

# 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

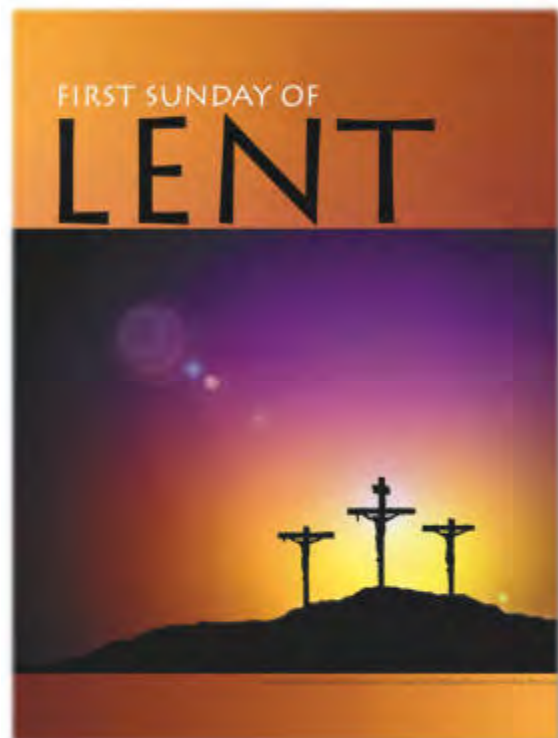
Parish Office: 814-899-5342

Office of Lifelong Faith Formation: 814-899-6132

Fax: 814-898-3306

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

March 10, 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. 03/11</b>  | 6:30 p.m.  | Fruit of the Vine SCC        |
| <b>Tue. 03/12</b>  | 9:30 a.m.  | Steel Magnolias SCC          |
|                    | 9:30 a.m.  | Potter's Clay SCC            |
|                    | 1:30 p.m.  | Legion of Mary               |
|                    | 2:00 p.m.  | Prayer Shawl                 |
|                    | 4:00 p.m.  | Religious Ed. Gr. 3-6        |
|                    | 5:30 p.m.  | Children's Choir             |
|                    | 5:30 p.m.  | VBS Planning Meeting         |
|                    | 7:30 p.m.  | AA Meeting                   |
| <b>Wed. 03/13</b>  | 1:00 p.m.  | Diamonds in the Rough SCC    |
|                    | 5:30 p.m.  | Lenten Pastus                |
|                    | 7:00 p.m.  | Knights of Columbus          |
| <b>Thur. 03/14</b> | 9:00 a.m.  | Painting Class               |
|                    | 6:00 p.m.  | Prayer Shawl                 |
|                    | 6:45 p.m.  | Choir Rehearsal              |
| <b>Fri. 03/15</b>  | 7:00 p.m.  | Stations of the Cross        |
| <b>Sat. 03/16</b>  |            | <b>Anointing of the Sick</b> |
|                    | 10:00 a.m. | AA Meeting                   |
|                    | 4:30 p.m.  | Sacrament of Penance         |
| <b>Sun. 03/17</b>  |            | <b>Second Sunday of Lent</b> |
|                    |            | <b>Anointing of the Sick</b> |
|                    | 9:30 a.m.  | Religious Ed. Gr. K-2        |
|                    | 9:30 a.m.  | Healing Ministry             |
|                    | 11:00 a.m. | Grade 4 Youth Mass           |
|                    | 12:00 p.m. | Religious Ed. Gr. 7 & 8      |

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

|                    |                        |                    |
|--------------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Mon. 03/11</b>  | Lv 19:1-2, 11-18       | / Matthew 25:31-46 |
| <b>Tue. 03/12</b>  | Is 55:10-11            | / Matthew 6:7-15   |
| <b>Wed. 03/13</b>  | Jon 3:1-10             | / Luke 11:29-32    |
| <b>Thur. 03/14</b> | Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25 | / Matthew 7:7-12   |
| <b>Fri. 03/15</b>  | Ez 18:21-28            | / Matthew 5:20-26  |
| <b>Sat. 03/16</b>  | Dt 26:16-19            | / Matthew 5:43-48  |
| <b>Sun. 03/17</b>  | Gn 15:5-12, 17-18      | / Phil 3:17-4:1    |
|                    |                        | / Luke 9:28-36     |

## 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**.



## ANOINTING OF THE SICK

This value of Jesus that deals with physical healing is called the **sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick**. As a community we celebrate this sacrament at all Masses on the weekend of **March 16th and 17th**.

**Who may celebrate this sacrament?** Those who are suffering any serious physical or mental illness; those who are suffering any chronic illness. those who are about to undergo surgery; the elderly who cannot get around as well as before.



We remember...  
*Christine Britton, niece of  
Marilyn Garwig;  
Agnes Barko, mother of  
Paul Barko and  
Eric Parmenter, uncle of  
Ashlee Skarzenski.*

*Please keep them and their families  
in your prayers.*

## THIS SUNDAY'S REFLECTION

**LUKE 4:1-13**

Israel commemorated their deliverance from slavery with a thanksgiving feast. In the same way, our Eucharistic meal of thanksgiving celebrates our redemption from the bondage of sin. In gratitude for divine mercy, we bring our offerings before the altar. Paul reminds us how expansive God's mercy is: "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

Like Jesus, we must confess our faith when we are faced with the temptation to turn away from God. We need to ask ourselves, which kingdom do we serve? Do we worship before the throne of earthly power or before the altar of the Lord? Do we find satisfaction in the things of the world or in God's life-giving word? What we confess with our lips must be believed in our hearts. As the Elect come forward to express their readiness to join the community of the faithful, we reaffirm our intention to do God's will. Then God will hear our cry and stretch out his hand to save us. With the psalmist we pray, "My refuge and my fortress; my God, in whom I trust."

**For reflection:** Do I have the courage to profess my faith to others? Do my actions show what I believe in my heart?



## MASS INTENTIONS

|                    |            |   |
|--------------------|------------|---|
| <b>Mon. 03/11</b>  | 8:30 a.m.  | <b>Lewis Peters</b><br>(Carole Peters)              |
| <b>Tue. 03/12</b>  | 8:30 a.m.  | <b>Denny Smith</b><br>(Rita Kaliszewski)            |
| <b>Wed. 03/13</b>  | 8:30 a.m.  | <b>Marie Ritchie</b>                                |
| <b>Thur. 03/14</b> | 8:30 a.m.  | <b>Frank Gerlach</b><br>(Tim & Cathy Merski)        |
| <b>Fri. 03/15</b>  | 8:30 a.m.  |   |
| <b>Sat. 03/16</b>  | 8:30 a.m.  |   |
|                    | 6:00 p.m.  | <b>For the People of OLM</b>                        |
| <b>Sun. 03/17</b>  | 8:30 a.m.  | <b>Girolama Abbate</b><br>(John & Irene Abbate)     |
|                    | 11:00 a.m. | <b>Fr. Daniel Hoffmann</b><br>(The McAndrew Family) |

### Grief Support



The journey through grief can be unpredictable. Just when things start to feel settled an event or word will bring on a wave of tears and sadness. This is normal. The ups and downs are easier to manage when there is someone to

share with who understands. The monthly grief support group will meet **March 18 at 7pm** in the parish parlor. (This is the first night of our Parish Mission. There is an option to attend as a group, followed by a short reflection.) Or you may feel the need for one on one. **Contact Donna Clark in the parish office.**

### OLM Book Group

The OLM Book Group invites you to join us **Thursday, March 21 at 7:00** to discuss Tattoos on the Heart by Fr. Greg Boyle. Join us at the home of Irene Lucas 1019 Bartlett Rd for a great conversation with lovely ladies around a glass of wine. Want to read ahead? Our April title will be The Tea Girl of Hummingbird Lane by Lisa See.



### Baptismal Preparation Parent Session



**Baptism Preparation Class**

Are you anticipating the birth of a child in the coming months? Do you have a child that you would like to have celebrate the Sacrament

of Baptism? The next Baptismal Preparation Parent Session at OLM will be held **Sunday, March 24 from noon to 2:00** in the Conference Room. Please register for this class by calling the Parish Office at 899-5342. The Diocese of Erie requires that parents and godparents (when possible) participate in a sacramental preparation session before this sacrament is celebrated with the child. The next session at OLM will be held in the fall.

### Women's Stations of the Cross


Sophia's Circle, a Small Church Community of Our Lady of Mercy cordially invites the women of the parish and guests to "Discover the Woman Within" as we walk with Jesus and Mary at the Stations of the Cross. Please join us on **Tuesday, April 9th at 7:00pm**. The evening will begin at 7:00 in the church and will last about an hour and a half. Invite a friend - all are welcome!



### First Eucharist Parent Meeting

Families with children preparing to celebrate First Eucharist in May are reminded that there will be an important parent meeting today, **Sunday, March 10 at 9:45** in Sperry Hall.



\*\*\*\*\*  
**QUESTION OF THE WEEK WINNER**  
 The Question-of-the-Week Winner for the week of Feb. 24 was **Clara Camillo, Gr. 4**, who knew that Catholics give up eating meat on Ash Wednesday and all Fridays during Lent.   
 \*\*\*\*\*



### Lenten Pastus

Our Lenten Pastus series will begin on **Wednesday, March 13, with 5:30 Mass, 6:10 Soup Supper and 7:00 Presentation**. Our series will kick off with Dr. Villella. For more than 2 decades, Dr. Villella has been traveling to Central America to provide free eye care to some of the world's poorest patients. With hospitals in Guatemala, Mexico, Haiti, Nicaragua and Peru, Vision For the Poor treats around 300,000 patients each year. Operated and staffed by indigenous doctors, the 8 hospitals run by this organization are largely self-supporting for operating costs. *Dr. Villella will share the story of his call to "give sight to the blind".*

### Parish Mission

Our annual parish mission will be held **Monday, March 18-Wednesday, March 20**. Fr. Michael DeMartinis will present the mission which will draw us into a deeper encounter with the Persons of the Trinity.

### Stations of the Cross

The parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy are invited to join the following groups as we pray the Stations of the Cross on **Fridays at 7 p.m.** throughout the season of Lent:

|                 |                                    |
|-----------------|------------------------------------|
| <b>March 15</b> | <b>Pastoral Council</b>            |
| <b>22</b>       | <b>Small Christian Communities</b> |
| <b>29</b>       | <b>Legion of Mary</b>              |
| <b>April 5</b>  | <b>Youth</b>                       |

### FINANCIAL SUPPORT

*Offertory for the weekend of March 3, 2019*

|                         |     |                   |
|-------------------------|-----|-------------------|
| Envelopes sent:         | 392 |                   |
| Envelopes returned:     | 97  | \$4,841.20        |
| Faith Direct Deposits:  | 111 | \$2,982.00        |
| Loose Change:           |     | \$ 183.00         |
| <b>TOTAL OFFERTORY:</b> |     | <b>\$8,006.20</b> |



## SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

..."Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me." Matthew 25:40

There were 1,063 homeless people in Erie County in 2017. Over 30 members of OLM served the homeless in 2018. Visit [communityshelter.org](http://communityshelter.org) or call 814-456-8073 to learn more.





### Ride to Y

One of our parishioners is looking for a ride to the "Y" periodically. If you can help contact **Donna Clark** in the parish office.

### Food Pantry News

On Feb 4<sup>th</sup> we collected 160 cans of soup and received \$70.00 in cash for the support of the food pantry from 4 area churches.



Thank you all. We continue to serve about 325 people each month. Our clients are very grateful for the food. Also we thank Katrina DeVore who recommended us for a \$5,000 grant from the UPS Foundation, which we received in January. We again received \$5,000 from the Moose Club as well. If you know a member of the Moose Club, please thank them. These funds will allow us to purchase 4 to 5 months' worth of food from Second Harvest and Shurfine when our grants run out. When our federal, state and local grants run out, we spend between 1,500 and 4,000 on food from Second Harvest.

### Cursillo



Are you looking to enhance your relationship with Christ? Maybe get to know Him on a more personal basis? Why not consider making a Cursillo! The next women's Cursillo is **March 14-17** right here at OLM, and the next men's will be **May 16-19** also here at OLM. We ask that you prayerfully consider a Cursillo Weekend, you'll be glad you did! For more information call **Tim or Norma Lynch at 899-2681**

### Divorce Ministry offered in April

Surviving Divorce Ministry, also known as the Catholic's Divorce Survival Guide (CDSG), will be held on **Wednesdays, April 3 to May 22, from 6:30 to 8 p.m.** at Mark Catholic Center, 429 E. Grandview Blvd., Erie.



Each week features a 30-minute DVD that covers topics such as shock, denial, anger, forgiveness, the courts, kids and more. Whether someone was divorced 10 days ago or 10 years ago, this program offers valuable insights for all. See the attachments for the brochures for each location. For more details, contact the **Family Life Office at 814-824-1261, [familylife@ErieRCD.org](mailto:familylife@ErieRCD.org), or visit [www.ErieRCD.org/familylifeoffice/sdm.html](http://www.ErieRCD.org/familylifeoffice/sdm.html).**

### Register Today for 1:38 Women's Conference



Come enjoy a dynamic experience with 600 women from around the Diocese of Erie and beyond! The 5<sup>th</sup> annual 1:38 Women's

Conference will be held at the Our Lady of Peace Parish in Erie on **Saturday, March 30, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.** Registration is only \$40 per person with special pricing for senior citizens, groups of 8, students and is free for Religious Sisters. The price includes lunch and free parking. Don't miss this opportunity to grow in your relationship with the Lord through inspiring nation speakers and opportunities for prayer, adoration and reconciliation as well as Mass with Bishop Lawrence Persico. For more information and to register visit [www.138women.com](http://www.138women.com) or call **814-455-7364**.

# Catholic Services Appeal



A sincere thank you to all who made a pledge or gift to the Catholic Services Appeal. If you have not yet made a commitment, see the display in the Gathering Space. You may also drop your pledge card or envelope marked 'CSA' in the collection basket or turn it in at the parish office. CSA donation envelopes are available in the Gathering Space.

The theme of this year's CSA is "*Forward Together: With Truth, With Hope, With Christ.*" You may wonder why you should support the CSA. The truth is, we all must. Our diocese still has work to do on behalf of the Lord. The church needs your help to remain focused on Christ and the needs of the people of God. Our bishop assures us that CSA donations are designated to fund the projects, ministries and departments of the Diocese of Erie. No funds donated to the CSA have been or will be used to defray expenses related to the sexual abuse crisis. Check out the video link on our website. Your generosity is appreciated.



### Pastoral Council

One objective of the June 2018 goal was **Participate in local community events as a group from Our Lady of Mercy.** The council came up with these 4 events: 1. support and participate in the overflow shelter held at St. John the Baptist (Jan-March), 2. The Relay for Life, 3. A Blood Drive held in Harborcreek (April) and 4. "Take Back the Site" prayer service held wherever there has been a local murder. Look for more information about the upcoming event in our bulletin.

### Council Nominations

Please start to pray that the Holy Spirit will inspire those who are called to serve on the Pastoral Council. The Pastoral Council, in consultation with the pastor and staff, helps to discern and set the direction for the parish community in prayer, leadership, service and pastoral action. In the coming months everyone will have an opportunity to nominate themselves or someone else. Please listen and pray. Current Council members are: Todd Beckes, Maureen Brainard, Darrell Garwig, Nick Heise, Marge LeFaiver, Margy Luniewski, Bill Matrogran, Nathan Matusiak, Nancy Mowery, David Seyboldt and Katie Stephenson, Mary Beth Smith and Dan Szczesny. If you have questions about Pastoral Council seek out one of the members.

# Lenten Pastus Speaker Series



Wednesday evenings during Lent have become an important part of the observation of Lent at Our Lady of Mercy. Our traditional Pastus series feeds the spirit, the body and the head as we pray, eat and learn together. This year, our Pastus series will focus on the call to justice.

---

## **March 6 7:00 PM Ash Wednesday Mass**

Let us begin this holy season of preparation and conversion joined together around the Eucharistic table and the Word of God.

---

## **March 13 “Sent to Give Sight to the Blind”, Dr. Douglas Vilella 5:30 PM Mass, 6:10 PM Soup Supper, 7:00 PM Program**

For more than 2 decades, Dr. Vilella has been traveling to Central America to provide free eye care to some of the world’s poorest patients. With hospitals in Guatemala, Mexico, Haiti, Nicaragua and Peru, Vision For the Poor treats around 300,000 patients each year. Operated and staffed by indigenous doctors, the 8 hospitals run by this organization are largely self-supporting for operating costs.

*Dr. Douglas Vilella has been the Executive Director of Vision for the Poor since 1995. In addition to serving as staff eye doctor for Community Health Net and Health South Rehab, he has been in private practice with Bayfront Eyecare since 1987. Born in Punxsutawney, he graduated from St. Bonaventure Univ and Pennsylvania College of Optometry. He served as captain in the U.S. Army before moving to Erie.*

---

## **March 18–20 7:00 PM Parish Mission**

### **“An Intimate Encounter with the Trinity”, Fr. Michael DeMartinis**

---

## **March 27 “Immigration, Refugees, and the Catholic Church: A Dialogue”, Fr. Shane Mathew 5:30 PM Mass, 6:10 PM Soup Supper, 7:00 PM Program**

From DACA to border walls, from the fear of terrorists to the images of children separated from parents, from government shut-downs in the U.S. to riots in Europe, immigration has captured headlines. We may know what Democrats and Republicans, President Trump and Chancellor Merkel have to say about this important social issue, but do we know what our faith has to say? Fr. Shane Mathew will help us to see this current crisis in light of the Gospel and Catholic Social Teaching.

*Father Shane Mathew is a professor of theology at Gannon University and weekend assistant at Our Lady of Peace Church. He was born and raised in Erie and was ordained a priest in 2005.*

---

## **April 3 “Care for the Environment: A Call to Humility and Transformation”, Ann McCarthy, O.S.B. 5:30 PM Mass, 6:10 PM Soup Supper, 7:00 PM Program**

In *Laudato Si!: Care for Our Common Home*, Pope Francis calls the Church and the world to acknowledge the urgency of our environmental challenges and to join him in embarking on a new path. The crisis demands that we reevaluate and shift our attitudes, beliefs and behaviors. A fresh look at ancient Christian wisdom offers insights for deep transformation and for living a new relationship with the planet as individuals and communities.

*Anne McCarthy, OSB, member of Mount St. Benedict Monastery, Erie, PA, coordinates Benedictines for Peace in Erie and is on staff with Benetvision and Monasteries of the Heart. She holds an MA in Theology from St. John’s University, Collegeville with a concentration in monastic studies.*

---

## **April 10 7:00 PM Parish Penance Service**

---

## **April 17 7:00 PM A Holy Pilgrimage Through Holy Week**

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



**LYNCH**  
Home Medical Supply  
TIMOTHY P. LYNCH  
Parishioner, Owner, Certified Orthotic Fitter  
Lift Chairs & Scooters • Wound Care • Walkers  
Wheelchairs • Commodes & Much More  
4020 Main St. • Lawrence Park  
899-3636  
www.lynmhmedical.com

**Stars**  
Where There's Always Something GROWING on!  
Jim Skarzenski & Bob Rocky - Parishioners  
East 5001 Buffalo Road Erie, PA 16510 899.5424  
West 5341 West Lake Road Erie, PA 16505 835.6960

**HEISE REBUILDING**  
Starters • Alternators • Electrical  
Rewiring • Mechanical Repairs  
PA Inspections  
**899-8186**  
1291 Walbridge Rd. • Erie, PA 16511  
heiserebuilding.com  
~ Parishioner ~

**MELISSA A. BOOZEL**  
www.MELISSABTAX.COM  
- Mobile Services  
- Signing Agent  
- Evening & Weekend Appointments  
6484 Buffalo Road Harborcreek  
814-464-4111

**THIS SPACE IS AVAILABLE**

**NORTHERN PENNSYLVANIA REGIONAL COLLEGE**  
An Open Enrollment College: Requires a H.S. Diploma/GED  
Started College but never finished? \$185/credit hr - Adult  
Want to advance your career? \$60/credit hr - Eligible H.S.  
Thinking of trying college? Juniors/Seniors  
College student home for summer?  
www.regionalcollegepa.org  
814-230-9010 admissions@rrcnpa.org

**PRICHARD CHIROPRACTIC OFFICES**  
6095 Buffalo Road Harborcreek, PA  
**899-1966**  
DR. LOREN J. PRICHARD  
DR. SCOTT V. PRICHARD

**William D. Elkin Funeral Home**  
65 South Lake St. • North East  
**725-4511**  
Timothy P. Elkin, F.D.  
William D. Elkin, F.D.  
Pre-Arrangements Available

**FIDDLE INN**  
HARBORCREEK, PA  
"Home of the EVERYTHINGS"  
6615 Buffalo Road  
814-899-9005  
www.diningverse.com/fiddleinn

**Widget Financial**  
widgetfinancial.com

**catholicmatch**  
Pennsylvania  
CatholicMatch.com/PA

**UPGRADE TO A VIBRANT ad**  
Contact us for details • 800-477-4574

**DUSCKAS - TAYLOR** FUNERAL HOME & CREMATION SERVICES, INC.  
5151 BUFFALO RD. ERIE, PA 16510  
ROBERT D. TAYLOR, SUPERVISOR  
814-315-0911  
WWW.DUSCKAS-TAYLORFUNERALHOME.COM

**OLLINGER PLUMBING, HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING**  
Residential • Commercial  
Quality Installations & Service  
**899-2809**

**Foster's**  
Rose of Sharon Floral & Gift Shop  
Savings of Up To 25% On Any Silk Items  
2703 Buffalo Rd • 814-899-5071

**FREE AD DESIGN WITH PURCHASE OF THIS SPACE.**  
- 800-477-4574 -

**AVAILABLE FOR A LIMITED TIME ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS HERE**  
Contact **Tim Weir** to place an ad today!  
tweir@4LPi.com or (800) 477-4574 x6568

**JDL** "Your Computer Professional"  
NEW SYSTEMS USED • REPAIRS  
"WE SERVICE ALL BRANDS"  
**898-8300**  
Jerry & Dee Law - Parishioners  
JDLCOMPUTERS.COM

**ICHIBAN** ALL YOU CAN EAT  
ORDER TO MAKE BUFFET  
**SUSHI & ASIAN CUISINE**  
4041 Buffalo Rd, Erie • 814-616-6352

Check Out Our Daily Specials online at:  
ichibanichiban.com

**Nicholas L. Heise Carpentry**  
 Interior/Exterior: Rough & Finish  
 Furniture Restoration  
 Windows & Doors  
 Remodeling  
 Decks  
 Tile  
**814-392-6517**  
www.nicholasheisecarpentry.com

**BOWERS FUNERAL HOME**  
92 SOUTH LAKE STREET NORTH EAST, PA 16428  
**725-4505**  
www.bowersfuneralhome.com

**Brevillier Village**  
Ball Pavilion Short Term Rehab Long Term Nursing Care  
Barnabas Court Licensed Personal Care, Residency & Independent Living.  
5416 East Lake Road Erie, PA 16511  
814-899-8600  
www.brevillier.org

**Melissa Boozel** Business & Notary Services 1040 U.S. 1170  
Accounting, Payroll Tax Preparation & Notary  
www.melissabtax.com  
6484 Buffalo Road Harborcreek, PA  
**814-897-8755**

**Valley Beer Company**  
Michael Hamman & Amber Belson  
10655 West Main St • North East  
**814-725-4644**