

OUR LADY OF MERCY CHURCH

837 Bartlett Road • Harborcreek, PA 16421 • 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

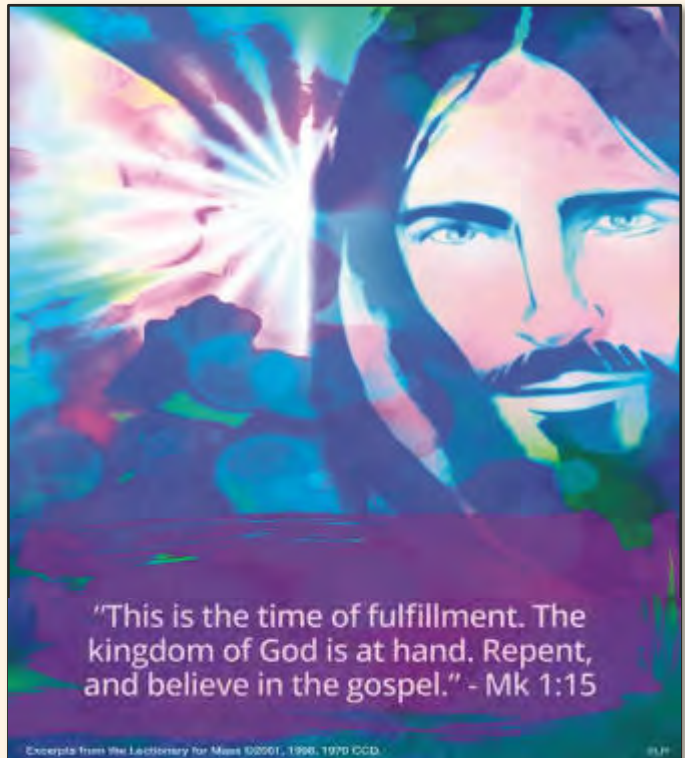
Office of Lifelong Faith Formation: 814-899-6132

Fax: 814-898-3306

Email: info@ourladyofmercychurch.org

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 21st, 2021 - First Sunday of Lent

THE WEEK AHEAD

For a complete calendar of events, please visit ourladyofmercychurch.org/calendar

Mon. 02/22	9:00 a.m.	Quilters
	9:30 a.m.	Steel Magnolias SCC
	7:00 p.m.	Catholicism - Zoom
Tue. 02/23	11:00 a.m.	Catholicism - Zoom
	2:00 p.m.	Prayer Shawl
	6:45 p.m.	Roman Candles SCC
Wed. 02/24	1:00 p.m.	Diamonds in the Rough SCC
	2:00 p.m.	Social Justice Committee
	6:15 p.m.	Mass
	7:00 p.m.	Lenten Pastus Speaker
Thur. 02/25	9:00 a.m.	Painting Class
	1:00 p.m.	Legion of Mary
	6:00 p.m.	Prayer Shawl
Fri. 02/26	7:00 p.m.	Stations of the Cross
Sat. 02/27	4:30 p.m.	Sacrament of Penance
Sun. 02/28	Second Sunday of Lent	
	9:00 a.m.	Jr. High Retreat
	9:45 a.m.	First Reconciliation Retreat
	9:45 a.m.	Religious Ed Gr. K-6
	1:00 p.m.	Confirmation Practice



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



We Remember...

Mary Ann Spring and Raymond Melcher, *Loving Memory*
father of Michelle Knight;
who passed away recently.

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

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Offertory for the weekend of February 14, 2021

Envelopes sent:	357	
Envelopes returned:	54	\$ 3,789.00
Faith Direct Deposits:	133	\$ 3,460.33
Loose Change:		\$ 25.00
TOTAL OFFERTORY:		\$ 7,274.33

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Mon. 02/22	1 Pt 5:1-4	/ Mt 16:13-19
Tue. 02/23	Is 55:10-11	/ Mt 6:7-15
Wed. 02/24	Jon 3:1-10	/ Lk 11:29-32
Thur. 02/25	Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25	/ Mt 7:7-12
Fri. 02/26	Ez 18:21-28	/ Mt 5:20-26
Sat. 02/27	Dt 26:16-19	/ Mt 5:43-48
Sun. 02/28	Gn 22:1-2, 9-13, 15-18	/ Rom 8:31b-34 / Mk 9:2-10

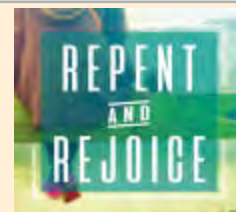
MASS INTENTIONS

Mon. 02/22	8:30 a.m.	Tom Kelley
Tue. 02/23	8:30 a.m.	Denny Smith (Janet Smith)
Wed. 02/24	8:30 a.m.	Jack Ryan
	6:15 p.m.	Mary Ann Spring
Thur. 02/25	8:30 a.m.	Raymond Melcher
Fri. 02/26	8:30 a.m.	Dennis Rapp
Sat. 02/27	8:30 a.m.	No Mass
	6:00 p.m.	Francis Ritchie
Sun. 02/28	8:30 a.m.	For the People of OLM
	11:00 a.m.	Thomas Liebel (The Liebel Family)

THIS SUNDAY'S REFLECTION

MARK 1:12-15

"The Spirit drove Jesus out into the desert..."



This passage in Mark is remarkable for its brevity, but also for its emphasis. Whereas Luke's telling of this story lists specific temptations and Jesus' responses to Satan, Mark simply says Jesus was tempted by Satan.

Rather than focus on the details of the temptation Mark emphasizes the action of God. He tells us that the Spirit "drove" Jesus into the desert to face the dangers and temptations of this world. Jesus was compelled by the Spirit, by God, to engage the world. In the face of these dangers and temptations God sent back-up - angels who ministered to Jesus.

This experience of the desert followed immediately after his baptism and Jesus returned from the desert to begin his public ministry. Thus from the moment of his baptism Jesus' mission was to engage the world, supported by the grace of God.

In this passage we see that to do the will of God it is not necessary to withdraw from the world. Rather, God calls us to engage the world. Gifted with grace, we are to resist temptation and meet the world with justice and humility. This is how we "repent and believe in the Gospel."

For Reflection: How has my faith helped me to be involved in the world around me?

Peter Dwyer

Winter Study – Catholicism with Bishop Robert Barron

Our presentation of “Catholicism: The Mystery and Majesty of the Church” continues with episode 7 which will focus on the Eucharist. 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.



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

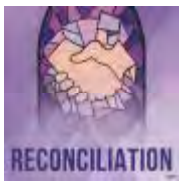
Popes Lived in France: The Avignon Papacy and the Bishop of Rome”. For nearly 70 years, the Bishop of Rome lived in Avignon, located in modern-day France. Together we will explore why the Papacy moved to Avignon, how the Pope found his way back to Rome, and what this controversy can teach us about the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

Stations of the Cross for Lent

Stations of the Cross will be prayed each Friday at 7:00 p.m. in the Worship Space. It will be live streamed on the parish Facebook page. Please join us in prayer in person or by the live stream.



First Reconciliation



First Reconciliation will be celebrated at 1:00 on Saturday, March 6. The young people will prepare for their special celebration with a retreat at 9:45 a.m. on Sunday, Feb. 28 and with practice at 5:00 p.m. on Friday, March 5. Please hold these young people in your prayer.

Daytime Grief Support Group

The daytime session of the grief support group is Tuesday March 2 at 3:00 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 for the zoom link. Or check our parish website. Questions – call Donna in the parish office.



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.

Confirmation

The Sacrament of Confirmation will be celebrated at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 2. You were recently mailed a Confirmation Prayer Pal booklet with your copy of For Mercy Sake. Please support these young people with your prayers and notes of encouragement, especially the candidate whose name appears on the front page of your Prayer Pal booklet.



Need to talk?



When things become overwhelming it can help to share what is making your heart heavy. With prayer and sharing we can help to lighten each other’s loads. The next HOPE meeting is Tuesday March 2 at 12 Noon. We meet in person and on Zoom. Check the parish website for the link. For one-on-one meetings contact Donna Clark in the parish office. Or call 814-303-9282

Book Group

We will be discussing The Island of Sea Women by Lisa See on Tuesday, March 16 at 7:00 p.m. Our April title will be The Prayer Box by Lisa Wingate.



Jr. High Retreat 2021

Please bring a journal and a pen!!
Details
• Sunday February 28th from 9-1pm
• Our Lady of Mercy Church
• Mask and social distancing will be followed!
Lunch is provided! (More details to come)
Theme: Self-Esteem

Social Justice

"Give to the hungry some of your bread, and to the naked some of your clothing. Whatever you have left over, give away as alms, and do not begrudge the alms you give." (Tobit 4:16)



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 sheet or envelope marked "CSA" in the collection basket or turn it in at the parish office. Your generosity is appreciated.

Sixth Annual Catholic Women's Conference in Erie is Less Than One Month Away!

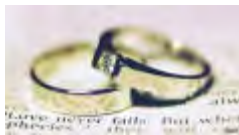
Be a part of it! The name of 1:38 Women is based on the theme of Luke 1:38: "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." This year the theme of the conference is "BEE the ATTITUDE!", relating to Mathew 5:12 – "Rejoice and be glad." The conference will be held on Saturday, **March 20, from 9:00 a.m. to noon** and the women from our diocese will gather to pray, reflect, and be inspired in three different ways:

1. Live in-person at Our Lady of Peace Parish which is limited to 250 people and following all CDC guidelines for responsible social distancing;
2. Virtually at satellite parishes via Zoom at participating parishes to be announced on the website at www.138women.com;
3. Virtually via Zoom at your own home.

The morning of the program consists of two amazing speakers, and Mass with Bishop Persico. If you attend at Our Lady of Peace or a satellite parish, you will enjoy two of our life-giving Sacraments: Holy Eucharist and Reconciliation. The events is free, and donations are accepted. For more information or to register visit www.1:38women.com or call 814-455-7364.

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. 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.



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. 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.



Lent 2021 - Virtual Retreat

4 Mondays - 40 Minutes

8:00-8:40pm

All Ages Welcome!

Join Fr. Mike Polinek and Youth Ministers from the Diocese of Erie as they discuss specific topics on how they personally strengthen their relationship with God.

Nick Heise
St. Mary's, St. Marys
February 22
"Holy Spirit"



Jesse Spanogle
St. Jude the Apostle, Erie
March 1
"Accompaniment"



Fr. Mike Polinek
Vocations
Director



Anna Anderson
St. Joseph, Warren
March 15
"Mary, the Mother of God"



Tim Rydberg
St. Joseph/Bread of Life, Erie
March 22
"Discipleship"

To sign up and receive the Zoom link please
email mpolinek@eriercd.org

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