

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

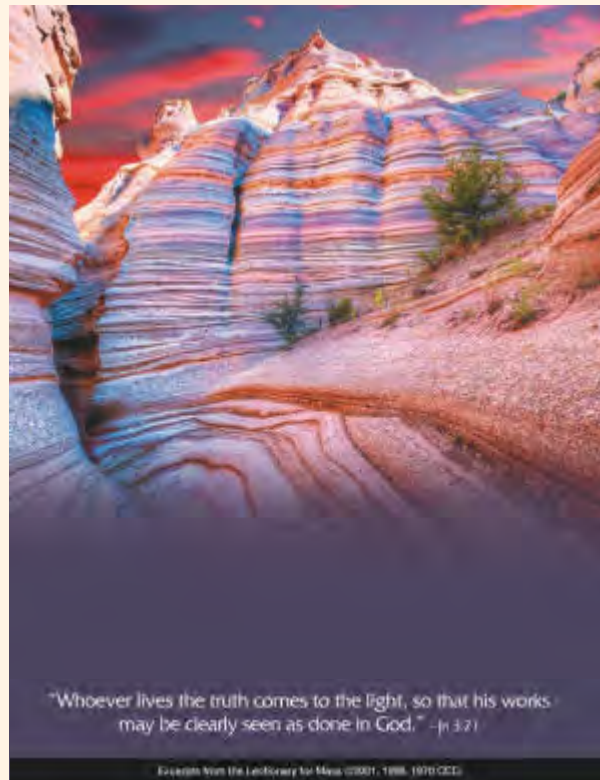
Office of Lifelong Faith Formation: 814-899-6132

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.



"Whoever lives the truth comes to the light, so that his works may be clearly seen as done in God." -Jn 3:21

Excerpt from the *Liturgy for Mass* (2002), 1988, 1970 OGD

March 14, 2021 - Fourth Sunday of Lent

THE WEEK AHEAD

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

Mon. 03/15	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. 03/16	11:00 a.m.	Catholicism - Zoom
	2:00 p.m.	Prayer Shawl
	7:00 p.m.	OLM Book Group
Wed. 03/17	8:30 a.m.	Food Pantry Distribution
	6:15 p.m.	Mass
	7:00 p.m.	Lenten Pastus Speaker
Thur. 03/18	9:00 a.m.	Painting Class
	1:00 p.m.	Potter's Clay SCC
	1:00 p.m.	Legion of Mary
	6:00 p.m.	Prayer Shawl
	7:00 p.m.	HOPE
Fri. 03/19	7:00 p.m.	Stations of the Cross
Sat. 03/20	4:30 p.m.	Sacrament of Penance
Sun. 03/21		Fifth Sunday of Lent
	9:45 a.m.	Religious Ed Gr. K-8
	12:00 p.m.	Baptismal Prep Class

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 March 7, 2021

Envelopes sent:	357	
Envelopes returned:	67	\$ 5,866.00
Faith Direct Deposits:	133	\$ 3,432.83
Loose Change:		\$ 50.00
TOTAL OFFERTORY:		\$ 9,348.83



SCRIPTURE READINGS

Mon. 03/15	Is 65:17-21	/ Jn 4:43-54
Tue. 03/16	Ez 47:1-9, 12	/ Jn 5:1-16
Wed. 03/17	Is 49:8-15	/ Jn 5:17-30
Thur. 03/18	Ex 32:7-14	/ Jn 5:31-47
Fri. 03/19	Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22	/ Mt 1:16, 18-21
Sat. 03/20	Jer 11:18-20	/ Jn 7:40-53
Sun. 03/21	Jer 31:31-34 / Heb 5:7-9	/ Jn 12:20-33

We Remember...

Susan Shaul - sister of Barbara Schlosser who passed away recently.



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

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon. 03/15	8:30 a.m.	Leo Kosobucki (Linda & Loren Prichard)
Tue. 03/16	8:30 a.m.	Ben DeDionisio (The Extein Family)
Wed. 03/17	8:30 a.m.	Dennis McSweeney
	6:15 p.m.	Sue Shaul
Thur. 03/18	8:30 a.m.	Anna Neimeic (Donald & Jane Mallin)
Fri. 03/19	8:30 a.m.	George Ritchie
Sat. 03/20	8:30 a.m.	No Mass
	6:00 p.m.	Aggie Tyzinski (Sherry & Tim Tyzinski)
Sun. 03/21	8:30 a.m.	Joe Marshall (Dave & Patti Parmenter)
	11:00 a.m.	For the People Of OLM

THIS SUNDAY'S REFLECTION

JOHN 3:14-21

"God so loved the world that he gave his only Son."

Nicodemus is by all accounts a religious man, a searcher for truth. Still, in this earnest (probably whispered) conversation in the middle of the night, how difficult it seems for him to "hear" the Good News: By "lifting up" his own son, God will bring to life what is dead through sin.

What does Nicodemus look for? Clear answers...some personal assurances...a safe, private friendship with Jesus? Does he understand the invitation of that meeting with Jesus? Will he delight at "getting" the Good News? We don't know for sure if he does, after all, become Jesus' follower.

Am I not like poor Nicodemus, wanting clear answers and simple solutions to life's problems, rather than a shake-up in my own life? Faced with this kind of God, who loves us so much to suffer terribly for our freedom to be his children, I may also find myself with little to say.

Is such a God "altogether too much," too good to believe? Have we heard this Good News, really? Jesus' story of a God so "crazy for us" would change the way we do things too much, for we have gotten too used to living our settled lives.

For Reflection: How might I hear God's offer of love to me these days of Lent?

Dan Borlik, C.M.



Winter Study – Catholicism with Bishop Robert Barron

Our presentation of “Catholicism: The Mystery and Majesty of the Church” concludes with episode 10 which will look at the Catholic belief in our life after death.



Lenten Pastus



Our Lenten Pastus series will conclude on **March 17 with Mass at 6:15 and a speaker at 7:00 p.m.**

Dr. Robert von Thaden will be our speaker. Fighting about Jesus: Truly

God & Truly Human, But How? Early Christians spent centuries arguing about what it meant to call Jesus the Christ. These arguments were contentious and sometimes turned violent. What was Jesus’s relationship to God? What was his relationship to humanity? Because the texts of what became the New Testament are maddeningly inconsistent regarding such questions, it took Christians centuries to hammer out answers - with lots of dissensions, excommunications, and schisms along the way - that a majority could grudgingly accept. Understanding how church teachings about Jesus took shape over time allows us to reflect on the deep questions raised by the incarnation - questions we might too easily skip over if we just assume current doctrine is “how it always was. 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.



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



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.

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.



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.



Holiday Cards needed for the Homebound

The homebound ministry is looking for holiday greeting cards. If you would like to donate please bring to the parish office, attention Donna Clark. We are in need of Easter Cards. Thank you.

Meals for People in Need.

If you or someone you know could use a hot meal delivered to your house, please let Donna Clark know. Residents of Harborcreek have extra food that they need to cook and give away. Perhaps you live alone and cooking for one is discouraging, so a hot meal once a week could be a great boost. Perhaps you are recovering from an illness and just do not have the energy to cook.



Social Justice



"The environment is God's gift to everyone, and in our use of it we have a responsibility towards the poor, towards future generations and towards humanity as a whole." (Pope Benedict XVI, Caritas in Veritate [Charity in Truth], 2009, no. 48) "Christians, in particular, realize that their responsibility within creation and their duty towards nature and the Creator are an essential part of their faith." (Pope John Paul II 1990 World Day of Peace Message, no. 15) "Please, I would like to ask all those who have positions of responsibility in economic, political and social life, and all men and women of goodwill: let us be "protectors" of creation, protectors of God's plan inscribed in nature, protectors of one another and of the environment." (Pope Francis, Homily at Mass for Inauguration, 3/19/13) Given the concerns and admonitions of Pope Francis and his predecessors we all might analyze how we can mitigate our personal impact on the planet. We can consider: planting a tree, starting a garden, going dark for a day, switching to CFL or LED lighting, cutting back on plastic. Also, look for Earth Day activities on April 22 by visiting <https://www.earthday.org>. These may be some simple ways that we can create a more sustainable lifestyle and promote the health of our God given planet.

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

New Hiring



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.

OUR LADY OF MERCY

March Youth Event

DATE: Sunday
March 28th
TIME: 12-3pm
PLACE: Big Classroom

Come for fellowship and learn how to put Christ at the Center of your life!

Lunch is provided!!





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!

Lent Letters

Year of St Joseph Fact Finding Raffle

Pope Francis has proclaimed a Year of St. Joseph in celebration of the 150th anniversary of the declaration of St. Joseph as patron of the Universal Church.

We hear so little about St Joseph in the bible. One way to celebrate this event at Our Lady of Mercy is to do a fact-finding mission.

Between March 19, the feast of St Joseph and May 1, the feast of St Joseph the worker, find a fact about St Joseph and submit it for posting on our website and Facebook page. Tell us where you found the fact. For every fact you submit your name will be entered into a drawing for a Fiddle Inn gift certificate. We have multiple gift certificates to give away. Send facts to secretary@ourladyofmercychurch.org or stop in the office with a written copy.



YEAR OF
St Joseph
8 DEC 2020 – 8 DEC 2021

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