

OUR LADY OF MERCY CHURCH

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



February 9, 2020 - 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

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*

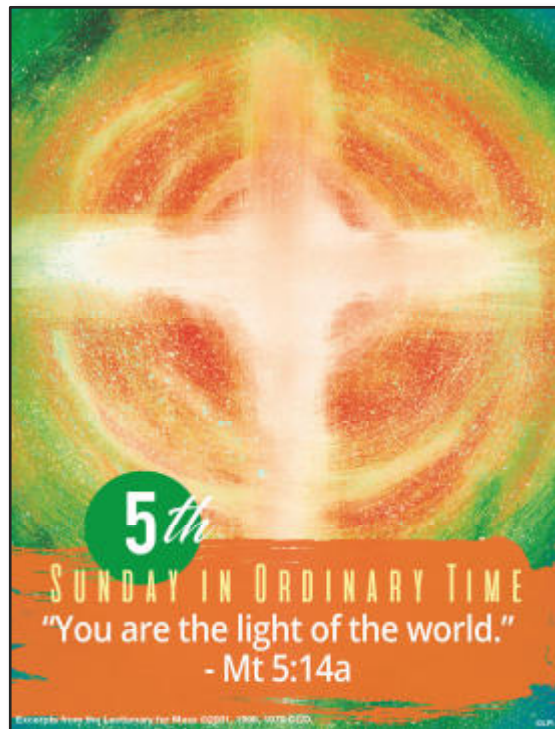
CONTACT INFORMATION

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. 02/10	9:30 a.m.	Newsletter Mailing Party
	3:00 p.m.	Hospital Visitors Meeting
	4:00 p.m.	Food Pantry Board
	6:30 p.m.	Fruit of the Vine
	7:00 p.m.	Healing Our Faith
Tue. 02/11	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
	7:00 p.m.	Roman Candles
Wed. 02/12	7:30 p.m.	AA
	1:00 p.m.	Diamonds in the Rough
	6:30 p.m.	AGIFT Meeting
Thur. 02/13	7:00 p.m.	Knights of Columbus
	9:00 a.m.	Painting Class
	9:30 a.m.	Potter's Clay
	1:00 p.m.	Contemplative Prayer
Fri. 02/14	6:00 p.m.	Prayer Shawl
	6:45 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Sat. 02/15	10:00 a.m.	AA
	4:30 p.m.	Sacrament of Penance
Sun. 02/16	9:30 a.m.	Religious Ed. Gr. K-2
	9:30 a.m.	Healing Ministry
	9:45 a.m.	Hospital Visitors Meeting
	12:00 p.m.	Religious Ed. Gr. 7 & 8

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Mon. 02/10	1 Kgs 8:1-7, 9-13	/ Mk 6:53-56
Tue. 02/11	1 Kgs 8:22-23, 27-30	/ Mk 7:1-13
Wed. 02/12	1 Kgs 10:1-10	/ Mk 7:14-23
Thur. 02/13	1 Kgs 11:4-13	/ Mk 7:24-30
Fri. 02/14	1 Kgs 11:29-32, 12:19	/ Mk 7:31-37
Sat. 02/15	1 Kgs 12:26-32, 13:33-34	/ Mk 8:1-10
Sun. 02/16	Sir 15:15-20/1 Cor 2:6-10/ Mt 5:17-37	

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon. 02/10	8:30 a.m.	Evelyn Seybold (PAL Flower Gals)
Tue. 02/11	8:30 a.m.	Joseph Torta (Sandra Jordan)
Wed. 02/12	8:30 a.m.	Frances Somolani (Carol & Tony Gilmore)
Thur. 02/13	8:30 a.m.	
Fri. 02/14	8:30 a.m.	Denny Smith (Susan & Kevin Grant)
Sat. 02/15	8:30 a.m.	
	6:00 p.m.	Carolyn Charney (Vicki Guriel & Family)
Sun. 02/16	8:30 a.m.	For the People of OLM
	11:00 a.m.	William Petrick (Marydawn Meeder)

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Offertory for the weekend of February 2, 2020

Envelopes sent:	392	
Envelopes returned:	111	\$4,376.00
Faith Direct Deposits:	117	\$3,059.08
Loose Change:		\$ 180.00
TOTAL OFFERTORY:		\$7,615.08

Parish Finance Report

July 1 to Dec 31, 2019

Income:	\$246,397
Expenses:	\$259,723
Net loss:	\$-13,326



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.



THIS SUNDAY'S REFLECTION

MATTHEW 5:13-16

"You are the salt of the earth...You are the light of the world."

As a flavoring for food, salt is not an end in itself. Use too much salt and the meal is ruined! Rather, salt brings out the flavor of ordinary dishes without bringing too much notice to itself.

Light is somewhat like salt in that it doesn't exist for its own sake. Light gives warmth, and it illuminates a room so we can work or read. Like salt, light is at the service of a good greater than itself. Salt and light are forgotten when they are used in the right way, calling no more attention to themselves once they season and brighten.

So when Jesus calls us "salt" and "light," he expects us to make a difference in the world around us - not for the sake of our own notoriety but for the kingdom of heaven and the glory of God.

When we say that followers of Jesus are "salty" and "bright," we don't necessarily mean that Christians must all have extroverted, sparkling personalities in order to make a difference. If we are poor in spirit, merciful, clean of heart, peacemakers, and hungry for righteousness, then we will have what it takes to season society and brighten the world.

For Reflection: This week, how does the Gospel invite me to quietly make a difference in someone's life?



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.

Healing Our Faith

Monday February 10 at 7pm in the parlor.

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

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. Questions Call Donna Clark, Pastoral Minister 899-5342. Or 814-303-9282 for a confidential conversation.

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

On 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.

Parish Mission

Mark your calendar for our annual Parish Mission, March 15-17. Fr. Frank DeSiano will invite us to reflect on "*Being a Disciple Today: How Can I Live My Life in a New Way*". Each evening's program will begin at 7:00 PM. Fr. DeSiano is a nationally known author, speaker and leading voice on evangelization.



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, wine or salsa.



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.



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.eriecd.org/employment.html>.



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.





RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Jr. High Retreat

Youth in the Jr. High religious education program are reminded that they have their retreat on **Sunday, Feb. 23**. This begins with the parish celebration of **11 a.m. Mass and concludes at 3:00**. Lunch is provided.

First Reconciliation Retreat

Families with children preparing for their first celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation are reminded that we have an important day of retreat on **Sunday, March 1 from 9:30-1:00**. The celebration of First Reconciliation will be held on **Saturday, March 7 at 1:00**.

We Remember...

Scarlett Skarupski,
who passed away recently.
Please hold her and her family in prayer
during this difficult time.

Question-of-the-Week

The winner of the Question-of-the-Week Contest for the week of Jan. 28 was **Anthony Allegretto, Gr. 6**, who knew that Catholics bless throats on the feast day of St. Blaise.

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.

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.



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.



SOCIAL JUSTICE



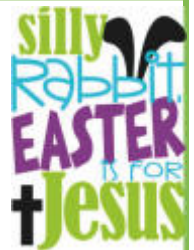
Human Trafficking

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>

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!*



CATHOLIC SERVICES APPEAL



The 2020 Catholic Services Appeal will be conducted throughout our diocese on February 23. The CSA is the main source of support for projects and services of the diocese which serve parishes and the wider community in northwestern Pennsylvania. Our diocese does the work of Christ and needs your help to continue this important work.

Bishop Lawrence Persico assures us that donations to the 2020 CSA will not be used to fund the legal expenses of the diocese related to the Pennsylvania grand jury investigation on clergy sex abuse or to provide settlements for sexual abuse victims. The CSA is essential to helping the Diocese of Erie fulfill its mission to evangelize, educate, serve, proclaim the Word and celebrate the sacraments. Your participation ensures the success of the CSA and is important to the health of our parish. Please join other Catholics from across the 13 counties of our diocese in supporting this important appeal.

OLM Sister Parish
Mardi Gras Celebration

Join us for a night of fun to help benefit our sister parish in Peto, Mexico.

When: Saturday, February 22, 2020 - 7:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m.

Where: Our Lady of Mercy Sperry Hall - 837 Bartlett Road, Harborcreek, PA

How Much: \$10 Admission Ticket

Admission will include a taco dinner, beer, wine, pop and entertainment including:

- ♦ Murder Mystery (8:15 - 8:30 p.m.) - Prize Drawing
- ♦ Homemade Brew, Wine, and Salsa Contest (7 - 8 p.m.) - Cash Prize
- ♦ Tip Boards and 50/50
- ♦ Reverse Raffle - Grand Prize \$500.00

Admission ticket gives you one chance at the reverse raffle. Attendance not needed to win.

Tickets for the raffle will only be sold prior to the event.

Homemade Brew, Wine and Salsa Makers: Contact Irene Lucas

Email: ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org

Phone: 814-899-6132

CAUSE FOR THE CANONIZATION OF DR. GERTRUDE BARBER

Recently, you received in the bulletin a copy of the Diocesan Edict announcing the opening of the Cause for the Canonization of Dr. Gertrude A. Barber. Bishop Persico requests that we acknowledge this courageous, saintly woman who dedicated her life to serving our diocese's most vulnerable children and their parents who face overwhelming challenges of living with autism and disabilities.

You will find prayer cards at the tables in the gathering space for this cause. Please consider praying through the intercession of Gertrude and encourage others who may also be inclined to seek her intercessory power. Should you wish to provide testimony, or if you know someone who may have received a favor through the intercession of Dr. Barber, please contact Msgr. Tom McSweeney, Postulator for the Cause of Gertrude A. Barber at 814-878-5953 or tmcsweeney@barberinstitute.org.



More information, videos, and updates about the Cause can be found at www.DrBarber.org.

Together, let us share the good news about Gertrude's life, mission, and the Cause that may one day lead to her Canonization.

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