

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

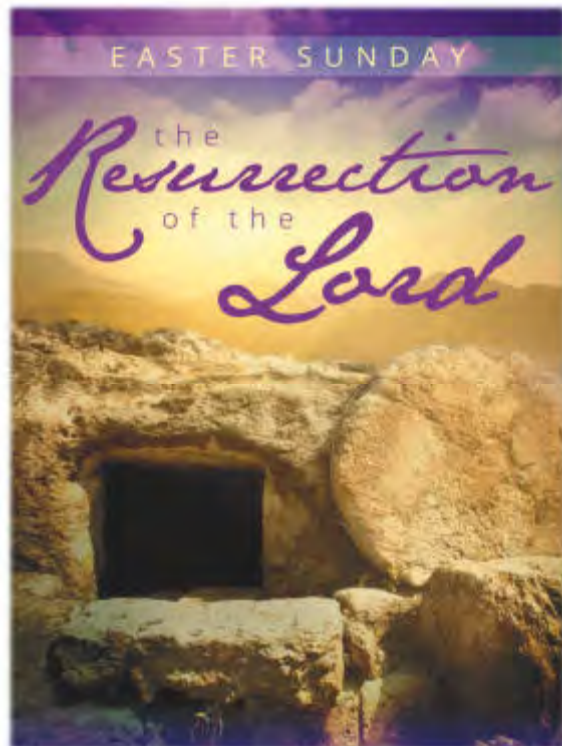
Parish Office: 814-899-5342

Office of Lifelong Faith Formation: 814-899-6132

Fax: 814-898-3306

Email: info@ourladyofmercychurch.org

April 21, 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. 04/22	Parish Office Closed	
	6:00 p.m.	Boy and Cub Scouts
	6:30 p.m.	Fruit of the Vine SCC
Tue. 04/23	9:30 a.m.	Potter's Clay SCC
	9:30 a.m.	Steel Magnolias SCC
	1:30 p.m.	Legion of Mary
	2:00 p.m.	Prayer Shawl
	7:00 p.m.	Creation Care Team
	7:30 p.m.	AA Meeting
Wed. 04/24	1:00 p.m.	Diamonds in the Rough SCC
	7:00 p.m.	OLM Book Group
Thur. 04/25	9:00 a.m.	Painting Class
	3:00 p.m.	Social Justice Meeting
	6:00 p.m.	Prayer Shawl
Fri. 04/26	7:00 p.m.	Young Adult Eucharistic Adoration
Sat. 04/27	Catechist Appreciation - All Masses	
	8:45 a.m.	First Eucharist Retreat
	10:00 a.m.	AA Meeting
	4:30 p.m.	Sacrament of Penance
Sun. 04/28	Catechist Appreciation - All Masses	
	9:30 a.m.	Religious Ed. Gr. K-2
	12:00 p.m.	Gr. 7 & 8 Youth Event
	12:00 p.m.	Sundae Sunday

THIS SUNDAY'S REFLECTION

JOHN 20:1-9

Today we gather and joyfully sing: "This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad." Yet we must not lose sight of the fact that death and life have been "locked together in a unique struggle" from the first moments of creation to its climax in Christ's victory over death. We too have been engaged in a contest between the "things above" and the "things below." Often we were like Mary Magdalene, filled with confusion and doubt. We want to believe that the risen Lord is among us, but we do not know where to find him. Peter and John are uncertain too and have no answers for us. That is when we must go together to gaze into the dark, empty caverns of our lives and try to understand together. Slowly, hesitantly, we begin to see and believe. Then, like Peter, we are able to witness to the Christ-event in our lives, "He was dead, but God raised him up."

As we leave this celebration, we walk with the disciples of Emmaus on that long and lonely road of life. "Stay with us Lord," we plead. And he does. We who ate and drank of the Lord's Body and Blood can testify to his presence in our midst. Now we must go forth and share our joy with those who did not gather with us this day.

For Reflection: Can other people see that Christ is alive in my life?



Alleluia!

May the Glory of our Risen Lord, which we celebrate in the Easter season, be with you, your family and friends.
Father Ritchie and Staff of Our Lady of Mercy

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

The Question-of-the-Week Winner for the week of April 8 was **Zachery Henry, Gr. 1**, who knew that we wave palms on Palm Sunday to remember the triumphant entry of Jesus into Jerusalem.



FROM THE OFFICE...

The Parish Office will be closed Monday April 22.

Normal office hours of Monday-Friday from 9am-3pm will resume Tuesday April 23rd.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Mon. 04/22	Acts 2:14, 22-23	/ Matthew 28:8-15
Tue. 04/23	Acts 2:36-41	/ John 20:11-18
Wed. 04/24	Acts 3:1-10	/ Luke 24:13-35
Thur. 04/25	Acts 3:11-26	/ Luke 24:35-48
Fri. 04/26	Acts 4:1-12	/ John 21:1-14
Sat. 04/27	Acts 4:13-21	/ Mark 16:9-15
Sun. 04/28	Acts 5:12-16 / Rv 1:9-11, 12-13, 17-19	/ John 20:19-31

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon. 04/22	8:30 a.m.	Evelyn Seyboldt <i>(Janet Smith)</i>
Tue. 04/23	8:30 a.m.	
Wed. 04/24	8:30 a.m.	
Thur. 04/25	8:30 a.m.	Msgr. Carlton Ritchie
Fri. 04/26	8:30 a.m.	
Sat. 04/27	8:30 a.m.	Joe Maille <i>(Ross Peters)</i>
	6:00 p.m.	Millie Herrmann <i>(Family)</i>
Sun. 04/28	8:30 a.m.	Diane Gerlach <i>(Frank Gerlach)</i>
	11:00 a.m.	For the People of OLM

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



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.

Youth Open Gym

Our final Open Gym evening for the youth of the parish will be **Tuesday, April 30 from 5:30-6:30**. All are welcome.



For Mercy Sake Mailing Party



We will be folding newsletters and stuffing envelopes to get the newsletter into the mail on **Monday, May 6 at 9:00 AM**. If you can lend a hand, call **Irene at 899-6132** or email ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org.

Monthly Grief Support

The Grief Ministry of Our Lady of Mercy Church sponsors a monthly support group for those who have lost a loved one. The journey of grief may become easier when there is someone who walks beside you who understands the struggles. The group meets on the third Monday of the month at **7pm** in the parish parlor. The next meeting is **May 20th**. For more information or for one on one support contact **Donna Clark** in the parish office.



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. 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.

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**.



FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Offertory for the weekend of **April 14, 2019**

Envelopes sent:	392	
Envelopes returned:	127	\$5,394.00
Faith Direct Deposits:	114	\$2,907.00
Loose Change:		\$ 177.00
TOTAL OFFERTORY:		\$8,478.00



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. 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.

Social Justice News

Child Abuse Prevention Month Be Vigilant.



It is vitally important that we are constantly vigilant concerning the behaviors of those who interact with children. And we must always communicate our concerns to the appropriate parties. Sometimes this means communicating our safety concerns to our children. And sometimes this means communicating our concerns about seemingly inappropriate behavior to those who are in a position to intervene. Parents must also listen carefully to their children and observe both their children's activities and the behavior of older children and adults who interact with them. When children exhibit dramatic behavioral changes, adults must find out what caused the changes. Being aware of what's happening with our children means talking to, listening to, and observing them - at every opportunity. It is most appropriate that Child Abuse Prevention Month is held during the Easter season. There is no better time than Easter to celebrate the protection of our most valuable gift from God - our children. For information on what the Diocese of Erie is doing, and what you can do to become more informed and involved in keeping our children safe visit <https://www.eriecd.org/childprotection/>

Prayer Line Ministry

We have a strong prayer ministry in the parish. When you need prayers don't hesitate to call. The prayer line coordinator numbers are on the first page of our bulletin. Do you wish to join this holy group? You can be part of a daytime or evening telephone line or sign up to receive the prayer requests by e mail. For more information, see the ministry brochure found in the display case in the Gathering Space.



Pancakes For Fr. Pete Thanks You

Thank you to everyone that worked, donated, and/or ate at Pancakes for Fr. Pete. Your generosity delivered \$967.00 to the Maria House Projects.

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**.



Christ Centered Recover program:



Every **Monday from 6:30 to 8:30pm** at South Harborcreek United Methodist Church, 7929 McGill Road, we open the door to recovery by sharing our experiences, strengths and hopes with one another. This ministry helps people of all ages resolve their pain in the context of the church as a whole, and it is for anyone who has a hurt, habit, or hang-up. As we progress through the principles and the steps we discover our personal loving and forgiving Higher Power -- Jesus Christ. The service starts at 6:30 p.m. with discussion groups beginning at 7:30 p.m. A light meal is provided. For more information call **814-580-9158** or visit <http://www.southharborcreekumc.org/celebrate-recovery.html>

Prayer and Potluck Dinner

The Prayer and Potluck Dinner sponsored by the Small Christian Communities of Our Lady of Mercy will be held on **Wednesday May 1 at 6pm** in Sperry Hall. All are welcome, we just ask that you bring 3 things with you: 1.) A dish to share (meat and drinks will be provided) 2.) A non-perishable food item for the Ella Cochran Food Pantry 3.) A friend! Please RSVP to the Parish Office before **April 26th** by calling **899-5342** or emailing secretary@ourladyofmercychurch.org



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.

Pastoral Council Planning

As part of the Pastoral Planning Process for Faith Formation, the new director of Faith Formation, Deacon Steve Washek, asked each parish to reflect on the ideas of Welcoming and Belonging. Then, after reflecting, to submit one thing that the parish currently does or would like to do to improve in these areas. After discernment, our pastoral council submitted the following:

On Welcoming:

We became more of a welcoming community because there was a place to gather. Our gathering space creates a hospitable environment, which brings to life the welcoming that we hear talked about from the spiritual leaders.

On Belonging:

Your gifts are needed! The parish leadership consistently puts this message in front of the community through the homily and personal invitations to be involved in at least one ministry. Within this parish family, there are many opportunities to be engaged.

The Next Step is to identify the ways in which we are not doing so well and then set goals to improve how our community exhibits these aspects of being church.

Do you have a thought to share? Contact one of these council members and talk to them:

Todd Beckes, Maureen Brainard, Darrell Garwig, Nick Heise, Marge LeFaiver, Margy Luniewski, Bill Matrogran, Nathan Matusiak, Nancy Mowery, David Seyboldt, Mary Beth Smith, Katie Stephenson and Dan Szczesny.

After submitting our statements to the Faith Formation Director the Council members decided to do a more in depth study of our community. They listed these concrete ways that they felt we are doing well in terms of welcoming and belonging:

Welcoming:

- People are welcomed by greeters and others
- Smiles on people's faces
- The Welcome Ministry
- Opening the door for people as a greeter
- Shaking hands to welcome people.
- Being aware of new people and connecting them with help or answering their questions
- Gathering space allows people to engage with each other
- Seeing familiar faces
- The choir and music ministry
- Greeters and Fr Ritchie welcoming people
- Welcome others who sit around me in church.
- Engage in conversation before and after liturgy

Belonging:

- Inviting others to join OLM for Mass or other events
- Good follow-up when joining a new ministry
- Ministry leaders work conscientiously to make sure new members are included.
- Participating in parish events helps with a sense of belonging
- Discover Your Strengths workshops or experimenting with joining new ministries
- Talking to people to help them feel like they belong.
- Current ministry members welcoming and encouraging new members
- OLM does a good job of advertising in the bulletin & announcements at the end of mass.
- Received written invitations to join ministries
- Letting new ministry members know the expectations
- Sending thank you notes to ministry members and festival workers
- Quilt on back wall of worship space
- Baptism at Masses engages the community



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