

# OUR LADY OF MERCY CHURCH

837 Bartlett Road • Harborcreek, PA 16421 • [www.ourladyofmercychurch.org](http://www.ourladyofmercychurch.org)



## MASS SCHEDULE

Weekday and Weekend Mass has resumed with the following schedule and covid-19 protocols in place:

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

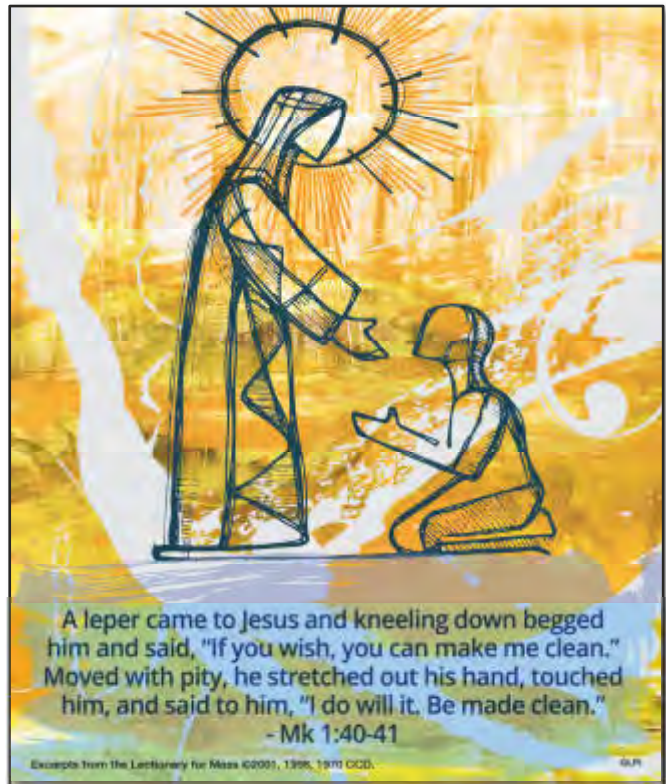
Office of Lifelong Faith Formation: 814-899-6132

Fax: 814-898-3306

Email: [info@ourladyofmercychurch.org](mailto: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.*



# February 14th, 2021 - Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

## THE WEEK AHEAD

For a complete calendar of events, please visit  
[ourladyofmercychurch.org/calendar](http://ourladyofmercychurch.org/calendar)

Mon. 02/15	9:00 a.m.	Quilters
	9:30 a.m.	Steel Magnolias SCC
	7:00 p.m.	Catholicism - Zoom
	7:00 p.m.	Grief Support Group
Tue. 02/16	11:00 a.m.	Catholicism - Zoom
	2:00 p.m.	Prayer Shawl
	7:00 p.m.	CORE Team Mtg
	7:00 p.m.	Lifelong Faith Formation
Wed. 02/17	<u>ASH WEDNESDAY</u>	
	8:30 a.m.	Food Pantry Distribution
	1:00 p.m.	Diamonds in the Rough SCC
	7:00 p.m.	Ash Wednesday Mass
Thur. 02/18	9:00 a.m.	Painting Class
	1:00 p.m.	Legion of Mary
	6:00 p.m.	Prayer Shawl
Fri. 02/19		
Sat. 02/20	4:30 p.m.	Sacrament of Penance
Sun. 02/21	9:45 a.m.	Religious Ed Gr. K-8

## FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Offertory for the weekend of February 7, 2021

Envelopes sent:	355	
Envelopes returned:	51	\$ 4,180.00
Faith Direct Deposits:	133	\$ 3,444.70
Loose Change:		\$ 15.00
<b>TOTAL OFFERTORY:</b>		<b>\$ 7,639.70</b>

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

Mon. 02/15	Gn 4:1-15, 25	/ Mk 8:11-13
Tue. 02/16	Gn 6:5-8, 7:1-5, 10	/ Mk 8:14-21
Wed. 02/17	Jl 2:12-18	/ 2Cor 5:20-6:2
		/ Mt 6:1-6, 16-18
Thur. 02/18	Dt 30:15-20	/ Lk 9:22-25
Fri. 02/19	Is 58:1-9a	/ Mt 9:14-15
Sat. 02/20	Is 58:9b-14	/ Lk 5:27-32
Sun. 02/21	Gn 9:8-15 / 1Pt 3:18-22	/ Mk 1:12-15

## MASS INTENTIONS

Mon. 02/15	8:30 a.m.	Dan Sweeney (Janet Smith)
Tue. 02/16	8:30 a.m.	Anne Hanson (The Rinke Family)
Wed. 02/17	8:30 a.m.	John Walsh (Pat Kosobucki)
		Marty Amaro
Thur. 02/18	8:30 a.m.	Nellie Ryan
Fri. 02/19	8:30 a.m.	Mary Jane Robie
Sat. 02/20	8:30 a.m.	<del>-No Mass-</del>
		Carrie Bongiorno (Todd Beckes)
Sun. 02/21	8:30 a.m.	For the People of OLM
	11:00 a.m.	Greg Sanner (The Gallagher Family)

## 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 490-9681



## THIS SUNDAY'S REFLECTION

**MARK 1:40-45**

A Leper came to Jesus...moved with pity, [Jesus] stretched out his hand.

In Jesus' day "leprosy" could mean any number of skin disorders, from rashes to what we today call Hansen's disease. Whatever form the malady took, it was considered serious enough to require the sufferer to remove himself from the community until a healing took place. Lepers were like the living dead, separated by law from their friends and loved ones, always keeping to the outskirts of villages, helpless, unwanted, untouchable, feared.

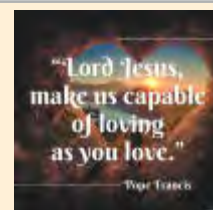
The leper in today's reading crashes through the conventions associated with his illness: he comes to Jesus, kneels before him, and asks to be healed. He's had enough; he comes directly to the Lord and tells him what he needs...and receives it.

Jesus meets the man right where he is because he sees him as a human, not merely as a walking mass of sores. Jesus goes beyond the law and touches the man, healing him.

Restored to life and his people, the man tells everyone what Jesus has done for him. Jesus sees us in our leprous condition of sin, fear, and sadness. When we've had enough, he's ready to reach for us.

**For Reflection: What might be preventing me from coming to Jesus and asking to be healed?**

David LeSieur



### Winter Study – Catholicism with Bishop Robert Barron



Our presentation of “Catholicism: The Mystery and Majesty of the Church” continues with episode 6 which will unpack the unique Catholic understanding of the Church as the Mystical Body of Christ. It will be shown Monday at 7:00 p.m. and again on Tuesday at 11:00 a.m. over Zoom. You don’t have to watch every episode. To get the link, contact Irene at [ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org](mailto:ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org).

### Evening Grief Support Group



The evening session of the grief support group is Monday Feb 15 at 7:00 p.m. It seems that grief is always sad – yet at these support group meetings we do some laughing too.

As people share their experience sometimes it is through a comical story that makes the group erupt in laughter. We have some serious moments and sometimes tears, but we always have prayer and leave with a lighter spirit. Join us in person or on zoom. Contact [dclark@ourladyofmercychurch.org](mailto:dclark@ourladyofmercychurch.org) for the zoom link. Or check our parish website. Questions – call Donna in the parish office.

### Lenten Pastus

Our Lenten Pastus series will begin on Feb. 24 with Mass at 6:15 and a speaker at 7:00 p.m.



Fr. Shane Mathew, a teaching instructor of theology at Gannon Univ., will present “When the Popes Lived in France: The Avignon Papacy and the Bishop of Rome”. For nearly 70 years, the Bishop of Rome lived in Avignon, located in modern-day France. Together we will explore why the Papacy moved to Avignon, how the Pope found his way back to Rome, and what this controversy can teach us about the Pope and the Church today. Join us in person or via live stream.

### FROM ASHES TO GLORY: An Individual Lenten Retreat with Dan Schutte



Stay at home and make a Lenten retreat on your own time with eighteen music reflection videos by composer and parish friend Dan Schutte. Access to the videos will last from Ash Wednesday through Palm Sunday. At the end of the retreat, you’ll have the

option to join a virtual Zoom conversation with Dan and others like yourself who’ve done the retreat. Registration includes a downloadable retreat workbook/journal to help you reflect on your experience and offer you a place to keep notes if you find that helpful. Registration fee is \$100 per person. To register, visit [www.danschuttemusic.com](http://www.danschuttemusic.com) and click on events. Ask Brandon [music@ourladyofmercychurch.org](mailto:music@ourladyofmercychurch.org) if you would like any help or further information.

### FORMED.ORG



If you are new to the parish subscription, you can enjoy formed.org for free by signing up as part of the parish subscription. All you need is your email, then select the option for an “institution or parish” subscription and search for Our Lady of Mercy Harborcreek.



### Stations of the Cross for Lent

This year we will have available each Friday a link to a video stations of the cross. You will be able to pray the stations at any time after the link is made available. In addition, we will make station prayer books available in the church. You are invited to come to the church anytime any weekday through 4:00 p.m. on Friday to pray the stations in the worship space. The link to the video stations will be available on our website and in the twice weekly e-blasts from the parish.



### Lent 2021 virtual retreat



All ages are welcome to join Father Mike Polinek and youth ministers from the Diocese of Erie for a virtual Lenten

retreat on Mondays Feb. 22, March 1, March 15 and March 22. These Zoom sessions will include discussion of how to personally strengthen your relationship with God. Sign up through JotForm at <https://form.jotform.com/210333866089157>. Contact Father Polinek with any questions at [mpolinek@ErieRCD.org](mailto:mpolinek@ErieRCD.org).

### Give Your Marriage a Valentine Gift

The *Marriage in Christ At Home Seminar* is a 5-week couple’s experience that consists of streaming videos, downloadable activity packets, and easy instructions to help couples pray,



talk, and act together. The cost for this program is normally \$40, but for a limited time, Communication Center is offering it to couples in parishes for FREE! Details about the program including endorsements by Catholic bishops, priests, and couples can be found at [www.marriageinchrist.com](http://www.marriageinchrist.com). To take advantage of this offer, couples simply need to register on the website anytime before March 31, 2021 (with access available until May 31, 2021). This is an amazingly easy way for couples to make their marriages stronger and happier in just five weeks.

## Social Justice



"I tire so of hearing people say, Let things take their course. Tomorrow is another day. I do not need my freedom when I'm dead. I cannot live on tomorrow's bread." Langston Hughes



Today is Commitment Sunday for the 2021 CSA. Only by working together can we make it possible for parishes, Catholic schools, Catholic Charities, clergy and the Catholic faithful to live and share Christ's teaching. You may

wonder why you should support the CSA. The truth is, as members of the Diocese of Erie, we play an important role in the diocesan activities of Catholic education, evangelization, promoting justice and serving people in need throughout our diocese. Our diocese has work to do on behalf of the Lord and we are all asked to share our gifts to help advance the mission of the church. Our bishop assures us that CSA donations are strictly designated to fund the projects, ministries, and departments of the Diocese of Erie. No funds donated to the CSA have been or will be used to defray expenses related to the sexual abuse crisis. Your gift is so important. Thank you for giving.

**You are CHOSEN!**  
11TH GRADERS

**Confirmation  
Retreat 2021**

- Sunday February 21st from 8-3pm
  - St. Mark the Evangelist Church
- \*\*Subject to change due to social distancing protocol modifications\*\**

## Lenten Dinner Options Around The Diocese

†St. Stanislaus Parish will be serving their annual Fish and Pierogi Dinners "Take Out Only" in the Parish Hall on Fridays, February 19, March 5 & March 19 from 4:00 – 7:00 p.m. or till sold out. The proceeds benefit their parish.

†Holy Trinity Parish will be serving Fish/Pierogi/Potato Pancake Dinners "Take Out Only" on Ash Wednesday, February 17 and on Friday, March 12, from 4:00 – 7:00 p.m. The PCEP program will host these dinners to help build their education fund.

## Prayer For A New Director of Music & Liturgy

Ever-constant God,  
You remain eternal and unchanged  
while the earth spins us each day  
toward a new sunrise and a new reality.

Help us as we search  
for a minister of music and liturgy.

Strengthen us to live for a time  
within the haze of uncertainty  
assured that you are present with us  
and already acting  
to provide for our needs.

Open our hearts and minds  
to recognize and welcome  
into our midst a new guide  
to engage our spiritual imagination,  
touch our hearts and form us  
ever more deeply  
in the spirit of the liturgy.

We ask this through Christ, our Lord,  
Amen.

Our Lady of Mercy Roman Catholic Church, Harborcreek, PA is seeking a Director of Music and Liturgy. The full-time Director of Music and Liturgy is actively engaged in the worship life of the parish and leads a music

ministry program that includes a mix of cantors, a 20+ voice choir and various instrumentalists to support three liturgies a weekend. Candidates must possess a bachelor's degree in music or equivalent experience; strong keyboard skills; vocal skills; and be open to different styles of music; knowledge and understanding of Catholic liturgy and the ability to plan liturgies; excellent organizational and communication skills. For the complete ad for this full-time position check our parish website. Applicants should send a cover letter and resume with salary requirements and three named references to [info@ourladyofmercychurch.org](mailto:info@ourladyofmercychurch.org). Applicants are encouraged to include a link demonstrating their musical proficiencies and to visit <https://www.ourladyofmercychurch.org/> to learn more about Our Lady of Mercy.



# HIGHLIGHTS OF OUR LITURGIES AND EVENTS

## ASH WEDNESDAY

Wednesday, February 17  
8:30 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.  
Mass with Distribution of Ashes

## LENTEN PASTUS

Wednesdays of Lent  
February 24, March 3, 10, 17  
6:15 p.m.—Mass  
7:00 p.m.—Presentation  
(In person and Livestreamed)

## LENTEN PENANCE CELEBRATION

Wednesday, March 24  
7:00 p.m.



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The season of Lent begins on **Ash Wednesday, February 17, 2021** and concludes when the Paschal Triduum of the Passion, Death, and Resurrection of the Lord begins at the start of the evening Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday evening, April 1, 2021.

The following regulations are promulgated and binding for all Catholics in the Diocese of Erie for Lent and the Paschal Triduum.

1. Traditional Lenten practices of PRAYER, FASTING, and ALMSGIVING and other forms of self-denial are recommended most warmly by the Church. Daily Mass is particularly encouraged.
2. ASH WEDNESDAY, ALL FRIDAYS IN LENT, and GOOD FRIDAY are days of abstinence from meat for those 14 years of age and older.
3. ASH WEDNESDAY AND GOOD FRIDAY are also days of fasting for those ages 18 to 58 inclusive. *On these days, those bound by the law of fasting may take one full meal. Two smaller meals, sufficient to maintain strength according to one's needs, are also permitted. Eating between meals is not permitted, but liquids including milk and fruit juices are allowed. When health or work is seriously affected, the law does not oblige.*

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We keep Lent together as one parish family.  
We put aside our business-as-usual to support each other  
in prayer, fasting and almsgiving.  
We turn to God to enlighten us and purify us  
throughout the lengthening brightness of this holy season.

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