

OUR LADY OF MERCY CHURCH

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



March 29th, 2020 - 5th Sunday of Lent

MASS SCHEDULE

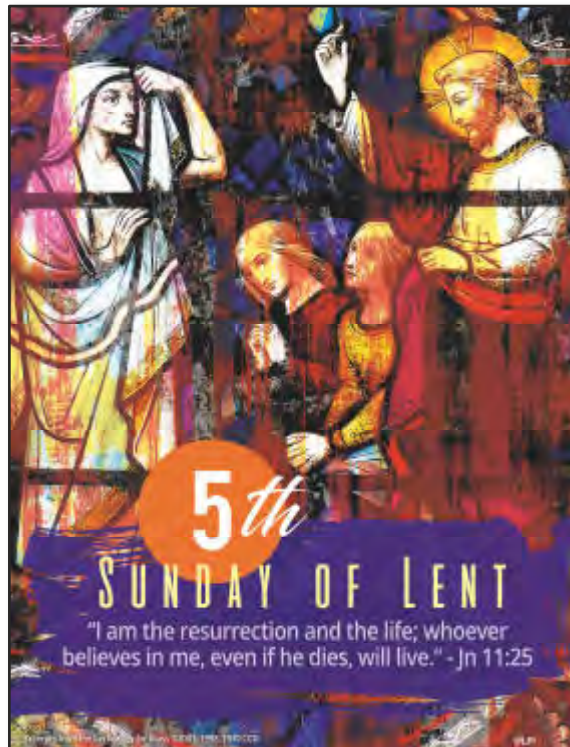
Public Masses are canceled until further notice. Please take this time to worship at home with your families. Check the Our Lady of Mercy website and e-mails for worship resources.

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*
Sarah Phipps, *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

We Remember...

Msgr. Dan Arnold and
Mary Ellen Dunn, mother of Janice Pelensky;
who passed away recently.

Please hold them and their families in prayer
during this difficult time.

MASS INTENTIONS

Even though public Masses have been suspended, Fr. Ritchie will continue to offer a private Mass each day remembering the intentions of Our Lady of Mercy parishioners at each Mass.

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



FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Just a reminder that although parishioners are not here, our bills still are. Please consider supporting by mailing your envelopes or dropping them off at the Parish Office.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Mon. 03/30	Dn 13:41c-62	/ Jn 8:1-11
Tue. 03/31	Nm 21:4-9	/ Jn 8:21-30
Wed. 04/01	Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95	/ Jn 8:31-42
Thur. 04/02	Gn 17:3-9	/ Jn 8:51-59
Fri. 04/03	Jer 20:10-13	/ Jn 10:31-42
Sat. 04/04	Ez 37:21-28	/ Jn 11:45-56
Sun. 04/05	Mt 21:1-11 / Is 50:4-7 / Phil 2:6-11	
	/ Mt 26:14-27 or 27:11-54	

SOCIAL JUSTICE

Women's History Month



The Nineteenth Amendment is 101 years old, yet many issues still impede the progress of women in our society. Women's wages still lag behind those of men: \$.79 for each dollar men made in 2019. The USA ranks last in government-mandated paid leave for new parents among developed countries. Pope Francis cautions that women must be "must be protected and helped in... the right to work and the right to motherhood. The challenge is to protect their right to a job that is given full recognition while at the same time safeguarding their vocation to motherhood and their presence in the family." In spite of the challenges to advancing the rights of women, their contributions as mothers, reformers, leaders, executives, teachers, and numerous other professions should not be overlooked.

THIS SUNDAY'S REFLECTION



JOHN 11:1-45

Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!"

A disciple once asked his spiritual teacher if there was life after death. "The question is not, 'Is there life AFTER death?'" replied the teacher, "rather, the question is 'Is there life BEFORE death?'"

When Jesus called Lazarus forth from the tomb, he gave him another chance at life. The burial cloths that bound him were loosened and he was free. Surely, he came forth radically changed, filled with thanksgiving.

Each moment of every day, we, too, are called to the same fullness of life. Jesus said, "I cam that [you] might have life and have it more abundantly" (John 10:10).

Are we living life to the fullest, aware that each moment is the rarest of gifts? Are our hearts filled with gratitude for all we have received from God? Or are we bound by cares and concerns, blind to the beauty of this life?

St. Irenaeus wrote in the early third century: "The glory of God is the human being fully alive."

This world is not a waiting room for the next. Our eternal life has begun! Jesus calls each of us to cast away all that binds us and blinds us to his love, and to come forth into the sunlight of his Spirit.

Reflection: In what way does my life give evidence of the resurrection?

"Trust me."

-GOD

©LPI

Let Us Give Thanks

With gratitude to God and for the prayers of the Community of Our Lady of Mercy, we are able to announce that we have a new Youth Minister for Our Lady of Mercy and St. Mark's. Her name is Sarah Phipps. Sarah will be working with us shortly. We are looking for an opportunity to introduce her to the parish. Please keep Sarah in your prayers as she begins her work in youth ministry with us.



For Mercy Sake Deadline



The deadline to submit items for the May issue of *For Mercy Sake* is April 19. Items can be emailed to ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org.

OLM Book Group

When the concerts have been cancelled and the museums closed, when the store shelves are empty and concerns of a virus has us staying at home, there is always books to keep us company. For now, the OLM Book Group is still gathering and all healthy readers are welcome to join us. Our April title will be Say Nothing by Patrick Keefe. Our May title will be Harry's Trees by Jon Cohen



Question Box



Have questions about your faith, the Bible, this parish, current religious topics? Place them in the Question Box in the Gathering Space before Easter and Fr. Ritchie will answer them in the May issue of *For Mercy Sake*.

"Adopt" a Homebound

During this time of self-isolation many of our homebound parishioners may feel more cut off from the community than usual. If you would like to adopt one of our homebound people and be in contact with them through mail and by phone please contact Donna Clark at dclark@ourladyofmercychurch.org.



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.



Hospital Visitation

We have been asked to suspend our general hospital visitation at this time. If you know someone is in the hospital please let us know. Pastoral visits are still allowed if the patient or family asks specifically. Please call the parish office to request a visit. Questions call Donna Clark

PASTORAL FACILITATOR TRAINING

Would you like to become a Small Christian Community facilitator? Would you simply like to learn more about what is involved in leading a prayer group? Please consider joining us for training; three training sessions held at the parish on the **Wednesday evenings of April 8 and April 15** (dates subject to change). For more information please call Dave (evenings) at 602-4622.



The Warming Shelter Thanks You

From January 16th thru the 31st and February 26th thru March 11th over 200 people came together to provide a warm, safe place for the people of our community who are homeless at St. John the Baptist! Each of those nights a breakfast and dinner was provided thanks to many generous people. This is entirely operated through donations, and people giving of their time and energy! Many people of Our Lady of Mercy parish put their faith into action and volunteered in some way. We are so very thankful to you for your part in encouraging them to do so! So many people make this a reality and it just simply couldn't be done without each and everyone! Thank you & God bless you....Mary & Mary Ellen



Pastoral Council Seeking New Members

Every spring the Pastoral Council seeks out parishioners who can help us envision the future of this community. The Pastoral Council engages in the process of pastoral planning and helps to set the direction of the parish community in prayer, leadership, service and pastoral action in consultation with the Pastor and Staff.



A nominee must be a parishioner who:

- † Has been baptized or received into the Roman Catholic Church.
- † By his or her free and consistent choice is a registered member of Our Lady of Mercy Parish.
- † Contributes to the betterment of the parish community.

We ask your prayerful consideration in nominating either yourself or another member of the parish community. If you are drawn to this ministry or if a name pops into your mind please contact Donna Clark dclark@ourladyofmercychurch.org

FORMED.ORG

"The Story of Salvation"

Walk in the steps of Jesus of Nazareth throughout the story of Salvation in this week's pick from FORMED. You can watch with your free parish subscription by simply selecting our parish's name during registration at formed.org



OLM Blood Drive Update

Our Lady of Mercy Church will be hosting a Blood Drive on **April 4, from 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.** Blood donation is safe and are not considered mass gatherings. As the coronavirus continues to spread in the United States the Community Blood Bank is in vital need of blood donations. As the exclusive supplier to our local hospitals, it is imperative that healthy individuals continue to donate blood. As this virus spreads, additional challenges may arise, which could reduce the number of eligible donors. Since blood and platelets have a limited shelf life, continued donations are important to maintain an adequate inventory for our local hospital patients needing transfusion," said Jeffrey Richmond, MD, Community Blood Bank Medical Director.

For your safety and the safety of Community Blood Bank staff these steps will be taken when you donate blood:

- Expect a staff member to take your temperature upon entering any of our draw sites beginning Tuesday, March 17. Your temperature will be taken again as part of our routine screening process. CBB is also taking staff members' temperatures before they begin their workday to ensure everyone at our blood drives is feeling healthy and well.

- Donation snacks are available at the front desk at our Erie Donor Center, or from a staff member at mobile blood drives. This will eliminate common bowls of items.

- Staff members wipe down all clip boards, pens, chairs, etc. after every donor.

- Additional sanitizer wipes and hand sanitizer is available for your use throughout the donation process.



LOCKDOWN BY BROTHER RICHARD:

Yes there is fear.
 Yes there is isolation.
 Yes there is panic buying.
 Yes there is sickness.
 Yes there is even death.
 But,
 They say that in Wuhan after so many years of noise
 You can hear the birds again.
 They say that after just a few weeks of quiet
 The sky is no longer thick with fumes
 But blue and grey and clear.
 They say that in the streets of Assisi
 People are singing to each other
 across the empty squares,
 keeping their windows open
 so that those who are alone
 may hear the sounds of family around them.
 They say that a hotel in the West of Ireland
 Is offering free meals and delivery to the housebound.
 Today a young woman I know
 is busy spreading fliers with her number
 through the neighborhood
 So that the elders may have someone to call on.
 Today Churches, Synagogues, Mosques and Temples
 are preparing to welcome
 and shelter the homeless, the sick, the weary
 All over the world people are slowing down and
 reflecting
 All over the world people are looking at their
 neighbors in a new way
 All over the world people are waking up to a new
 reality
 To how big we really are.
 To how little control we really have.
 To what really matters.
 To Love.
 So we pray and we remember that
 Yes there is fear.
 But there does not have to be hate.
 Yes there is isolation.
 But there does not have to be loneliness.
 Yes there is panic buying.
 But there does not have to be meanness.
 Yes there is sickness.
 But there does not have to be disease of the soul
 Yes there is even death.
 But there can always be a rebirth of love.
 Wake to the choices you make as to how to live now.
 Today, breathe.
 Listen, behind the factory noises of your panic
 The birds are singing again
 The sky is clearing,
 Spring is coming,
 And we are always encompassed by Love.
 Open the windows of your soul
 And though you may not be able
 to touch across the empty square,
 sing

CURSILLO CORNER

2020 Cursillo Dates

April 16-19th Women's Cursillo #258 at OLM

May 7-10th Men's Cursillo #251 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.



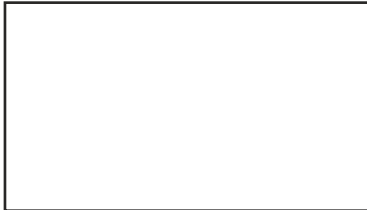
April 2020 Birthdays

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4 Eileen Drotar-4 Maria Allegretto-11
5	6 Ava Still-3	7	8	9	10	11 Gweneviere Wilczynski-5 Mariska Habursky-13
12	13	14	15 Samantha Bryan-12 Kathryn Gilchrist-17	16	17 Alex Lunger-14	18 Alexandra Bryan-8
19 Bernadette Berdis-18	20	21 Braeden Knepper-10	22 Isla Duda-2 Lydia Hordych-3 Joseph Gabler-18	23	24	25 
26	27	28	29 Patrick Wuerstle-1 Kara Taccone-4	30 Hannah Smith-14		

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