

OUR LADY OF MERCY CHURCH

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



April 12th, 2020 - Easter Sunday

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.



Alleluia!

May the Glory of our Risen Lord, which we celebrate in the Easter season, be with you, your family and friends.

Father Ritchie and Staff of Our Lady of Mercy

THE WEEK AHEAD

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

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.

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



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.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Mon. 04/13	Acts 2:12, 22-33	/ Mt 28:8-15
Tue. 04/14	Acts 2:36-41	/ Jn 20:11-18
Wed. 04/15	Acts 3:1-10	/ Lk 24:13-35
Thur. 04/16	Acts 3:11-26	/ Lk 24:35-48
Fri. 04/17	Acts 4:1-12	/ Jn 21:1-14
Sat. 04/18	Acts 4:13-21	/ Mk 16:9-15
Sun. 04/19	Acts 2:42-47 / 1 Pt 1:3-9	/ Jn 20:19-31

THIS SUNDAY'S REFLECTION



JOHN 20:1-9

For they did not yet understand the Scripture that he had to rise from the dead.

If you were a private investigator in first century Israel, your toughest case would begin the day Mary of Magdala burst into your office with a report that Jesus' body had been taken from its tomb.

When you arrive on the scene with Mary, Peter and the Beloved report seeing the burial cloth on the floor and the head covering neatly rolled up in a separate place. "Is that all?" you ask. "No footprints, no signs of a struggle? Anything else?"

Based on what you have seen and heard, is there enough evidence to convince you that there is more here than just an empty tomb? Probably not - Jesus' body could have been stolen by well-meaning followers.

Today you and I must go beyond the evidence. We understand "the scripture that Jesus would rise from the dead." Not only that, we have the good fortune to read elsewhere in John's Gospel the words, "Blessed are those who have not seen (the risen Christ) and have believed".

The facts in this case don't lead us very far. We include the evidence of faith and the testimony of a countless cloud of witnesses who, for over two thousand years, have staked everything in the belief that Jesus died for them and came back to life. With them we can say on no other evidence than faith itself, "Christ has died, Christ has risen..."

Reflection: How does this Gospel challenge me to witness to the life of the risen Christ within me?

David LeSieur



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

For Mercy Sake May issue is being postponed until we know more about the length of the shelter in place mandate and its impact on the parish calendar.



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. If you are interested in joining us on Zoom, send your email to Irene at ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org. Our April title will be *Say Nothing* by Patrick Keefe. Our May title will be *Harry's Trees* by Jon Cohen

Virtual Bible Study

Cooped up at home and going stir crazy? What about gathering for a Scripture Study in a virtual group? We will attempt a study of Paul's Letter to the Philippians from home. Each week participants will view one of the segments in the 6 part series on formed.org <https://watch.formed.org/lectio-philippians-with-dr-tim-gray> Then we will gather on Zoom to discuss the segment. We will gather each Thursday morning at 11:00. If you want to join, send Irene your email at ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org. Unable to gather at that time, but interested in this study? Email Irene with a time that is good for you and we can set up another chat session at another time.



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 or by phone at 814-824-1252. Visit 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.



FORMED.ORG

Is there historical evidence for the Resurrection?

<https://watch.formed.org/videos/level-4-evidence-the-resurrection>

If you are new to the parish subscription, you can enjoy formed.org for free by signing up as part of the parish subscription. All you need is your email, then select the option for an "institution or parish" subscription and search for Our Lady of Mercy Harborcreek.



CURSILLO CORNER

Cursillo News

Due to COVID-19 both men's & women's Cursillo have been postponed until fall. New information will be announced when it's available. Any questions, please call Lois Heise at 882-9555.



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 Si 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 50th 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 22nd, and a full afternoon of activities at the Maritime Center on Saturday the 25th. 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>

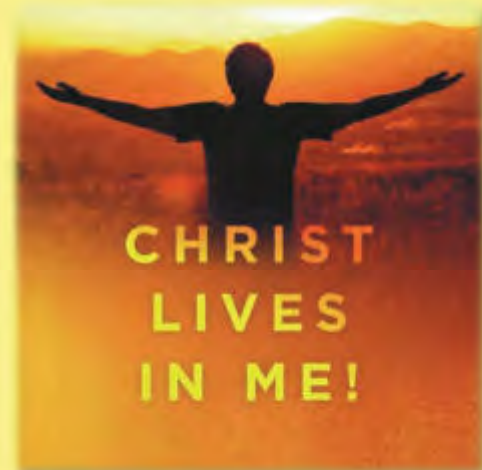


LOCKDOWN BY BROTHER RICHARD:

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



Go share the
GOOD NEWS!



CHILD PROTECTION AND CREATING SAFE ENVIRONMENTS

Child Abuse Prevention Month: Be Vigilant

It is vitally important that we are constantly vigilant concerning the behaviors of those who interact with children. And we must always communicate our concerns to the appropriate parties. Sometimes this means communicating our safety concerns to our children. And sometimes this means communicating our concerns about seemingly inappropriate behavior to those who are in a position to intervene. Parents must also listen carefully to their children and observe both their children's activities and the behavior of older children and adults who interact with them. When children exhibit dramatic behavioral changes, adults must find out what caused the changes. Being aware of what's happening with our children means talking to, listening to, and observing them - at every opportunity. Visit <https://www.eriecd.org/childprotection/> to see what the diocese is doing to help maintain safe environments for children and youth.



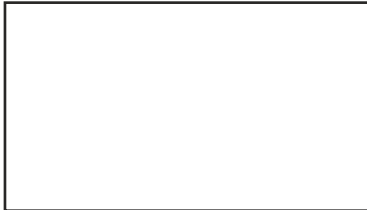
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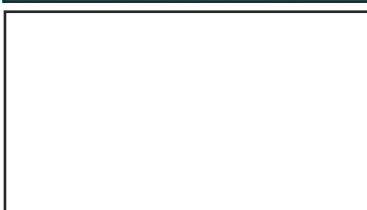
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