

OUR LADY OF MERCY CHURCH

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



May 10th, 2020 - Fifth Sunday of Easter

MASS SCHEDULE

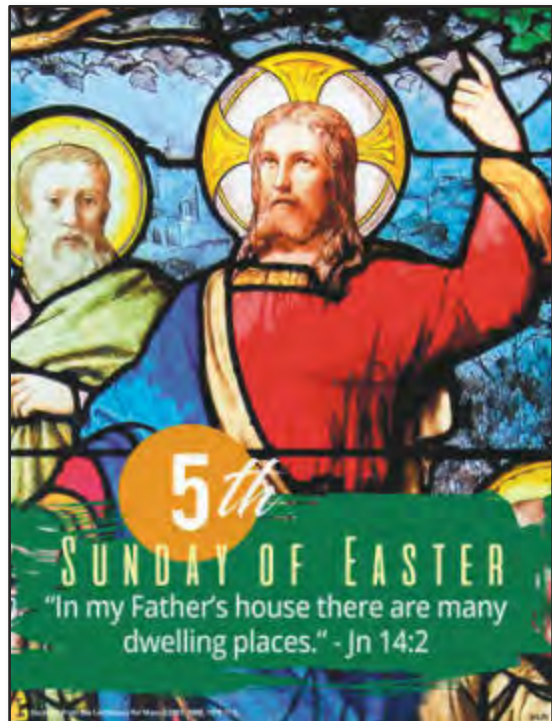
Public Masses are canceled until further notice. Please take this time to worship at home with your families. Check the Our Lady of Mercy website and e-mails for worship resources.

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.

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



We Remember...

Shirley Amendola, mother of Cheryl Henry,
Rosemary Piovarcy, sister-in-law of Glory Piovarcy and
Donald Triana, uncle of Barbara Schlosser;
who passed away recently.

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

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>



SCRIPTURE READINGS

Mon. 05/11	Acts 14:5-18	/ Jn 14:21-26
Tue. 05/12	Acts 14:19-28	/ Jn 14:27-31a
Wed. 05/13	Acts 15:1-6	/ Jn 15:1-8
Thur. 05/14	Acts 1:15-17,20-26	/ Jn 15:9-17
Fri. 05/15	Acts 15:22-31	/ Jn 15:12-17
Sat. 05/16	Acts 16:1-10	/ Jn 15:18-21
Sun. 05/17	Acts 8:5-8, 14-17	/ 1 Pt 3:15-18 / Jn 14:15-21

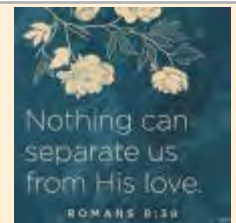
MASS INTENTIONS

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.

THIS SUNDAY'S REFLECTION

JOHN 14:1-12

"If you know me then you will also know my Father."



Like father, like son. The acorn doesn't fall far from the tree. A chip off the old block. We have many expressions for family resemblance. These sayings have their root in physical appearance, of course, but also in behavior.

Anyone who has raised or taught children knows firsthand that children follow examples more readily than words. Most readily, they follow the people they love or admire most. It should not surprise us then when children - for good or ill - exhibit behavior they learned by example from their parents.

It is normal for us to struggle to believe in the unknown. When Philip says, "show us the Father," Jesus replies, "whoever has seen me has seen the Father." He is telling us that he is like his father, "I am in the Father and the Father is in me." It is easier for the disciples to believe in the Father they have not met because they know the Son.

When Thomas asks, "How can we know the way?" Jesus replies, "I am the way..." If we are like him then we will know the Father. "Whoever believes in me will do the works that I do...because I am going to the Father."

We, too, know the Father because we know the Son. We will reach the Father if we live by the example of the Son. Like Son, like Father.

Reflection: Is my relationship with Jesus one that is growing and maturing? How would my description of God be different now than it was when I was a child?

Peter Dwyer

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 fourth 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.



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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.



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.



Connecting with people from the Parish

Are you missing the people that you see regularly at Mass or other church events?
Take a moment and close your eyes.
Imagine that you are sitting in your regular pew.
Hear the sounds around you before Mass.
See someone come in who normally sits near you.
See their smile.
Exchange a warm greeting.
Share with them your struggle of these past seven weeks.
Listen to their story.
What has changed for you?
How have you encountered Christ through this experience?
What have you discovered about yourself or others?
What are you doing differently that you hope to continue?
What new developments have you experienced in prayer?
Imagine your embrace of the other in a new sense of unconditional love.
Rest in the warm emotions that flood into your heart.
Rejoice for your encounter with the Risen Christ.

A Mother's Love

There are times when only a mother's love
 Can understand our tears,
 Can soothe our disappoints
 And calm all of our fears.
 There are times when only a mother's love
 Can share the joy we feel
 When something we've dreamed about
 Quite suddenly is real.
 There are times when only a mother's faith
 Can help us on life's way
 And inspire in us the confidence
 We need from day to day.
 For a mother's heart and a mother's faith
 And a mother's steadfast love
 Were fashioned by the angels
 And sent from God above.
 - Author Unknown



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.

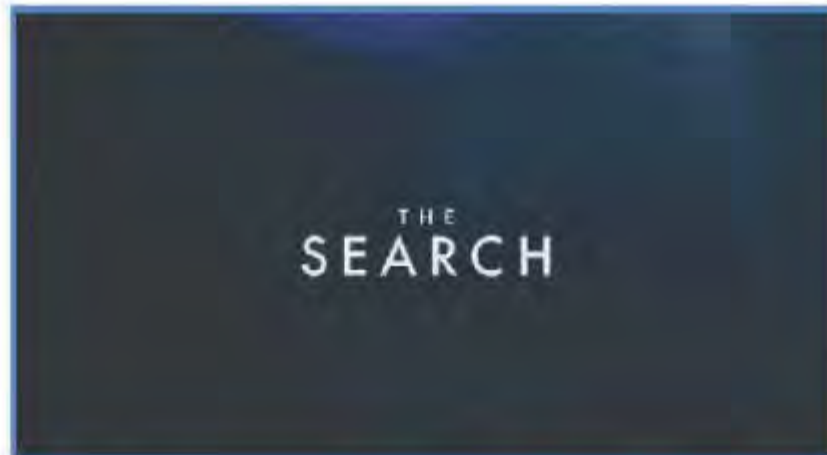
STATISTIC #8:

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.

FORMED PICK OF THE WEEK



THE SEARCH

Augustine Institute Original Series

What is this journey in between the event we call “birth” and the one we call “death”? The questions are there. And, the answers are too.

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