

OUR LADY OF MERCY CHURCH

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



February 16, 2020 - 6th 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.

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*

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. 02/17	7:00 p.m.	Grief Support Group
Tue. 02/18	9:30 a.m.	Steel Magnolias
	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.	Sister Parish Committee
	5:30 p.m.	Children's Choir
	7:00 p.m.	Lifelong Faith Formation
	7:30 p.m.	AA
Wed. 02/19	8:30 a.m.	Food Pantry Distribution
	1:00 p.m.	Diamonds in the Rough
	7:00 p.m.	OLM Book Group
Thur. 02/20	9:00 a.m.	Painting Class
	9:30 a.m.	Potter's Clay
	1:00 p.m.	Contemplative Prayer
	6:00 p.m.	Prayer Shawl
	6:45 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Fri. 02/21		
Sat. 02/22		CSA Commitment Weekend
	10:00 a.m.	AA
	4:30 p.m.	Sacrament of Penance
Sun. 02/23		CSA Commitment Weekend
	9:30 a.m.	Religious Ed. Gr. K-2
	11:00 a.m.	Gr. 5 Class Mass
	12:00 p.m.	Gr. 7 & 8 Retreat

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Mon. 02/17	Jas 1:1-11	/ Mk 8:11-13
Tue. 02/18	Jas 1:12-18	/ Mk 8:14-21
Wed. 02/19	Jas 1:19-27	/ Mk 8:22-26
Thur. 02/20	Jas 2:1-9	/ Mk 8:27-33
Fri. 02/21	Jas 2:14-24, 26	/ Mk 8:34-9:1
Sat. 02/22	1 Pt 5:1-4	/ Mt 16:13-19
Sun. 02/23	Lv 19:1-2, 17-18 / 1 Cor 3:16-23	/ Mt 5:38-48

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon. 02/17	8:30 a.m.	
Tue. 02/18	8:30 a.m.	Nellie Ryan
Wed. 02/19	8:30 a.m.	Chris Zalas (Carol Gilmore)
Thur. 02/20	8:30 a.m.	Bob Jones (Barb Jones)
Fri. 02/21	8:30 a.m.	Fr. Tom Kelley
Sat. 02/22	8:30 a.m.	Jack Ryan
	6:00 p.m.	Agnes Priscaro (The Jones Family)
Sun. 02/23	8:30 a.m.	Richard Mueller (Rick Mueller)
	11:00 a.m.	For the People of OLM

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Offertory for the weekend of February 9, 2020

Envelopes sent:	392	
Envelopes returned:	106	\$4,214.50
Faith Direct Deposits:	117	\$3,059.08
Loose Change:		\$ 90.00
TOTAL OFFERTORY:		\$7,363.58

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

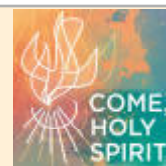
The Hospital Visitor for the week is Marilyn Garwig.



THIS SUNDAY'S

REFLECTION

MATTHEW 5:17-37



People are not property. We cannot exchange them at will or simply use them for our own designs and purposes. What does the word "commitment" mean to you? We can begin to understand its meaning by looking at some synonyms: dedication, devotion, allegiance, loyalty, faithfulness, fidelity, and bond. Commitment is primarily about relationship, and Jesus is all about relationships. How our lives affect others, how we treat our brothers and sisters, how we resolve conflict, and how we view the vows of marriage. Jesus' teachings on obeying the commandments, murder, reconciliation, marriage, divorce, and adultery all stem from the sacredness of commitment. All of this has a God connection.

We can easily see one another as interchangeable and dispensable. We treat so much of our lives this way. What works today may not be what I want tomorrow. We search and search for the right thing only to find our hearts still restless in the end. Is real happiness achievable this side of the grave? Sometimes we expect too much out of others and want our relationships to fill a hole that we must figure out how to fill ourselves. Any seasoned married couple will tell you that their love for one another changes as time passes. Even though the understanding of romance changes as life changes, the dedication, devotion, allegiance, loyalty, faithfulness, and fidelity all remain and even deepen.

Some relationships can be hurtful, and God does not want us to live with abuse or pain. Also, how a relationship develops is sometimes out of our control, and we become the victim of someone else's decision. But we can't be self-focused in our relationships and see them exclusively as self-fulfilling ends. We are companions on life's journey with varying depths of relationships being enjoyed by all who are with us along the way. We have the freedom to choose. God asks us to do so wisely, with right judgment and thinking.

Grief Support Group

Monday February 17 at 7pm. The shock that comes with grief can sometimes knock us off our faith foundation. Why does it seem we pull away from God, or more accurately feel dragged away from God at this critical time in our life? How do we feel God's presence again? The conversation at the grief support group might help. Join us. Questions contact Donna Clark in the parish office.



OLM Book Group



O the weather outside may be frightful, but it is perfect for a good book. Join the OLM Book Group for a cozy evening of book talk with book lovers. On Feb. 19, you are invited to the home of Irene, 1019 Bartlett Rd. at 7:00 to discuss What Alice Forgot by Lianne Moriarty. Want to read ahead? Our March book will be The Life You Bury by Allen Eskens.

Sister Parish Mardi Gras Tickets now on sale!

Advance purchase includes a chance for \$500 reverse raffle. (Need not be present to win.) Enter the taste off to win additional prizes and showcase your homemade beer, wine or salsa.



Parish Mission



Mark your calendar for our annual Parish Mission, March 15-17. Fr. Frank DeSiano will invite us to reflect on "*Being a Disciple Today: How Can I Live My Life in a New Way*". Each evening's program will begin at 7:00 PM. Fr. DeSiano is a nationally known author, speaker and leading voice on evangelization.

Faith on the Go with Formed.org

Our Lady of Mercy has a subscription to formed.org. Stream movies, read audio and eBooks, do a Scripture study, entertain the kids, listen to inspiring talks and so much more. Go to formed.org and sign-up with a parish subscription. All you need is our parish name and your email. This gift has been made available to you through a grant from the Catholic Educational Foundation of Northwestern Pennsylvania.



Full-time or Part-time Youth Minister needed at Our Lady of Mercy, St. Mark



The parishes of Our Lady of Mercy, Harborcreek, and St. Mark the Evangelist, Lawrence Park, are seeking an energetic, creative person dedicated to working with teens as a youth minister. For full details, go to <https://www.eriecd.org/employment.html>.

Saint Stanislaus and Holy Trinity Lenten Dinners



Saint Stanislaus Church will be serving their annual fish and pierogi dinners in their Parish Hall on February 28th, March 13th and March 27th, from 4-7 p.m. (or until sold out). Joining them this year is their Partner Parish, Holy Trinity Church, who will be serving fish, pierogi, and potato pancake dinners on Ash Wednesday (February 26th) and March 20th from 4-7 p.m.

Domestic Violence Support

Do you know someone who is living through domestic violence? You can help. Call the National Domestic Violence Hotline for resources and support **800-799-SAFE (7233)** {TTY 800-787-3224} or find help on line at thehotline.org.



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.

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.



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.

Missing Table Cloth

A few of our kitchen ministries have noticed that a gold table cloth has come up missing. If you have any information, please call the parish office at 899-5342.



Question-of-the-Week

The winner of the Question-of-the-Week Contest for the week of Feb. 4 was **Nathan Henry, Gr. 4**, who knew that the Great Commandment is "Love God with all your heart, mind and strength and love your neighbor as you love yourself."

CURSILLO CORNER

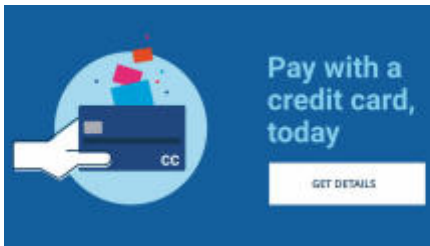


2020 Cursillo Dates

March 19-22nd Men's Cursillo #251 at OLM
 April 16-19th Women's Cursillo #258 at OLM
 Start making plans for life's best weekend! Lois Heise would love to talk to you about Cursillo and how it can change your life! Call Lois at 882-9555.

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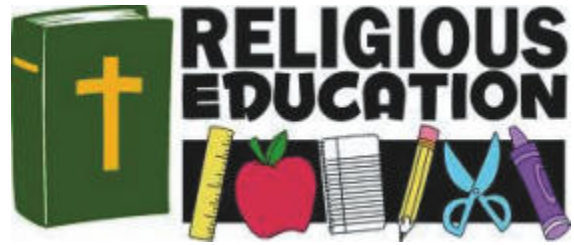
Visa and Mastercard are now accepted for on-line purchases (*2.6% fee for each transaction is applied).



Shop for your gift cards and earn cash for Our Lady of Mercy by going to ShopWithScrip.com

Questions?

Contact Peggy Jacquell (814) 725-9869



Jr. High Retreat

Youth in the Jr. High religious education program are reminded that they have their retreat on **Sunday, Feb. 23**. This begins with the parish celebration of **11 a.m. Mass and concludes at 3:00**. Lunch is provided.

First Reconciliation Retreat

Families with children preparing for their first celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation are reminded that we have an important day of retreat on **Sunday, March 1 from 9:30-1:00**. The celebration of First Reconciliation will be held on **Saturday, March 7 at 1:00**.

SOCIAL JUSTICE



Human Trafficking

There are an estimated 40 million victims of human trafficking (modern day slavery) today. Every country in the world is affected, including the United States. Migrants and refugees are particularly vulnerable to human trafficking. You can do something about this scourge on humanity. Become a responsible consumer to lessen the chance that your purchases are products of forced or child labor. You can learn about your ties to human trafficking at this website: <http://slaveryfootprint.org>



Parish Finance Report

July 1 to Dec 31, 2019

Income: \$246,397

Expenses: \$259,723

Net loss: **\$-13,326**

CATHOLIC SERVICES APPEAL 2020

The 2020 Catholic Services Appeal will be held next weekend in our parish. The CSA is an opportunity for Catholics throughout the diocese to join together in doing the work of Christ. The CSA reminds us that we are all part of the same Catholic Family and that the work of the diocese is the work of the church. The church serves each of us and our support is essential in continuing God's work in our area. Every CSA donation also brings us closer to being able to complete our own parish project. No gift is too small, but please give as generously as you can.



Small Christian Community Sign-Ups



Just like the old advertisement for Trix cereal, the rabbit is missing the mark again!

Is your spiritual life missing the mark?

Could you use a boost this Lent and Easter season?

Why not take a step forward by joining a small faith-sharing community, just to try it out! Groups gather between 2 and 4 times per month, on different days and at various times, to read the scriptures and discuss how we can put the gospel message to work in our daily lives. Interested? You can also call the parish office or Dave at 602-4622.

As our beloved pastor would say,

Think About It!

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