 50:4-9	/ Matthew 26:14-25
<b>Thur. 04/18</b>	Ex 12:1-8, 11-14	/ 1 Cor 11:23-26 / John 13:1-15
<b>Fri. 04/19</b>	Is 52:13-53:12	/ Heb 4:14-16; 5:7-9 / John 18:1-19:42
<b>Sat. 04/20</b>	1 Jn 5:14-21	/ John 3:22-30
<b>Sun. 04/21</b>	Ex 14:15-15:1	/ Rom 6:3-11 / Luke 24:1-12

## MASS INTENTIONS

<b>Mon. 04/15</b>	8:30 a.m.	
<b>Tue. 04/16</b>	8:30 a.m.	<b>Emma Royer</b> <i>(Sandy Jordan)</i>
<b>Wed. 04/17</b>	8:30 a.m.	<b>Eleanor Boris</b> <i>(The Extein Family)</i>
<b>Thur. 04/18</b>	7:00 p.m.	<b>Mass of the Lord's Supper</b>
<b>Fri. 04/19</b>	9:00 a.m.	<b>Morning Prayer</b>
	3:00 p.m.	<b>Liturgy of the Lord's Passion</b>
<b>Sat. 04/20</b>	9:00 a.m.	<b>Morning Prayer</b>
	9:00 p.m.	<b>The Great Easter Vigil</b>
<b>Sun. 04/21</b>	8:30 a.m.	<b>For the People of OLM</b>
	11:00 a.m.	<b>For the People of OLM</b>

## 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 **Donna Smicker**.



## THIS SUNDAY'S REFLECTION

**LUKE 22:14-23:56**

God gave the prophet Isaiah a "well-trained tongue" to rouse the people from their lethargy. Because the prophet first listened to God, he earned the right to speak to the people. Although the price for speaking God's words was often persecution, the prophet did not rebel. Yet, even though we trust in God to rescue us, in the darkness of suffering we cry out with the psalmist, "O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer; and by night, but find no rest." Paul tells us that our attitude must be that of Christ who, in his passion, willingly united himself to our frail human nature and accepted even death on a cross.



That is what Eucharist is all about—joining ourselves with Christ's dying and rising, emptying ourselves of all control and power over others, and trusting in God's desire to save us from everything that disfigures our humanity. At the table with Christ we are all one: no one is greater than anyone else; each one serves the other. Because Christ has strengthened us in his Body and Blood, we can say with Peter, "Lord, at your side I am prepared to face death itself!"

We don't always succeed in our good intentions. We look for the sword and the crown to overcome our adversaries. It is then that we must listen to Jesus's words, "Forgive them; they do not know what they are doing," and have faith in his promise that one day we will be with him in paradise. Gratefully we proclaim God's loving-kindness and commend our hearts and lives into the merciful hands of God who loves us.

**For Reflection:** How do I deal with suffering and defeat? Do I look forward to rising with Christ?

### For Mercy Sake Deadline

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



### Journeying Through Grief

The three N's of grief are that it is normal, natural and necessary. Sometime people feel the need to apologize for becoming emotional when talking about losing someone they love. We must remember that 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](mailto:michellem.knight@gmail.com) or **202-997-5069**.

Caring for God's Creation



### 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.



Book Group

### 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.



### Having Trouble Hearing at Mass?

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**.



## QUESTION OF THE WEEK WINNER

The Question-of-the-Week Winner for the week of April 1 was **Riley Whitney, Gr. 4**, who knew that Good Friday is the only day of the year when Mass is not celebrated.



### Vacation Bible School

Vacation Bible School will make a comeback at OLM this summer, **July 22-26**. Registration fliers will be going home with children on the final class of religious education. You will also find it in the May issue of For Mercy Sake and on the parish website. We will also need lots of help from teen and adult volunteers. If you want to help make this year's VBS a success, please call **Irene Lucas @ 899-6132** or email [ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org](mailto:ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org). Adult volunteers will need criminal and child abuse clearances, so volunteer early enough to get your clearances.



### 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 hurdle 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.



### Room for wandering toddlers

We love to have children at Mass. However, when Toddlers start running or fidgeting and you want a contained space to let their energy flow but don't want to miss Mass then try our Toddler/Nursery room. It is located in the classroom area just past the parish parlor. (To the right as you come in the front doors.) There is closed circuit TV of the church. There are rocking chairs for nursing mothers and toys to occupy a little one. Best of all . . . you can close the door.



## FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Offertory for the weekend of **April 7, 2019**

Envelopes sent:	392	
Envelopes returned:	121	\$5,125.20
Faith Direct Deposits:	113	\$2,941.00
Loose Change:		\$ 153.00
<b>TOTAL OFFERTORY:</b>		<b>\$8,219.20</b>





### Knights of Columbus 26th Annual Golf & Sports Raffle

The Knights invite you to attend our 26<sup>th</sup> 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. 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.

### Knights of Columbus Scholarship Opportunity

Scholarship applications from graduating high school seniors are being accepted by the Our Lady of Mercy Knights of Columbus Council. The scholarship program began about 25 years ago with the purpose of awarding a portion of the annual Golf and Sports Raffle proceeds to college-bound students, who along with their parents are members of the parish. An application form, brief essay and certified and sealed transcript from the applicant's school are required. The **deadline for application is Friday, May 17**. It is understood that the transcript will only include grades through the most recent grading period. Please remind others who may be interested. Watch the bulletin for reminders.

### 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**.



### 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 Celebrations at Our Lady of Mercy

- **Seder Meal**  
April 15 at 7:00 p.m.
- **Pilgrimage Through the Symbols of Holy Week**  
April 17 at 7:00 p.m.
- **Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper**  
April 18 at 7:00 p.m.
- **Outdoor Stations of the Cross**  
April 19 at 1:00 p.m.
- **Good Friday Liturgy of the Lord's Passion**  
April 19 at 3:00 p.m.
- **Blessing of the Food**  
April 20 at 11:30 a.m.
- **The Great 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.

### 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.



### Domestic Violence Support



Do you know someone who is living through domestic violence? You can help. Call the National Domestic Violence Hotline for resources and support **800-799-SAFE ( 7233) { TTY 800-787-3224}** or find help on line at **theline.org**.

# **SUNDAE SUNDAY**



**Sunday, April 28**

**12:00 Noon in**

**Sperry Hall**

**All Welcome!**

**Celebrate the Easter Season**

**Make-Your-Own Sundae Bar**

**And a Cake Walk**

Please RSVP by Wednesday, April 24

By phone at **899-6132**

email at [ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org](mailto:ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org) or

by signing up in the Gathering Space by the weekend of

**April 21**. Please tell us if you can bake & donate a cake

for the Cake Walk.

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