

OUR LADY OF MERCY CHURCH

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



March 8th, 2020 - 2nd 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*

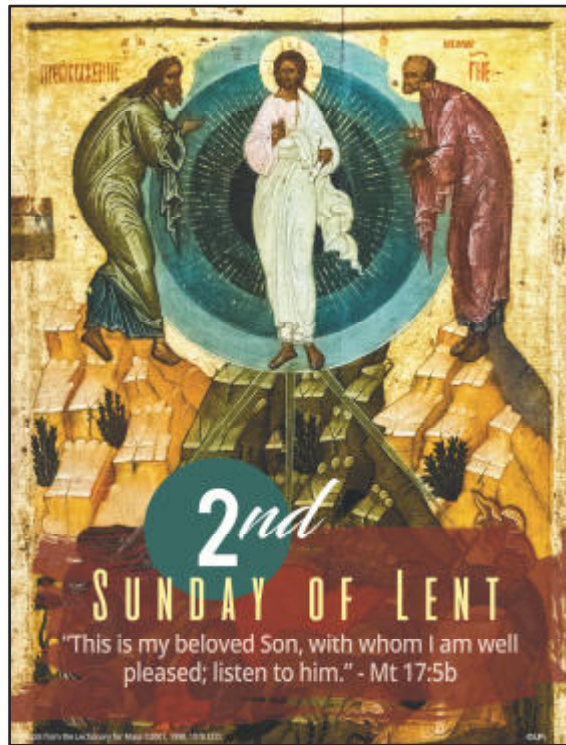
CONTACT INFORMATION

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. 03/09	6:30 p.m.	Fruit of the Vine
	7:00 p.m.	Fireside Chatters
Tue. 03/10	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
	6:30 p.m.	Diocesan Faith Formation Presentation on Social Media
	7:30 p.m.	AA
Wed. 03/11	10:00 a.m.	Families and Faith Formation
	1:00 p.m.	Diamonds in the Rough
	5:30 p.m.	Lenten Pastus
	7:00 p.m.	Knights of Columbus
Thur. 03/12	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. 03/13	7:00 p.m.	Stations of the Cross
Sat. 03/14	9:00 a.m.	Ladies Craft Day
	10:00 a.m.	AA
	4:30 p.m.	Sacrament of Penance
Sun. 03/15		Third Sunday of Lent
	9:30 a.m.	Religious Ed. Gr. K-2
	12:00 p.m.	Parent Baptismal Session
	12:00 p.m.	Religious Ed. Gr. 7 & 8
	7:00 p.m.	Parish Mission

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.



MASS INTENTIONS

Mon. 03/09	8:30 a.m.	For the Intentions of Saint Philomenia (Barb Gainer)
Tue. 03/10	8:30 a.m.	Mary Pfadt (Family)
Wed. 03/11	8:30 a.m.	
Thur. 03/12	8:30 a.m.	Theresa Ignasiak (Family)
Fri. 03/13	8:30 a.m.	Marie Ritchie
Sat. 03/14	8:30 a.m.	John Green (Family)
	6:00 p.m.	Girolama & Antonia Abbate (John & Irene Abbate)
Sun. 03/15	8:30 a.m.	Frances Somolani (Carol & Jim Perotto)
	11:00 a.m.	For the People of OLM

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Mon. 03/09	Dn 9:4b-10	/ Lk 6:36-38
Tue. 03/10	Is 1:10, 16-20	/ Mt 23:1-12
Wed. 03/11	Jer 18:18-20	/ Mt 20:17-28
Thur. 03/12	Jer 17:5-10	/ Lk 16:19-31
Fri. 03/13	Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a	/ Mt 21:33-43, 45-46
Sat. 03/14	Mi 7:14-15, 18-20	/ Lk 15:1-3, 11-32
Sun. 03/15	Ex 17:3-7 / Rom 5:1-2, 5-8 / Jn 4:5-42	

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Offertory for the weekend of March 1, 2020

Envelopes sent:	392	
Envelopes returned:	107	\$4,305.00
Faith Direct Deposits:	117	\$3,059.08
Loose Change:		\$ 327.00
TOTAL OFFERTORY:		\$7,691.08

Question-of-the-Week

The winner of the Question-of-the-Week Contest for the week of Feb. 25 was **Nathan Ford, Gr. 2**, who knew that penance is the actions or prayers we do to show our sorrow for our sins and to draw closer to God.

THIS SUNDAY'S REFLECTION

MATTHEW 17:1-9

"...His face shone like the sun..."

In Matthew's Gospel the transfiguration is sandwiched between two predictions of Jesus' suffering. In our lives, too, the shining moments come right in the midst of the messiness of our lives. The story of the Transfiguration is reminiscent of Jesus' baptism. A voice from the heavens heralds Jesus as the Beloved to whom we should listen.

As we drag these limited human bodies around with us it is easy to forget that we are temples of God. We believe the Spirit of Jesus dwells in us, yet the shining glory isn't visible on most days. We must practice listening for the heavenly voice that comes to us from the small openings in the clouds of daily life.

When Jesus cautions his disciples about announcing the vision, perhaps he is aware of the danger of sensationalism. People will flock in droves to places where some special miracle took place. Yet the little miracles that surround us every day often go unnoticed.

What are your Tabor moments? Where is the shining in your life? If you become attentive to the glory you carry in your earthenware temple you will never again be tempted to drag it around like a burden.

Reflection: Have I experienced any moments of transfiguration? How have these moments changed me?



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 **TODAY Sunday, March 8 at 9:45-10:45** in Sperry Hall.

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.



Craft Day



All are welcomed on **Saturday, March 14th, starting at 9:00 am** in Sperry Hall. Marilyn Garwig will have a painting class at 9:00 am and all beginners are sure to enjoy finishing a picture to take home. Katie will start off the afternoon teaching a class on hot mess canvas along with Tess instructing us on how to crochet a cowl. You can complete both projects and take home your finished projects. All crafters are welcomed and feel free to bring your own project to work on. Lots of tables are available. Soup and salad will be served for lunch. Please bring a food item of your choice to share. Samples and signups are in the Gathering Space. Please call Kay at 873-4354 if you have any questions.

Healing Ministry

There will be no Healing Ministry at 9:30 a.m. on **Sunday March 15th**. Our "healers" are enjoying the Florida sunshine, but will return in enough time for the April 5th meeting.



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.

"The Two Popes" Movie Night

"The Two Popes", a Netflix movie, has received great acclaim by the critics. Many people at OLM have expressed interest in viewing this film about Pope Benedict and Pope Francis. We will have a viewing of "The Two Popes" on **Saturday, March 28 at 7:00 PM** (immediately after the Vigil Mass). We will use the large classroom area. There is no cost and all are welcome.



1:38 Women, Catholic Women's Conference

Register today for 1:38 Women, a Catholic Women's conference based on the theme of "BEE the ATTITUDE!" Come enjoy a dynamic experience with 700 women from around the Diocese of Erie and beyond! The 6th annual 1:38 Women's Conference will be held at the Our Lady of Peace Parish in Erie on **Saturday, March 28, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.** Registration is only \$40 per person, \$35 for senior citizens or groups of 8, \$25 for college students, \$10 for high school students, and free for religious sisters, and includes lunch and free parking. Don't miss the opportunity to grow in your relationship with the Lord through inspiring national speakers and opportunities for prayer, adoration and reconciliation as well as Mass with Bishop Lawrence Persico. All you need to bring is an open heart! For more information and to register visit www.138women.com or call 814-455-7364

FORMED.ORG

Ready for a little spiritual reading for Lent? Check out Meditations for Lent" by Bishop Bossuet. This eBook, along with many others, can be downloaded without cost on formed.org. Sign up for your free subscription by simply selecting our parish's name at formed.org/signup.





PRAY



FAST



GIVE

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.

SOCIAL JUSTICE



Women's History Month

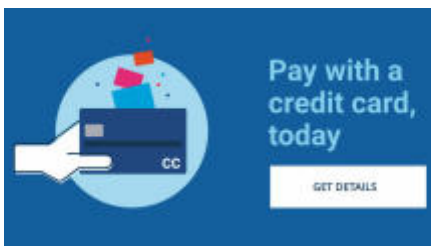
The Nineteenth Amendment is 101 years old, yet many issues still impede the progress of women in our society. Women's wages still lag behind those of men: \$.79 for each dollar men made in 2019. The USA ranks last in government-mandated paid leave for new parents among developed countries. Pope Francis cautions that women must be "must be protected and helped in... the right to work and the right to motherhood. The challenge is to protect their right to a job that is given full recognition while at the same time safeguarding their vocation to motherhood and their presence in the family."

In spite of the challenges to advancing the rights of women, their contributions as mothers, reformers, leaders, executives, teachers, and numerous other professions should not be overlooked.

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Questions?

Contact Peggy Jacquell (814) 725-9869



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	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 second Pastus will be held on **Wednesday, March 11**. Join us for Mass at 5:30 and/or homemade soup supper at 6:10 and/or the presentation at 7:00. Our Pastus presentation will be given by Fr. Dennis Martin who will explore the difficult questions we often face at the end of life. Fr. Martin is the chaplain at St. Vincent Hospital.

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



CATHOLIC SISTERS WEEK



Coming up in the month of March, the Church in the United States will celebrate Catholic Sisters Week, from the 8th through the 14th. This annual event was inaugurated to honor our consecrated women religious, with the intention of shining light on lives of these inspiring women, and to thank them for the gift of their vocation while inspiring other young women to discern God's call in their own lives. The theme of this year's celebration is "Communities of Spirit: Hearts for Ministry."

The Church of Erie would not be what it is today without the life and apostolic work of Religious Women. I doubt that there is a parish in our diocese that somewhere in its history was not touched by their lives and ministry.

Let us take time to remember them and give thanks for the gift they have been to all of us.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

†Lawrence T. Persico

The Most Reverend Lawrence T. Persico, JCL
Bishop of Erie



The Diocese of Erie will celebrate Catholic Sisters Week, March 8-14. Bishop Persico is asking us to remember with gratitude the women who have given their lives in service to the Gospel of Jesus. We ask you to remember them in your prayers during this week.

The following are women who entered religious life from Our Lady Of Mercy:

Extein, Sr. Caroline, S.S.J.

Plumb, Sr. Mary Ellen, O.S.B.

The following are religious Sisters who have served as Directors of Religious Education at Our Lady of Mercy:

Madonia, Sr. Grace, S.S.J. (1979-1982)

Bulishak, Sr. Lois, O.S.B. (1982-1985)

O'Brien, Sr. Rosemary, S.S.J.

The following are religious Sisters who have served as Directors of Music at Our Lady of Mercy:

Meahl, Sr. Mary Daniel, O.S.B.

Romeo, Sr. Mary Rose, S.S.J.

The following are religious Sisters who have served as Secretaries at Our Lady of Mercy:

Zoky, Sr. Theresa, O.S.B.



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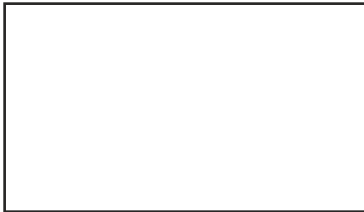
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