

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

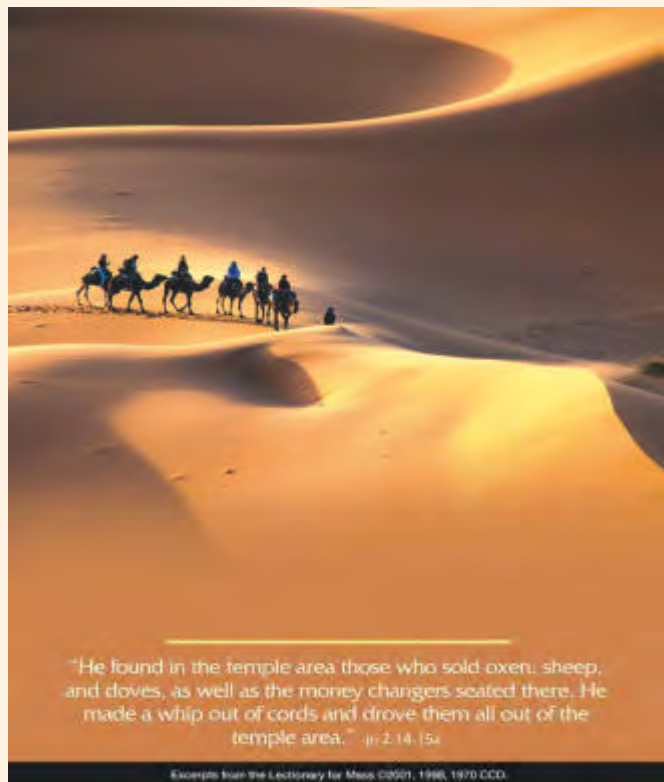
Office of Lifelong Faith Formation: 814-899-6132

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.



March 7, 2021 - Third Sunday of Lent

THE WEEK AHEAD

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

Mon. 03/08	9:00 a.m.	Quilters
	9:30 a.m.	Steel Magnolias SCC
	7:00 p.m.	Catholicism - Zoom
Tue. 03/09	11:00 a.m.	Catholicism - Zoom
	2:00 p.m.	Prayer Shawl
	6:30 p.m.	AGIFT Meeting
	6:45 p.m.	Roman Candles SCC
Wed. 03/10	6:15 p.m.	Mass
	7:00 p.m.	Lenten Pastus Speaker
	7:00 p.m.	Knights of Columbus
Thur. 03/11	9:00 a.m.	Painting Class
	1:00 p.m.	Legion of Mary
	6:00 p.m.	Prayer Shawl
Fri. 03/12	7:00 p.m.	Stations of the Cross
Sat. 03/13	4:30 p.m.	Sacrament of Penance
Sun. 03/14		Fourth Sunday of Lent
	9:45 a.m.	Religious Ed Gr. K-8

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Mon. 03/08	2 Kgs 5:1-15ab	/ Lk 4:24-30
Tue. 03/09	Dn 3:25, 34-43	/ Mt 18:21-35
Wed. 03/10	Dt 4:1, 5-9	/ Mt 5:17-19
Thur. 03/11	Jer 7:23-28	/ Lk 11:14-23
Fri. 03/12	Hos 14:2-10	/ Mt 12:28-34
Sat. 03/13	Hos 6:1-6	/ Lk 18:9-14
Sun. 03/14	2 Chr 36:14-16, 19-23	/ Eph 2:4-10
		/ Jn 3:14-21

We Remember...

Florence Kobylinski
who passed away recently.

*Loving
Memory*

Please hold her and her family in prayer during this difficult time.

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon. 03/08	8:30 a.m.	Dan Sweeney (Richard & Ann Nagosky)
Tue. 03/09	8:30 a.m.	Msgr. Henry Schauerman
Wed. 03/10	8:30 a.m.	Mary Pfadt (Gerald Pfadt)
	6:15 p.m.	Marie Morealli
Thur. 03/11	8:30 a.m.	Dawn Williams (Sandra Jordan)
Fri. 03/12	8:30 a.m.	Marie Ritchie
Sat. 03/13	8:30 a.m.	No Mass
	6:00 p.m.	Joseph Seyboldt (Marilyn Rinke)
Sun. 03/14	8:30 a.m.	For the People of OLM
	11:00 a.m.	Theresa Ignasiak (The Liebel 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



FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Offertory for the weekend of February 28, 2021

Envelopes sent:	357	
Envelopes returned:	50	\$ 4,641.00
Faith Direct Deposits:	133	\$ 3,460.33
Loose Change:		\$ 95.00
TOTAL OFFERTORY:		\$ 8,196.33



A Special Thank You

Thank you to everyone who helped with Mom's funeral, especially Father Ritchie, Brandon and the Bereavement Ministry. – The Family of Helen Hollister

THIS SUNDAY'S REFLECTION

JOHN 2:13-25

"But he was speaking about the temple of his body."

When we read that Jesus gets angry about "making my Father's house a marketplace," we admire Jesus' zeal for the house of God, the Temple. We realize that Jesus had strong feelings and was not afraid to express them. He used a whip to drive out all those who were more powerful and rich (those with sheep and oxen and the money changers), while he only spoke "to those who sold doves." Jesus was in control of his feeling and used them appropriately.

However, there is another point in this Gospel passage that we need to mediate on. When Jesus was rebuked by some of the leaders, he gave them a surprise answer: "Destroy this temple." Then, to our surprise, the evangelist adds a sentence that later helped the disciples to believe more deeply: "But he was speaking about the temple of his body." St. Paul tells us that we are "the temple of God" (1 Cor 3:16). We must be careful not to clutter ourselves with worries and concerns that we do not have time to dedicate our thoughts and aspiration for God. We must control our selfish desires and take care of ourselves (body and soul, mind and spirit) to better glorify God in service of our neighbor.

For Reflection: In what ways do I honor my body as a temple of God?

Rosa Maria Icaza, C.C.V.I.



Winter Study – Catholicism with Bishop Robert Barron

Our presentation of “Catholicism: The Mystery and Majesty of the Church” continues with episode 9 which will explore the life of prayer.



Lenten Pastus



Our Lenten Pastus series will continue on March 10 with Mass at 6:15 and a speaker at 7:00 p.m. Tom Breager will share a powerful and personal witness as he presents “Finding God in Adversity”.

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.



Evening Grief Support Group

The evening session of the grief support group is Monday March 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 for the Zoom link. Questions – call Donna in the parish office.



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 Thursday March 18 at 7:00 p.m. This is a Zoom only meeting. Check the parish website for the link. For one-on-one meetings contact Donna Clark in the parish office. Or call 814-303-9282



Baptismal Preparation Session for Parents

The Diocese of Erie asks that all parents requesting to celebrate Baptism with their child attend a preparation session. These are held semi-annually at OLM. The next Baptismal Preparation Session for Parents at OLM will be held Sunday, March 21 at noon. Please register prior to attending by calling the parish office at 899-5342.



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.

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.



Our Diocese, Our History: A Conversation with Fr. Justin Pino

The Diocese of Erie has a long and fascinating history. Our Lenten exploration of Church history will focus closer to home as we have the opportunity to talk about the Diocese of Erie with the diocesan archivist, Fr. Justin Pino. Join us over Zoom on Tuesday, March 23 at 7:30 to learn more about the history of our diocese. Bring your questions and curiosities. To participate, email ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org by noon on Monday, March 22 to get the Zoom link.

OLM Youth Event

The next OLM Youth Event will be held on Sunday, March 28 from 12-3 in the large classroom. All Jr. High students are invited to come for fellowship and to learn how to put Christ at the center of your life. Lunch will be provided. Contact Sarah Phipps at youthminister@ourladyofmercychurch.org with any questions.



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 family members 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 report abuse directly to the diocese by calling 814-451-1543. For particular questions you may call: Cindy Zemcik, Coordinator for the Office for the Protection of Children and Youth in the Diocese of Erie at 814-824-1195.

Lent Letters

Give a letter; get a letter! The Lifelong Faith Formation Committee is sponsoring a parish wide campaign and the rules are simple:



1. Contact the parish office at 899-5342 or email secretary@ourladyofmercychurch.org to sign up (don't forget to confirm your mailing address). The deadline to sign up is March 19.
2. The week of March 22, you will be emailed a name and address of a parishioner to send an encouraging letter or card to.
3. Prepare your letter or card, throw a stamp on it and put it in the mail before Easter Sunday.
4. Wait patiently by the mailbox to receive your Lent Letter!

Social Justice

Are you looking for something to reinvigorate your Lenten practices? The organizations listed offer readings, reflections, and actions to help your Lent focus on caring for creation.



1. Laudato Si Lent: A Journey of Hope

Receive a weekly email describing specific types of fasting to "live more in solidarity with our Earth and each other" <https://laudatosilent.org/>

2. Steadfast: A Call to Love

Daily readings and reflections to commit to care for both our fellow human beings and our common home. https://ignatiansolidarity.net/steadfast-lent-2021/?utm_source=igsol.net&utm_medium=urlshortener&fbclid=IwAR2Qckk6NeFL7I5luqE6fpRo91xlrY9UPiMILZU655YR6idVxEr-Kn1oU

3. 2021 Lenten Calendar – Care for Creation

A calendar using the daily readings with a reflection and action, designed for families <https://worcesterev.flocknote.com/note/10943625>

4. Greener Lent

Reduce your impact on the environment through an enhanced fasting from meat. Families everywhere are invited to join and can learn about the effects of fasting. <https://greenerlent.org/index.html>

Thank You so much!

The Parish Community of Our Lady of Mercy would like to "Give Thanks" to

PAT SHICKLER

for all he did during the pandemic to purchase and install all our Live Stream equipment

KEN MARSHALL

For designing and building Our Live Stream Cabinet

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.



CATHOLIC SISTERS WEEK

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. (1915-2006)

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. (1927-2020)

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.



IS IT OK JUST TO BE?

REFLECTION BY DONNA CLARK

During these last 11 months I found myself some days sitting at the desk in my office just staring out the window. Ironically I have to look past the garbage dumpster to the field and woods beyond. One day I just watched the snow fall for a while.

Is it OK to feel lost? Is it OK to not know what to do next?

One day after work my husband, Matthew, asked how my day was, what did I do? I thought for a moment. I know I was busy all day but honestly I could not name one concrete thing that I did that day.

Is it OK if I can't point to one thing that I have accomplished in a 24-hour period?

There is this intense feeling that I have to be doing something, producing something or going somewhere. Perhaps it is the nature of humanity or we pick this up from our culture.

While chatting with someone about spirituality and the challenges of this last year, he offered an image of drifting in a boat - with no oars. I asked: "Is that OK?"

This image took me on a wonderful meditative journey during our forced slow down. God loves us unconditionally just because we exist. We do not have to

do anything to earn God's love. Being is the essence of who we are as "human -beings." So my answer is "Yes, it is OK just to be!"

The "just being" leads to other insights. While contemplating the snow fall I had an image of God's desire to give us abundance (not just in snow but in love). While contemplating my inability to remember the day's accomplishments, I had a sense that being present to people through phone calls and notes was perhaps more important than producing something. While contemplating God's unconditional love for us, I realized that whenever I respond to love it is usually that love that compels me to some sort of action in the service of others.

Yes, it is OK just to be.



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