

OUR LADY OF MERCY CHURCH

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



April 19th, 2020 - Second Sunday of Easter

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

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.



SOCIAL JUSTICE

"The urgent challenge to protect our common home includes a concern to bring the whole human family together to seek a sustainable and integral development...Humanity still

has the ability to work together in building our common home." (Laudato Sí 13)

During this month of the 50th anniversary of Earth Day, the Catholic Climate Covenant (<https://catholicclimatecovenant.org/>) has joined with Earth Day Network for this year's theme of "Climate Action". What can you do as a faithful Catholic caring for the Earth to build "our common home"? Catholic Climate Covenant has a few action ideas. Choose one or two that you have not yet incorporated into your life and give them a try!

- Calculate my carbon footprint and commit to reduce it by at least 10% in 2020
- Say NO to single-use plastic. Reuse disposable plastic bottles, bags, straws, cutlery and cups!
- Switch to renewable energy (solar works in NW PA and the cost continues downward)
- Go meatless on Mondays and/or Fridays (at least)
- Speak to my elected officials about climate change
- Plant at least two trees in 2020
- Wash clothes in cold water and hang-dry clothes
- Install a programmable thermostat
- Replace incandescent and compact fluorescent lights with LED lights
- Compost leaves and food waste
- Pray for our common home and all Earth protectors

We Remember...

Olive Johnson and Thomas Ulrich husband of Ann Marie Ulrich; who passed away recently.

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

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Mon. 04/20	Acts 4:23-31	/ Jn 3:1-8
Tue. 04/21	Acts 4:32-37	/ Jn 3:7b-15
Wed. 04/22	Acts 5:17-26	/ Jn 3:16-21
Thur. 04/23	Acts 5:27-33	/ Jn 3:31-36
Fri. 04/24	Acts 5:34-42	/ Jn 6:1-15
Sat. 04/25	1 Pt 5:5b-14	/ Mk 16:15-20
Sun. 04/26	Acts 2:14, 22-33	/ 1 Pt 1:17-21 / Lk 24:13-35

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



THIS SUNDAY'S REFLECTION

JOHN 20:19-31

"As the Father has sent me, so I send you."

Just as John's Gospel is focused on God sending his Son, everything after Easter is about sending as well. The good news of Jesus is not a personal possession or even a community treasure to be kept and pondered. The good news of Jesus is to be proclaimed joyfully, shared intimately, and most importantly, lived profoundly as we continue the mission of Jesus.

Because the risen Lord dwells in us, and the Spirit abides with us, we are indeed sent - sent to our families and friends most assuredly, but even sent to those who cross our paths unexpectedly and to those whose views we do not share. Sometimes we'd rather stay "home" where it's comfortable and stable, but the risen Jesus continually equips us with the Spirit of God so that we are able to recognize the sending, and go where we must.

St. Francis reminded his community to witness always and when necessary to use words. What others see in us can be the open door that leads them to proclaim with Thomas, "My Lord and my God!"

Reflection: Where do I need to acknowledge that I have been sent? And how does my being sent by God change my sense of purpose?



Cackie Upchurch

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.



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

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 beginning April 23. If you want to join, send Irene your email at ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org by Monday, April 20. 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.



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. Our May title will be Harry's Trees by Jon Cohen

Question & Answer with the Pastor

The current quarantine is limiting many of our normal activities, but it is also encouraging us to try new things. We are going to try a Question & Answer with the Pastor via zoom on Tuesday, April 28 at 7:00 PM. If you are interested in participating, send your email and phone number to ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org so you can receive a link to join in. Because this is so new, it might also be helpful to have some questions ahead of time, ready to go. If you are willing to submit a question in advance, send it to ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org.



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.



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.

Reaching out to our Parishioners

The Pastoral council set aside their goal writing process last month to take on a project of reaching out to our homebound and more vulnerable parishioners. We are touching base with those who may not be getting our email or know that we are livestreaming Mass on Sunday at 11AM. A number of parishioners responded to Fr Ritchie's Holy Thursday homily asking for help in reaching out. The council chair, Bill Matrogran, divided the first list of 66 parishioners among the council members and the volunteers. We are also contacting those for whom we do not have an e mail on file. We have a second list of parishioners who are older and live alone that we also wish to call. If you would like to assist in making these calls please contact the parish office. You may also get a call if we don't have an e-mail address on file for you. If you are not getting the twice weekly e mails from the parish, please sign up for our e-newsletter either on the parish website or by calling the parish office. The e-newsletter on Tuesday contains parish information and the Friday letter contains links for the weekend worship aid and other prayer opportunities.



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.



CHILD PROTECTION AND CREATING SAFE ENVIRONMENTS

Child Abuse Prevention Month

The "Creating A Safe Environment" training program is an integral component to the prevention effort in our diocese. The mandated program trains employees and volunteers in the warning signs of abuse and how to report suspected abuse of a minor. Since 2003 over 59,000 adults in the diocese have received the training to recognize and report child abuse. With the help of the safe environment training program, the faithful are guided and educated about the responsibility to keep God's children protected and safe. Visit <https://www.eriecd.org/childprotection/> to take the training program or learn what is required for employees and volunteers to work with children in diocesan parishes/schools/agencies.

Announcement



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

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LADY OF MERCY YOUTH MINISTRY)

INSTAGRAM PAGE COMING SOON!!!



GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY COLLECTION

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Every year around Good Shepherd Sunday we hold the Good Shepherd Collection for retired diocesan priests in our diocese. It is our annual opportunity to show our appreciation and love for our priests –those retired and those who will follow in years to come. The response to the Good Shepherd Collection has always been one of overwhelming generosity by you, the people of the diocese.

We do not want to forget those priests who have ministered to our spiritual needs. They were with us every step of the way, celebrating baptisms, witnessing marriage vows and presiding at the funerals of loved ones. Even after their retirement, many continue to provide sacramental ministry in our parishes. If you wish to make a contribution to the Good Shepherd Collection, it can be made to your parish the weekend of May 2-3 or anytime in the upcoming weeks either by mail or online at:

www.ErieRCD.org

Every contribution is greatly appreciated and will make a difference in the lives of our retired priests. The income generated from the annual collection assists with their care and health related expenses. It also funds the Retirement Pension for them and for the priests who serve you now.

This collection should not be confused with the Retirement Fund for Religious, taken in December for Religious Sisters, Brothers and Priests. That collection does not benefit our diocesan priests.

The diocese is committed to caring for our retired priests; but we need your help. I thank you for your past generosity to the Good Shepherd Collection. Even in this difficult time we face now with COVID –19, if you can, prayerfully consider a gift to this collection sometime in the upcoming weeks. Our priests join me in thanking you for your kindness and generosity to the Good Shepherd Collection.

Stay close to Jesus and the Blessed Mother in prayer, asking that those who are suffering from the disease or from any related anxiety as a result of this pandemic, may find healing and peace. May the Risen Christ fill your hearts and homes with His love this Easter Season.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
+ Lawrence J. Persico
Bishop of Erie

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PICK OF THE WEEK



Divine Mercy
with Father Michael Gaitley

The vast panorama of God's work of mercy in the world unfolds as a story to be experienced interwoven through the transformative events of Saint Faustina, Mary at Fatima, Saint Maximilian Kolbe, and Pope Saint John Paul II.

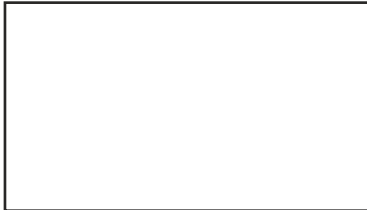
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