

OUR LADY OF MERCY CHURCH

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



March 15th, 2020 - 3rd 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*

Sarah Phipps, *Youth Minister*

Kirk Mientkiewicz, *Maintenance Coordinator*

Andrea Maille, *Lifelong Faith Formation Secretary*

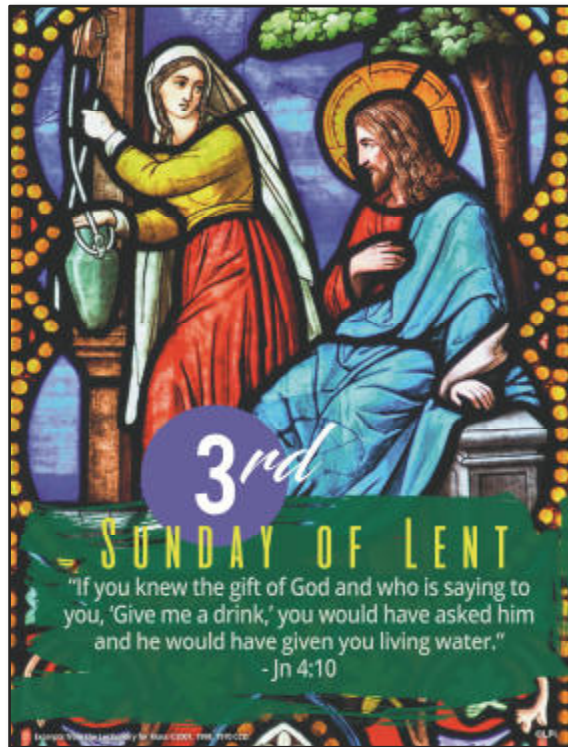
CONTACT INFORMATION

Parish Office: 814-899-5342

Office of Lifelong Faith Formation: 814-899-6132

Fax: 814-898-3306

Email: info@ourladyofmercychurch.org



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. 03/16	6:30 p.m.	Grief Support Group
	7:00 p.m.	Parish Mission
Tue. 03/17	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.	Parish Mission
	7:30 p.m.	AA
Wed. 03/18	8:30 a.m.	Food Pantry Distribution
	1:00 p.m.	Diamonds in the Rough
	6:45 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
	7:00 p.m.	OLM Book Group
Thur. 03/19	Cursillo Weekend	
	9:00 a.m.	Painting Class
	9:30 a.m.	Potter's Clay
	2:00 p.m.	Social Justice Committee
	6:00 p.m.	Prayer Shawl
	7:00 p.m.	Tech Committee
Fri. 03/20	7:00 p.m.	Stations of the Cross
Sat. 03/21	Anointing of the Sick	
	All Weekend Masses	
	10:00 a.m.	AA
	4:30 p.m.	Sacrament of Penance
Sun. 03/22	Fourth Sunday of Lent	
	9:30 a.m.	Religious Ed. Gr. K-2
	11:00 a.m.	Gr. 4 Class Mass
	12:00 p.m.	Religious Ed. Gr. 7 & 8

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Mon. 03/16	2 Kgs 5:1-15b	/ Lk 4:24-30
Tue. 03/17	Dn 3:25, 34-43	/ Mt 18:21-35
Wed. 03/18	Dt 4:1, 5-9	/ Mt 5:17-19
Thur. 03/19	2 Sm 7:4-5, 12-14, 16	
	/ Rom 4:12, 16-18, 22	
	/ Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a OR	Lk 2:41-51a
Fri. 03/20	Hos 14:2-10	/ Mk 12:28-34
Sat. 03/21	Hos 6:1-6	/ Lk 18:9-14
Sun. 03/22	1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a	/ Eph 5:8-14
		/ Jn 9:1-41

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Offertory for the weekend of March 8, 2020

Envelopes sent:	392	
Envelopes returned:	117	\$4,660.50
Faith Direct Deposits:	117	\$3,059.08
Loose Change:		\$ 110.00
TOTAL OFFERTORY:		\$7,829.58

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 Marilyn Garwig.



Question-of-the-Week

The winner of the Question-of-the-Week Contest for the week of March 3 was **Parker Lewandoski, Gr. 3**, who knew that Jonah was a prophet who spent three days swallowed by a fish when he tried to flee from God's call.

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon. 03/16	8:30 a.m.	Dawn Williams (Sandy Jordan)
Tue. 03/17	8:30 a.m.	Anthony & Catherine Ann Sorbera
Wed. 03/18	8:30 a.m.	
Thur. 03/19	8:30 a.m.	George Ritchie
Fri. 03/20	8:30 a.m.	For People who Suffer from Addiction & Mental Illness
Sat. 03/21	8:30 a.m.	
	6:00 p.m.	For the People of OLM
Sun. 03/22	8:30 a.m.	Jim Bucklin (Lorraine Bucklin)
	11:00 a.m.	

THIS SUNDAY'S REFLECTION

JOHN 4:5-42

A woman of Samaria came to draw water.

She was just going about her daily tasks. It was about noon and the clean water from the morning's meal and work had almost been used up. It was time for her to make her midday trek to the well to fill her empty water jar. She's done it hundreds of times before; she'd do it thousands of times again.

But this one particular day there was a Jewish man sitting at the well who asked her for a drink.

What were the chances of them meeting? Was it mere coincidence, and unpredictable circumstance? Or was Jesus there waiting, just for her?

As we "go through the motions" of our day, we experience any number of coincidences, chance meetings, unexpected happenings. Perhaps we should consider these more as moments where the Lord is there waiting for us. With the eyes of faith, perhaps coincidence should be seen more as an instance in which we are given a chance to converse with Jesus, ask him what it all means, tell the Lord what's going on in our lives.

The woman at the well certainly did.

Reflection: Where is God waiting to meet me today? What will we talk about throughout the week?



Let Us Give Thanks

With gratitude to God and for the prayers of the Community of Our Lady of Mercy, we are able to announce that we have a new Youth Minister for Our Lady of Mercy and St. Mark's. Her name is Sarah Phipps. Sarah will be working with us shortly. We are looking for an opportunity to introduce her to the parish. Please keep Sarah in your prayers as she begins her work in youth ministry with us.



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.



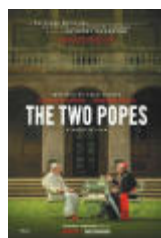
Woman's Luncheon



Tuesday March 24 at 1pm at the Fiddle Inn. For those who live alone and enjoy sharing a meal with others. 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.



Parish Quilt

If you currently have a felt square to add to our Parish Quilt, please return the completed square to the Parish Office by **Sunday March 29th** so we can have it added to the quilt before Easter.



Our Lady of Mercy is sponsoring a Blood Drive



Through the Community Blood Bank of NW PA

Date: April 4, 2020

Time: 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

in the parking lot

The sign in sheet with time slots is

located in the Gathering Space. Walk ins welcome!

Questions? Call **Todd Beckes 814-572-9744**

1:38 Women, Catholic Women's Conference

Do you want to rejoice and be glad? Then join women from across the Diocese of Erie and beyond for the 6th Annual 1:38 Women's Conference. This day of inspiration, spiritual growth and worship, open to women of all faiths, will feature national speakers – including Caralyn Collar from New York City, Alyssa Bormes from Hopkins, Minnesota and Sr. Regina Marie from Los Angeles, California – adoration, reconciliation and Mass with Bishop Lawrence Persico. The 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. (Check-in begins at 8:00 a.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. For more information and the register visit www.138women.com or call 814-455-7364.



FORMED.ORG



During Lent, our attention is directed to God's merciful love and the call to repentance. In this season, we are called to the Sacrament of Reconciliation in a special way. But, so many of us have only a child's appreciation of this amazing source of grace. Look at the Sacrament of Reconciliation from an adult perspective with the series "Forgiven" on formed.org. Sign up for your free subscription by simply selecting our parish's name at formed.org/signup.



Anointing of the Sick

We know from the scriptures that Jesus spent the greatest amount of his time healing both spiritually and physically. Since we spend most of our time on those things which are most important to us, then healing must have been a very important value to Jesus. Our Mission Statement reminds us that we are a community that lives the values of Jesus Christ.



This value of Jesus that deals with physical healing is called the *Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick*. As a community we celebrate this sacrament at all Masses on the weekend of **March 21st and 22nd**.

Who may celebrate this Sacrament? Those who are suffering any serious physical or mental illness; those who are suffering any chronic illness. those who are about to undergo surgery; the elderly who cannot get around as well as before.

We Remember...

Bob Polatas; Lloyd Shepler, father of Alison Tarquinio; Patricia DeLuca, cousin of Linda Bleil, who passed away recently.

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

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.



Parish Mission

The annual parish mission begins tonight at 7:00 and continues through Tuesday evening. Come and be renewed in your walk with Christ.

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	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 final Pastus will be held on **Wednesday, March 25**. 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. Jim Piszker. John Henry Newman is one of our newest Catholic saints. Fr. Piszker will explore what this 19th century convert to the Catholic faith has to say to a 21st century American parish.

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



**OLM Presents
a One Time Showing of...**

"The Two Popes"

Saturday March, 28th at 7:00 p.m.
in the large classroom area.

This event is free and all are welcome!

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