

# OUR LADY OF MERCY CHURCH

837 Bartlett Road • Harborcreek, PA 16421 • [www.ourladyofmercychurch.org](http://www.ourladyofmercychurch.org)



## April 5th, 2020 - Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

### MASS SCHEDULE

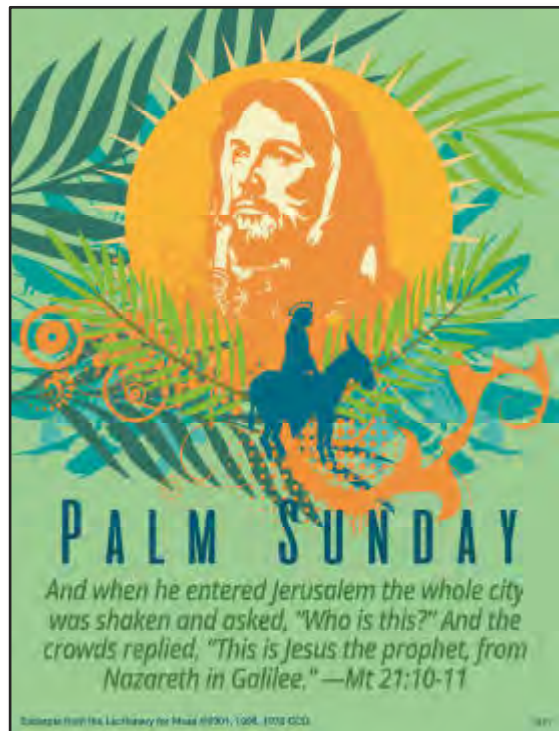
Public Masses are canceled until further notice. Please take this time to worship at home with your families. Check the Our Lady of Mercy website and e-mails for worship resources.

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

## 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. 04/06 Is 42:1-7 / Jn 12:1-11
- Tue. 04/07 Is 49:1-6 / Jn 13:21-33, 36-38
- Wed. 04/08 Is 50:4-9a / Mt 26:14-25
- Thur. 04/09 Ex 12:1-8 / 1 Cor 11:23-26 / Jn 13:1-15
- Fri. 04/10 Is 52:13-53 / Heb 4:14-16; 5:7-9 / Jn 18:1-19:42
- Sat. 04/11 Gn 1:1-2:2 / Gn 22:1-18 / Ex 14:15-15:1 / Is 54:5-14 / Is 55:1-11 / Bar 3:9-15, 32 - 4:4 / Ez 36:16-17a, 18-28 / Rom 6:3-11 / Mt 28:1-10
- Sun. 04/12 Acts 10:34a, 37-43 / Col 3:1-4 or 1 Cor 5:6b-8 / Jn 20:1-9 or Mt 28:1-10



## SOCIAL JUSTICE



“An education in ecological responsibility is urgent: responsibility for oneself, for others, and for the earth.” (World Day of Peace Message in 1990, Pope Saint John Paul II)

“Young people demand change. They wonder how anyone can claim to be building a better future without thinking of the environmental crisis and the sufferings of the excluded.” (Laudato Sí 13)

As you can read from the quotes above, the Catholic Church understands the need to care for the Earth! April 22, 2020 marks the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Earth Day. Erie had big plans to celebrate this event with a week of activities. At the time of this writing, it is unknown if any of these will take place due to the pandemic. Check the site below for the latest information. Participating in some of these events can help you to understand more about what you can do to care for our environment. There are events for everyone, including an Interfaith Prayer Service at the Cathedral of St. Paul on Tuesday, April 21 at 7PM. There will be a rally at noon on the 22<sup>nd</sup>, and a full afternoon of activities at the Maritime Center on Saturday the 25<sup>th</sup>. You can find the full list of events at this website: <https://my.lwv.org/pennsylvania/erie-county-pa-chapter/event/earth-day-week-2020-erie-pa-5>

## THIS SUNDAY'S REFLECTION



### MATTHEW 21:1-22

I grew up in a small town Missouri where Catholics were a minority. I can remember serving at the Easter Vigil when I was about sixteen and being very worried that my friends might see me outside helping light the fire. Our parish church was on Main Street, popular for cruising on Saturday nights. I was afraid of ridicule for doing another of “those Catholic things.” What did my fear keep me from that night?

We all have experiences fear in one form or another - fear of ridicule, rejection, physical harm, or even the unknown. Today we celebrate the Lord’s triumphal entry into Jerusalem. How many who gathered 2,000 years ago to celebrate his entry stayed with him through his Passion? The disciples would fear for their own lives, and Peter would deny him. The priests would conspire to kill him because they feared the power and authority of his teaching. Fearful of losing political power, Pilate would wash his hands of Jesus’ death sentence.

As we gather today to shout, “Hosanna,” we are called not only to welcome Our Lord with joy, but to shed our fears, take up our cross and share his Passion, so we might share in his resurrections.

Reflection: What fears take up the room in my life that should be reserved for joy?

Roy Goetz

### 2020 KoC Golf Raffle Postponed

The 2020 Knights of Columbus Golf & Sports Raffle scheduled for May 15 is being postponed due to the Virus situation until at least October. A final decision will be made in the next several months depending on the current situation at that time. If any parishioner has sold any tickets, please hold them until further notice. Of course, any refund requests should be honored. Thank you - Golf Raffle Committee



### Religious Education



COVID-19 has caused the closure of public schools and religious education classes throughout the region for a period of weeks.

But, even if we can't gather in person, we can continue to learn about our faith. Over the coming weeks, families will receive material to allow missed chapters to be taught at home. We appreciate the assistance of parents in sharing this material with their children so that we can begin in the fall with this year's curriculum completed.

### 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](mailto: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. If we can't meet in person, we can set up a zoom meeting. 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*.



## FORMED.ORG



As we start Holy Week, we are invited to reflect on the Passion of Jesus. Praying the Stations of the Cross can draw us into a deeper awareness of what we are celebrating in the days ahead.

<https://watch.formed.org/videos/way-of-the-cross>

There are several options for praying the Stations on formed.org as well as some meditations. You can search formed.org for specific titles or for a topic.

### Thanks for your Support

Again, we wish to thank those who have sent in their envelopes to the parish office. As a staff we continue our prayers for all of you and work behind the scenes to keep our community connected as the Body of Christ. If you prefer to make an online donation to Our Lady of Mercy you can do so through Faith Direct. There are options to sign up for a single gift or recurring gifts. Find both links on our website: "Donate Now" button or "Faith Direct" button.



### Do you know someone in Need?



The Ella Cochran food pantry held a special distribution for school families last week and is prepared to help again in the future. If you or someone you know is in need the pantry will distribute food on

Tuesday April 7 at 11AM. Please call 480-9979 to make a reservation so the pantry can prepare to serve you.

### Grief Support

Grief can be magnified during this time of social isolation. Even though we may not be able to meet in person for the next scheduled grief support group on Monday April 20, grief counseling is still available by phone. Please call 814-303-9282 the healing line for Our Lady of Mercy. You may also call the parish office and ask for Donna Clark.



### An opportunity to donate to the broader community.



We also extend our prayers beyond the parish community to all those who are affected by the virus and the stay at home

order. This disruption on our lives and livelihood has impacted people we know creating hardships for them. Catholic Charities, Inc., has developed a Community Relief Fund page on its website to facilitate donations that will help individuals in need. The board of directors of Catholic Charities, Inc., will manage all donations to this special fund. Together with Ann Badach, executive director, funds will be made available to support specific emergency outreach efforts, such as a parish food pantry. For details, contact Ann at [abadach@eriercd.org](mailto:abadach@eriercd.org) or by phone at 814-824-1252. Visit [www.eriercd.org/charities/](http://www.eriercd.org/charities/) and click on the Emergency Relief Fund link to learn more.

### 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.





## We Remember...

Theresa Malinowski;  
Phyllis Merritt, sister of Mark Krahe; and  
George Eckendorf, brother of John Eckendorf  
and uncle of Tom Eckendorf;  
who passed away recently.

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

*In  
Loving  
Memory*

## CURSILLO CORNER



### 2020 Cursillo Dates

April 16-19<sup>th</sup> Women's Cursillo #258 at  
OLM

May 7-10<sup>th</sup> 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.



PALM SUNDAY  
TELLS US THAT...  
IT IS THE CROSS  
THAT IS THE  
TRUE TREE OF LIFE.  
- POPE BENEDICT XVI

## 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

# OLM Youth Ministry

## Announcement



Calling all YOUTH!!!!  
SUNDAYS @ 8pm watch a  
live Youth Event Broadcast  
Go to [ProjectYM.com/watch](http://ProjectYM.com/watch)  
and enter Parents email!

STAY  
CONNECTED

LIKE THE NEW YOUTH MINISTRY  
FACEBOOK PAGE! (ST. MARK AND OUR  
LADY OF MERCY YOUTH MINISTRY)

INSTAGRAM PAGE COMING SOON!!!

## Welcome to our new Youth Minister!

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.

## CHILD PROTECTION AND CREATING SAFE ENVIRONMENTS

### Child Abuse Prevention Month

#### Reporting Suspected Child Abuse is Everyone's Responsibility:

It is every adult's moral responsibility to report suspected abuse or neglect of a minor to the responsible authorities. Sexual abuse of minors is a pervasive societal problem, and only concerted and sustained efforts by all adults in every segment of society can help to protect children and youth. In the 2019 state report there were 5,102 substantiated reports of child abuse in Pennsylvania in 2018. 47.4% of the substantiated reports were for sexual abuse. To report suspected abuse of a minor, call Childline at 1-800-932-0323 (anytime 24/7). Visit <https://www.eriecd.org/childprotection/> to learn how mandated reporters in the Erie diocese are required report suspected child abuse.





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