

OUR LADY OF MERCY CHURCH

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



June 7th, 2020 - The Most Holy Trinity

MASS SCHEDULE

Weekday and Weekend Mass has resumed with the following schedule and covid-19 protocols in place:

Saturday Vigil: 6:00 p.m.

Sunday: 8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

Weekday: 8:30 a.m.

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



SCRIPTURE READINGS

Mon. 06/08	1 Kgs 17:1-6	/ Mt 5:1-12
Tue. 06/09	1 Kgs 17:7-16	/ Mt 5:13-16
Wed. 06/10	1 Kgs 18:20-39	/ Mt 5:17-19
Thur. 06/11	Acts 11:21b-26, 13:1-3	/ Mt 5:20-26
Fri. 06/12	1 Kgs 19:9a, 11-16	/ Mt 5:27-32
Sat. 06/13	1 Kgs 19:19-21	/ Mt 5:33-37
Sun. 06/14	Dt 8:2-3, 14b-16a	/ 1 Cor 10:16-17 / Jn 6:51-58

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.

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon. 06/08	8:30 a.m.	John Green (Family)
Tue. 06/09	8:30 a.m.	Denny Smith (Janet Smith)
Wed. 06/10	8:30 a.m.	Dianne Nagosky-Seib (Ann & Richard Nagosky)
Thur. 06/11	8:30 a.m.	
Fri. 06/12	8:30 a.m.	Chet Szymecki (Family)
Sat. 06/13	8:30 a.m.	NO MASS
	6:00 p.m.	For the People of OLM
Sun. 06/14	8:30 a.m.	Ken Whitney (Laura Whitney)
	11:00 a.m.	

FORMED PICK OF THE WEEK



LECTIO: MARY

The Queen Mother

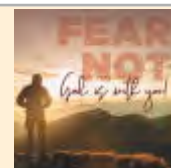
In the Old Testament, throughout the line of Davidic kings, the queen was not the wife of the king, but rather the king's mother. Jesus rules as king of heaven and earth with his mother, Mary, as the queen mother.

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THIS SUNDAY'S REFLECTION

JOHN 3:16-18



...that the world might be saved through him.

Today's passage is perhaps the best-loved and most quoted text in the Bible. "John 3:16" is like a code for the good news. It summarizes the entire Bible: faith in the Son sent by a loving God leads to eternal life. God's intentions are wholly directed to our good.

But what about verse 18? It brings us up short with a warning that anyone who does not believe in the only Son of God "has already been condemned." I am reminded of the story of a sea captain who argued with a signal from a lowly seaman's distant light to change course. "I'm the captain, you change course." "I'm in a lighthouse, sir!" was the reply that ended the argument.

In John's Gospel, faith in the Son of God is the signal we must obey. John 3:16 is like a weather report for fair skies and smooth seas. But John 3:18 is a warning that if we do not believe in Jesus and give ourselves to him, we will crash on the rocks. With God, the choice is to accept or reject his offer of salvation. The course is ours to change or not.

Reflection: How is the Gospel challenging me this week to make decisions based on my faith in Jesus Christ?

David LeSieur

Scripture Study

We are starting a new Scripture Study on Thursday, June 4 @ 11:00 gathering through zoom. We will be discussing the Gospel of Mark. We will be listening to the lectures by Dr. Tim Gray on formed.org (2 per week) prior to each session <https://watch.formed.org/lectio-mark-with-dr-tim-gray>. Our Lady of Mercy has a parish subscription to formed.org. If you have not yet used this subscription, this is a good excuse. Contact the parish if you have any difficulty accessing the parish free subscription. If you want to be part of this Scripture Study, email Irene ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org for the Zoom link.



Grief Support



The grief support ministry is beginning to gather in small groups. The next gathering is Tuesday June 9 at 1pm. We will maintain social distance and we ask everyone to wear a mask.

Contact Donna Clark in the parish office 899-5342 or at dclark@ourladyofmercychurch.org with questions about details for the gathering. We will also gather for our regular monthly support group on Monday June 15, at 7pm.

OLM Book Group

Join us on Wednesday, June 17 @ 7:00 p.m. at the home of Kay Kaeberlein at 190 Kraus Drive. We will discuss The Huntress by Kate Quin.



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.



Hospital visitations



We are still unable to send any of our parish visitors to the hospitals. However, we would like to continue to minister to people who have had a hospital stay. So please let us know if you know of parishioners who are in the hospital.

LAST CHANCE 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 has been extended to **June 12th**. Remind others who may be interested. Watch the weekly bulletin and the parish webpage.

Thank you for Smiling for Our Lady of Mercy



Thanks to our OLM Amazon shoppers, we just received our largest ever Amazon Smile donation. We understand many of you are relying on Amazon during this pandemic. We thank you for thinking of Our Lady of Mercy during these hard times. If you

would like 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.

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.



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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.

SMILE

Save the Dates for a photo session with your family for our parish picture book. The pictures will be taken at the church. The two sessions are **August 3 to 10** and **September 21 to 26**. Sign-ups for photo appointments start on **June 20th**. Volunteers are needed for Publicity Coordinator, Sign-up Volunteers Coordinator, Online sign-up Coordinator, Greeter Coordinator and Telephone Committee Coordinator. If you'd like to volunteer as coordinator for one of these committees, please call **Karen Sweeney at 814-323-1890** or call the office. I will then fill you in on how many volunteers you will need and for what dates and times. Thanks!

SMILE



SOCIAL JUSTICE

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought racial inequality out of the shadows. According to the CDC, Black Americans are dying of COVID-19 at a rate 3 times higher than White Americans. The CDC sites a number of reasons for this racial disparity. Black Americans live in more densely populated neighborhoods due to segregation which makes social isolation more challenging. They are disproportionately represented in front line jobs such as bus drivers, grocery store clerks and nursing assistants. They are under employed in jobs that allow for working from home. Black Americans have a higher amount of preexisting health conditions such as diabetes and high blood pressure. According to the CDC, lack of grocery stores and hospitals in predominantly black neighborhoods is a primary contributing factor to these conditions. Further, systemic and historic discrimination in the health care system has resulted in wide spread mistrust of the medical system by blacks. Black and Latino Americans are also disproportionately harmed by the economic downturn resulting from COVID-19. According to government statistics, the unemployment rate for whites in April soared to just above 14%, for blacks it was over 16% and for Latinos it reached nearly 19%. Because Latinos and blacks were the last to benefit from the economic gains of the past decade, they are disproportionately represented in entry level jobs among the lowest paid workers. Because of this, they lack the savings needed to weather an economic storm.

Stan's Garden Center
 Again this June Stan's Garden center will donate 10% of what you purchase to Our Lady of Mercy. You just need to mention Our Lady of Mercy.

Child Protection and Creating Safe Environments



Listen to your children

This summer, when your children are out of school and on different schedules, meeting new people and going to new places, make sure that you talk to them often about their experiences and the people they've met. Listen carefully to your children. If possible, observe and get to know the other children and adults who are part of your children's summertime fun. Above all, communicate your safety concerns to your children. Make sure they know that they can come to you with any concerns they may have about the people they interact with. And if you hear of or observe behaviors that may be inappropriate, make sure to communicate your feelings to people who are in a position to intervene. Communications is key to creating and maintaining a safe environment all year round. For additional resources visit <https://www.eriecd.org/childprotection/>

On May 21, Bishop Lawrence T. Persico, Bishop of Erie, released a significant series of protocols regarding the return to public worship. Bishop Persico emphasized that the dispensation from the obligation to attend Sunday and Holy Day Masses remains in effect. The elderly and people with vulnerabilities are asked to continue participating via livestream rather than attending Mass in person. The Bishop also encourages those who are not yet comfortable with being in public to continue worshipping from home. Bishop Persico will suspend Mass again in any county that Governor Wolf returns to the 'red phase'.

Below are the protocols and guidelines pertinent to Our Lady of Mercy's resumption of public Masses:

1. Beginning Monday, June 1, 2020, Our Lady of Mercy will resume our regular Mass schedule.

- Monday through Friday – 8:30 a.m.
- Saturday – 6:00 p.m. (no 8:30 a.m. Mass on Saturday)
- Sunday – 8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

2. All public celebrations of Mass will take place in the primary worship space.

3. For those not attending Mass in person, we will continue to live-stream Sunday Mass at 11:00 a.m. on Facebook and YouTube.

4. Please understand that no one is required to attend Mass if they are not comfortable or if it is unsafe for them to do so. If you are in high-risk categories, not feeling well, or uncomfortable, please stay home and continue worshipping via live-stream.

5. The maximum number of participants is 1/3 of the building occupancy. Only every third pew will be available for seating.

6. Spiritual Communion continues to be strongly encouraged.

7. Sanitize your hands when arriving and as needed while you at the church. Please make an effort to bring your own sanitizer.

8. A face mask which covers the nose and mouth must be properly worn at all times. Please have it on when exiting your vehicle.

9. Entrances and exits will be propped open; avoid touching high-contact areas such as door handles, hand rails, and push plates.

10. When possible, use the restroom before coming to church to avoid gatherings in and near the restrooms.

11. Upon arriving for Mass, go directly to an open pew and file into the middle so no one has to crawl over you. Please do not congregate in the Gathering Space.

12. Six feet of social distancing between different households must always be observed.

- Members of the same household may sit together.
- Multiple households may share a pew, provided there is proper social distancing.

13. When exiting, please do so in an orderly fashion. We will dismiss row by row, beginning from the back of the Worship Space. Maintain social distancing and return directly to your vehicle, continuing to wear your face mask. Please do not congregate in the gathering space.

14. Printed bulletins will be on tables if you would like one; digital copies are always available on our website.

15. The church and all liturgical items will be sanitized between Masses.

16. The following liturgical actions remain suspended:

- greeting of parishioners before and after Mass
- placing of holy water in fonts
- exchange of the sign of peace
- distribution of the Precious Blood

17. There will be no communal singing of hymns, psalms, or Mass parts. Singing expels significantly more respiratory particles than speaking. At some Masses, there will be musical accompaniment and a soloist may sing. If attending Mass in person, you are asked to join your hearts silently and prayerfully to the music.

18. There will be no collection or presentation of the gifts. Baskets will be placed near the church doors where you may leave your offering.

19. The universal posture for the Eucharistic Prayer will be standing. Please do not use the kneelers.

20. Please do not hold hands during the Lord's Prayer (Our Father). You are invited to maintain the open hands "orans" position.

21. Communion in the hand is strongly recommended by the Bishop.

22. Sanitize your hands and continue to wear your face mask before entering the Communion line.

23. When approaching to receive Communion, approach in a single-file line, one row at a time.

24. Maintain social distance by standing on the marked lines in the aisles.

25. If you are not receiving Communion, still proceed through the communion line without receiving. This will help facilitate the flow of the procession.

26. When receiving Communion, take the Host in one hand, step to the side, pull down your mask with the other hand and consume the Host. Immediately replace your mask and return to your seat.

27. As we resume celebrating public Mass and the Coronavirus pandemic continues to evolve, our practices and protocols may change. Please be patient and flexible.

28. If you have questions or concerns, please call the parish office at 814-899-5342.

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