

OUR LADY OF MERCY CHURCH

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



May 3rd, 2020 - Fourth Sunday of Easter

MASS SCHEDULE

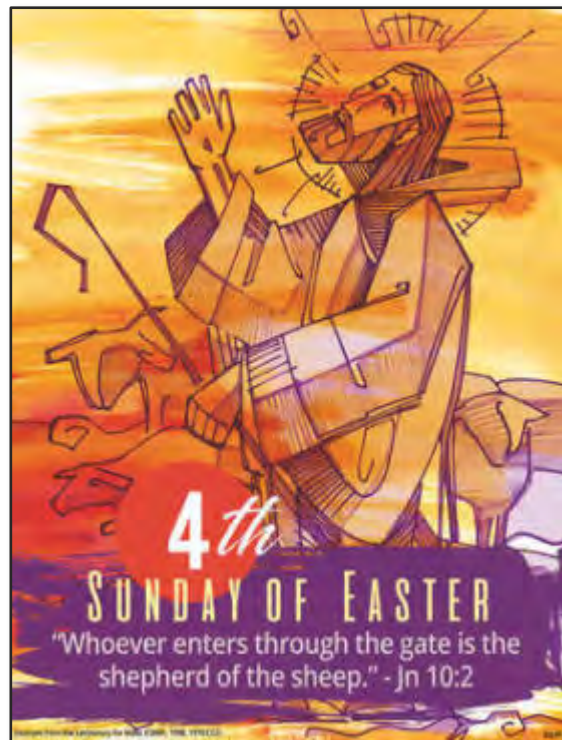
Public Masses are canceled until further notice. Please take this time to worship at home with your families. Check the Our Lady of Mercy website and e-mails for worship resources.

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.

We Remember...

Willavene "Willy" Skeel mother of Melinda Krahe; who passed away recently.

Please hold her and her family in prayer during this difficult time.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Mon. 05/04	Acts 11:1-18	/ Jn 10:11-18
Tue. 05/05	Acts 11:19-26	/ Jn 10:22-30
Wed. 05/06	Acts 12:24-13:5a	/ Jn 12:44-50
Thur. 05/07	Acts 13:13-25	/ Jn 13:16-20
Fri. 05/08	Acts 13:26-33	/ Jn 14:1-6
Sat. 05/09	Acts 13:44-52	/ Jn 14:7-14
Sun. 05/10	Acts 6:1-7 / 1 Pt 2:4-9	/ Jn 14:1-12

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



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>

THIS SUNDAY'S REFLECTION

JOHN 10:1-10

"I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly."

When I was a Newman chaplain several years ago, I went with a group of students to an evangelical rally. The featured speaker use this quote to focus on a "gospel of prosperity," promising the students that if they remained faithful to Jesus, they would have plenty of money and the good health needed for enjoying it.

Beyond wondering about the delayed impact on the faith of listeners later on, when they encountered economic pressures, or a chronically sick baby, or cancer, I thought how limited is the concept of life in his message. Is life just a cozy short ride in a limousine? And more, how does this fit with Jesus' call to disciples to carry the cross and drink the cup with them.

Jesus is talking about real life, a permanent gift, something that is already present now to give our time in this world meaning and which will flower into eternal life in the age to come. It is, in fact, a living gift because it is a living presence of God himself in us by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

Reflection: How can the presence of God make even the worst situation an occasion of abundant life? Can I allow myself to look for evidence of this kind of life even in my disappointments?

Jerome Kodell, O.S.B.



Virtual Bible Study

It is not too late to join our virtual Scripture Study of Paul's Letter to the Philippians. This Thursday, we will discuss the third lecture by Dr. Tim Grey <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.



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.



Need Food?

Families who are out of work can receive food from the Ella Cochran Food Pantry on **May 20 from 8:30am to 12:30pm**. This is the regular monthly distribution on the third Wednesday of the month. To sign up ahead of time or for food emergencies call the food pantry at 480-9979. If you have other needs please call the parish office.



Reaching out to Our Parishioners

We are grateful to the volunteers who helped us to make phone calls to our older parishioners and those for whom we had no e mail on file. We are happy to hear that our parishioners are all safe and doing relatively well considering they have to stay inside. We still have more phone calls to make if you can help us with this third round of calls. Call the parish office if you can help.



Sign up for Faith Direct

Looking for a more direct way to support Our Lady of Mercy rather than mailing your envelope or dropping it off at the parish office? Sign up for Faith Direct, our church's online giving platform. You can find the link to Faith Direct on our website. To get us through this time of social distancing you can make a one-time donation or sign up for recurring donations. Signing up for regular donations helps us by the consistency of your support, helps you by the convenience, and helps both of us by reducing our printing and mailing costs.



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.



FORMED.ORG

Praying the Rosary Like Never Before
by Dr. Edward Sri

FORMED

Dr. Edward Sri is a nationally sought Catholic speaker who appears regularly on EWTN and is a founding leader of FOCUS (Fellowship of Catholic University Students). In this discussion of his book, The New Rosary in Scripture: Biblical Insights on Praying the Twenty Mysteries (Servant Books), Dr. Sri shares Pope St. John Paul II's practical strategies for praying the Rosary better so you can encounter Jesus more deeply in prayer. <https://watch.formed.org/praying-the-rosary-like-never-before-by-dr-edward-sri>

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.



STAY CONNECTED

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

INSTAGRAM PAGE COMING SOON!!!



CHILD PROTECTION AND CREATING SAFE ENVIRONMENTS

National CyberTipline

The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children's CyberTipline is the nation's centralized reporting system for the online exploitation of children. Anyone can make reports of suspected online enticement of children for sexual acts, molestation, child pornography, child sex tourism, child sex trafficking (includes prostitution), child sextortion and unsolicited obscene materials sent to a child. Misleading domain names, misleading words or digital images on the internet can also be reported to the CyberTipline. NCMEC staff review each tip and work to find a potential location for the incident reported so that it may be made available to the appropriate law-enforcement agency for possible investigation. NCMEC provides resources/help in removing an online image. Reports can be made 24 hours a day, seven days a week online at www.cybertipline.org or by calling (800) 843-5678. Visit <https://www.eriescd.org/childprotection/> to see what the diocese is doing to help maintain safe environments for children and youth.

SOCIAL JUSTICE



May brings a season of college graduations. The current need to close universities to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus has made inequalities among various social groups on campus evident to the entire country. But, the inequalities go beyond this historic moment. College degrees are regarded as a primary vehicle for reducing poverty and closing the wealth gaps between people of color and whites. Yet, the disparities that exist are striking.

STATISTIC #1:

African American students are less likely than white students to have access to college-ready courses. In fact, in 2011-12, only 57 percent of black students have access to a full range of math and science courses necessary for college readiness, compared to with 81 percent of Asian American students and 71 percent of white students.

STATISTIC #2:

Even when black students do have access to honors or advanced placement courses, they are vastly underrepresented in these courses. Black and Latino students represent 38 percent of students in schools that offer AP courses, but only 29 percent of students enrolled in at least one AP course. Black and Latino students also have less access to gifted and talented education programs than white students.

STATISTIC #3:

African American students are often located in schools with less qualified teachers, teachers with lower salaries and novice teachers.

STATISTIC #4:

Research has shown evidence of systematic bias in teacher expectations for African American students and non-black teachers were found to have lower expectations of black students than black teachers.

STATISTIC #5:

African American students are less likely to be college-ready. In fact, 61 percent of ACT-tested black students in the 2015 high school graduating class met none of the four ACT college readiness benchmarks, nearly twice the 31 percent rate for all students.

STATISTIC #6:

Black students spend less time in the classroom due to discipline, which further hinders their access to a quality education. Black students are nearly two times as likely to be suspended without educational services as white students. Black students are also 3.8 times as likely to receive one or more out-of-school suspensions as white students. In addition, black children represent 19 percent of the nation's pre-school population, yet 47 percent of those receiving more than one out-of-school suspension. In comparison, white students represent 41 percent of pre-school enrollment but only 28 percent of those receiving more than one out-of-school suspension. Even more troubling, black students are 2.3 times as likely to receive a referral to law enforcement or be subject to a school-related arrest as white students.

STATISTIC #7:

Students of color are often concentrated in schools with fewer resources. Schools with 90 percent or more students of color spend \$733 less per student per year than schools with 90 percent or more white students.

STATISTIC #8:



According to the Office for Civil Rights, 1.6 million students attend a school with a sworn law enforcement officers (SLEO), but not a school counselor. In fact, the national student-to-counselor ratio is 491-to-1, however the American School Counselor Association recommends a ratio of 250-to-1.

STATISTIC #9:

In 2015, the average reading score for white students on the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) 4th and 8th grade exam was 26 points higher than black students. Similar gaps are apparent in math. The 12th grade assessment also show alarming disparities as well, with only seven percent of black students performing at or above proficient on the math exam in 2015, compared to 32 percent white students. There is a clear lack of black representation in school personnel. According to a 2016 Department of Education report, in 2011-12, only 10 percent of public school principals were black, compared to 80 percent white. Eighty-two percent of public school educators are white, compared to 18 percent teachers of color. In addition, black male teachers only constitute two percent of the teaching workforce.

May Birthdays



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Josie Hicks-14	2
3 Boden Gushie-15 Bailey Festa-17	4 Colton Wuerstle-11	5	6 Liam Marshall-11 Charley Hamilton-7	7 Elizabeth Gunther-14 Maddie Inthavong-9	8 Isabella McKeel-10	9 Logan Taccone-7
10 Jordyn Nowak-16	11 Dakota Pohl-11	12	13	14 Caroline Weber-16 Gavin Galbreath-9	15 Nicholas Thompson-18	16 Aubrey Shamburg-4
17 Johnathan Catrabone -8	18	19	20 Julie Kruszewski-18	21 Jordan Polh-10 Emma McKeel-17	22	23 Rachel D'Angelo-19 Landon Ford-12 Leo Martin-1
24 	25 Eoin Eightmy-10	26 Nora Weiss-10	27 Milo Hamilton-9	28 Sam Parente-15	29 	30 Joseph Skelly-1
31						

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