



FOR MERCY'S SAKE

the quarterly newsletter of Our Lady of Mercy Church

837 Bartlett Road Harborcreek, PA 16421 • 814-899-5342 • www.ourladyofmercychurch.org



February 2022



We keep Lent **together** as one parish family.
We put aside our business-as-usual to support each other

In prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

We turn to God to **enlighten** us and **purify** us throughout the lengthening brightness of this holy season.

HIGHLIGHTS OF OUR LITURGIES AND EVENTS

ASH WEDNESDAY

Wednesday, March 2

8:30 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.

Mass with Distribution of Ashes

PARISH MISSION

March 13 - 15

7:00 p.m.

See Page 5 & 6

LENTEN PASTUS

Wednesdays of Lent

March 9, 23, 30

7:00 p.m.—Presentation

HOLY WEEK

Holy Thursday to Easter Sunday

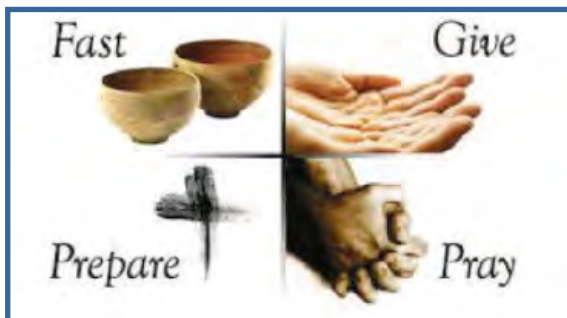
April 14 to 17

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LENTEN PRACTICES 2022

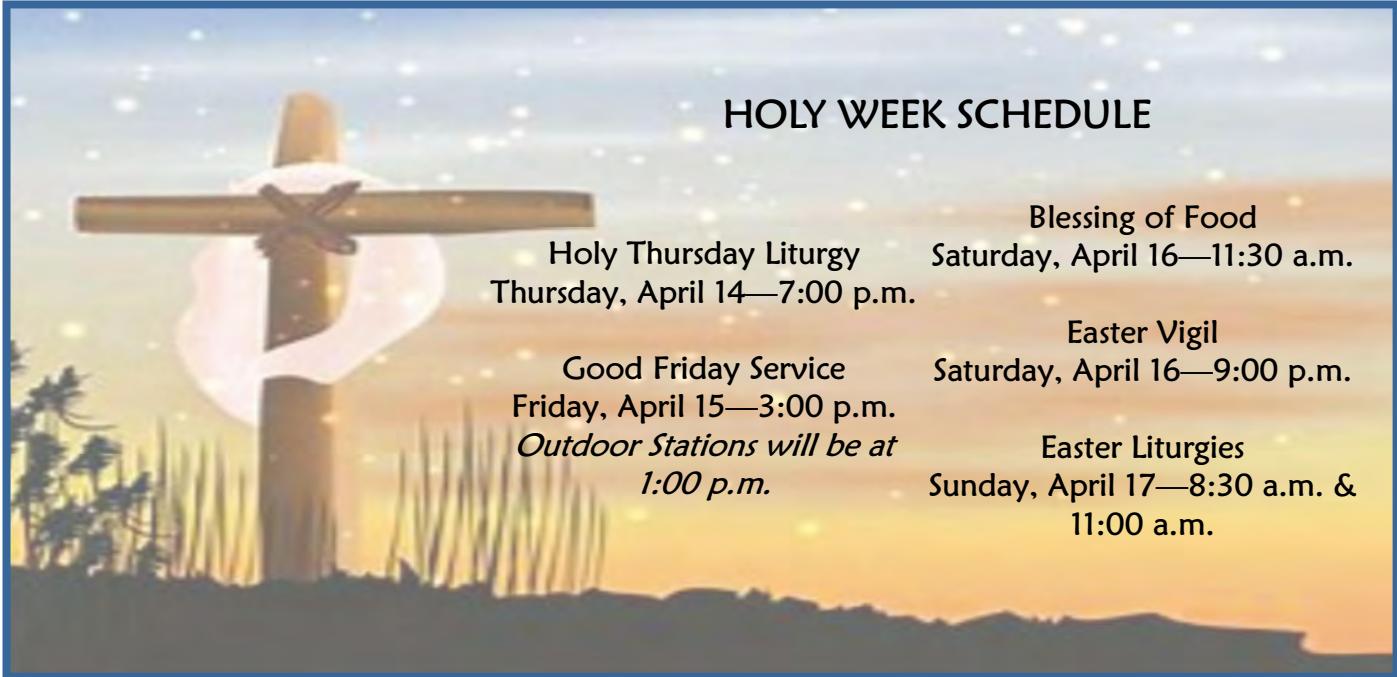


The season of Lent begins this year on Ash Wednesday, March 2, 2022 and concludes when the Paschal Triduum of the Passion, Death, and Resurrection of the Lord begins at the start of the evening Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday evening, April 14, 2022.

The following practices and regulations are promulgated and binding for all Latin Rite Catholics in the Diocese of Erie for Lent and the Paschal Triduum, 2022.

1. Traditional Lenten practices of PRAYER, FASTING, and ALMSGIVING and other forms of self-denial are recommended most warmly by the Church. Daily Mass is particularly encouraged.
2. ASH WEDNESDAY, ALL FRIDAYS IN LENT, and GOOD FRIDAY are days of abstinence from meat for those 14 years of age and older. In 2022, the Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord (March 25) falls on a Friday of Lent. Thus, abstinence from meat is not mandatory on Friday, March 25, 2022.
3. ASH WEDNESDAY AND GOOD FRIDAY are also days of fasting for those ages 18 to 58 inclusive. *On these days, those bound by the law of fasting may take one full meal. Two smaller meals, sufficient to maintain strength according to one's needs, are also permitted. Eating between meals is not permitted, but liquids including milk and fruit juices are allowed. When health or work is seriously affected, the law does not oblige.*

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE



Holy Thursday Liturgy
Thursday, April 14—7:00 p.m.

Good Friday Service
Friday, April 15—3:00 p.m.
*Outdoor Stations will be at
1:00 p.m.*

Blessing of Food
Saturday, April 16—11:30 a.m.

Easter Vigil
Saturday, April 16—9:00 p.m.

Easter Liturgies
Sunday, April 17—8:30 a.m. &
11:00 a.m.

Lenten Pastus Series

The holy season of Lent calls each of us to renewal. During these 40 days, we are challenged to deepen our understanding of the faith, strengthen our commitment to the work of the Gospel and grow in our love of God by increasing our life of prayer. Whether or not COVID will allow us to share our traditional soup supper has not been determined as this article is being submitted in mid-January for inclusion in this newsletter. Therefor the Pastus evening schedule is not included.

Pastus Events

All events begin at 7:00 p.m.

March 9—Kellysbrother

Regifting the Gifts We've Been Given

Kellysbrother will offer a glimpse into the hidden world of simplicity and joy that has been revealed to them through their sister with special needs - Kelly Mae. Speaking through true stories and revelations they have personally experienced, they look forward to sharing through their original music a testimony of love. How, through love, we learn to abandon our predetermined notions of "what is" to make room for "what can be" when we learn to become present to one another and allow ourselves to see God in everyone and everything we encounter.

Kellysbrother - Charlie Krugger and Brittany Barko Krugger, songwriters/singers/multi-instrumentalists, are young adults native to Erie who identify as spiritual seekers of truth and the common good.

March 23—Sr. Allison Regina Gliot

Would Jesus Use Facebook?

Our world is saturated by media--from TV and film, to video games and music, to social media and streaming services. Learn how the media we use every day can help us become boldly creative disciples of Christ.

Sr. Allison Regina Gliot is a Daughter of St. Paul, an international congregation of women religious whose mission is to share the Gospel through all forms of media. She has a degree in Theology and Religious Studies from the Catholic University of America and currently lives at the motherhouse in Boston, MA.

March 30—Tiggy McLaughlin

The Cross and the Word-made-flesh: the Human Christ in Early Medieval Preaching

This talk explores the way Christ's human birth, suffering, and death were presented to ordinary people through preaching during the era of intense controversy over the Incarnation, the doctrine that Christ is the Word of God made flesh. In a time before crucifixes, Christ's suffering was not taken for granted, yet the importance of the cross as a symbol for worshippers in this period shows just how central his suffering was, and the need for contemporary preachers to properly explain it.

Tiggy McLaughlin has a PhD in History from the University of Michigan and currently teaches in the History and Theology Departments at Gannon University, where she teaches introductory courses as well as upper-level courses on the History of Witchcraft and Ancient Christianity. She is currently working on a book that examines the role ordinary peoples' associations with flesh played in Christological developments in sixth-century Gaul.

Pilgrimage Through Holy Week

April 13 @ 7:00 PM



Pack your bag. Leave your cell phone and day planner behind.
Come and join us for a pilgrimage through Holy Week.

PARENT BAPTISMAL PREPARATION SESSION



Are you expecting to welcome a baby into your family? Was your home recently blessed with the birth of a child? Would you like to bring this child into the faith family of the Church? Would you like to celebrate the Sacrament of Baptism with your child?

The next Parent Baptismal Preparation Session will be held on March 27 @ noon here at Our Lady of Mercy.

Since babies are unable to prepare for this Sacrament, can not make their commitment to the faith, parents who desire the baptism of a child are asked to prepare as they bring their child to the font. It is a policy of the Diocese

of Erie that a parent seeking Baptism for a child must attend a Parent Baptismal Prep Session within two years of celebrating the Sacrament. Parents may attend a session at any Catholic parish. Our Lady of Mercy holds these sessions semi-annually. The next session will be held in the fall. Families are asked to register prior to attending so that ample materials will be available. To register, call the parish office at 814-899-5342. Godparents are highly encouraged to participate alongside the parents in these sessions. Questions about baptizing your child? Call the parish or see the FAQ page at the parish website.



Paulist Fr. James DiLuzio
@ Our Lady of Mercy



For LENT

**A dramatic proclamation of the
Gospel of Luke with preaching & sacred
and secular songs as meditations.**

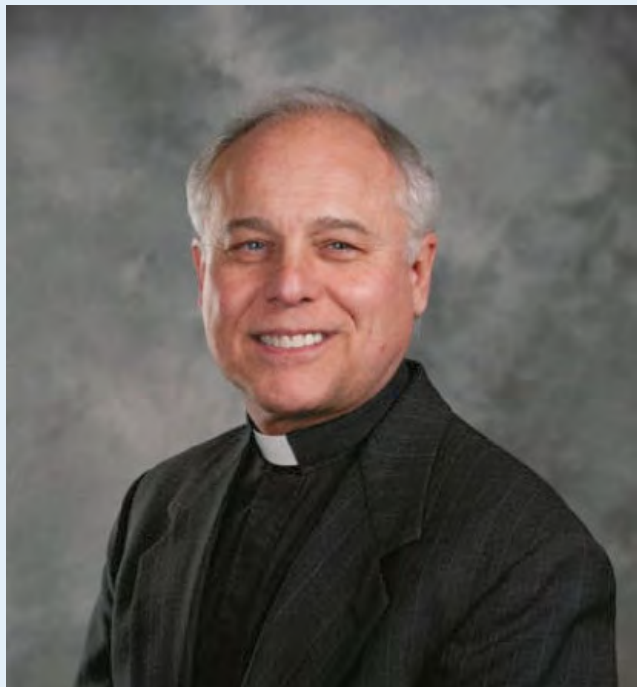
**Our Lady of Mercy
837 Bartlett Road
Harborcreek, PA 16421
814-899-5342**

*Morning Sessions after
the 8:30 Mass from
9 to 10 AM
Monday through
Wednesday
March 14th to 16th*

**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 PM to 8:30 PM in the church**

Father James DiLuzio, C.S.P.



Father James DiLuzio is an ordained Roman Catholic priest, fully professed member of the Missionary Society of Saint Paul the Apostle since 1993. He has served as an associate pastor in parishes in Los Angeles, and Minneapolis-Saint Paul. Since 2004 he has worked primarily as a Paulist Missionary, visiting Catholic parishes in the USA- some in sister relationships with local Episcopal and Methodist churches -a week at a time, offering missions and retreats on a variety of topics: The Gospel of Luke (www.LukeLive.com), Resurrection Faith (and What It Means to Us on a Daily Basis), and The Story of Saint Paul the Apostle (See <http://www.lukelive.com/additional-offeringsmission-topics/#resurrection>).

Throughout his missionary years, Fr. DiLuzio has painstakingly infused all his presentations with the Paulist Fathers' charism of respect for peoples of all faith traditions (and those with a secular outlook) in this great American experiment. With religious pluralism present among family members, friends, and co-workers in this 21st century, he continually encourages his retreat recipients to engage in interreligious dialogue, offering tools for respectful listening and appreciation of similarities and differences. He is currently a member of the Board for Religions for Peace, USA <https://rfpusa.org> and a member of CADEIO -- Catholic Association of Diocesan Ecumenical and Interreligious Officers.

<https://cadeio.org/blog/the-association/>

Before his ordination in 1993, Fr. DiLuzio earned a B.A in English and Education from Montclair State University, New Jersey, an M.A. in Drama from the University of Southern California, followed by several years working as a teacher, actor, and director. As a Paulist, he completed a Master of Divinity at Catholic University, Washington DC. In 1992 and subsequently served a year as a Deacon at Old Saint Mary's Church in San Francisco, CA.

RCIA Invitation

Would you like to learn more about the Catholic faith? Are you attracted to the life of Jesus Christ and the thought of being one of his disciples? Would you like to be baptized into the Christian family?

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) would like to invite you to consider the richly challenging and profoundly rewarding life of Catholic Christianity. The RCIA is a year-long (or longer) process of prayer and study, of community ritual and personal reflection, of parish life and scriptural study designed to enable individuals to hear, understand and respond to the internal promptings drawing them to Christ and the Catholic Church.

If you would like more information about the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, for yourself or for someone you know, you may call Irene Lucas at 814-899-6132 or email ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org to schedule an individual meeting.

Come and journey with us. Our destination is out of this world! Asking your questions, starting the conversation, stepping onto the path does not obligate you. So, come and learn more.



Searching for the Mystic in Me

A Reflection By Donna Clark



I thought we would be back to normal by now; pandemic over, safe to travel, sitting close to people. Now in this second year of caution, masking, distancing, and upheaval - I realize there is probably no going "back to normal" but only going to "the New Different."

It is natural to look at things in terms of what I have lost in my ministry and personal life. Yet this particular line of sight only brought discouragement and depression.

Mystics seem to have a different way of viewing life experiences. Julian of Norwich gave us the saying: *"And all shall be well. And all shall be well. And all manner of things shall be exceedingly well."* (*Revelations of Divine Love*)

I started looking at this life experience through the wisdom of what I have gained. Not the confusion and fear of an unknown future but what I have learned about myself. Not a loss of hope but the deepening of my relationship with God.

I have spent the time from reduced activity to pursue creativity; cooking with natural ingredients, pulling out the recipe for "doorstop bread," researching the healing properties of herbs, experimenting with new scents for handmade soap, spending more time in prayer, and reading spiritual books. These last two summers have yielded a bountiful harvest from the most weed-free garden we have ever had.

The feeling of loss gave way to a sense of "being available for whatever was needed in the moment." Realizing again the gift of walking with someone on their faith journey; providing spiritual direction for people seeking a fuller sense of God in their life. Although I did not seek to learn about my shortcomings, I had opportunities to learn again that I do not control others, but I can control what I say, think and do.

I found myself asking; Am I moving toward love and compassion through my thoughts, words, and actions in this moment or am I moving away from love, away from God? And I learned that I can change my thoughts, words or actions in the next moment.

My human instinct wants to know now that my future is secure, but I cannot see into the future to find that kind of security. In these last two years, there have been moments that I experienced, at least for an instant, the fullness of God and know all will be well, even though I cannot know all the details. Then the instant passes. The mystic in me is learning how to live from instant to instant.



RICH DIPLACIDO & LOREN PRICHARD

We have been saddened by the passing of two active Brother Knights, Rich DiPlacido and Loren Prichard and offer our sympathy to their families and all who will miss them. Loren was a founding-member of the council and Rich became a member shortly after.

DEGREES

Degrees for Knights were held as part of our January meeting. Please welcome two new Knights, Jim Felice and Jon Still, and congratulate Craig Fournier and Brian Meyer who made their third degree. Two others were unable to attend due to illness. Our council continues to grow and currently has 85 members. Contact an officer or any member if you or someone you know may be interested in becoming a Knight. Officers are: Dave Lefaiver (Grand Knight), Tom Palisin (Deputy Grand Knight), Gus Manna (Treasurer), John Skuce (Secretary) and Dan Szczesny (Financial Secretary).

PA STATE DEPUTY'S VISIT

State Deputy Ken Grugel, the highest-ranking Knights of Columbus officer in Pennsylvania accepted an invitation to attend and participate in our December council meeting. Knights from Sts. Gregory and Mark joined us for this noteworthy event. Food and refreshments were served.

ANNUAL GOLF & SPORTS RAFFLE

Committee meetings have begun but there is uncertainty as to whether or not the event will be held. A decision will be made soon.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Begin thinking about scholarships and encouraging a graduating high school senior of our parish to apply. In a couple of months forms will be available in the office or on the website. Watch the bulletin for details. Normally, scholarships are funded from our annual Golf and Sports Raffle, but since the one for this year is questionable, we may have to use money from our reserves for the

third year in a row to continue this important program.

SPAGHETTI DINNER FUNDRAISER

Knights will assist with and support the fundraiser for the Religious Education Ministry on February 6.

CHARITY – YOUR KNIGHTS IN ACTION

At the time of Thanksgiving and Christmas, we were called to be generous and donated to the Harborcreek Food Pantry and a special family of the parish.

Also, due to the recent tornado destruction in the South, the Kentucky Knights of Columbus State Council coordinated fundraising for The Kentucky Tornado Relief Fund to which Our Lady of Mercy Council generously donated \$1,640 - \$250 by the council and \$1,390 by individual Knights.

An i-Camera was purchased and donated to Harborcreek Township for use at public events.

PRO-LIFE

The recent *Pennsylvania March for Life* was a huge success with over 6,000 attendees; Knights and families were there in number. With the possibility of legal abortion ending (repeal of Roe v Wade), there is great interest and activity in the area of pro-life.

Our council, along with St. Gregory's and others continue the relationship with local and surrounding Women Care Centers and providing them with new ultrasound machines. The value of the ultrasound is that many women choose life when they are able to see their baby moving. In keeping with that, they have a need for a portable unit which could be taken to various locations – one being a college. Since the cost is approximately \$250,000, thirty councils will raise funds in many ways for this all-encompassing project.

Please participate in Pro-Life activities whenever able.



Catholic Services Appeal 2022

As you know, the Catholic Services Appeal is the annual fundraising campaign of the Diocese of Erie to support the work of the church, especially in the midst of this pandemic.

As an individual parish, we are called upon to join with our Catholic community throughout northwest Pennsylvania to BUILD UP THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH. Only through your support can our Diocese continue it's mission to evangelize, educate and serve our brothers and sisters in the 13 counties of the Diocese. Our Catholic Services Appeal Assessment for 2022 is \$69,159.00.

Additionally, we hope to exceed our parish goal and have funds left over to begin our Parish Visioning Process, replace the parking lot entrances, keep up with major maintenance and repairs, along with

things that show up everyday.

Funds donated to the CSA are placed in a designated account and used solely to support the programs and ministries of the diocese and cannot be used for any other purpose.

Commitment Sunday is February 27th. Due to the Pandemic, forms will be available in the Gathering Space after Mass and we will contact you through the mail, asking you to return your form to the parish office.

I encourage you to support the Catholic Services Appeal, because the Church Needs You to respond to Jesus' call to serve people in need.

Thank you,
Fr. Ritchie

Memorial Made for New Parish Laptop

Jane & Don Mallin and Mandy & Bobby Neil made a donation in honor of a beloved nephew and God Father: Thomas E Piskorski. Their donation allowed us to purchase a new laptop for the parish. Our Thanks and prayers go to the Mallin and Neil Families.



SMALL CHRISTIAN COMMUNITIES

Treat yourself this Lent by joining a Small Christian Community here at OLM! We have 10 small faith sharing groups that gather between 2 and 4 times per month, on different days and at various times. We read scripture and discuss how we can put the gospel message to work in our daily lives. Why not take a step

forward by joining a small faith sharing community? Just give it a try, no need to commit to anything long term, no guilt. It's an opportunity to spend time with other Christians as we spiritually support each other through prayer, sharing, learning, listening and outreach. Interested?

Call the parish office or Shari at 720-4659.



In the Spirit of Fr. Sperry

John Abbate turned in a 2003 St. Joseph Home newsletter which contained an uplifting story written by Fr. James E. Sperry, reprinted here without the original photo. Fr. Sperry served as pastor of Our Lady of Mercy from 1961 to 1990.

My Famous, and Infamous, Chevy

You had to be at the Home in the 1940's to have encountered my infamous Chevy. When I was ordained, I couldn't afford a new car but a couple of years later I picked up this vintage Chevrolet (Class of '34) that you can see in the accompanying picture. (*Substituted picture. The original picture had a young man in a navy uniform standing next to it.*) It's at rest there with my cousin aboard. But that's the rub! It rested better than it ran! I presume we used it to get to games, but it was always precarious! I am sure a good many of you took your turn at pushing - perhaps to get it started or to the curb, in the midst of traffic. It was just a lousy car!

Still, like the donkey on Palm Sunday, it had its day! I really believe this little old Chevy belongs in the Guinness Book of Records. Can you believe that it once held 17 passengers? Look again at the picture. Impossible? I don't think my memory fails me. It was a day for the beach and apparently the bus was unavailable, so the Chevy became our "bus". We stashed five in the trunk, seven in the back seat, and five in the front. We got to the beach



1934 Chevrolet Example

Source: classics.autotrader.com

alright but coming back - with the hill ahead of us - the car simply said "NO." Doors opened and the 16 got out. Alone in the car, I and the Chevy climbed the hill, I presume, as much by manpower as by horsepower. Doors opened, all climbed in, and we continued our journey home without further complication.

But my Chevy returned to its infamous ways. One day, late in '48, it conked out on me on the way home from school. I pulled to the curb by the Erie Day School, walked home, called a garage to pick it up, and never saw my famous, infamous Chevy again. Still, I suppose it had one advantage over my finicky Fraser and cranky Kaiser - it was easy to push!

Fr. Jim Sperry

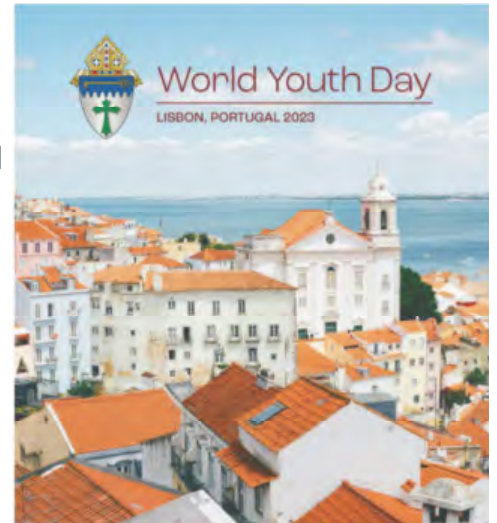
World Youth Day - Lisbon, Portugal

July 29-August 7, 2023

There's simply nothing like World Youth Day. WYD is a chance to enliven your faith, but it goes beyond being just a spiritual experience - from meeting new people, to shows, music, food and so much more! There is even a night where you are invited to sleep out under the stars. It will catapult you into the larger story of God and what He's doing all over the world as you celebrate your faith alongside millions of other Catholic young people representing nearly 150 countries.

You have the chance to journey to the beautiful coastal city of Lisbon, Portugal with the Diocese of Erie for World Youth Day 2023! For itinerary, pricing, and registration details, visit:

versoministries.com/erie



Our Lady of Mercy will hold 3 in-person information sessions:
Saturday, February 26th @ 7 p.m. in the Conference Room
Sunday, February 27th @ 9:30 a.m. in the Conference Room
Sunday, February 27th @ 12:00 p.m. in Sperry Hall

There is also the chance to meet via Zoom on:
Wednesday, February 23rd @ 6:00 p.m.

Please email youthminister@ourladyofmercychurch.org for the meeting link.

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 Katie Stephenson
814-899-5342
youthminister@ourladyofmercychurch.org

TICKETS NOW AVAILABLE IN THE PARISH OFFICE!