

OUR LADY OF MERCY CHURCH

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



April 26th, 2020 - Third 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 Si 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



SCRIPTURE READINGS

Mon. 04/27	Acts 6:8-15	/ Jn 6:22-29
Tue. 04/28	Acts 7:51-8:1a	/ Jn 6:30-35
Wed. 04/29	Acts 8:1b-8	/ Jn 6:35-40
Thur. 04/30	Acts 8:26-40	/ Jn 6:44-51
Fri. 05/01	Acts 9:1-20	/ Jn 6:52-59
Sat. 05/02	Acts 9:31-42	/ Jn 6:60-69
Sun. 05/03	Acts 2:14a, 36-41	/ 1 Pt 2:20b-25 / Jn 10:1-10

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 490-9681



THIS SUNDAY'S REFLECTION

LUKE 24:13-35



Their eyes were prevented from recognizing him.

Luke is a great storyteller, giving us eyes to see deeper truths. Let’s imagine that we are the disciple traveling with Cleopas on the way to Emmaus. We are filled with questions and a bit depressed about the events of the past few days. What does it all mean? Jesus offered so much, we thought he was our liberator, and now our hopes are dashed.

A stranger joins us and listens to our troubled hearts. He helps us see what we had failed to see before. It was all there in the Scriptures. So we ask him to stay with us, and in breaking bread with him, our eyes are opened.

Isn’t that how we often view Scriptures? We look for verses that give us comfort while overlooking those that challenge us to see a deeper truth, that requires a change in the way we live our lives. But time spent with other disciples praying and studying the Scriptures sharpens our vision. Our hearts burn within us and we look for ways to share that vision with others.

Reflection: Where do I see Jesus in the people and events in my life? In what ways am I challenged to help others see Jesus?

Lilly Hess

Virtual Bible Study

Cooped at home and going stir crazy? What about gathering for a Scripture Study in a virtual group? It's not too late! You can still join our study of Paul's Letter to the Philippians. 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.



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.

OLM Book Group

Despite the social distancing, the OLM Book Group continues to meet. In April, we had our first meeting via zoom. Pandemic or not, we will meet at 7:00 PM on May 20. If permitted to meet in small groups at that time, we will gather at the home of Marilyn Garwig. If we are still in quarantine, we will meet over zoom. If we need to use zoom, you will need to send your email to ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org to get the link to the virtual meeting space. Our May title will be Harry's Trees by Jon Cohen. In June, we will discuss The Huntress by Kate Quin.



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



Get the bulletin in your In-Box

To receive an e mail with the weekly bulletin sign up at: <https://parishesonline.com/find/our-lady-of-mercy-church-16421> You can also sign up by going through the bulletin page on our parish website.



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 have a food need?

Our food pantry received emergency food boxes from Second Harvest through a grant from the gaming commission. Do you need food? Do you know anyone who needs food? Come on Wednesday April 29 from 8:30am to 10:00 am. Families who are out of work can also come on May 20 for the monthly distribution of food from 8:30am to 12:30pm. To sign up ahead of time or for emergencies call the food pantry at 480-9979. If you have other needs please call the parish office.



Reaching out to Our Parishioners

The outreach to our homebound and more vulnerable parishioners is still ongoing. Many people expressed gratitude for the call. Within our community, our older parishioners are being cared for by family and friends. The biggest need that emerged was to be mailed a weekly bulletin. Katie in the parish office is mailing about 17 bulletins out each week. Would you like to help subsidize postage . . . drop off a sheet of stamps.



Get the weekly e newsletters from Our Lady of Mercy

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.

FORMED.ORG

Made for Greatness: Runway Model Turns to Christ by Leah Darrow



Leah Darrow was a fashion model in New York City and a reality TV contestant on America's Next Top Model. She now travels the world sharing her unique experiences in the beauty industry. Leah now speaks to tens of thousands of people each year, audiences as diverse as a United Nations panel, the World Trade Center in Manila, Phillipines, pro-life events, and local parishes. In this presentation, learn how the pursuit of pop culture's definition of love and happiness led to a moment of mercy and conversion in Leah's life.

<https://watch.formed.org/made-for-greatness-runway-model-turns-to-christ-by-leah-darrow>

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.

Crisis Hotlines

If you are in crisis and need help immediately, please consult one of the following toll-free national hotlines or contact your local police or emergency services. All hotlines are free.



Childhelp (1.800.4ACHILD)

Provides 24/7 assistance in 170 languages to adults, children and youth with information and questions regarding child abuse. All calls are anonymous and confidential.

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (1.800.273.TALK)

Support and assistance 24/7 for anyone feeling depressed, overwhelmed or suicidal.

National Domestic Violence Hotline (1.800.799.SAFE)

National call center refers to local resources; Spanish plus 160 other languages available; no caller ID used.

National Sexual Assault Hotline (1.800.656.HOPE)

(Rape, Abuse, and Incest National Network - RAINN) Nationwide referrals for specialized counseling and support groups. Hotline (1.800.656.4673) routes calls to local sex assault crisis centers for resources and referrals. Spanish available.

National Parent Helpline (1.855.4A.PARENT)

Helpline for parent and caregiver support.

For more information and to find more Hotline numbers that are available to you, please visit <https://www.stopitnow.org/ohc-content/crisis-hotlines>



CHILD PROTECTION AND CREATING SAFE ENVIRONMENTS

Child Abuse Prevention Month

Mandated Reporters in the Diocese of Erie are people who hold positions of trust in our schools, parishes, agencies and institutions and are mandated by Pennsylvania law and the diocesan Policy for the Protection of Children to report suspected abuse of a minor. All employees and volunteers working/serving for the Diocese of Erie, in our parishes, schools or agencies are considered mandated reporters both legally and morally obligated to report any reasonable suspected child abuse to ChildLine, the local police, or other appropriate agency. Visit <https://www.eriecd.org/childprotection/> to read the specific reporting procedures required by the diocese.



STAY CONNECTED

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

INSTAGRAM PAGE COMING SOON!!!

Announcement



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

A pandemic prayer from Bishop Persico

Bishop Lawrence Persico, bishop of Erie, is asking all Catholics in the diocese to offer a special prayer that he wrote, "Prayer in Time of Pandemic," every day at noon throughout the Easter season, which lasts until Pentecost, Sunday, May 31. The Bishop has also asked that all parishes ring their bells each Sunday at noon.

"This initiative is a reminder to the community that we have hope in the resurrection," Bishop Persico said. "For centuries, bells have called people together to pray. During this time when we cannot gather, they can still remind us to put ourselves in God's presence, call us to prayer and help us focus as we worship."

Bishop Persico noted that everyone has experienced a particularly trying Lent this year.

"With all of the tragedy and anxiety of the past weeks, we know the experience of Lent and Good Friday in a deeper way," he said. "We are united with the suffering Christ. But we know, too, that Good Friday led to Easter. As Christians, even as we are living in the midst of this worldwide pandemic, we have hope in the message of the resurrection. We believe a new day, a future with hope and the joy of new life will come."

PRAYER IN TIME OF PANDEMIC

Lord Jesus,

You came to bring salvation to our world.

You humbled yourself to accept death on a cross.

Be with us as we confront the spread
of the coronavirus with courage and hope.

Be present to the sick
and to those who accompany them in their suffering.

Strengthen our medical professionals and caregivers;
comfort families who are separated from one another.

Protect those who are at risk of the virus in their work.

Grant wisdom to our civic officials
and perseverance to scientists.

Spare us from the ravages of this illness
and console us in our uncertainty and fear.

Unite us in hope, enlighten us in faith,
and give us the grace as a Church
to love one another as You have loved us.

Through the intercession of our Heavenly Mother,
we make this prayer as we place our trust in You.

Amen.

Imprimatur, April 8, 2020

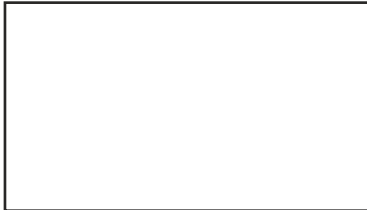
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Bishop of Erie*



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