

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.

Holy Day of Obligation: 8:30 a.m. & 7:00 p.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*

Marsha MacKinnon McKinley, *Admin. Assistant*

Geri Hadlock, *Youth Minister*

Kirk Mientkiewicz, *Maintenance Coordinator*

Andrea Maille, *Lifelong Faith Formation Secretary*

CONTACT INFORMATION

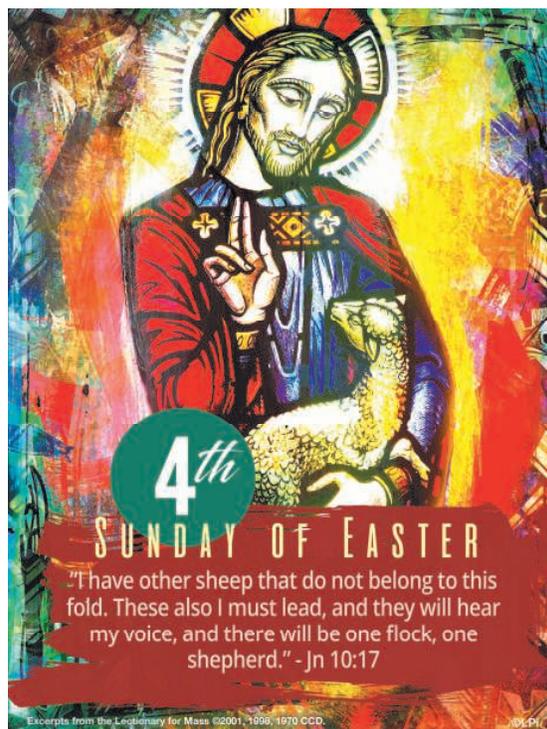
Parish Office: 814-899-5342

Office of Lifelong Faith Formation: 814-899-6132

Fax: 814-898-3306

Email: info@ourladyofmercychurch.org

April 22, 2018



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.

THE WEEK AHEAD

For a complete calendar of events, please visit

ourladyofmercychurch.org/calendar

Mon. 04/23	6:30 p.m.	Isaiah's Community (SCC)
Tue. 04/24	9:30 a.m.	Steel Magnolias (SCC)
	2:00 p.m.	Prayer Shawl
	4:00 p.m.	Rel Ed Gr 3-6
	5:30 p.m.	Children's Choir Rehearsal
Wed. 04/25	1:00 p.m.	Diamonds in the Rough (SCC)
	7:00 p.m.	Fruit of the Vine (SCC)
Thur. 04/26	9:00 a.m.	Painting Class
	2:00 p.m.	Contemplative Prayer
	6:00 p.m.	Discover Your Strengths Workshop
	6:00 p.m.	Prayer Shawl
	6:45 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Fri. 04/27	1:30 p.m.	Legion of Mary
Sat. 04/28	Knights of Columbus Ticket Sales	
	8:45 a.m.	First Eucharist Retreat
	4:30 p.m.	Sacrament of Penance
Sun. 04/29	Knights of Columbus Ticket Sales	
	9:30 a.m.	Rel Ed Gr K-2
	12:00 p.m.	Gr 7 & 8 Youth Event
	12:00 p.m.	Sundae Sunday

Get Well Cards for Father Ritchie

Cards can be sent to Father Ritchie at: Father Ritchie, c/o Carole Regner, 2935 Fitzooth Drive, Winter Park, FL 32792-4507 or you can drop them off in the parish office or in the baskets on the bulletin tables.

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon. 04/23	8:30 a.m.	Mary Ann Spiegel (<i>Spiegel Family</i>)
Tue. 04/24	8:30 a.m.	Eleanor Boris (<i>Extein Family</i>)
Wed. 04/25	8:30 a.m.	Communion Service
Thur. 04/26	8:30 a.m.	Communion Service
Fri. 04/27	8:30 a.m.	
Sat. 04/28	8:30 a.m.	NO MASS / NO SERVICE
	6:00 p.m.	For The People of OLM
Sun. 04/29	8:30 a.m.	Diane Gerlach (<i>Frank Gerlach</i>)
	11:00 a.m.	Sal Frontino (<i>Dan & Kim Hemenger</i>)

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Mon. 04/23	Acts 11:1-18	/ John 10:1-10
Tue. 04/24	Acts 11:19-26	/ John 10:22-30
Wed. 04/25	1 Pt 5:5b-14	/ Mark 16:15-20
Thur. 04/26	Acts 13:13-25	/ John 13:16-20
Fri. 04/27	Acts 13:26-33	/ John 14:1-6
Sat. 04/28	Acts 13:44-52	/ John 14:7-14
Sun. 04/29	Acts 9:26-31 / 1 John 3:18-24 / John 15:1-8	



CHILD PROTECTION AND CREATING SAFE ENVIRONMENTS

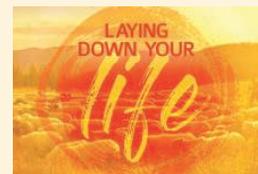
Child Abuse Prevention Month: What Happens When Abuse Is Reported?

People who hold positions of trust in Catholic institutions are mandated by Pennsylvania law to report child abuse. Teachers, teacher's aides, and counselors in our schools; therapists and social workers in our counseling agencies; clergy, parish employees, and volunteers in schools and parishes all have the obligation to report the reasonable suspicion of child abuse to ChildLine, the local police, or other appropriate agency. To see the specific reporting procedure for the Diocese and to see what the Diocese of Erie is doing to help create safe environments, check out <http://www.eriecd.org/protectyouth.htm>

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 899-6875
The **Hospital Visitors** for the week are Tom & Linda Bleil.

THIS SUNDAY'S REFLECTION



John 10:11-18

So much in the world around us cripples our faith; we have so much doubt about who or what can save us. Peter tells us that we are not saved by silver and gold but by Jesus Christ crucified and risen. John reminds us of the great privilege in being children of God through baptism. Yet we must continue to be transformed on our journey to God until we arrive at our destination.

Because Jesus knows God as a loving and merciful "Father," he can lead us on the path to God. Jesus compares himself to a "good shepherd" who freely gives his life for his flock. No one can be hired to care for them as Jesus does. He not only tends his own, but he also calls those who have not yet heard his voice. One day all of God's children will stand face to face in a world without boundaries. And we will be surprised to discover how much we resemble one another and our divine parent. On that day, we will dwell together as one flock, with one shepherd.

For Reflection: Have I shared my faith with those outside of my Christian community? Are they able to hear and see Christ in me?

© Kay Murdy

Social Justice Committee News

Care for God's Creation



Today is Earth Day! Pope Francis has much to say about the Earth in *Laudato Si* - "We are faced not with two separate crises, one environmental and the other social, but rather with one complex crisis which is both social and environmental. Strategies for a solution demand an integrated approach to combating poverty, restoring dignity to the excluded, and at the same time protecting nature." (#139) Our actions impact the most disenfranchised. We need to take meaningful action to protect nature, aid those most impacted by its destruction, and be courageous in changing our patterns of consumption. How can we help others achieve access to resources, while we reduce our use of them? What steps can you and your family take to improve the environment, besides reducing your use of plastic? Consider reducing your use of other resources, such as fossil fuels and water.

Free Online Correspondence Course

The Missouri Knights of Columbus and the Vincentian Community have developed a Catholic Home Study Service. The Catholic Home Study Service offers free correspondence courses on the Catholic Faith. A list of the courses may be found at [Catholic Home Study](#). When people enroll (either by mail or via the Internet), you will receive the requested book and workbook for the course. Call 573-547-4084 to order materials by phone. Students may give answers to the workbook questions over the Internet or by mail. When they finish a course, they receive a certificate of completion and may take other courses. This is a great way to learn more about your Catholic faith in the convenience of your own home, on your schedule!

Electronic Giving Available

Our Lady of Mercy uses **Faith Direct** to manage our electronic giving. Donations can be deducted from checking or savings accounts, or you may also use a credit card. Go to: www.ourladyofmercychurch.org and look for the Faith Direct icon on the left hand column.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Offertory for the weekend of **April 15, 2018**

Envelopes sent:	404	
Envelopes returned:	121	\$3,575.00
Faith Direct Deposits:	106	\$2,851.75
Loose Change:		\$174.00
TOTAL OFFERTORY:		\$6,600.75

Active Shooter Preparedness Training

If someone opened fire during Mass or a parish function, would you know what to do? In light of the shootings during Sunday worship or Bible Studies in recent years, this is not an irrelevant question. **On Monday, April 30 at 7:00 p.m. at OLM**, Tom Wager, retired police officer, will provide "Active Shooter Preparedness Training" and "Stop the Bleed" for area churches. All parish members are encouraged to attend. There is no cost.

Children's Liturgy of the Word

The Children's Liturgy of the Word Ministry is in need of volunteer leaders. If you enjoy working with young children but do not have the time to commit to a weekly RE class, this ministry may be perfect for you. CLW Leaders conduct the Liturgy of the Word on a child's level: reading the Sunday Scriptures, assisting the children to understand their meaning, leading the young people in a Child's Creed and Prayers of the Faithful. Children's Liturgy of the Word takes place during the 11:00 Sunday Mass. CLW leaders **MUST** have required clearances. Training is provided. If you can help, contact Irene at 899-6132 or ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org.

Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults

Are you interested in learning more about the Catholic faith? Are you considering the possibility of joining the Catholic Church? Inquiry Sessions are now beginning. They are scheduled around the availability of the participants. For more information, call Irene Lucas at 899-6132.

The Question-Of-The-Week Contest Winner

The winner for the week of **April 9** was **Anthony Kohut, Grade 4**, who knew that when the Risen Christ appeared to the Apostles, he gave them the gift of the Holy Spirit and the ability to forgive sins (the Sacrament of Reconciliation).

Sundae Sunday

We will celebrate the end of winter and the blessings of the year of religious education with an ice cream social and cake walk on **Sunday, April 29 at noon**. **The entire parish is invited to this celebration, whether or not your family is involved in religious education**. We will need donations of cakes for our cake walk. Beginning April 8, there will be a sign-up list in the Gathering Space for those willing to bake a cake for this event.

For Mercy Sake Deadline

The deadline to submit items for our May issue of *For Mercy's Sake* is **TODAY, Sunday, April 22**. Items can be submitted to ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org or brought to the office.

Ink Jet Fundraiser

Please donate used black or color ink jet cartridges to the Religious Education ministry. Your donation of used printer cartridges helps to support our ministry to the children of the parish. Previously refilled and remanufactured cartridges can not be redeemed, nor can laser toner cartridges.

Find Out How God has Gifted You

Sign up for the "Discover your Strengths" workshop on Thursday, April 26 at 6:00pm. Pick up a Strengthsfinder book before the workshop and take the online survey. Bring the report of your top five strengths to the workshop. Questions contact Peggy Williams Donna Clark.

Transitions: For those Separated, Divorced & Widowed

Transitions, a monthly support group for Separated, Divorced and Widowed persons will meet on **Sunday, April 29, 2018 from 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.** at St. Mark Catholic Center, 429 E. Grandview Blvd. The program includes a short presentation, discussion, followed by refreshments. This month's topic is: "TRIGGERS: Turning Negative Memories into Positive Outcomes." For more information call (814) 824-1265 or email at: familylife@erieRCD.org. Visit us at: www.erieRCD.org/transitions.htm

Journeying through Grief

There is no "accepted grief period," after which we no longer grieve for the person who has died. In one sense there is no "getting over" someone we love. We simply learn to live with the loss. Our Lady of Mercy has a monthly support group on the third Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. Join us for prayer and support. Our Lady of Mercy also has a one-on-one grief ministry. Contact Donna Clark. The next session is **Monday, May 16 at 7:00 p.m. in the Parlor at OLM.**

Public Welcome to Healing Mass

The Son of God Prayer Group in Erie invites everyone to a healing Mass on **Tuesday, May 8 at 6:30 p.m. at Holy Rosary Church**, 2701 East Ave., Erie, with Father Richard Toohey, Father Kyle Seyler and Deacon Jerry Peterson. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. to provide time to write petitions on a simulated brick wall, which will be presented at the offertory procession. For more information, call Pat at 814-823-3968.

Parents of Toddlers or Nursing Babies

We always love to have children in church but sometimes an energetic toddler needs to move around. We have the Gathering Space or there's the Nursery which has closed circuit TV so you can still see and hear Mass. The Nursery is available for all Masses and is located in the school classroom area. The 11:00 a.m. Mass has a schedule of parents who take turns in the Nursery so other parents can be spiritually renewed at Mass without having to worry about their children. For more information, see Donna Clark or Peggy Williams.

Do you Shop at Gordon Food Service?

Please mention Our Lady of Mercy when you check out. We accumulate points and then our Funeral Meal Ministry can use these points to purchase food.

Smile for Our Lady of Mercy

To link to our Amazon Smile charity listing visit: <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/25-1563277>. If you shop Amazon please consider using Amazon Smile and naming "Our Lady of Mercy – Harborcreek" as your charity.

Knights of Columbus

25th Annual Golf & Sports Raffle

The Knights invite you to attend our 25th Annual Golf & Sports Raffle to be held on **May 11 from 6:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. at OLM.** Tickets will be on sale in the **Gathering Space after Masses on the weekends of April 22, 29 & May 6.** Tickets and posters will also be available in the parish office during the week. Our raffle has become the largest in the Erie area thanks to the support of our parishioners and our many ticket sellers. Proceeds from the raffle are used to support youth programs, to provide scholarships for high school seniors and to fund capital improvement projects for the parish. Please help the Knights help OLM.



Prayer and Potluck

On **Wednesday, May 2 at 6:00 p.m.**, the Small Christian Communities are hosting our annual **Prayer and Potluck.** All parishioners and Community members are welcome to attend! Please RSVP to the parish office by Monday, April 30. See you there!

Men's Night Out

Join us for Men's Night Out as U.S. Congressman Glenn 'GT' Thompson will be our featured speaker on **Friday, May 4 at 6:00 p.m. at Our Lady of Mercy Church.** Congressman Thompson is a strong voice for protecting the unborn and will be speaking on the status of pro-life legislation in Washington D.C. and other issues important to Pennsylvania's 5th Congressional District. Food and refreshments will be provided. Free will offering accepted. Event sponsored by the Knights of Columbus/ Our Lady of Mercy.

OLM Book Group

The days are getting longer. Time to come out of hibernation. Why not spend an evening around great book talk with a glass of wine. Whether you are interested in joining a book group or just want to talk about one particular title, the door is open to you. On **Wednesday, May 16 at 7:00 p.m.**, we will discuss Before We Were Yours by Lisa Wingate.

SAVE THE DATE: Cleveland Baseball Game

Our 2018 Baseball Excursion to Cleveland will be on **Sunday, August 5**, as the Indians take on the Los Angeles Angels. Details to follow.

Parish Quilt

If you have taken a blank quilt square for our parish quilt which hangs in the Worship Space, please bring your decorated square back so we can hang a new row of family names. Quilt squares are in the Gathering Space near Classroom #1.

Bus Trip to Lancaster, PA

St. Mark Church in Lawrence Park is hosting a **Bus Trip to Lancaster PA June 5-6, 2018.** The trip includes: round trip deluxe motor coach transportation, one night lodging, 3 meals (breakfast buffet, family style dinner, lunch) Reserved seating at Sight & Sounds Theatre's "JESUS." For more information or to reserve your seat please call Marion Armstrong at 897-7707.

Active Shooter
Preparedness

ACTIVE SHOOTER PREPAREDNESS TRAINING & STOP THE BLEED

Monday, April 30 @ 7:00 PM

Our Lady of Mercy

Presented by Tom Wager, Retired Law Enforcement

If someone opened fire during Mass or a parish function, would you know what to do? In light of the mass shootings at churches during Sunday worship and Bible Study in recent years, this is not an irrelevant question. The Harborcreek area churches are jointly sponsoring this program to inform parish members to help ensure the safest environment. We highly encourage all parish members to attend, especially anyone who might find themselves in a position of leadership.

The event is free and open to all.



**Wanted: Chinese Auction Items
& Theme Baskets**

**Please drop off your donations
by May 7th.**

The Knights of Columbus are planning a Chinese Auction and would like to have a variety of items and theme baskets for the May 11th Golf Raffle.

Could you donate a basket?

Do you belong to a ministry or small faith group who would donate a basket?

Do you have an item to donate?

Do you work at a business that you could ask for a donation?

Any help would be appreciated.

Questions? Please contact Kay Kaeberlein at 899-2770.

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