

OUR LADY OF MERCY CHURCH

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



May 24th, 2020 - 7th 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



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. 05/25	Acts 19:1-8	/ Jn 16:29-33
Tue. 05/26	Acts 20:17-27	/ Jn 17:1-11a
Wed. 05/27	Acts 20:28-38	/ Jn 17:11b-19
Thur. 05/28	Acts 22:30; 23:6-11	/ Jn 17:20-26
Fri. 05/29	Acts 25:13b-21	/ Jn 21:15-19
Sat. 05/30	Acts 28:16-20, 30-31	/ Jn 21:20-25
Sun. 05/31	Acts 2:1-11/1 Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13	/ Jn 20:19-23

SPECIAL COLLECTION'S UPDATE

Pope Francis has moved the Peter's Pence Collection, for this year, from June 27-28 to the October 3-4. If any of you submitted donations earlier, they will be applied to the collection monies contributed in October. We will keep you informed if there are other changes in special collections this year.

THIS SUNDAY'S REFLECTION

JOHN 17:1-11A

"I pray for them."

This passage from the Gospel of John is the beginning of the "high priestly prayer" offered by Jesus at the Last Supper. It is a prayer of petition made directly to God the Father in the intimate presence of the apostles. Its words express the deep tenderness and love Jesus felt for those closest to him.

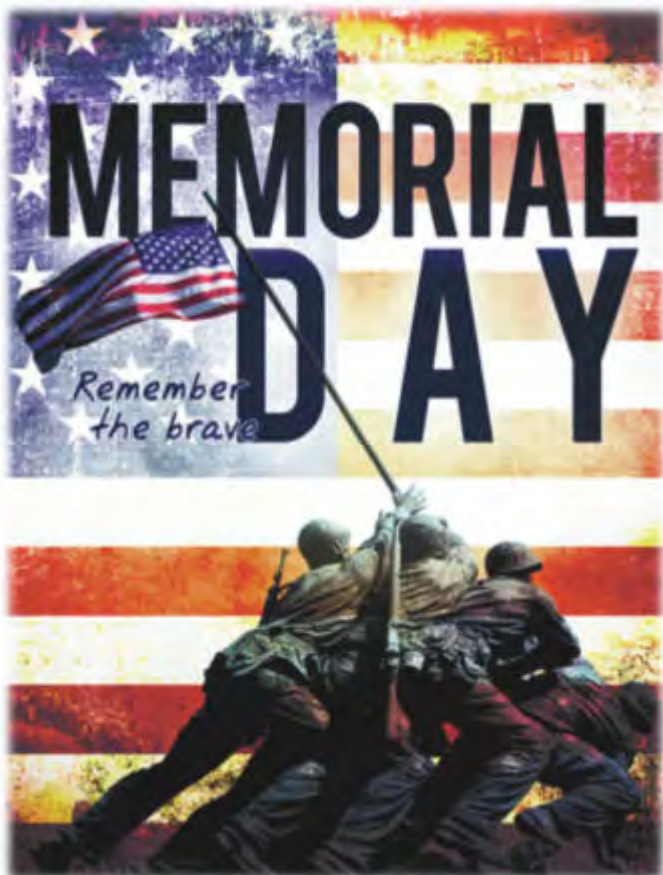
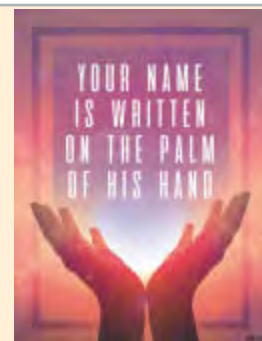
In the early verses of this text, Jesus prays that the Father will glorify him as he has glorified the Father by fulfilling his mission. Then he prays for his followers - those with him that night and future disciples - who will continue that same mission in the world.

His words "I pray for them" are both frightening and comforting. The statement is frightening in the sense that Jesus knows the difficulties his disciples will face and recognizes we will need his help. As his disciples, we live in a world that is often hostile to Christianity.

More powerful, however, is the comfort and confidence that we can feel as we continue his mission of proclaiming God's offer of salvation. By praying for us, Jesus unites us to himself, and protects us by his love and concern. Fulfilling his mission will not be easy, but in Christ we are already successful.

Reflection: Can I imagine Jesus himself praying for me? For my family, my parish community? How can his prayer strengthen me as a disciple?

Dan Hennessey



Scholarship Opportunity



The Knights of Columbus continue to support the younger members of our flock. One way that they lend a hand is through college scholarships. They are now accepting applications for the scholarships. Applications are available through the OLM Website or the church

office. Along with an application, a brief essay is required and a certified and sealed most recently available transcript from the applicant's school. The application deadline is Friday, May 29. Remind others who may be interested. Watch the weekly bulletin and the parish webpage.

OLM Book Group

Our June title will be The Huntress by Kate Quin.



Virtual Bible Study



We will conclude our virtual Scripture Study of Paul's Letter to the Philippians this Thursday as we discuss the final 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.



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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.



SOCIAL JUSTICE

The current pandemic has brought educational inequality into sharp relief. According to UNESCO, the pandemic has forced school closures in 191 countries, affecting at least 1.5 billion students and 63 million primary and secondary teachers. With most of the world's students now at home due to COVID-19, the pandemic is revealing startling divides in digitally-based distance learning, data from the UN education and cultural agency, UNESCO, and partners has revealed. They found that half of all students currently out of the classroom – or nearly 830 million learners globally -- do not have access to a computer. Additionally, more than 40 per cent have no Internet access at home. Disparities in distance education are particularly evident in low-income countries. Nearly 90 per cent of students in sub-Saharan Africa do not have household computers while 82 per cent are unable to get online.

In the United States, about 17 percent of students nationwide lack a computer at home, according to a 2019 analysis by the Associated Press. Eighteen percent lack broadband internet access. Low-income families and families of color are especially likely to be without these resources, according to the AP. Rural and low income urban communities are particularly disadvantaged in the switch to distance learning. In Wyoming, for example, just under 3 percent of students lack internet, and about 14 percent lack broadband, according to Education Department statistics gathered in 2017 and analyzed by the AP. But in Washington, DC, 19 percent of students have no internet and 34 percent have no broadband. In Charleston, South Carolina, 4,000 of the district's 50,000 students have no internet, according to US News & World Report.

Around the country, many students lack access to a computer at home, from around 8 percent in Utah to 28 percent in DC. For low or moderate income families, if there is a computer or tablet in the home, it must be shared by all household members, a difficulty when several children are required to spend multiple hours with on-line instruction.

Access to digital instruction is not the only struggle facing low income children. Low income families are far less likely to be able to work from home than higher income families. Parents who do not speak English, know how to reach out to the teacher or who are not familiar with the technology leave children at a steep disadvantage, as does crowded homes, learning disabilities and family instability. Chronic hunger makes it difficult to learn under the best of circumstances. Each day, the National School Lunch Program serves over 30 million children, the School Breakfast Program serves over 14.7 million children and the Child and Adult Care Food Program serves over 6.1 million children, according to CNBC. With schools around the country closed, many of these children and their families are experiencing severe food insecurity, even short term malnutrition.

Amidst school closures, many fear that millions of these students will go hungry.

Ink Jet Fundraiser

Please donate used black or color ink jet cartridges to the Religious Education ministry. Previously refilled and remanufactured cartridges can not be redeemed, nor can laser toner cartridges.



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.



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>

FORMED PICK OF THE WEEK



THE WILD GOOSE

Father Dave Pivonka

The Wild Goose is a work of the Holy Spirit, which is awakening in the hearts of all those participating God's love and transforming power. As you walk through this series, pray for the Spirit to breathe life into your heart.

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