

# 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.

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*

Katie Stephenson, *Administrative Assistant*

Geri Hadlock, *Youth Minister*

Kirk Mientkiewicz, *Maintenance Coordinator*

Andrea Maille, *Lifelong Faith Formation Secretary*

## CONTACT INFORMATION

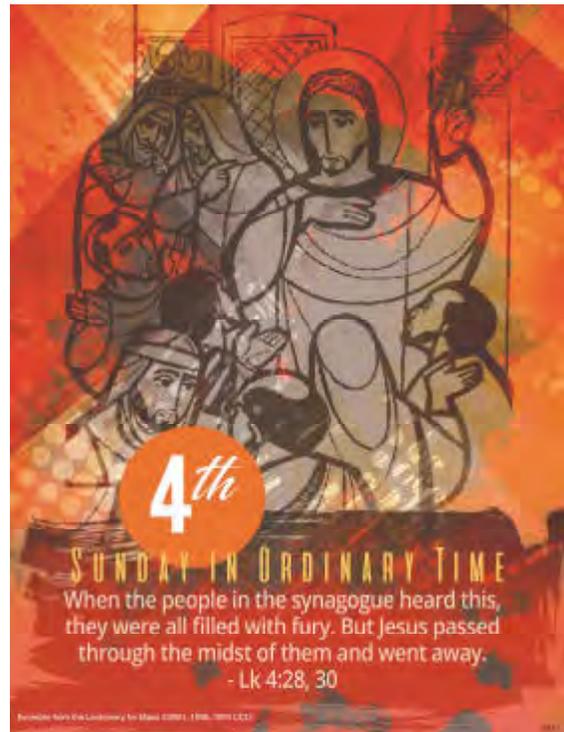
Parish Office: 814-899-5342

Office of Lifelong Faith Formation: 814-899-6132

Fax: 814-898-3306

Email: [info@ourladyofmercychurch.org](mailto:info@ourladyofmercychurch.org)

February 3, 2019



## 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](http://ourladyofmercychurch.org/calendar)

<b>Mon. 02/04</b>	6:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Young Adult Group Pastoral Facilitator Meeting
<b>Tue. 02/05</b>	9:30 a.m. 1:30 p.m. 2:00 p.m. 4:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m. 7:30 p.m.	Steel Magnolias Legion of Mary Prayer Shawl Religious Ed. Gr. 3-6 Pastoral Council AA Meeting
<b>Wed. 02/06</b>	1:00 p.m.	Diamonds in the Rough
<b>Thur. 02/07</b>	7:00 p.m. 9:00 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 6:00 p.m.	Q & A with the Pastor Painting Class Potter's Clay Prayer Shawl
<b>Fri. 02/08</b>		
<b>Sat. 02/09</b>	10:00 a.m. 4:30 p.m.	AA Meeting Sacrament of Penance
<b>Sun. 02/10</b>	9:30 a.m.  9:45 a.m. 12:00 p.m. 12:00 p.m.	Gr. K-2 Family Faith Event  Study on Prayer Religious Ed. Gr. 7&8 Parish Alive Team Meeting

## 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 Visitor** for the week is **Donna Smicker**.



*In Loving Memory*

*We remember Evelyn Seyboldt. Please keep her and her family in your prayers.*

**QUESTION OF THE WEEK WINNER**

The Question-of-the-Week Winner for the week of Jan. 27 was **Delaney Andrews, Gr. 3**, who knew that there are 7 Sacraments.

### MASS INTENTIONS

<b>Mon. 02/04</b>	8:30 a.m.	<b>Bill Morschhauser</b> <i>(The Patchwork of Friends)</i>
<b>Tue. 02/05</b>	8:30 a.m.	
<b>Wed. 02/06</b>	8:30 a.m.	<b>Chris Plonski</b> <i>(Barb Jones)</i>
<b>Thur. 02/07</b>	8:30 a.m.	
<b>Fri. 02/08</b>	8:30 a.m.	<b>Ann DiFillipo</b> <i>(The Extein Family)</i>
<b>Sat. 02/09</b>	8:30 a.m.	<b>Lewis Peters</b> <i>(Carole Peters)</i>
<b>Sun. 02/10</b>	6:00 p.m. 8:30 a.m.  11:00 a.m.	<b>For the People of OLM</b> <b>Denny Smith</b> <i>(Sister Kevin Berdis)</i> <b>Mabel Holodnak</b> <i>(Linda &amp; Gerald Johnson)</i>

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

<b>Mon. 02/04</b>	Heb 11:32-40	/ Mark 5:1-20
<b>Tue. 02/05</b>	Heb 12:1-4	/ Mark 5:21-43
<b>Wed. 02/06</b>	Heb 12:4-7, 11-15	/ Mark 6:1-6
<b>Thur. 02/07</b>	Heb 12:18-19, 21-24	/ Mark 6:7-13
<b>Fri. 02/08</b>	Heb 13:1-8	/ Mark 6:14-29
<b>Sat. 02/09</b>	Heb 13:15-17, 20-21	/ Mark 6:30-34
<b>Sun. 02/10</b>	Is 6:1-8 / 1 Cor 15:1-11 / Luke 5:1-11	

## THIS SUNDAY'S REFLECTION

**LUKE 4:21-30**



Jeremiah was called from his mother's womb to speak God's words. Like Jeremiah, Paul hoped and trusted in God from his youth. Though suffering awaited both Jeremiah and Paul, God strengthened them against all who opposed them.

When Jesus proclaimed God's mercy to the poor and outcast, some spoke favorably of him while others questioned his right to speak. Jesus reminded them that prophets were never accepted in their native place. When the people heard Jesus's words, they were indignant and tried to drive him away. Because they rejected God's word, Jesus turned to others who would hear and obey his voice.

Despite fear of rejection the church must fulfill its prophetic call. God's loving-kindness must be proclaimed by word and example no matter how imperfect the messenger may be.

**For Reflection:** Do I refuse to listen when God's word is announced by people I know? Who are the people in my community who most need God's prophetic word?

### FINANCIAL SUPPORT

*Offertory for the weekend of January 27, 2019*

Envelopes sent:	392	
Envelopes returned:	99	<b>\$3,937.00</b>
Faith Direct Deposits:	115	<b>\$3,022.00</b>
Loose Change:		<b>\$ 198.00</b>
<b>TOTAL OFFERTORY:</b>		<b>\$7,157.00</b>

## Question & Answer With the Pastor



On **Wednesday, Feb. 6 at 7:00 PM**, join Fr. Ritchie for a conversation about the Catholic faith focused on your questions. Bring a friend and enjoy this opportunity to ask or discuss what is on your mind regarding our faith. A glass

of wine and light snacks will be provided. Participants are welcome to bring a snack to share, but not required.

## Parish Alive

Make a New Year's resolution to ignite a deeper relationship with God or deepen your connection to the parish. Make a Parish Alive weekend **Feb. 15-16**. This retreat is open to all parish members over the age of 18. It begins with Friday evening supper and ends with Saturday evening Mass. The retreat is free, but registration by **Feb. 4** is required. To register, use the form in the November issue of For Mercy Sake or use the form at the parish website. For more information, contact **Irene Lucas at 899-6132** or [ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org](mailto:ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org).



## Parish Mardi Gras

Our annual parish Mardi Gras celebration will change things up this year. It will be held on **Saturday March 2 from 7:00-10:00 PM**. The night will include a Murder Mystery play, a homemade wine and beer taste-off, a taco bar, wine, beer and pop, and a reverse raffle for \$500. Admission tickets for \$10 include all of the above and will go on sale the weekend of Feb. 3. (You do not need to be present to win the raffle.) If you want to enter your wine or beer into the taste-off, please sign the easel in the Gathering Space. Wine/beer taste-off entries receive a free admission ticket.



## A Special Thank You...



Thank you to all the religious education youth and their families who recently donated to the overflow shelter. The shelter staff and clients are very grateful for the hats and gloves, the toothpaste and deodorant and all the supplies collected. The youth in grade 3 and grade 5 tied for the most items collected.

## Family Faith Event

Families with children in the Sunday morning religious education ministry are reminded that we have a Family Faith Event on **Sunday, Feb. 10**. This event, which runs during the regularly scheduled religious education time slot, is for the entire family. At least one parent or grandparent should accompany children to class that day. The event will be held in Sperry Hall from **9:30-10:45**.



## Who is Considered a "Young Adult"?

Ministry to Young Adults (21ish-39ish)

From the USCCB:

Young adults are persons in their twenties and thirties who represent diverse cultural, racial, ethnic, educational, vocational, social, political, and spiritual backgrounds. They are college students, workers, and professionals; they are persons in military service; they are single, married, divorced, or widowed; they are with or without children; they are newcomers in search of a better life.

The goals for ministry in the Erie Diocese to our young adults is multi-fold:

- To connect young adults with Jesus Christ through spiritual formation/direction, religious education/formation, and vocational discernment. To connect young adults to the Church through evangelizing outreach, formation of the faith community, and pastoral care.
- To connect young adults with the mission of the Church in the world through forming a Christian conscience, educating and developing leaders for the present and future.
- To connect young adults with a peer community through developing peer leadership and identifying a young adult team for the purpose of forming faith communities of peers.



## OLM Young Adult Small Faith Group



We will meet on the first Monday of the month at **6 pm** in the OLM Parlor beginning **February 4th**. The inaugural Small Faith Community just for young adults! We will meet once a month to pray with the upcoming Sunday's readings to learn, reflect, discuss, and build community. This group can evolve to whatever we want, so come with ideas, input, and an open mind. **Contact Katie Stephenson at [secretary@ourladyofmercychurch.org](mailto:secretary@ourladyofmercychurch.org) with questions.**

## Young adults welcomed to Theology on Tap

Young adults, ages 21 to mid-30s, are invited to attend a series of Theology on Tap events sponsored by the St. George Parish Catholic Young Adult Ministry. The remaining programs this winter will be held **Jan. 28, Feb. 11 and Feb. 25**, each evening from **5:30 to 7 p.m.** at Brewerie (Union Station) in Erie.



## OLM Book Group

The OLM Book Group will meet on **Wednesday, Feb. 20**, at 7:00 PM to discuss Doc by Mary Dorea Russell. Our March book will be Tattoos on the Heart by Fr. Greg Boyle.



## For Mercy Sake Mailing Party



We need help preparing the parish newsletter for the mail. If you can fold and stuff envelopes on Monday, Feb. 18 at 9:00 AM, please let **Irene Lucas** know by calling **899-6132** or send a message to [ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org](mailto:ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org)

## Story Time

Calling all preschoolers and their parents/grandparents! Enjoy a morning of music, games, activities and, of course, stories, on **Tuesday, Feb. 12 at 9:30**. All are invited; there is no lower age limit. The event is free and open to all.



## Hospital Visitation



If you know of a parishioner who is in the hospital, please **call the parish office** to let us know. We are unable to obtain accurate hospital reports because of the HIPPA laws.

## Ink Jet Fundraiser

Please donate used black or color ink jet cartridges to the Religious Education ministry. Previously refilled and remanufactured cartridges can not be redeemed, nor can laser toner cartridges.



## Parish Quilt



New parish families are encouraged to decorate a quilt square for our parish quilt that hangs on the back wall of the worship space. You may find a square in the basket on the table next to classroom #1. After you decorate your family square please return it to the parish office.

## Children's Worship Bulletins

Help the young child in your life to engage with the Sunday readings by using the Children's Worship Bulletins which can be found on the bulletin tables. Each weekly 4-page booklet has activities related to the Sunday readings designed for young children.



## Smile for Our Lady of Mercy



To link to our Amazon Smile charity listing visit: [http://smile.amazon.com/ch/25-](http://smile.amazon.com/ch/25-1563277)

**1563277**. If you shop Amazon please consider using Amazon Smile and naming "Our Lady of Mercy - Harborcreek" as your charity.

## #ThinkAboutItOLM

This weeks Think About It is...

### What is your favorite winter-time activity?

Please go to the OLM Facebook page, find this weeks **#ThinkAboutItOLM** post and share your answer in the comment section. Please take the time to share the **#ThinkAboutItOLM** post to your personal Facebook page as well.

## Women's Conference - save the date

Fifth Annual Catholic Women's conference in Erie is Saturday, March 30, from 9:00 am to 3:30 pm at Our Lady of Peace Parish For more information and to register visit [www.138women.com](http://www.138women.com) or call **814-455-7364**. This year the theme of the conference is "Live JOY-fully!", relating to Nehemiah 8:10: "The joy of the Lord is my strength."



## Help for Heating - LIHEAP



The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) was open to help alleviate heating bill stress on low income families. A

family of four with a gross annual income of \$37,650, qualifies for a grant. To find out if you qualify based on your household size and income, how to apply and what you need to apply, see the bulletin boards in the Gathering Space.

## Interested in being renewed?

How are you taking care of yourself spiritually, physically and emotionally? Find out during Personal Days of Renewal **Feb. 4-8 or March 6-8** at the Bethany Retreat Center in Frenchville.



Come for a day, stay overnight or for a few days. Daily prayer and Mass are included. Walk the grounds, enjoy home-cooked meals and take the opportunity for reconciliation. A free-will offering of \$80 per night (including meals) is requested. For more information, go to [www.bethanyretreatcenter.org](http://www.bethanyretreatcenter.org), or call **814-263-4855**.

## Divorced, Separated or Loss of a Loved One?



Transitions is a peer ministry of the Diocese of Erie that provides a safe place for grieving the loss of one's marriage because of divorce, death or separation. By offering monthly support groups and periodic specialized programs, Transitions offers companionship and hope to all who are currently traveling the journey of grief. Following a short program, participants will have an opportunity for reflection, sharing and discussion. An average of 25-35 women and men of all ages and stages of life attend this support group regularly. Each program includes reflection, sharing, discussion and refreshments. The next meeting is **February 24th**. Follow the bulletin for more announcements.

# HUMAN TRAFFICKING



## INFORMATION

**"Human trafficking is a crime against humanity. We must unite our efforts to free victims and stop this crime that has become ever more aggressive, that threatens not just individuals, but the foundational values of society."**

**- Pope Francis**



Migration and Refugee Services of the U.S. Catholic Church provides specialized pre-employment and employment services to foreign-born and U.S. citizen trafficking survivors.

Every country in the world is affected by human trafficking, including the United States.

Nearly 30% of all victims are men and boys; increasing to 46% for victims of forced labor.

Find out how many slaves work for you at <http://slaveryfootprint.org/>

Victims of modern-day slavery include 25 million victims of labor or sex trafficking and 15 million people trapped in forced marriage.

Individuals in situations of forced migration, such as refugees and unaccompanied children, are particularly vulnerable to labor and sex traffickers.

Slavery exists within the supply chains of product we use everyday in the United States: child labor is used in the supply of all of the following products (and many, many more): your shirt - cotton from Uzbekistan, your phone - coltran from mines in the Congo, your coffee - from the Ivory Coast.

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