

OUR LADY OF MERCY CHURCH

837 Bartlett Road • Harborcreek, PA 16421 • www.ourladyofmercychurch.org



August 25, 2019 – 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

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*

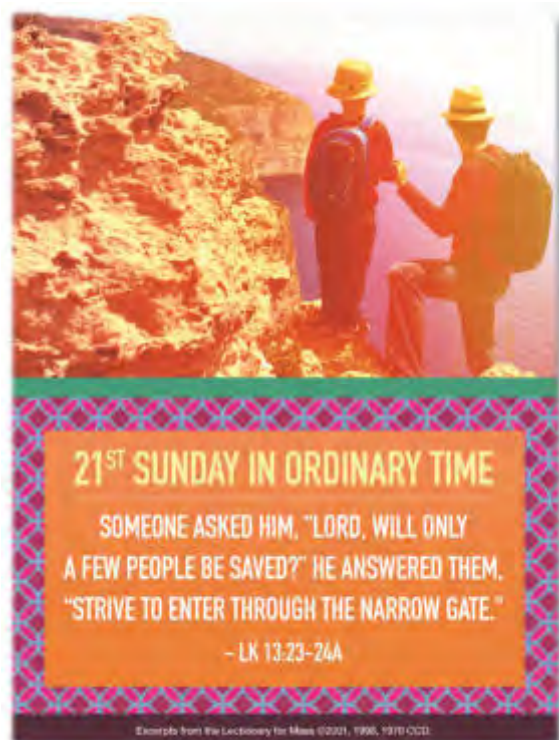
CONTACT INFORMATION

Parish Office: 814-899-5342

Office of Lifelong Faith Formation: 814-899-6132

Fax: 814-898-3306

Email: info@ourladyofmercychurch.org



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.

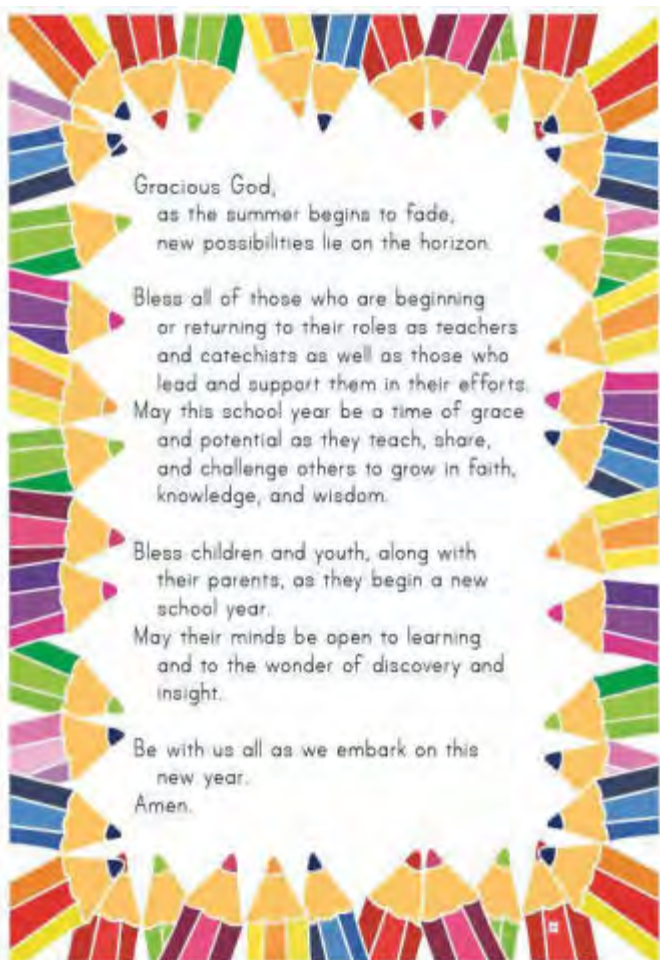
THE WEEK AHEAD

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

Mon. 08/26	6:30 p.m.	Fruit of the Vine SCC
Tue. 08/27	1:30 p.m.	Legion of Mary
	7:30 p.m.	AA
Wed. 08/28	1:00 p.m.	Discussion Group
Thur. 08/29	9:30 a.m.	Families & Faith Formation Committee
Fri. 08/30		
Sat. 08/31	10:00 a.m.	AA
	4:30 p.m.	Sacrament of Penance
Sun. 09/01		Casserole Club Drop Off Monthly Food Pantry Collection 9:30 a.m. Healing Ministry

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Mon. 08/26	1 Thes 1:1-5, 8b-10	/ Mt 23:13-22
Tue. 08/27	1 Thes 2:1-8	/ Mt 23:23-26
Wed. 08/28	1 Thes 2:9-13	/ Mt 23:27-32
Thur. 08/29	1 Thes 3:7-13	/ Mk 6:17-29
Fri. 08/30	1 Thes 4:1-8	/ Mt 25:1-13
Sat. 08/31	1 Thes 4:9-11	/ Mt 25:14-30
Sun. 09/01	Sir 3:17-18, 20, 28-29	
	Heb 12:18-19, 22-24a	/ Lk 14:1, 7-14



MASS INTENTIONS

Mon. 08/26	8:30 a.m.	
Tue. 08/27	8:30 a.m.	Chris Kowalski (Toby & Dick Birk)
Wed. 08/28	8:30 a.m.	
Thur. 08/29	8:30 a.m.	James Boris (The Extein Family)
Fri. 08/30	8:30 a.m.	Margaret Latchford
Sat. 08/31	8:30 a.m.	Dolores Dietz (Family)
	6:00 p.m.	For the People of OLM
Sun. 09/01	8:30 a.m.	Frank Szklenski (The Heise Family)
	11:00 a.m.	Robert Jones (Barb Jones)

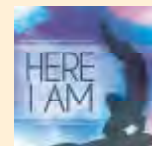
PRAYER LINE

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 Geri Gallagher.



THIS SUNDAY'S REFLECTION

Luke 13:22-30



Isaiah said that the way to God's reign is a broad thoroughfare for all who are willing to travel it. Salvation is offered to people from "every nation and language," even those who never hear of God's name or proclaimed God's glory. All are chosen by God. By contrast, Jesus says, the way to God's kingdom is narrow. Can the way be both wide and narrow?

Jesus tells us that while all are invited to come, salvation is not automatic. Being a Christian does not guarantee God's favor any more than being a member of God's chosen people did in Isaiah's day. Yet we assume that we are among God's elect. Everyone else will be pounding on the door after the "good" people enter God's kingdom.

Perhaps it is we who will be left outside because of our narrow-mindedness towards people who are different from ourselves because of race, creed, culture, social status, or sexual orientation. We think we should have first place at God's table. Didn't we show up for Mass week after week? Didn't we listen to God's word and eat and drink at God's table? We neglect to mention that our ears were closed to what God was telling us. Jesus tries to break through the closed doors of our hearts. When our minds and hearts are open, we will grow in our understanding of God's reign. Then when we stand at the door of God's kingdom, we won't hear those awful words, "Away from me, you evildoer. I do not know you."

For Reflection: Who are the ones I consider to be outside God's mercy and grace? Have I invited them to be part of God's kingdom?

Women's Lunch



Monday Aug 26 at 1pm join a group of fun loving ladies who live alone for lunch at the Harborview Grill, 3730 Harbor Ridge Trail. On nice days, we sit on the deck and look at the lake. Good fellowship follows no matter the weather.

Young Adult Holy Hour

Friday August 30, 7pm, Sanctuary Holy Hour with Eucharistic Adoration and Exposition, Sacrament of Confession, silence and song. Optional dinner afterwards.



Widows Dinner

Grief affects the whole self. The loss of a loved one affects how we view ourselves, how we relate to others and how others relate to us. It seems we no longer fit in with friends. As a widow, many find it difficult to eat alone. Join us for a monthly dinner Friday Sept 13 5pm, at a place to be determined.

Autumn Scripture Study

We are never too old to learn. As the kids begin another school year, OLM will begin a new Scripture Study. Join us for a 6 week study of The Acts of the Apostles beginning Monday, Sept. 16. The study will be offered at 9:15 AM and at 7:00 PM. All are welcome. Your only text will be the Bible.



OLM Book Group

Back to school means that the kids are beginning to crack open those books. The OLM Book Group will be cracking open some great books as well. Join us Sept. 18 at 7:00 p.m. to discuss Where the Crawdads Sing by Delia Owens.



Parish Wine & Beer Social

Bring your favorite wine or beer and an appetizer to share and enjoy an evening of fellowship with your OLM family at 7:00 PM on Friday, Sept. 20. This is a great opportunity to meet new parish members and reconnect with those you have not seen in a while.



Interested in Glass Recycling? Check out www.bayfrontglass.com

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Offertory for the weekend of August 18, 2019

Envelopes sent:	392	
Envelopes returned:	91	\$2,841.00
Faith Direct Deposits:	116	\$2,930.00
Loose Change:		\$ 305.00
TOTAL OFFERTORY:		\$6,076.00



Religious Education

Religious education classes begin on Tuesday, Sept. 3.

Religious Education Registration

If you were not able to register your child on registration weekend, please stop by the Office of Lifelong Faith Formation to sign the paper work. All new and returning children, including high school seniors preparing to celebrate Confirmation in November, need to be registered.

Religious Education Volunteers Needed

We need a few more people to assist with the religious education ministry this year:

- A Junior High catechist – Sunday noon to 1:15
- An Office Aid – Sunday 9:15-10:45
- Substitute Catechists - All Levels

If you are able to volunteer or would like more information, contact Irene Lucas at 899-6132 or ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org

Religious Education Parent Meetings:

- Gr. 9 Parent/Candidate Meeting - Sept. 4 at 6:00
- Gr. 11 Parent/Candidate Meeting - Sept. 5 at 6:00
- Gr. 7& 8 Parent Meeting - Sept. 8 at 12:15
- Gr K-2 Family Event - Sept. 8 at 9:30

Sister Parish Trip To Peto

A couple slots have opened on our delegation to visit our sister parish in Peto, Mexico at the end of October. If you would like to join us, contact Irene Lucas at 899-6132 or ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org.



Sister Parish School Supply Collection

The Sister Parish Committee is also collecting school supplies to bring to Peto: pencils, pens, erasers, pencil sharpeners, rulers. We can not take notebooks, paper, or crayons. Our supply list is limited to small, light-weight items that we can carry down and that won't melt in the heat. School supply donations can be placed in the basket under the candy bar table.



Sister Parish Committee Selling Daffin's Candy Bars

The Sister Parish Committee is selling Daffin's candy bars to help with the cost of the delegation this October. Candy bars are \$1. They are available in the Gathering Space. Leave your money in the bucket.



Our Communities Are Growing Again!



We are forming at least one new Small Christian Community this fall! Are you interested in joining a community? Have you been in a community but are looking for a

change? Are you just curious about our parish communities and would like to learn more? Join us at noon on Sunday September 8 in the picnic pavilion. Enjoy a grilled hot dog, find answers to your questions, and help us kick-start a few new communities this fall. Bring a dish to share, or just come and join us. See you there! Interested but can't make it? Call Katie in the office 899-5342 or Dave 602-4622

Looking for Wide-Mouth Quart Jars

Religious Ed is looking for a couple dozen wide-mouth quart jars for a project on Sept. 8. If anyone has ones they would like to pass along, please bring them to Irene Lucas. They need to be the wide-mouth jars.



Ella Cochran Back to School Thank You!



"Thank you" to all who donated school supplies or backpacks to the Ella Cochran Food Pantry school supply drive. Because of your generosity, we were able to serve 102 students with school supplies as they head back to school this year! Here's to a

great 2019/2020 school year for all students, teachers and parents!

Crop Walk supports Ella Cochran Food Pantry.

Each year the food pantry receives \$300-600 dollars from the Erie County Crop Walk. You can make a donation wether or not you choose to walk. To Give online to the Crop Walk for Ella Cochran Food Pantry go to: <https://www.crophungerwalk.org/eriepa> and choose the "Walker" Ella Cochran. The Crop Walk for Erie county distributes the money to over 20 local agencies and part of the proceeds go to help feeding the hungry around the world.



A Letter from the Baby Box Program,



I found a FedEx package on my porch the other day and was thrilled when I opened it and found so many lovely things for our Baby Box Program in Haiti. We can include them in the layette we put in each

box for each newborn that we give them to. We really appreciate the help and support of Our Lady of Mercy. We know their help will save the lives of some babies in Haiti. We are exploring the possibility of starting the program in the Port-au-Prince area. We are now doing it at 3 clinics in the Cap Haitien area. Keep us in your prayers as we try to expand the program. Thanks so much for your help. —Dorothy Frederickson, Coordinator of Baby Box Program

Looking for a "neat" opportunity?



Are you attentive to detail? Do you enjoy organizing? Are you willing to donate a few hours a month? The Music Ministry is looking for a parishioner or two to act as a "librarian". If interested, please contact Brandon before or after

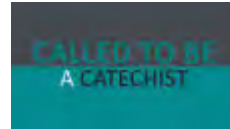
Mass, at the parish office, or by email at music@ourladyofmercychurch.org

Cards for homebound ministry

The homebound ministry sends cards seasonally to parishioners who cannot get out to church. They are looking for cards for the Thanksgiving season, St. Patrick's Day, Valentines Day and appropriate Mother's or Father's Day. You can help by bringing in cards or helping to design the cards for printing. Contact Donna Clark.



Ministry in the Parish



The best way to know something is to teach it. Do you like talking about God? Do you want to help pass faith on to the children of the parish? Then perhaps the Ministry of Religious Education Teacher, a Catechist, is right for you. Hesitant? Then sign up to be a substitute teacher and test the waters. Get more information from the brochure in the ministry display rack.

THE GROOVE IS BAAAAACK (yes we mean baaaaak)

The Knights of Columbus is again sponsoring a dance with the GROOVE on Friday Oct. 4. in conjunction with the OLM Feast Day the prior week. The band "The Groove" Erie's most popular band will be providing the entertainment from 7 to 11 in the gym. Complimentary beer and setups will be provided. Tickets will go on sale in the Gathering Space after all the Masses beginning on August 24 and for the next four weekends. Tickets will also be available for purchase during the week in the parish office from 9 a.m. till 3 p.m. Ticket price is \$15. This dance has been a sell out for the past 2 years so get your tickets as soon as possible, capacity is limited.



Labor Day Picnic Supplies



Shopping at GFS for Labor Day Weekend? Don't forget to mention Our Lady of Mercy at Checkout. We get points for each dollar spent and the Funeral Meal Ministry uses

those points to buy food for the Parish.

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.



Pope Francis has declared September 1 of each year to be the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation. Following on this, Christians around the world celebrate the Season of Creation from Sept. 1 to Oct. 4



During the Season of Creation, we live out our faith to care for creation through prayer, changes in lifestyle and advocacy. See the bulletin Sept. 1 for a prayer for Creation.

Do these articles on the environment and our care for creation interest you? Would you like to be part of a small parish group working on issues and actions around our care for God's creation? For more information, please contact Michelle Knight, Michellem.knight@gmail.com

CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING, PART 3

As we learned in parts 1 and 2, "Catholic Social Teaching is the body of Church doctrine that describes how Catholics are called to transform the world by proclaiming and living the Gospel." Several parts of that teaching directly relate to our Care for creation. Today we consider Solidarity.



"At the core of the virtue of solidarity is the pursuit of justice and peace." The Catholic vision of justice is based in the understanding that we are all children of God. As brothers and sisters, we all share the Earth as our common home. Sharing the planet well means limiting our disproportionate contribution to climate change. Sharing it with our children and grandchildren means conserving its delicately balanced systems and resources for the future. To live the Catholic value of solidarity, we must address climate change.

Plastic Alternatives

Reusable coffee cups

Reusable water bottles

Buy produce loose or use mesh bags

Refuse straws in restaurants

Bar soap instead of liquid

Reusable shopping bags

Web of Life and Plastic Pollution

The 2019 theme for the Season of Creation is Biodiversity and God's Web of Life. According to the Living Planet Report 2018, there has been a 60% decline in global wildlife populations between 1970 and 2014. There are multiple causes from deforestation, habitat destruction, climate change and pollution of soil, water and air, including the tide of plastic

pollution filling our waterways, including Lake Erie.

So, what can we do? One idea is to limit or eliminate our use of single-use plastics. Why not try giving up one single-use plastic item for the duration of the Season of Creation? Items to stop using include: disposable cups, bottles, straws, packaging and wipes.

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