

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*

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



APRIL 3, 2022 - THE 5TH SUNDAY OF LENT

THE WEEK AHEAD

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

Mon. 04/04	9:00 a.m.	Quilters
	9:30 a.m.	Steel Magnolias SCC
	5:30 p.m.	Sisters of Scripture SCC
	6:30 p.m.	Fireside Chatters SCC
	7:00 p.m.	Sofia's Circle SCC
Tue. 04/05	1:00 p.m.	Potter's Clay SCC
	2:00 p.m.	Hallelujah Girls SCC
	2:00 p.m.	Prayer Shawl
	4:00 p.m.	Gr. 3-6 Religious Ed.
	6:30 p.m.	Roman Candles SCC
	7:00 p.m.	Pastoral Council
Wed. 04/06	1:00 p.m.	Diamonds in the Rough
	1:00 p.m.	Legion of Mary
	7:00 p.m.	Lenten Penance Service
Thur. 04/07	9:00 a.m.	Painting Class
	6:00 p.m.	Prayer Shawl
Fri. 04/08	7:00 p.m.	Stations of the Cross
Sat. 04/09	9:00 a.m.	Knights of Columbus
	4:30 p.m.	Sacrament of Penance
Sun. 04/10		PALM SUNDAY
	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 27, 2022

Envelopes sent:	357	
Envelopes returned:	51	\$ 3,195.00
Faith Direct Deposits:	138	\$ 3,602.58
Loose Change:		\$ 65.00
TOTAL OFFERTORY:		\$ 6,862.58

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Mon. 04/04	Dn 13:1-9, 15-62	/ Jn 8:21-30
Tue. 04/05	Nm 21:4-9	/ Jn 8:21-30
Wed. 04/06	Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95	/ Jn 8:31-42
Thur. 04/07	Gn 17:3-9	/ Jn 8:51-59
Fri. 04/08	Jer 20:10-13	/ Jn 10:31-42
Sat. 04/09	Ez 37:21-28	/ Jn 11:45-56
Sun. 04/10	Lk 19:28-40	/ Is 50:4-7
	Phil 2:6-11	/ Lk 22:14-23:56

SAVE THE DATE

Our Lady of Mercy has a reason to celebrate. Someone we love is turning 80 before the month ends. And we want to make his birthday as joyful as possible. Mark your calendar for Saturday evening, May 7. Join us for the 6:00 Mass followed by a birthday reception for Fr. Ritchie in Sperry Hall. Bring a finger food to share. All are welcome.

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon. 04/04	8:30 a.m.	Martin Carroll
Tue. 04/05	8:30 a.m.	Our Lady's Intentions (Todd Beckes)
Wed. 04/06	8:30 a.m.	Irene Abbate (Jim & Sue Sokolowski)
Thur. 04/07	8:30 a.m.	Dr. Loren Prichard (Linda & Fred Koller)
Fri. 04/08	8:30 a.m.	Rich DiPlacido (Robert & Nancy Nietupski)
Sat. 04/09	6:00 p.m.	Anniversary of the Dedication of OLM
Sun. 04/10	8:30 a.m.	Louis DeLuca (Rose Marie DeLuca)
	11:00 a.m.	For the People of OLM

THIS SUNDAY'S REFLECTION



JOHN 8:1-11

"Neither do I condemn you.

Go, and from now on do not sin any more."

The scribes and Pharisees brought the woman to Jesus, not because they cared about her, but to use her to trap him. This annoyed Jesus. How about the way we use and treat the people around us? Would this annoy Jesus and would he bend down and doodle in the sand?

We can use the remaining time of this Lenten season to ask for redemption and to ask God for a second chance. God is all about giving second chances.

The words that Jesus spoke to the woman are the same words that he speaks to us every time we participate in the sacrament of Reconciliation. We do not know if the woman went and did as Jesus said. How about us? Do we truly resolve when we leave the confessional and go and sin no more?

We are approaching Palm Sunday, so now is the time to ask ourselves, "What must we do no more" if our goal is to become more like Christ? What change is needed? What forgiveness is desired?

Reflection: What may be standing in the way between us and Jesus during this Lent?

Larry Lipsmeyer

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.



Pilgrimage Through the Symbols of Holy Week

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 at the home of Donna Huff to discuss The Elephant Whisperer by Lawrence Anthony. Our May title will be Then She Was Gone by Lisa Jewell.



Sundae Sunday

Let's celebrate! God's blessings are beyond compare. Easter joy will fill our hearts. Our young people have spent a year of fun and faith growing as the disciples of Jesus. Join us for a celebration of God's amazing gifts on Sunday, April 24 at noon in Sperry Hall with a sundae bar and cake walk. We are looking for people to donate cakes for the cake walk. If you are willing to bake, please sign the list in the Gathering Space or email ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org.



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 eriecursillo.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 22 was Mila Burick, grade 2, who knew that our sins are forgiven in the Sacrament of Penance.

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.



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.



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.



Celebrating the 75th Anniversary of Our Lady of Mercy Parish

During the summer of 1995, the Building Committee was formed. The committee held its first meeting on September 19, 1995. Members present were Brenda Bemiss, Cookie Brumbaugh, Jim Bucklin, Barb Jacquel, Ray Johnson, Gary Lacy, Andy Martin, Sr. Rosemary O'Brien, Tom Palisin, Dave Parmenter, Fr. Ritchie, Cheri Ruminski, Bill Spring, Joe Tarquinio and Ed Welch.



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**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. 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.

**Our Lady of Mercy
Lenten Penance Service**

**Wednesday, April 6th
7:00 p.m.**



**Pilgrimage Through
Holy Week**



**Wednesday, April 13th
7:00 p.m.**

**Triduum at
Our Lady of Mercy**

**HOLY THURSDAY
April 14**

7:00 p.m.
**LITURGY OF THE LORD'S
SUPPER**

**GOOD FRIDAY
April 15**

1:00 p.m.
**OUTDOOR STATIONS OF
THE CROSS**

3:00 p.m.
**LITURGY OF THE LORD'S
PASSION**

**HOLY SATURDAY
April 16**

11:30 a.m.
**BLESSING OF EASTER
FOOD**

**THE GREAT EASTER
VIGIL**

Saturday, April 16
9:00 p.m.

**EASTER SUNDAY
April 17**

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

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 Abuse Prevention Month

**Reporting known or
suspected child abuse**



It is every adult's moral responsibility to report known or suspected abuse or neglect of a minor to the responsible authorities. Sexual abuse of minors is a pervasive societal problem, and only concerted and sustained efforts by all adults in every segment of society can help to protect children and youth. In the 2020 Pennsylvania state report there were 4,941 substantiated reports of child abuse in Pennsylvania. 1,932 or 39% of the substantiated reports were for sexual abuse, 1,384 were physical abuse. To report suspected abuse of a minor, call Childline at 1-800-932-0323 (anytime 24/7). For particular questions on reporting abuse, 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.



SUNDAE SUNDAY

Sunday, April 24

12:00 p.m.

in Sperry Hall

All Welcome!

**Celebrate the Easter Season
Make-Your-Own Sundae Bar
& a Cake Walk**

Please tell us if you can bake & donate a cake for the Cake Walk. You can email ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org or add your name to the list in the Gathering Space.

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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.