

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 21, 2021 - Fifth Sunday of Lent

THE WEEK AHEAD

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

Mon. 03/22	9:00 a.m.	Quilters
	9:30 a.m.	Steel Magnolias SCC
	7:00 p.m.	Pastoral Facilitator Meeting - Virtual
Tue. 03/23	2:00 p.m.	Prayer Shawl
	6:45 p.m.	Roman Candles SCC
	7:30 p.m.	Conversation on the History of the Erie Diocese
Wed. 03/24	7:00 p.m.	Penance Service
Thur. 03/25	9:00 a.m.	Painting Class
	1:00 p.m.	Legion of Mary
	6:00 p.m.	Prayer Shawl
Fri. 03/26	7:00 p.m.	Stations of the Cross
Sat. 03/27	4:30 p.m.	Sacrament of Penance
Sun. 03/28		Palm Sunday
	9:45 a.m.	Religious Ed Gr. K-6
	12:00 p.m.	Gr. 7 & 8 Youth Event

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Offertory for the weekend of March 14, 2021

Envelopes sent:	357	
Envelopes returned:	47	\$ 2,983.00
Faith Direct Deposits:	133	\$ 3,441.08
Loose Change:		\$ 82.00
TOTAL OFFERTORY:		\$ 6,506.08

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Mon. 03/22	Dn 13:41-62	/ Jn 8:1-11
Tue. 03/23	Nm 21:4-9	/ Jn 8:21-30
Wed. 03/24	Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95	/ Jn 8:31-42
Thur. 03/25	Is 7:10-14, 8:10	/ Heb 10:4-10 / Lk 1:26-38
Fri. 03/26	Jer 20:10-13	/ Jn 10:31-42
Sat. 03/27	Ez 37:21-28	/ Jn 11:45-56
Sun. 03/28	Is 50:4-7 / Phil 2:6-11	/ Mk 14:1-15:47

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon. 03/22	8:30 a.m.	John Nowakowski (Diane Hoover)
Tue. 03/23	8:30 a.m.	Norman Schlosser (Dianna Kirsch)
Wed. 03/24	8:30 a.m.	Denny Smith (Janet Smith)
Thur. 03/25	8:30 a.m.	For the Intentions of Our Lady
Fri. 03/26	8:30 a.m.	Betty Dietrich
Sat. 03/27	8:30 a.m.	-No Mass-
	6:00 p.m.	Gertrude Peters (Ross Peters)
Sun. 03/28	8:30 a.m.	Louie DeLuca (Rose Marie DeLuca)
	11:00 a.m.	For the People Of OLM

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



But I Cannot Forgive and Forget!

A Reflection By Donna Clark

Whether I am disappointed with myself or it is a hurt that involves another person this notion of forgiving and forgetting just does not work. At least that's the way it seems. I realized, much later in life, that forgiveness is a process.

I thought the meaning of Mt 18:22 when Jesus tells Peter he must forgive seventy times seven times (limitless) was that there is always something to forgive. Experience teaches that I must forgive the same thing seventy times seven times. The mistake I made or the hurt I experienced keeps coming into my mind and I must forgive again.

Each time I forgive that same thing, it hurts a little less, and at some point, it really is forgotten. Or if I do remember the event, it no longer carries the emotion to upset me.

It can take a while, but that is one meaning of process.

THIS SUNDAY'S REFLECTION

JOHN 12:20-33

"The hour has come."

Most of us do not know when the hour of our death will come, or if it will be filled with pain. As Jesus approached his death, he was aware that it would involve much suffering, but that by his suffering and death God would be glorified.

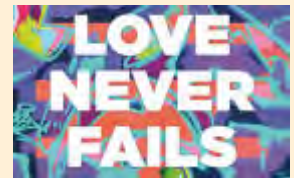
My father died several years ago, and I sat by his side as he took his last breath. It was a peaceful death. The preceding years had required that my sisters and I spend time with him and my mother each day, helping with their needs. This was a real hardship as well as a real blessing.

During this time I got to know much more about my father and what he valued in life. He loved his wife through their 67 years of marriage and put her needs before his, especially in the years before his death, caring for her physical needs at the expense of his own health. He must have died to self many times through the years in choosing to love her and provide for his family. A faithful Christian, he followed in the steps of Jesus from his baptism to his death.

His life glorified God.

For Reflection: Am I happy to give this moment, of this hour, to the glory of God?

Lilly Hess



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.

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.



Daytime Grief Support Group

On **Tuesday April 6 at 3 p.m.** the grief support group will meet in the parlor. If you would like to connect by zoom please contact Donna Clark

dclark@ourladyofmercychurch.org

Question & Answer With the Pastor

Let's gather for a conversation about faith with Fr. Ritchie before the warm weather sends us outdoors in the evening. Join us **Wednesday, April 14 at 7:00** via



Zoom (hopefully this will be the last time we will have to hold it over Zoom). A special invitation is extended to members of Small Christian Communities. We might not be able to have some of the in-person gatherings that we have enjoyed in the past, but we can gather with our pastor for this evening of spiritual growth and fellowship. A prize will be given to the SFC with the most members present. To get the Zoom link, email ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org by noon on April 13.



Lent Letters

Give a letter; get a letter! If you signed up for Lent Letters, please be on the lookout in your email inbox for the

address you are to send your letter and/or card to. They will be sent out at the beginning of this week. Please try to have your Lent Letter to your matched family no later than Easter Sunday.

For Mercy Sake Deadline

The deadline to submit articles for the spring issue of *For Mercy Sake* is **April 25**. Send items to ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org



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

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.

Book Group

We will be discussing *The Prayer Box* by Lisa Wingate on **April 21 at 7:00 p.m.**



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. Thank you.

Meals for People in Need.

If you or someone you know could use a hot meal delivered to your house periodically, 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 in a while could be a great boost. Perhaps you are recovering from an illness and just do not have the energy to cook.



Year of St Joseph 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. We propose a "trivia raffle" to celebrate this event.

Starting March 19, the Feast of St Joseph and **ending May 1**, the Feast of St Joseph the worker, submit a piece of trivia about St Joseph for posting on our website and Facebook page. Tell us where you found the information. For every submission your name will be entered into a drawing for a Fiddle Inn gift certificate. We will have multiple winners. Send facts to secretary@ourladyofmercychurch.org or stop in the office with a written copy.



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)



OUR LADY OF MERCY

March Youth Event



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

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

Lunch is provided!!

Give Your Marriage a 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 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.



Holy Week Family Resources from the Diocese of Erie

Starting on Palm Sunday, the diocesan Office of Faith Formation will be sharing a slate of prayers, video reflections, and family activities for Holy Week at the website listed below. These activities are designed particularly for the needs of those not yet able to worship in-person, but they are open to everyone. The website will include prayer resources relevant to all ages, including people who live alone and young families. <https://www.eriecd.org/holyweekathome.html>

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.

Triduum at Our Lady of Mercy

HOLY THURSDAY April 1

7:00 p.m.

LITURGY OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

BLESSING OF EASTER FOOD

11:30 a.m.

THE GREAT EASTER VIGIL

Saturday, April 3

9:00 p.m.

GOOD FRIDAY April 2

9:00 a.m.

MORNING PRAYER

1:00 p.m.

OUTDOOR STATIONS OF THE CROSS

3:00 p.m.

LITURGY OF THE LORD'S PASSION

HOLY SATURDAY April 3

9:00 a.m.

MORNING PRAYER

EASTER SUNDAY April 4

8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.



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