

# OUR LADY OF MERCY CHURCH

837 Bartlett Road • Harborcreek, PA 16421 • [www.ourladyofmercychurch.org](http://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*

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](mailto:info@ourladyofmercychurch.org)



**MARCH 27, 2022 - THE 4TH SUNDAY OF LENT**

## THE WEEK AHEAD

For a complete calendar of events, please visit [ourladyofmercychurch.org/calendar](http://ourladyofmercychurch.org/calendar)

Mon. 03/28	9:00 a.m.	Quilters
	9:30 a.m.	Steel Magnolias SCC
Tue. 03/29	1:00 p.m.	Potter's Clay SCC
	2:00 p.m.	Prayer Shawl
	4:00 p.m.	Gr. 3-6 Religious Ed.
	5:30 p.m.	OLM Youth Open Gym
	7:00 p.m.	Lifelong Faith Formation
Wed. 03/30	1:00 p.m.	Diamonds in the Rough
	5:30 p.m.	Mass
	6:10 p.m.	Soup Supper
	7:00 p.m.	Lenten Pastus Presentation
Thur. 03/31	9:00 a.m.	Painting Class
	9:00 a.m.	Angels In Training SCC
	1:00 p.m.	Legion of Mary
	6:00 p.m.	Prayer Shawl
Fri. 04/01	7:00 p.m.	Stations of the Cross
Sat. 04/02	4:30 p.m.	Sacrament of Penance
Sun. 04/03		<b>5TH SUNDAY OF LENT</b> Casserole Club Drop Off Monthly Food Pantry Collection
	9:30 a.m.	Gr. K-1&7-8 Religious Ed.

## 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



## FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Offertory for the weekend of March 20, 2022

Envelopes sent:	357	
Envelopes returned:	53	\$ 2,167.10
Faith Direct Deposits:	138	\$ 3,588.08
Loose Change:		\$ 57.00
<b>TOTAL OFFERTORY:</b>		<b>\$ 5,812.18</b>

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

Mon. 03/28	Is 65:17-21	/ Jn 4:43-54
Tue. 03/29	Ez 47:1-9, 12	/ Jn 5:1-16
Wed. 03/30	Is 49:8-15	/ Jn 5:17-30
Thur. 03/31	Ex 32:7-14	/ Jn 5:31-47
Fri. 04/01	Wis 2:1a, 12-22	/ Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30
Sat. 04/02	Jer 11:18-20	/ Jn 7:40-53
Sun. 04/03	Is 43:16-21 / Phil 3:8-14	/ Jn 8:1-11

## UKRAINIAN RELIEF

The 7,000 Knights of Columbus members in Poland are heading a massive effort to provide food, shelter, clothing and support for Ukrainian refugees on both sides of the Polish-Ukraine border. The Knights of Columbus of our parish are heading a drive to assist our brother Knights in their effort. 100% of funds collected will be channeled through the Knights of Columbus national organization and will go directly to the Polish Knights relief efforts. We will have baskets at both entrances this weekend, in the office during the week and at all Masses next weekend. You can also donate through Faith Direct by using a "One-Time Payment". Please add "Ukraine Relief" in the "notes" field. We urge you to be as generous as possible to assist in this humanitarian crisis.

## MASS INTENTIONS

Mon. 03/28	8:30 a.m.	John Bailey (Phil & Liz Legler)
Tue. 03/29	8:30 a.m.	Joe Casentino (John Abbate)
Wed. 03/30	8:30 a.m.	Analida Braeger (Tom Braeger)
	5:30 p.m.	Ruth Kredorski
Thur. 03/31	8:30 a.m.	Harry Extein (The Extein's)
Fri. 04/01	8:30 a.m.	Frank Simoneli
Sat. 04/02	6:00 p.m.	For the People of OLM
Sun. 04/03	8:30 a.m.	Denny Smith (Janet Smith)
	11:00 a.m.	Mary Ella Eaglen (Maureen Koseff)

## THIS SUNDAY'S REFLECTION

### LUKE 15:1-3, 11-32

"Your brother was dead and has come to life again."



In our fast-paced society, reality shows are becoming more popular; competitiveness is valued, and civilities such as kindness and compassion are seen as weaknesses. Ironically, medical professionals have seen an increase in physical and mental ailments that can be attributed to the stress caused by negative emotions such as anger and jealousy.

The father in Luke's Gospel is "filled with compassion." He understood that forgiving his prodigal son would free him to love the son unequivocally, while the resentful and dutiful son associated love and loyalty only with obedience. Forgiveness, whether given to another or received, is a healing act which allows us to follow Jesus' command, "Love one another as I have loved you," unconditionally.

When we attend Mass we are asked to be mindful of any wrongs we have committed, for those things we have done or have failed to do, and in our prayers throughout the Mass we ask God for mercy and compassion. How often are we guilty of reciting our prayers by rote without giving thought to their true meaning? When we do this we are like the obedient son, following the rules with an absent heart.

Reflection: How is my life marked with compassion rather than resentment?

Marie Morris

### Lenten Pastus

Our final Lenten Pastus presentation will be **March 30**. Join us at **5:30 for Mass, 6:10 for a simple soup supper and/or 7:00 for a presentation**. Dr. Tiggy McLaughlin will bring our Lenten series to a close with "The Cross and the Word Made Flesh". The Medieval Church saw intense controversy over the doctrine of the Incarnation, the belief that God became fully human in Jesus Christ. Dr. McLaughlin will explore how the birth, suffering and death of Christ was presented to ordinary, illiterate people so that they might understand this Mystery of our faith. As we examine the lessons of the past, we can deepen our own appreciation of the connection between the Cross and the Word of God Become Flesh. Dr. Tiggy McLaughlin teaches in both the history and theology departments at Gannon University.



### For Mercy Sake Deadline

Items for the spring issue of For Mercy Sake newsletter is due by **April 10**. Submissions can be sent to [ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org](mailto:ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org).

### Pilgrimage Through the Symbols of Holy Week

After a 2 year hiatus, we will once again be making our pilgrimage through the beautiful symbols of the Holy Week liturgies. Our pilgrimage will begin at **7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 13** in the large classroom. From there, we will journey through the objects and actions that embody the story at the heart of our faith, the story that promises to transform each of our lives. Bring a wine glass, wear comfortable shoes, and open your heart to what these holy moments have to say to you. It will bring the celebration of Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter alive in new ways.



### Book Group

Join us at **7:00 p.m. on April 20** to discuss The Elephant Whisperer by Lawrence Anthony. Our May title will be Then She Was Gone by Lisa Jewell.

### Need a Lenten commitment?

Why not commit to attending Women's Cursillo #258? It will be held at Our Lady of Mercy on **April 29th - May 1st**. Applications can be filled out on the [eriercursillo.org](http://eriercursillo.org) website. The site can also answer any questions you might have. You must show proof of vaccination to attend or work the Cursillo. A list of candidates can also be found on the website. Questions, call Lois Heise at **814-882-9555**. Pray and listen for God calling you!



## 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.

## QUESTION OF THE WEEK

Question-of-the-Week Winner for the week of March 15 was **Anthony Bly, grade 3**, who knew that Mary, with the title Immaculate Conception, is the patron saint of the United States.

### 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.



### Faith Direct and contributing to the Parish Mission.

You can use Faith Direct for a one-time donation to offset the cost of our Parish Mission. Simply go to the Faithdirect website through your account sign on or from our parish website. Choose "One Time Gifts/Special Collection" and put a message in the notes what the gift is for.

### Pastoral Council and Visioning Process – Join Us!

The pastoral council is one of the key groups involved in visioning for the parish. We want to add new members who will help with this process. Sign up at the display in the gathering space to get more information about Pastoral Council and our visioning process. You will be invited to attend an informational session then take some time to discern what God is calling you to. We are looking for people who desire to go deeper in their walk with Christ, to discern how we create an environment for discipleship and how to meet people where they are and walk with them on the journey to discipleship.



### Missed the Synod Listening Sessions?

Here is a link to the survey for those who were unable to attend listing sessions: <https://forms.office.com/r/6bR23f2ZqB>. This survey link is posted on the diocesan Synod website at <https://www.eriecd.org/synod.html>. The form will be available to fill out until **6 p.m. on March 31**.



**Celebrating the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Our Lady of Mercy Parish**  
On May 21, 1995 Fr. Ritchie made the first presentation to the parish outlining the needs of our growing community.





**JOB OPENING FOR PART-TIME  
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRIES**

Our Lady of Mercy Parish is seeking a director of music ministries who will be actively engaged in the worship life of the parish and support the song of the assembly at weekend and special liturgies. Candidates must possess a bachelor’s degree in music or equivalent experience and have knowledge and understanding of Catholic liturgy. Additional requirements include the ability to plan liturgies, excellent organizational and communication skills, and adaptability. For a pastoral musician with additional skills, this part-time music director position can be expanded to full-time coordinator of liturgical ministries. Applicants should send a cover letter and resume to [info@ourladyofmercychurch.org](mailto:info@ourladyofmercychurch.org). For more information and a complete job description, contact the parish at 814-899-5342. To learn more about Our Lady of Mercy Parish, go to [www.ourladyofmercychurch.org](http://www.ourladyofmercychurch.org).

**Save the Date: Knights of  
Columbus Golf and Sports Raffle**

The Knights of Columbus will once again host their annual Golf and Sports Raffle Casino Night at Our Lady of Mercy on Friday, May 13, 2022. Tickets are \$10 each or 3 for \$25 and include food and refreshments. All tickets are eligible for all drawings, need not be present to win. Cash prizes will be awarded for those in attendance. Proceeds from this event will benefit youth activities at Our Lady of Mercy. For a list of prizes, please see the flyer on the bulletin boards in the Gathering Space.



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.



**APRIL BIRTHDAYS**

Apr. 2	Eva Reilly	17	Apr. 17	Alex Lunger	16
Apr. 4	Maria Allegretto	13	Apr. 18	Alexandra Bryan	10
Apr. 4	Eileen Drotar	5	Apr. 21	Braeden Knepper	12
Apr. 6	Ava Still	5	Apr. 22	Lydia Hordych	5
Apr. 9	Brielle Spelling	1	Apr. 22	Isla Duda	4
Apr. 11	Gweneviere Wilczynski	7	Apr. 29	Patrick Wuerstle	3
Apr. 11	Mariska Habursky	15	Apr. 29	Fr. Ritchie	80
Apr. 14	Oscar Erickson	7	Apr. 30	Giovanni Coletta	13
Apr. 15	Samantha Bryan	14	Apr. 30	Hannah Smith	16



# APRIL 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>27</b> 8:30 & 11:00 AM MASS 9:30 AM Gr. K-2 & 7-8 Rel Ed 11:00 AM Gr. 4 Class Mass 12:00 PM Baptismal Prep Class 12:00 PM Gr. 7 & 8 Youth Event	<b>28</b> 8:30 AM Mass 9:00 AM Quilters 9:30 AM Steel Magnolias	<b>29</b> 8:30 AM Mass 1:00 PM Potters Clay 2:00 PM Prayer Shawl 4:00 PM Gr. 3-6 Rel Ed 5:30 PM OLM Youth Open Gym 7:00 PM LFF Mtg. 7:30 PM AA	<b>30</b> 8:30 AM Mass 1:00 PM Diamonds in the Rough 5:30 PM Mass 6:10 PM Soup Supper Presentation	<b>31</b> 8:30 AM Mass 9:00 AM Angels in Training 9:00 AM Painting Class 1:00 PM Legion of Mary 6:00 PM Prayer Shawl	<b>1</b> 8:30 AM Mass 7:00 PM Stations of the Cross	<b>2</b> 10:00 AM AA 4:30 PM Sacrament of Penance 6:00 PM Mass
<b>3</b> 8:30 & 11:00 AM MASS Casserole Club DROP OFF Monthly Food Pantry Collection 9:30 AM Choir Rehearsal 9:30 AM Gr. K-2 & 7-8 Rel Ed	<b>4</b> 8:30 AM Mass 9:00 AM Quilters 9:30 AM Steel Magnolias 5:30 PM Sisters of Scripture 6:30 PM Fireside Chatters	<b>5</b> 8:30 AM Mass 1:00 PM Potters Clay SCC 2:00 PM Prayer Shawl 4:00 PM Gr. 3-6 Rel Ed 6:30 PM Roman Candles 7:00 PM Pastoral Council 7:30 PM AA	<b>6</b> 8:30 AM Mass 1:00 PM Diamonds in the Rough	<b>7</b> 8:30 AM Mass 9:00 AM Painting Class 1:00 PM Legion of Mary 6:00 PM Prayer Shawl	<b>8</b> 8:30 AM Mass 7:00 PM Stations of the Cross	<b>9</b> 10:00 AM AA 4:30 PM Sacrament of Penance 6:00 PM Mass
<b>10</b> 8:30 & 11:00 AM MASS Newsletter Deadline 9:30 AM Choir Rehearsal 9:30 AM Gr. K-2 & 7-8 Rel Ed 12:00 PM GR Group	<b>11</b> 8:30 AM Mass 9:00 AM Quilters 9:30 AM Steel Magnolias	<b>12</b> 8:30 AM Mass 1:00 PM Potters Clay 2:00 PM Prayer Shawl 4:00 PM Gr. 3-6 Rel Ed 7:30 PM AA	<b>13</b> 8:30 AM Mass 1:00 PM Diamonds in the Rough 7:00 PM Knights of Columbus 7:00 PM Pilgrimage Through Holy Week	<b>14</b> Holy Thursday 9:00 AM Angels in Training 9:00 AM Painting Class 1:00 PM Legion of Mary 7:00 PM Holy Thursday: Liturgy of the Lord's Supper	<b>15</b> Good Friday Parish Office Closed 1:00 PM Outdoor Stations of the Cross 3:00 PM Good Friday: Liturgy of the Lord's Passion	<b>16</b> Holy Saturday 10:00 AM AA 11:30 AM Blessing of Easter Food 9:00 PM The Great Easter Vigil
<b>17</b> 8:30 & 11:00 AM MASS Easter Sunday	<b>18</b> Parish Office Closed 8:30 AM Mass 9:00 AM Quilters 9:30 AM Steel Magnolias 5:30 PM Sisters of Scripture 6:30 PM Fireside Chatters 7:00 PM Grief Support Group	<b>19</b> 8:30 AM Mass 1:00 PM Potters Clay 2:00 PM Prayer Shawl 6:30 PM Roman Candles 7:00 PM LFF Mtg. 7:30 PM AA	<b>20</b> 8:30 AM Food Pantry Distribution 8:30 AM Mass 1:00 PM Diamonds in the Rough 7:00 PM OLM BOOK GROUP	<b>21</b> 8:30 AM Mass 9:00 AM Painting Class 1:00 PM Legion of Mary 4:00 PM Blood Drive 6:00 PM Prayer Shawl	<b>22</b> 8:30 AM Mass	<b>23</b> 8:45 AM First Eucharist Retreat 10:00 AM AA 4:30 PM Sacrament of Penance 6:00 PM Mass
<b>24</b> 8:30 & 11:00 AM MASS 9:30 AM Choir Rehearsal 9:30 AM Gr. K-2 12:00 PM Gr. 7 & 8 Youth Event 12:00 PM Sundae Sunday	<b>25</b> 8:30 AM Mass 9:00 AM Quilters 9:30 AM Steel Magnolias	<b>26</b> 8:30 AM Mass 1:00 PM Potters Clay 2:00 PM Prayer Shawl 4:00 PM Gr. 3-6 Religious Education 5:30 PM OLM Youth Open Gym 7:30 PM AA	<b>27</b> 8:30 AM Mass 1:00 PM Diamonds in the Rough	<b>28</b> 8:30 AM Mass 9:00 AM Angels in Training 9:00 AM Painting Class 1:00 PM Legion of Mary 6:00 PM Prayer Shawl	<b>29</b> 8:30 AM Mass	<b>30</b> First Eucharist Practice 10:00 AM AA 4:30 PM Sacrament of Penance 6:00 PM First Eucharist Mass

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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.