

# OUR LADY OF MERCY CHURCH

837 Bartlett Road • Harborcreek, PA 16421 • [www.ourladyofmercychurch.org](http://www.ourladyofmercychurch.org)



## July 19th, 2020 - 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

### 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](mailto: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](http://ourladyofmercychurch.org/calendar)

### FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Offertory for the weekend of July 12, 2020

Envelopes sent:	392	
Envelopes returned:	75	\$5,414.00
Faith Direct Deposits:	137	\$3,548.00
Loose Change:		\$ 78.00
<b>TOTAL OFFERTORY:</b>		<b>\$9,040.00</b>

FORMED

PICK OF THE WEEK



### The Way of Saint James

This documentary follows the journey of several pilgrims who differ in culture and religious faith, united only by a mysterious attraction towards the same spiritual destination.

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### SCRIPTURE READINGS

Mon. 07/20	Mi 6:1-4, 6-8	/ Mt 12:38-42
Tue. 07/21	Mi 7:14-15, 18-20	/ Mt 12:46-50
Wed. 07/22	2 Cor 5:14-17	/ Jn 20:1-2, 11-18
Thur. 07/23	Jer 2:1-3, 7-8, 12-13	/ Mt 13:18-23
Fri. 07/24	Jer 3:14-17	/ Mt 13:18-23
Sat. 07/25	2 Cor 4:7-15	/ Mt 20:20-28
Sun. 07/26	1 Kgs 3:5, 7-12	/ Rom 8:28-30 / Mt 13:44-52

### MASS INTENTIONS

Mon. 07/20	8:30 a.m.	Barbara Schneider (The Schneider Family)
Tue. 07/21	8:30 a.m.	
Wed. 07/22	8:30 a.m.	
Thur. 07/23	8:30 a.m.	
Fri. 07/24	8:30 a.m.	Sam Garwig (Marilyn Garwig)
Sat. 07/25	8:30 a.m.	<del>No Mass</del>
	6:00 p.m.	Gertrude Peters (Ross Peters)
Sun. 07/26	8:30 a.m.	Norm Schlosser (Jim & Carol Perrotto)
	11:00 a.m.	For the People Of OLM

## BE CAUTIOUS ABOUT SHARING PERSONAL INFORMATION

Parishioners at an Erie parish recently received an email from a scam artist claiming to be their pastor and requesting financial help. In this age when personal data can be misused by scam artists, please be aware that the Roman Catholic Diocese of Erie, its clergy, and entities such as parishes and schools will never solicit your personal or business information by any method unless initiated by you. Should you receive an unsolicited request for such information – including a request for gift cards of any type – exercise extreme caution. Contact the person or entity by using official contact information only. Do not use contact information provided in the potential fraudulent request.

### 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

### MATTHEW 13:24-43

“Do you want us to go and pull them up?”

Have you ever tended to a flower or vegetable garden? With practice you become familiar with the shape and color of most plants. But often you cannot be sure which are good plants and which are weeds until they grow a bit.

The parable of the grain and weeds isn't really a gardening lesson. It is a lesson about who should judge, and a reminder that we can grow and change. Jesus is telling us that we must resist our human tendency to judge others and “uproot” the weeds because we don't know which is wheat and which is weed. The Master will make that judgement at harvest time.

This parable also reminds us that each of us can change and grow, and each of us is important to God. Until the judgment at harvest time, we are a work in process, a growing plant. An experienced gardener can certainly identify the wheat and the weeds long before harvest and would willingly uproot a few wheat plants to get rid of the weeds, but God is not willing to lose a single good plant.

Unlike wheat or weeds, God has given us the possibility to choose, and to change as we grow, to produce good fruit.

**Reflection: What personal choices have I made that have produced growth? When have my judgements prevented me from seeing growth in others?**

Peter Dwyer



### For Mercy Sake

Deadline for items for the August issue of the parish newsletter is TODAY July 19. Items can be sent to [ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org](mailto:ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org).



### Question Box



Have a faith related question? You can place it in the "question box" in the Gathering Space or email it to the parish at [info@ourladyofmercychurch.org](mailto:info@ourladyofmercychurch.org) with Question Box in the subject line. Fr. Ritchie will answer these questions in the August issue of *For Mercy Sake*. Submit your question by July 19 to meet the deadline.

### Grief Support Group

We will meet on Monday July 20 at 7 p.m. in the parlor. Sharing your story or listening to others is one of the ways to process grief. You can also arrange for a one on one meeting. Call Donna Clark in the parish office.



### Ladies' Lunch



Save the date for the next Luncheon for women who live alone. Thursday August 6 at 1:00 p.m. If people are comfortable we will go to the Harborview Grill. If it is still not wise to have a gathering in a public restaurant we will again meet in the church for a dine in experience.

### OLM Book Group

Join us on Wednesday, August 19 @ 7:00 p.m. at the home of Donna Huff 4517 N. Woods Dr. to discuss The River by Peter Heller.



### Catechist Needed

We are looking for a Gr. 1 catechist for the coming year. For more information, contact Irene at 899-6132 or [ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org](mailto:ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org).

### Avoid coronavirus scams

To avoid coronavirus scams, take a few minutes to watch videos from the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). To access the 20-second videos, go to <https://www.eriecfd.org/Computer-Security-Awareness-Training.html> and click the June 8 link. The videos will help you stay safe and informed.



## FORMED.ORG



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.

## We Remember...

Scott Emling, husband of Sandra Emling; and Ana Braeger, wife of Tom Braeger; who passed away recently.

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



### New AV Ministry needs people to help.

We are working on our permanent camera and video system so we can continue to live stream Mass. We are looking for people who would love to learn how to work the camera and sound system for our livestream. Interested? Please contact Donna Clark in the parish office. Or [dclark@ourladyofmercychurch.org](mailto:dclark@ourladyofmercychurch.org)



### Feeling Isolated?



Are you feeling isolated from the community? Coming to church might have been part of your pattern for social interaction and now you may not feel safe returning yet because of your age or health situation. We can make a pastoral visit to our older

parishioners. Please call Donna Clark in the Parish Office.

### 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.



# KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS



## Congratulations!

A Knights of Columbus Ed Cudicio Memorial Scholarship has been awarded to parishioner, Kara Meyer who will be attending Gannon University. She is a graduate of Harborcreek High School and has impressive accomplishments throughout her high school years. Please congratulate and wish her well as she continues her education.

## KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS GOLF RAFFLE CANCELLED

After postponing the Golf Raffle from May to possibly this fall the Knights have decided to postpone the Raffle until May 2021. Any tickets purchased will be cheerfully refunded from the sellers. Purchasers can also call Katie at the Parish Office and leave your name, address and number of tickets purchased and you will be sent a refund. Any tickets not refunded will be valid for entrance and for the raffles for prizes next year. Thank you for your continuing support and we hope to see you next year.

## KoC Silver Rose, Rosary Service

In commemoration of the Lady of Guadalupe Shrine in the Basilica in Mexico City, the North American Knights of Columbus have made six Silver Roses that will travel through Canada, all 50 States in the US, and will arrive in Mexico City on the Feast Day, December 12, 2020. Our Lady of Mercy will have the honor of receiving a Silver Rose on **Sunday, August 2<sup>nd</sup> at 8 a.m.** The Knights will hold a Rosary Service before Mass that day, and will place the Rose on a pedestal near the altar during the Mass. All are welcome to attend the Rosary Service and Mass.

## Cards for a Parishioner

A simple note of care, a “thinking of you” card, can brighten the day for any one of us. OLM is collecting cards of love and support for Rosemary Schafer. Bring them to the parish Office by July 29 and we will deliver them to her. This request for cards extends to children willing to create homemade cards for her.



## 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.

## 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.



## 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>





# Smile!



**Parish Directory photos will be taken the week of August 3rd-8th.**

**SIGN UP NOW**

**online at**

**<https://booknow-lifetouch.appointment-plus.com/ch4nndjv/>**

**Or call the Parish Office during office hours.**



## SOCIAL JUSTICE

Plastic waste has become a serious threat to the life of our oceans. The COVID-19 pandemic has dramatically increased the plastic problem. We entered the pandemic with troubling statistics about plastic waste.

- Every day around 8 million pieces of plastic makes their way into our oceans.
- The world produces 381 million tons in plastic waste yearly – this is set to double by 2034.
- 50% of this is single-use plastic & only 9% has ever been recycled.
- The Great Pacific Garbage Patch is around 1.6 million square kilometers – bigger than Texas.
- More than 1 million seabirds and 100,000 marine animals die from plastic pollution every year.
- 100% of baby sea turtles have plastic in their stomachs.
- 1 in 3 fish caught for human consumption contains plastic.
- There is now 5.25 trillion macro and micro pieces of plastic in our ocean & 46,000 pieces in every square mile of ocean, weighing up to 269,000 tons.
- Plastic microbeads are estimated to be one million times more toxic than the seawater around it.
- 88% of the sea's surface is polluted by plastic waste.
- Between 8 to 14 million tons enters our ocean every year.
- The US contributes 38 million tons of plastic every year.
- Plastic packaging is the biggest culprit, resulting in 80 million tons of waste yearly from the US alone.

- More than 1 million plastic bags end up in the trash every minute.
  - The world uses over 500 billion plastic bags a year – that's 150 for each person on Earth.
- Although it is too early to know the extent to which plastic waste has increased during the first 6 months of 2020, it is clear that the pandemic is adding plastic waste to the environment at an alarming rate.
- The closure of restaurants to on-site dining has forced them to shift to take out meals packaged in one-time use plastic containers. To minimize virus transmission, people have turned to on-line shopping for much of their needs. This has meant an increase in plastic packaging. Recent efforts to move customers away from plastic bags and other one-time use containers has been stalled. Many businesses no longer permit reusable containers in their stores for fear of COVID contamination. And, of course, the vital personal protective equipment essential to the safety of health care and other front line workers, has added an enormous amount of gloves, masks and disposable gowns to the mountain of plastic refuse moving to municipal dumps and into our oceans. At the same time our use of plastics is increasing so significantly, a large number of recycling programs are being suspended. Fear for the safety of workers, cheaper oil which makes virgin plastic less expensive than ever to produce, and more lighter weight plastics which are less profitable to recycle is all part of the recycling decline. If we care about the health of our oceans, we must work to reverse this trend of rapidly increasing plastic waste in our landfills and oceans.



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