

OUR LADY OF MERCY CHURCH

837 Bartlett Road • Harborcreek, PA 16421 • www.ourladyofmercychurch.org



MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday Vigil: 6:00 p.m.

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

Weekday: 8:30 a.m.

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.

PARISH STAFF

Msgr. Gerald T. Ritchie, *Pastor*

Deacon Paul Barko, *Deacon Assistant*

Donna Clark, *Pastoral Minister*

Irene Lucas, *Director of Lifelong Faith Formation*

Patti Reavel, *Music Director*

Katie Stephenson, *Administrative Assistant
& Youth Minister*

Kirk Mientkiewicz, *Maintenance Coordinator*

Andrea Maille, *Lifelong Faith Formation Secretary*

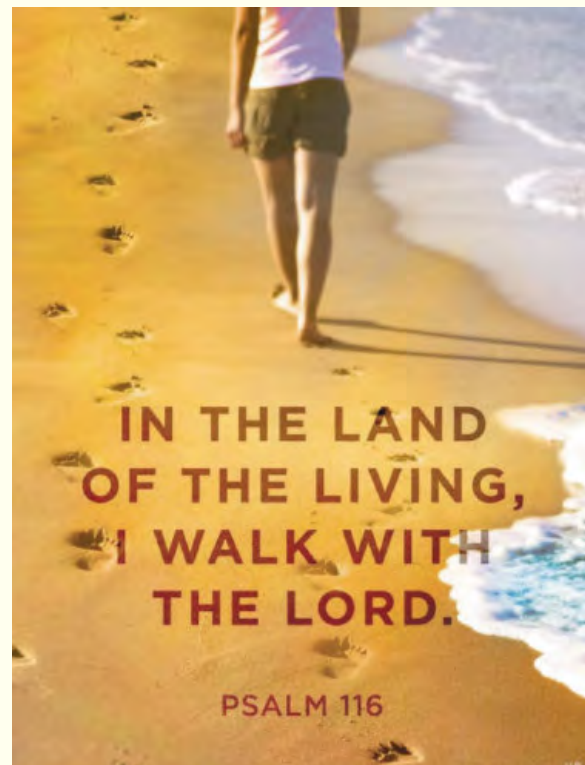
CONTACT INFORMATION

Parish Office: 814-899-5342

Office of Lifelong Faith Formation: 814-899-6132

Fax: 814-898-3306

Email: info@ourladyofmercychurch.org



MARCH 13, 2022 - THE 2ND SUNDAY OF LENT

THE WEEK AHEAD

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

| | | |
|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Mon. 03/14 | 9:00 a.m. | Parish Mission |
| | 9:00 a.m. | Quilters |
| | 9:30 a.m. | Steel Magnolias SCC |
| | 7:00 p.m. | Parish Mission |
| Tue. 03/15 | 9:00 a.m. | Parish Mission |
| | 1:00 p.m. | Potter's Clay SCC |
| | 2:00 p.m. | Prayer Shawl |
| | 2:00 p.m. | Hallelujah Girls SCC |
| | 4:00 p.m. | Gr. 3-6 Religious Ed. |
| | 6:30 p.m. | Roman Candles SCC |
| Wed. 03/16 | 7:00 p.m. | Parish Mission |
| | 8:30 a.m. | Food Pantry Distribution |
| | 9:00 a.m. | Parish Mission |
| Thur. 03/17 | 1:00 p.m. | Diamonds in the Rough |
| | 7:00 p.m. | OLM Book Group |
| | 9:00 a.m. | Painting Class |
| | 9:00 a.m. | Angels In Training SCC |
| Fri. 03/18 | 1:00 p.m. | Legion of Mary |
| | 6:00 p.m. | Prayer Shawl |
| Sat. 03/19 | 7:00 p.m. | Stations of the Cross |
| Sun. 03/20 | 12:00 p.m. | Mission Trip Bingo @ St. James Place |
| | 4:30 p.m. | Sacrament of Penance |
| | 3RD SUNDAY OF LENT | |
| | 9:30 a.m. | Gr. K-1&7-8 Religious Ed. |
| | 9:30 a.m. | Choir Rehearsal |
| | 12:00 p.m. | Gr. 9 & 10 Lenten Day of Service |

SCRIPTURE READINGS

| | | |
|-------------|-------------------------|---------------|
| Mon. 02/14 | Dn 9:4b-10 | / Lk 6:36-38 |
| Tue. 03/15 | Is 1:10, 16-20 | / Mt 23:1-12 |
| Wed. 03/16 | Jer 18:18-20 | / Mt 20:17-28 |
| Thur. 03/17 | Jer 17:5-10 | / Lk 16:19-31 |
| Fri. 03/18 | Gn 37:3-4, 12-13, 17-28 | / Mt 21:33-46 |
| Sat. 03/19 | 2 Sm 7:4-5, 12-14, 16 | |
| Sun. 03/20 | Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22 | / Lk 2:41-41 |
| | Ex 3:1-8, 13-15 | |
| | 1 Cor 10:1-6, 10-12 | / Lk 13:1-9 |

MASS INTENTIONS

| | | |
|-------------|------------|--|
| Mon. 03/14 | 8:30 a.m. | Marie Ritchie |
| Tue. 03/15 | 8:30 a.m. | Prayer Shawl Ministry & Recipients of the Shawls |
| Wed. 03/16 | 8:30 a.m. | Special Intention for Peter Searl |
| | | (Dan Ott) |
| Thur. 03/17 | 8:30 a.m. | Denny Smith |
| | | (Janet Smith) |
| Fri. 03/18 | 8:30 a.m. | Anthony & Catherine Ann Sorbera |
| Sat. 03/19 | 6:00 p.m. | Michael Nagosky |
| | | (Dick & Ann Nagosky) |
| Sun. 03/20 | 8:30 a.m. | Suzanne Wieman |
| | | (Mike & Jan Brown) |
| | 11:00 a.m. | For the People of OLM |

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Offertory for the weekend of March 6, 2022

| | | |
|-------------------------|-----|--------------------|
| Envelopes sent: | 357 | |
| Envelopes returned: | 78 | \$ 4,101.00 |
| Faith Direct Deposits: | 146 | \$ 3,655.58 |
| Loose Change: | | \$ 51.00 |
| TOTAL OFFERTORY: | | \$ 7,807.58 |

A Special "Thanks"

The Palisin family wishes to thank the Our Lady of Mercy parish family for their thoughts, prayers and notes of encouragement for our son Matt during his recent surgery for liver cancer. The operation was successful and he is currently undergoing recovery with a good prognosis. It is comforting to know that we have the support of our Parish during this difficult time.

Thank You

PRAYER LINE

9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
Call Donna Smicker at 814-899-9108
4:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.
Call Gerri Extein at 814-490-9681



THIS SUNDAY'S REFLECTION



LUKE 9:28-36

While he was praying his face changed in appearance and his clothing became dazzling white.

I work in the downtown business section of the city. It is not unusual for me to be approached by street people, begging for money. My general response is "What is it that you need?" On a particular morning as I was praying to the Lord, I asked him to show himself to me in a different way that day. I was approached by a man on that day and he begged for money. For some reason I responded differently. I asked him how much he needed. His answer was "everything that you have!" As I gave him all the money in my billfold, he thanked me and walked away. Normally I do not look back at beggars, but this time I chanced it and as I did, the man became engulfed in the later afternoon sun, which made his retreating appearance dazzling.

Jesus too became dazzling, allowing himself to be known as the "Christ" to Peter, John and James. He intended for them to see him differently than they did on other days when they were together.

We can become so familiar that Jesus' presence is overshadowed by everyday happenings. But God's love gives us many opportunities to witness a transfiguration.

Reflection: How can I become more attentive to the dazzling presence of God in the midst of my everyday routine?

Marvin Blaes

Book Group

Join us at 7:00 p.m. on March 16 at the home of Pat Marshall to discuss The Lincoln Highway by Amor Towles. Our April book will be The Elephant Whisperer by Lawrence Anthony.



FORMED.ORG



If you are new to the parish, 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 Penance Service

All are invited to join our Confirmation candidates and their sponsors and families next Sunday, March 20 @ 6:00 p.m. to celebrate the Sacrament of Penance. They will celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation on Thursday, March 24 at Mt. Carmel church. Please hold these young people in your prayer.

Prayer Service for those who are Grieving.

On March 21 at 7 p.m. the Grief ministry will host a prayer service with an opportunity for people to share their experience and receive support during the grieving process. The journey is easier when walking with others who understand. For questions or to attend this meeting by zoom contact Donna Clark in the parish office.



Lenten Pastus

Our second Lenten Pastus presentation will be March 23. Join us at 5:30 for Mass, 6:10 for a simple soup supper and/or 7:00 for a presentation. Our season will continue with an exploration of how the media we use every day can enable us to be bold and creative witnesses of Jesus Christ, "Would Jesus Use Facebook?". Sr. Allison Regina Gliot is a Daughter of St. Paul. She will join us from Boston where she lives.



QUESTION OF THE WEEK

Question-of-the-Week Winner for the week of March 1 was Lily Czerwinski, grade 3, who knew that Catholics do not eat meat on Ash Wednesdays or any Friday of Lent.

Update Census Forms

We are updating our parish information. If you did not review your census form when you had your picture taken, then look for your form in the gathering space. If you would like your form mailed to you, please contact the parish office.



Using Faith Direct for your CSA Pledge

If you desire to have Our Lady of Mercy initiate your CSA donation from Faith Direct and you have used Faith Direct in the past, please indicate that by signing the pledge form. It is easy to set up a recurring donation or make a one-time gift through Faith Direct. Sign up using the Faith Direct button found on the right-hand column of our web page: www.ourladyofmercychurch.org or by visiting www.faith.direct/PA647 or call the parish office or Faith Direct customer service at 866-507-8757 for further assistance.



PAULIST FR. JAMES DILUZIO

@ Our Lady of Mercy For LENT

A dramatic proclamation of the Gospel of Luke with preaching & sacred andsecular songs as meditations.

Fr. James will share his insights from over 15 years of proclaiming Luke's Gospel throughout the USA

- Sunday through Tuesday March 13 through 15; 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
- Morning Sessions after the 8:30 Mass from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. Monday through Wednesday March 14th to 16th.



Celebrating the 75th Anniversary of Our Lady of Mercy Parish

After meetings with the Religious Ed Board and Pastoral Council, Fr. Ritchie wrote to Bishop Trautman in 1995 requesting his approval "to begin a process of exploration and education which would solve the (space) problems in the most appropriate manner."



Tech Owl

TechOWL finds tools and technology for people across PA. A specialist will work with a senior citizen to find the right device, load software and apps and teach the person how to use the technology. For more information: <https://techowlp.org/library/> or 800-204-7428 or TechOWL@temple.edu See the posters on our bulletin boards.



Help Needed!

To help a group of immigrants the International Institute/USCRI is looking for donations of sewing machines and volunteers to help set up apartments. Contact Lydia Laythe, Program

Coordinator – Health, Wellness & Compliance, 814-452-3935 ext. 2023 These machines offer the women a chance to be productive, hone their skills, and potentially develop a business of their own; some of these women also the clothes they wear are very culturally specific and the local stores don't sell the types of clothes they wear, so they need to make it for themselves. Interchurch Ministries will also collect gift cards for JoAnn's for the women to use to purchase material and other sewing supplies. They can be delivered to First Presbyterian Church of the Covenant. Please make sure they are marked clearly for Interchurch Ministries Monetary donations can also be sent to the address below. Inter-Church Ministries of Erie County, 250 West 7th Street Erie, Pennsylvania 16501 (814)454-2411 icm@icmeriecounty.org

PRAYER FOR PEACE

Father in Heaven, have mercy on us
and on the whole world!

You sent Your Son, the Prince of Peace,
for the salvation of the world.

We pray that the Peace of Christ will reign in Ukraine.
Please protect and send aid
to those in Ukraine and all who are at-risk.

We pray for peace –
we pray for all who are working towards it
and for all who are in danger
from this conflict.

We pray for an end to violence and war –
we pray for wisdom for all leaders
who have a hand in this.

Lord God, please help those in most need of thy mercy.
Blessed Virgin Mary, Queen of Peace,
pray for us!

St Joseph, Protector of Mary, Jesus and the Church,
pray for us!

Lord Jesus, Prince of Peace,
may your kingdom reign in Ukraine
and all the world.

Amen.



Child Protection and Creating Safe Environments

Pledge to Heal

The Diocese of Erie remains committed to helping victims/survivors of clergy sexual abuse heal and recover. We provide counseling assistance for individuals and family members of those who have been the victims of child sexual abuse. Counseling assistance can be obtained by contacting Dr. Gerard Tobin, our Victim Assistance Coordinator, 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 their local law enforcement. To report abuse to the independent investigators retained by the diocese, email ErieRCD@KLGates.com. Victims/survivors or concerned individuals can report abuse directly to the diocese by calling 814-451-1543.



Mission trip
Gift basket

March 19th
12-4
Doors open 11
Tickets 20.00

BINGO

Fun
Food
Laughter
St. James Place
2622 Buffalo Rd.
Games of Chance
Drinks

Contact Maggie Santiago
814-490-4275

THE LITURGICAL ENVIRONMENT OF LENT

Of the many ministries needed for effective liturgy, perhaps the most visible but least understood is the ministry of liturgical environment. It includes the treatment of all the visible elements within and around a liturgy. It's about how the look and the feel of the space supports the liturgy of the particular day and liturgical season. Did you feel that the OLM Christmas environment was regal? Did the white, gold and silver colors of hangings and flowers balance the deep green of trees and wreaths in a manner fit for a king? Did the flickering candles and tiny lights and crystals give you a sense of the celebration of the "light of Christ?" Members of the environment ministry hope so.

By contrast, this Lent we see an environment that is simple, even stark: a bare tree, a banner of purple, a mostly unadorned space. This is not by chance. Lent calls us into a time of reflection, a looking inward. The environment signals this by removing decorations and distractions and—we hope—creates a quiet, reflective mood. This emptiness, this openness, is meant to help us enter into silence and reflection.

Lent is meant to be reflective because, since its inception, it has been about preparing for Baptism, the sacrament that welcomes us as a People of God. For those already baptized, it is the time for a spiritual checkup; a time to ask ourselves how our journey as a follower of Christ is going. Are we living a life that reflects the values of Jesus? The tradition of fasting, prayer, and giving to the poor during this time, allows us to strip away non-essentials—just as our liturgical environment does—to focus on living a more Christ-like life. Simple as they may be, the few elements of the Lenten liturgical environment are meant to assist

us in this reflection. What does the special attention given to the baptismal font mean to you? Less tangible, how does the purple banner affect you? What feelings does it recall? And how do you respond to the bare tree? Did you wonder if it has buds yet? Does the bird in its upper branches help you connect this tree to the creation outside your window? Each person may find unique meanings and feelings associated with these elements. History gives us examples of how previous ages responded to these same elements.

In the first century, the color purple was made from a dye that was both rare and expensive. Only royalty could afford it and so it became a symbol of kingship. Christians saw in this meaning a reference to Christ, the king. Further, the purple-red hue reminded believers of the bloody sacrifice of Christ. The tree, aside from being a reminder of creation, reminded them of the cycle of life, blooming in the spring, dying in the fall. The traditional phrase, "Behold the wood of the cross," shows how the early church honored the wood of the cross on which Jesus died. For them and for us, this tree foreshadows the historical events of Holy Week.

In the coming weeks, take time to soak in the images and feelings of Lent. Allow the images and feelings to guide you in a reflection on your life, your goals and your experience of Christ. This Lent, make an uncluttered space for quiet and make time to rest in the Lord.

Matthew Clark,

on behalf of the Liturgical Environment Ministry



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OUR LADY OF MERCY CATHOLIC CHURCH
Membership Form

Name _____

Address _____

City/Zip _____

Phone _____

Change of Address Moving out of the Parish

New Parishioner
 To start the new member process please call the parish office at 899-5342; or request a phone call by filling out this form and returning it to the office by mail or collection basket.