

OUR LADY OF MERCY CHURCH

837 Bartlett Road • Harborcreek, PA 16421 • www.ourladyofmercychurch.org



February 2, 2020 - The Presentation of the Lord

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday Vigil: 6:00 p.m.

Sunday: 8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

Weekday: 8:30 a.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*

Kirk Mientkiewicz, *Maintenance Coordinator*

Andrea Maille, *Lifelong Faith Formation Secretary*

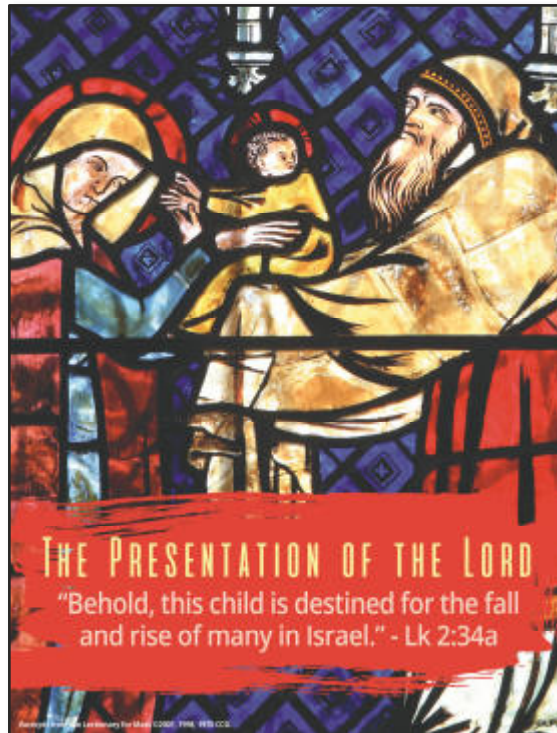
CONTACT INFORMATION

Parish Office: 814-899-5342

Office of Lifelong Faith Formation: 814-899-6132

Fax: 814-898-3306

Email: info@ourladyofmercychurch.org



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. 02/03 | The Feast of Saint Blaise | 8:30 a.m. Blessing of the Throats 5:00 p.m. Blessing of the Throats |
| Tue. 02/04 | | 9:30 a.m. Steel Magnolias 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 6:00 p.m. Cursillo Town Hall Mtg. 7:00 p.m. Pastoral Council 7:30 p.m. AA |
| Wed. 02/05 | | 1:00 p.m. Diamonds in the Rough 7:00 p.m. Parish Alive Team Mtg. |
| Thur. 02/06 | | 9:00 a.m. Painting Class 9:30 a.m. Potter's Clay 1:00 p.m. Contemplative Prayer 3:00 p.m. Social Justice Committee 6:00 p.m. Prayer Shawl 6:45 p.m. Choir Rehearsal |
| Fri. 02/07 | | |
| Sat. 02/08 | | 10:00 a.m. AA 4:30 p.m. Sacrament of Penance 7:00 p.m. Family Movie Night |
| Sun. 02/09 | | 9:30 a.m. Religious Ed. Gr. K-2 9:45 a.m. Sunday Morning CAFE 12:00 p.m. Religious Ed. Gr. 7 & 8 |

SCRIPTURE READINGS

| | |
|--------------------|--|
| Mon. 02/03 | 2 Sm 15:13-14, 30; 16:5-13 / Mk 5:1-20 |
| Tue. 02/04 | 2 Sm 18:9-10, 14b, 24-25a, 30-19:3 / Mk 5:21-43 |
| Wed. 02/05 | 2 Sm 24:2, 9-19 / Mk 6:1-6 |
| Thur. 02/06 | 1 Kgs 2:1-4, 10-12 / Mk 6:7-13 |
| Fri. 02/07 | Sir 47:2-11 / Mk 6:14-29 |
| Sat. 02/08 | 1 Kgs 3:4-13 / Mk 6:30-34 |
| Sun. 02/09 | Is 58:7-10 / 1 Cor 2:1-5 / Mt 5:13-16 |

MASS INTENTIONS

| | | |
|--------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Mon. 02/03 | 8:30 a.m. | Leo Brooks |
| Tue. 02/04 | 8:30 a.m. | |
| Wed. 02/05 | 8:30 a.m. | Helen Brooks |
| Thur. 02/06 | 8:30 a.m. | Chris Plonski (Barb Jones) |
| Fri. 02/07 | 8:30 a.m. | Lois Liebel (Family) |
| Sat. 02/08 | 8:30 a.m. 6:00 p.m. | Ann DiFilippo (The Extein Family) |
| Sun. 02/09 | 8:30 a.m. 11:00 a.m. | For the People of OLM |

Question-of-the-Week

The winner of the Question-of-the-Week Contest for the week of Jan. 21 was Addison Matusiak, Gr. 4, who knew that sin was deliberately disobeying God's will.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Offertory for the weekend of January 26, 2020

| | | |
|-------------------------|-----|-------------------|
| Envelopes sent: | 392 | |
| Envelopes returned: | 133 | \$4,356.00 |
| Faith Direct Deposits: | 117 | \$3,059.08 |
| Loose Change: | | \$ 111.00 |
| TOTAL OFFERTORY: | | \$7,526.08 |

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.



Feast of St. Blaise

This Monday, February 3rd, is the Feast of St. Blaise. As is the custom we will bless throats Monday at the 8:30 Mass in the morning and at 5:00 p.m. in the afternoon.

THIS SUNDAY'S REFLECTION

MATTHEW 5:1-12

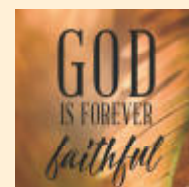
"Blessed are the poor in spirit."

Matthew's Sermon on the Mount could be called Jesus' "inaugural Address." Jesus goes up the mountain, sits down (as rabbis did when teaching), and begins to teach his disciples who gather round. At the end of the sermon, the people will be "astonished by this teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as their scribes". We, too, can sit down and ponder sections of this great teaching.

Jesus begins with beatitudes - statements about the blessedness of our lives. Blessed can mean "fortunate" and is commonly translated as "happy." It's a state of being we all seek, but it doesn't come from the things of this world: power, beauty, riches, etc. It comes from being in right relationship with God.

To be "poor in spirit" doesn't mean that we seek poverty. In Jesus' world, no one should live in poverty. Justice calls us to eliminate poverty! The late William Barclay in his commentary on Matthew says that one who is poor in spirit realizes that "things mean nothing...God means everything." Happy are those who put God first in their lives. What a challenging opening statement for us to ponder!

For Reflection: What do I usually count among my blessings? Is poverty of spirit at the top of the list? How can this kind of poverty become a gift in my life?



Family Faith Event

The families with children in the Sunday morning religious education class are reminded that we have our Family Faith Event TODAY Sunday, Feb. 2. This is an opportunity for the entire family to share an experience of learning together. The Family Faith Event is the same time as our regular religious education class, 9:30-10:45. We will gather in Sperry Hall.



Full-time or Part-time Youth Minister needed at Our Lady of Mercy, St. Mark

The parishes of Our Lady of Mercy, Harborcreek, and St. Mark the Evangelist, Lawrence Park, are seeking an energetic, creative person dedicated to working with teens as a youth minister. For full details, go to <https://www.eriercd.org/employment.html>.



Family Movie Night

Mark your calendar for a Family Movie Night on Saturday, Feb. 8 at 7:00 PM. We will be showing the 2019 Dreamworks Productions, **Abominable**. Bring your comfy pillow, wear your jammies, and meet us in the large classroom for a night at the movies.



Mission Trip Fundraiser - Gift Basket Bingo

What: Gift basket bingo When: Feb 8, 12-4 doors open at 11am. Where: St.James Place For who: The youth Mission trip for St.James/St.Marks/Our Lady of Mercy Cost: \$20 a Ticket Contact: Maggie Santiago 490-4275



Presentation from Sister Parish Delegation at Sunday Morning *C*A*F*E*

Mark your calendar for the first Sunday Morning *C*A*F*E* on Sunday Feb. 9 from 9:45-10:45. Join us as those who recently traveled to Peto, Mexico share their stories of our sister parish.



Newsletter Mailing Party

Can you lend a hand folding newsletters and stuffing envelopes? We will have a Newsletter Mailing Party at 9:00 AM Monday, Feb. 10. Coffee and treats will be provided. Please let Irene Lucas know if you can help: 899-6132 or

ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org.

Widows Dinner

Walking the grief journey is easier with companions. Join us for fellowship at Ricardo's on 2112 East Lake Road at 4:30pm on Friday February 7. Questions? Call Donna Clark.



Grief Support Group

Monday February 17 at 7pm. The shock that comes with grief can sometimes knock us off our faith foundation. Why does it seem we pull away from God, or more accurately feel dragged away from God at this critical time in our life? How do we feel God's presence again? The conversation at the grief support group might help. Join us. Questions contact Donna Clark in the parish office.



OLM Book Group

O the weather outside may be frightful, but it is perfect for a good book. Join the OLM Book Group for a cozy evening of book talk with book lovers. On Feb. 19, you are invited to the home of Irene, 1019 Bartlett Rd. at 7:00 to discuss What Alice Forgot by Lianne Moriarty. Want to read ahead? Our March book will be The Life You Bury by Allen Eskens.



Sister Parish Mardi Gras -Tickets now on sale!

Advance purchase includes a chance for \$500 reverse raffle. (Need not be present to win.) Enter the taste off to win additional prizes and showcase your homemade beer, win or salsa.



Parish Alive

Give yourself the gift this Christmas. Register to make Parish Alive on Feb. 28-29. The gift of a deeper relationship with Christ is the best gift you could ever receive. Registration forms and more information can be found at the parish website and on the bulletin tables. Deadline for registration is Feb. 4.



Faith on the Go with Formed.org

Our Lady of Mercy has a subscription to formed.org. Stream movies, read audio and eBooks, do a Scripture study, entertain the kids, listen to inspiring talks and so much more. Go to formed.org and sign-up with a parish subscription. All you need is our parish name and your email. This gift has been made available to you through a grant from the Catholic Educational Foundation of Northwestern Pennsylvania.



T.O.P.S. Take Off Pounds Sensibly

Weight loss support group
First week is free
Wednesdays in the OLM Conference Room
Weight in from 10:45-11:20
Meeting 11:30-12:15
Call Janet at 725-5079 for more information.

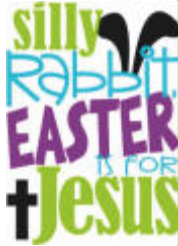


We Remember...

Chet Szymecki and Carolyn Charney,
who passed away recently.
Please hold them and their families in prayer
during this difficult time.

Small Christian Community Sign-Ups

Just like the old advertisement for Trix cereal, the rabbit is missing the mark again. Is your spiritual life missing the mark? Could you use a boost in this Lent and Easter season? Why not take a step forward by joining a small faith-sharing community, just to try it out! Groups gather between 2 and 4 times per month, on different days and at various times, to read the scriptures and discuss how we can put the Gospel message to work in our daily lives. Interested? Call the Parish Office or Dave at 602-4622. As our beloved pastor would say, *Think About It!*



CURSILLO CORNER



2020 Cursillo Dates

March 19-22nd Men's Cursillo #251 at OLM
April 16-19th Women's Cursillo #258 at OLM
Start making plans for life's best weekend! Lois Heise would love to talk to you about Cursillo and how it can change your life!
Call Lois at 882-9555.

Attention Cursillistas!

Please come to a Town Hall Meeting on February 4th from 6-7:30 pm in the large classroom. The topic is Cursillo Revitalization. We **NEED** your input about speaking to the current culture and dwindling energy of the Cursillo movement. PLEASE join us!



CHILD PROTECTION AND CREATING SAFE ENVIRONMENTS

February is Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month: Teen dating violence is a serious problem in the United States. One in three high school students experience either physical or sexual violence, or both, that is perpetrated by someone they are dating or going out with. One in 10 high school students has been purposefully hit, slapped or physically hurt by a boyfriend or girlfriend. Teen dating violence can be physical, emotional or sexual. Teen dating violence can be prevented through empowering teens to lead healthy lives and establish healthy relationships. Healthy relationships consist of trust, honesty, respect, equality and compromise. Visit <https://www.eriecd.org/childprotection/> to see what the diocese is doing to help maintain safe environments for children and youth.

SOCIAL JUSTICE



Human Trafficking

Feast of St. Josephine Bakhita
February 8 is the feast day of St.

Josephine Bakhita and an annual day of prayer and awareness against human trafficking. Around the year 1877, St. Josephine was kidnapped as a child and sold into slavery in Sudan and then Italy. She was freed twelve years later, became a Canossian nun and spent her life comforting the poor and suffering, as well as telling her story of being enslaved. Human trafficking, the modern name for slavery, continues to occur today. During this month of St. Josephine's feast, take a moment to pray for an end to human trafficking and for comfort and strength for survivors. A prayer can be found on the U.S. bishop's website: <https://migrants-refugees.va/it/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2018/11/M7-266-Josephine-Bakhita-Prayer-Card.pdf>

Thank You!

A great big note of thanks for all who made our spaghetti dinner fundraiser a huge success. Thank you to the Knights of Columbus who did the cooking under the direction of Frank Abate, our chief chef. Thank you for the hours of work. And a special thanks to Frank Abate whose expertise produced an amazing meal. Thank you to the Parish Bakers who donated an abundance of great looking and great tasting cupcakes. Thank you to the youth and families of the religious education ministry who donated incredible baskets for our auction and who served our meal with a friendly smile. Watching the youth of the parish step up and serve made the event all the more special. Thank you to the members of the Lifelong Faith Formation Committee who have been working on this spaghetti dinner for months and months, who were there early Saturday and late Sunday helping in any way needed. And the largest round of applause goes to Paul Barko who dreamed up this event and gave countless hours of planning and preparation to make it a reality. Finally, thank you to this parish community who supported this fundraiser.



PLEASE TAKE YOUR CONTAINERS IN SPERRY HALL

There are containers left by parishioners above the coat rack in Sperry Hall. If you happen to be missing one, please check this area and take what is yours. Containers that go unclaimed will be considered a donation to the Parish.



Healing Our Faith

**Monday February 10 at 7pm
in the parlor.**



Our life journey can be full of twists and turns that sometimes cause us anger, frustration and pain. How do we get back on track, moving towards love instead of away from it? Do you know someone who is struggling with church or faith?

Who feels hurt or is angry with God, himself or herself or a minister of the church? Invite them to this prayer session **Monday, February 10 at 7pm**. This session will allow us to process our hurts in a prayerful environment and take a step towards healing and forgiveness.

This prayerful healing session will help us move:

- ◆ from fear of God to an experience of God's Love
- ◆ from anger and resentment to pardon and compassion
- ◆ from hurt because of abuse to forgiveness
- ◆ from painful memories to peace of mind

Questions Call Donna Clark,
Pastoral Minister 899-5342.

For a confidential conversation
call 814-303-9282.

Join us

Sunday, Feb. 9, 2020

9:45-10:45

@ the OLM CAFE

Continuing Adult Faith Enrichment

***OLM Sister Parish
Delegation Team***



Report on Our Trip To Peto:

At the beginning of November, seven parishioners from OLM traveled to Peto, Mexico to visit our sister parish.

We met with various parish groups, learned about Mayan culture and local Catholic devotions, shared the Eucharist together and were enriched by the gift of hospitality. The OLM parish community shared in this trip by gathering gifts to send down, supporting various fundraisers to defray the cost and by holding the group in prayer. At the Feb. 9 CAFÉ, you will have an opportunity to hear about the trip. We will share pictures and stories. We could not all make the trip to Peto, but we can all grow in our relationship with our sister parish by the stories we brought back.

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