

OUR LADY OF MERCY CHURCH

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



March 1st, 2020 - 1st Sunday of Lent

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. 03/02	5:30 p.m.	Sister Parish Committee
	7:00 p.m.	Pastoral Facilitator Mtg.
Tue. 03/03	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
	5:30 p.m.	Vacation Bible School Planning
	7:00 p.m.	Pastoral Council
	7:30 p.m.	AA
Wed. 03/04	1:00 p.m.	Diamonds in the Rough
	5:30 p.m.	Lenten Pastus
Thur. 03/05	9:00 a.m.	Painting Class
	9:30 a.m.	Potter's Clay
	6:00 p.m.	Prayer Shawl
	6:45 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Fri. 03/06	5:00 p.m.	First Reconciliation Practice
	7:00 p.m.	Stations of the Cross
Sat. 03/07	10:00 a.m.	AA
	1:00 p.m.	First Reconciliation
	4:30 p.m.	Sacrament of Penance
Sun. 03/08		Second Sunday of Lent
	9:30 a.m.	Religious Ed. Gr. K-2
	9:45 a.m.	First Eucharist Parent Mtg.
	12:00 p.m.	Religious Ed. Gr. 7 & 8

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**.



MASS INTENTIONS

Mon. 03/02	8:30 a.m.	Dianne Nagosky-Seib (Richard & Ann Nagosky)
Tue. 03/03	8:30 a.m.	Denny Smith (John & Judy Skuce)
Wed. 03/04	8:30 a.m.	Special Intentions for Eleanor Searl (Dan Ott)
Thur. 03/05	8:30 a.m.	Doris Becker (Marilyn Garwig)
Fri. 03/06	8:30 a.m.	Chet Szymecki (Ed Lacastro)
Sat. 03/07	8:30 a.m.	Gertrude Peters (Ross Peters)
Sun. 03/08	8:30 a.m.	Evelyn Seyboldt (Lou Sitzle)
	11:00 a.m.	For the People of OLM

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Mon. 03/02	Lv 19:1-2, 11-18	/ Mt 25:31-46
Tue. 03/03	Is 55:10-11	/ Mt 6:7-15
Wed. 03/04	Jon 3:1-10	/ Lk 11:29-32
Thur. 03/05	Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25	/ Mt 7:7-12
Fri. 03/06	Ez 18:21-28	/ Mt 5:20-26
Sat. 03/07	Dt 26:16-19	/ Mt 5:42-48
Sun. 03/08	Gn 12:1-4a / 2 Tm 1:8b-10	/ Mt 17:1-9

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Offertory for the weekend of February 16, 2020

Envelopes sent:	392	
Envelopes returned:	113	\$4,309.00
Faith Direct Deposits:	117	\$3,059.08
Loose Change:		\$ 189.00
TOTAL OFFERTORY:		\$7,557.08

We Remember...

Doris Becker, aunt of Marilyn Garwig and **Dianne Nagosky-Seib**, sister of Richard Nagosky; who passed away recently.

Please hold them and their families in prayer during this difficult time.

THIS SUNDAY'S REFLECTION

MATTHEW 4:1-11

"If you are the Son of God..."

Matthew's account of Jesus' temptations clearly proclaims that Jesus could be tempted. Is he tempted to power? Is he tempted to vanity? Maybe he is just tempted to assuage his deep, physical hunger after a forty-day fast.

Turning stone to bread seems like far less a miracle than he will perform in feeding the multitudes from just five loaves and two fish (Mt. 14:14-21). But deep lure of the temptations goes beyond having Jesus selfishly perform a miracle for his own benefit. The crux of each temptation may be to manifest an unmistakable sign of Jesus' relationship to God.

"If you are the Son of God, then prove it." And to whom is he tempted to prove it, to the one who tempts him? Surely that is no temptation to Jesus. But what if the temptation were to prove it to himself?

Dining on the word of God will have to be its own proof. It is the only proof possible. This is the bread that will sustain him through the desert, all the way to the cross.

Reflection: How is God sustaining me when I am tempted?





Soup Makers Needed

Lenten Soup Suppers are being held before our Lenten Pastors speakers on March 4, 11 & 25. We need soup makers to serve at least 40 people. Please sign-up in the Gathering Space. Contact Sue McCreary at 814-602-0146 with any questions.

First Reconciliation

We will celebrate First Reconciliation on Saturday, March 7 at 1:00. Our parish family is invited to celebrate with us.



Widows Dinner



March 13 at 4:30pm at Harbor House on Buffalo Rd. It is good to get out, be with others who can laugh with you but also understand the challenges of losing a spouse. Join us for fellowship.

Call Donna Clark with questions.

Ladies Craft Day-Save the Date!

On Saturday March 14th from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. multiple crafts and demonstrations will be offered throughout the morning and afternoon with a potluck lunch between the sessions. Keep an eye out in the Gathering Space for sign ups and more information. Some of the crafts include, a painting class, a crocheting lesson, and a Cricut lesson on how to make a “hot mess canvas”.



Baptismal Prep Parent Session



The next Baptismal Prep Session for Parents and Godparents will be held on Sunday, March 15 at noon in the Conference Room. The Diocese of Erie mandates that parents who

desire to celebrate the Baptism of their child attend a parent prep session within 2 years of the child’s baptism. If you are anticipating the baptism of your child in the coming 6 months, register for this session by calling the parish office at 899-5342. Registration prior to the class is required in order to ensure that sufficient materials are available.

OLM Book Group

The days are getting longer. The birds are beginning to nest. Spring is returning to Erie. It is time to emerge from hibernation. Join the OLM Book Group on March 18, @ 7:00 at the home of Pat Marshall 4159 Ridge Pkwy to discuss The Life We Bury by Allen Eskens. Reading ahead? Our April title will be Say Nothing by Patrick Keefe.

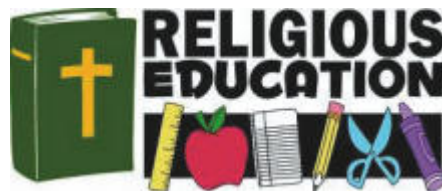


Woman’s Luncheon

Save the date: Tuesday March 24 at 1pm. Place to be announced. Predicting good weather! Call Donna Clark with questions.

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Mar. 3	Dominick Scarpino	14
Mar. 3	Milena Laskey	3
Mar. 4	Cain Rozenek	10
Mar. 5	Thomas Pohl	13
Mar. 5	Sophia Sartori	6
Mar. 6	Bailey Haislip	9
Mar. 7	Claire Stauffer	2
Mar. 9	Hannah Bradley	8
Mar. 9	Noah Sacco	16
Mar. 9	Nicholas Sacco	16
Mar. 9	Lynzey Reinsel	14
Mar. 13	Justin Tersigni	15
Mar. 16	Oliver Beckman	6
Mar. 16	Will Lunger	11
Mar. 17	Leah Corey	14
Mar. 18	Eric Morris	17
Mar. 21	Charlie Giambrone	16
Mar. 24	Tyler Bryan	4
Mar. 31	Angelina Carideo	9
Mar. 31	Antonio Hodzic	7



First Eucharist Parent Meeting

Parents with children preparing to celebrate First Eucharist in the spring are reminded that there will be a very important meeting on Sunday, March 8 at 9:45-10:45 in Sperry Hall.

Operation Rice Bowl

This week, religious education children received their Lenten Operation Rice Bowls. This is a project of Catholic Relief Services. The family calendar offers a daily suggestion for prayer, study or action as we journey through Lent. Money collected through this rice bowl is used to assist those in need, both in our diocese and around the world.

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.

FORMED.ORG

Looking for something new this Lent? Try the daily Lenten video reflections by Dr. Tim Gray at formed.org/lent. Post your thoughts on the OLM FaceBook page.



SOCIAL JUSTICE

Human Trafficking

There are an estimated 40 million victims of human trafficking (modern day slavery) today. Every country in the world is affected, including the United States. Migrants and refugees are particularly vulnerable to human trafficking. You can do something about this scourge on humanity. Become a responsible consumer to lessen the chance that your purchases are products of forced or child labor. You can learn about your ties to human trafficking at this website: <http://slaveryfootprint.org>



CHILD PROTECTION AND CREATING SAFE ENVIRONMENTS

Pledge to Heal

The Diocese of Erie remains committed to helping victims of clergy sexual abuse heal and recover. Counseling assistance is available for victims and/or their families through the diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator, VAC for short, Dr. Gerard Tobin, who can be reached at 814-451-1521. The diocese encourages anyone who has experienced abuse or misconduct by a member of the clergy or any employee or volunteer of the church to contact law enforcement. To report abuse to the independent investigators retained by the diocese, email ErieRCD@KLGates.com. Victims or concerned individuals can contact the diocese directly to report abuse at 814-451-1543. For additional information visit <https://www.eriercd.org/childprotection/>



CSA 2020

A sincere thank you to all who made a pledge and/or gift to the Catholic Services appeal. You have joined together with Catholics throughout the Diocese of Erie to share of your blessings to help advance the mission of the church. I am grateful. If you have not yet made a commitment, it is not too late. Just drop your pledge card or envelope marked "CSA" in the collection basket or turn it in at the parish office. Your generosity is appreciated.



LENTEN Schedule

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:

March	6	Religious Ed. Students
	13	Legion of Mary
	20	SCC Fireside Chatters
	27	Knights of Columbus
April	3	Pastoral Council

Lenten Pastus Series

The parish soup supper and speaker series is a beloved tradition during Lent at OLM. Our first Pastus will be held on **Wednesday, March 4**. Join us for Mass at 5:30 and/or homemade soup supper at 6:10 and/or the presentation at 7:00. Our first Pastus presentation will be given by Fr. Ritchie who will share pictures and stories from his recent tour of the Holy Land.

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.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

The prayers and practices of this season help us call to mind our sins and God's forgiveness. As we grow in awareness of our faults, we can bring them to God in a spirit of repentance, open to growth in grace, awaiting the full expression of mercy and love. Communal celebrations of the sacrament of reconciliation remind us that continued conversion is a journey we make together as the Body of Christ. We will gather as a local faith community on the following days:

Sunday, March 29 3:00 p.m.
at St. Gregory in North East

Tuesday, March 31 7:00 p.m.
at Saint James in Wesleyville

Wednesday, April 1 7:00 p.m.
at Our Lady of Mercy in Harborcreek

Thursday, April 2 7:00 p.m.
at St. Mark in Lawrence Park

Question-of-the-Week

The winner of the Question-of-the-Week Contest for the week of Feb. 18 was **Landon Stephenson, Gr. 1**, who knew that Lent begins on Ash Wednesday.

March 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8:30 & 11:00 AM MASS Casserole Club DROP OFF FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT Monthly Food Pantry Collection Retreat 9:30 AM First Reconciliation 9:30 AM Healing Ministry 9:30 AM Rel. Ed. Gr. K-2 12:00 PM Rel. Ed. Gr. 7 & 8	2 8:30 AM Mass 5:30 PM Sister Parish Committee 7:00 PM Pastoral Facilitator Mtg.	3 8:30 AM Mass 9:30 AM Steel Magnolias Legion of Mary 1:30 PM Prayer Shawl 2:00 PM Rel. Ed Gr. 3-6 4:00 PM Children's Choir 5:30 PM VBS Planning Mtg. 7:00 PM Pastoral Council 7:30 PM AA	4 8:30 AM Mass 1:00 PM Diamonds in the Rough 5:30 PM Lenten Pastus	5 8:30 AM Mass 9:00 AM Painting Class 9:30 AM Potter's Clay 6:00 PM Prayer Shawl 6:45 PM Choir Rehearsal	6 8:30 AM Mass 5:00 PM First Reconciliation Practice 7:00 PM Stations of the Cross - Religious Ed Students	7 8:30 AM Mass 10:00 AM AA 1:00 PM First Reconciliation 4:30 PM Sacrament of Penance 6:00 PM MASS
8 8:30 & 11:00 AM MASS SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT 9:30 AM Rel. Ed. Gr. K-2 9:45 AM First Eucharist Parent Meeting 12:00 PM Rel. Ed. Gr. 7 & 8	9 8:30 AM Mass 6:30 PM Fruit of the Vine	10 8:30 AM Mass 9:30 AM Steel Magnolias Legion of Mary 1:30 PM Prayer Shawl 2:00 PM Rel. Ed Gr. 3-6 4:00 PM Children's Choir 6:30 PM Diocesan Faith Formation Presentation on Social Media 7:30 PM AA	11 8:30 AM Mass 10:00 AM Families and Faith Formation Meeting 1:00 PM Diamonds in the Rough 5:30 PM Lenten Pastus 7:00 PM Knights of Columbus	12 8:30 AM Mass 9:00 AM Painting Class 9:30 AM Potter's Clay 6:00 PM Prayer Shawl 6:45 PM Choir Rehearsal	13 8:30 AM Mass 7:00 PM Stations of the Cross - Legion of Mary 4:30 PM Sacrament of Penance 6:00 PM MASS	14 8:30 AM Mass 9:00 AM Ladies Craft Day 10:00 AM AA 4:30 PM Sacrament of Penance 6:00 PM MASS
15 8:30 & 11:00 AM MASS THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT 9:30 AM Healing Ministry 9:30 AM Rel. Ed. Gr. K-2 12:00 PM Parent Baptismal Session 12:00 PM Rel. Ed. Gr. 7 & 8 7:00 PM Parish Mission	16 8:30 AM Mass 6:30 PM Grief Support Group 7:00 PM Parish Mission	17 8:30 AM Mass 9:30 AM Steel Magnolias Legion of Mary 1:30 PM Prayer Shawl 2:00 PM Rel. Ed Gr. 3-6 4:00 PM Children's Choir 5:30 PM Core Team Mtg. 7:00 PM Parish Mission 7:30 PM AA	18 8:30 AM Food Pantry Distribution 8:30 AM Mass 1:00 PM Diamonds in the Rough 6:45 PM Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM OLIM BOOK GROUP	19 Cursillo 8:30 AM Mass 9:00 AM Painting Class 9:30 AM Potter's Clay 2:00 PM Social Justice Meeting 6:00 PM Prayer Shawl 7:00 PM Tech Committee	20 Cursillo 8:30 AM Mass 7:00 PM Stations of the Cross - SCC Fireside Chatters 4:30 PM Sacrament of Penance 6:00 PM MASS	21 Cursillo 8:30 AM Mass 10:00 AM AA 4:30 PM Sacrament of Penance 6:00 PM MASS
22 8:30 & 11:00 AM MASS Cursillo FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT 9:30 AM Rel. Ed. Gr. K-2 11:00 AM Gr. 4 Class Mass 12:00 PM Gr. 7 & 8 Rel. Ed.	23 8:30 AM Mass 6:30 PM Fruit of the Vine	24 8:30 AM Mass 9:30 AM Steel Magnolias Legion of Mary 1:30 PM Prayer Shawl 2:00 PM Rel. Ed Gr. 3-6 4:00 PM Rel. Ed Gr. 3-6 7:30 PM AA	25 8:30 AM Mass 1:00 PM Diamonds in the Rough 5:30 PM Lenten Pastus	26 8:30 AM Mass 9:00 AM Painting Class 9:30 AM Potter's Clay 6:00 PM Prayer Shawl 6:45 PM Choir Rehearsal	27 8:30 AM Mass 7:00 PM Stations of the Cross - Knights of Columbus	28 8:30 AM Mass 9:00 AM Angels in Training 10:00 AM AA 4:30 PM Sacrament of Penance 6:00 PM MASS
29 8:30 & 11:00 AM MASS FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT 9:30 AM Rel. Ed. Gr. K-2 12:00 PM Gr. 7 & 8 Youth Event 5:00 PM Gr. 11 Candidate/Sponsor Evening of Reflection	30 8:30 AM Mass	31 8:30 AM Mass 9:30 AM Steel Magnolias Legion of Mary 1:30 PM Prayer Shawl 2:00 PM Rel. Ed Gr. 3-6 4:00 PM Children's Choir 5:30 PM Youth Open Gym 7:00 PM Pastoral Council 7:30 PM AA	1 8:30 AM Mass 1:00 PM Diamonds in the Rough 6:00 PM AGIFT Mtg.	2 8:30 AM Mass 9:00 AM Painting Class 9:30 AM Potter's Clay 6:00 PM Prayer Shawl 6:45 PM Choir Rehearsal	3 Food Pantry Easter Dinners 8:30 AM Mass 7:00 PM Stations of the Cross - Pastoral Council	4 Food Pantry Easter Dinners 8:30 AM Mass 9:00 AM Blood Drive 10:00 AM AA 4:30 PM Sacrament of Penance 6:00 PM MASS

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