

# OUR LADY OF MERCY CHURCH

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



## August 16, 2020 - 20th 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*

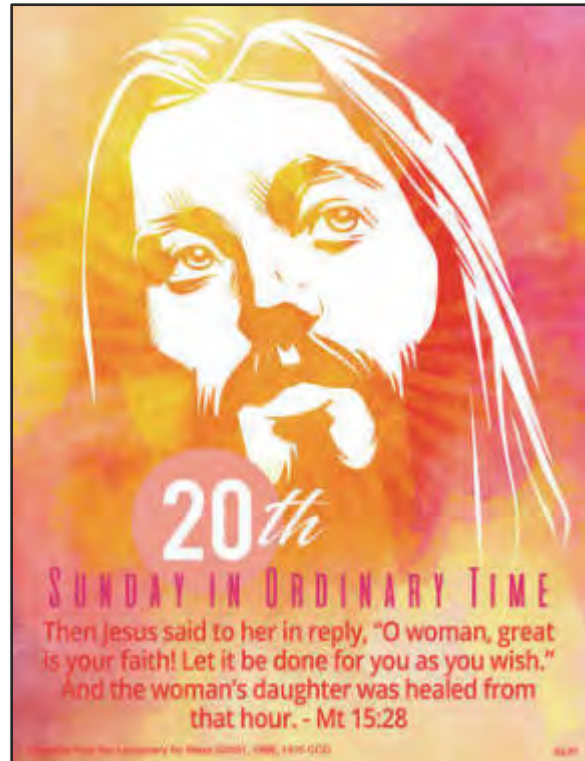
### CONTACT INFORMATION

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)

Mon. 08/17	7:00 p.m.	Grief Support Group
Tue. 08/18	7:00 p.m.	CORE Team Meeting
	7:00 p.m.	Finance Council
	7:00 p.m.	Lifelong Faith Formation
Wed. 08/19	8:30 a.m.	Food Pantry Distribution
	7:00 p.m.	OLM Book Group
Thur. 08/20	11:00 a.m.	Scripture Study - Zoom
Fri. 08/21		
Sat. 08/22	4:30 p.m.	Sacrament of Penance
Sun. 08/23		

## 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



## SUNSET MASS

We will have our annual end-of-the-summer Sunset Mass TONIGHT, August 16 at 7:00. We will be in a new location this year. Because of COVID concerns, we do not have access to Glinodo, but Faith Lutheran Church 5414 E. Lake Road has graciously offered to host us in their outdoor worship area. Benches are available, but you are encouraged to bring your own lawn chair. There will be NO cookies afterward because of COVID restrictions.



We Remember... *Loving Memory*

Joan Blass, and Mary Shafer;  
who passed away recently.  
Please hold them and their families in prayer during this difficult time.

## FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Offertory for the weekend of August 9, 2020

Envelopes sent:	392	
Envelopes returned:	60	\$4,863.50
Faith Direct Deposits:	132	\$3,399.70
Loose Change:		\$ 75.00
<b>TOTAL OFFERTORY:</b>		<b>\$8,338.20</b>

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

Mon. 08/17	Ez 24:15-24	/ Mt 19:16-22
Tue. 08/18	Ez 28:1-10	/ Mt 19:23-30
Wed. 08/19	Ez 34:1-11	/ Mt 20:1-16
Thur. 08/20	Ez 36:23-28	/ Mt 22:1-14
Fri. 08/21	Ez 37:1-14	/ Mt 22:34-40
Sat. 08/22	Ez 43:1-7ab	/ Mt 23:1-12
Sun. 08/23	Is 22:19-23	/ Rom 11:33-36 / Mt 16:13-20

## MASS INTENTIONS

Mon. 08/17	8:30 a.m.	
Tue. 08/18	8:30 a.m.	Joe James (Vicki Gurieo & Family)
Wed. 08/19	8:30 a.m.	Norm Schlosser (Morning Mass Group)
Thur. 08/20	8:30 a.m.	
Fri. 08/21	8:30 a.m.	Cabrini Dixon
Sat. 08/22	8:30 a.m.	<del>No Mass-</del>
	6:00 p.m.	Larry Rogers (Carol Rogers)
Sun. 08/23	8:30 a.m.	For the People of OLM
	11:00 a.m.	Bud Stephenson (The Stephenson Family)

## THIS SUNDAY'S REFLECTION

### MATTHEW 15:21-28

"O woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish."

How are we to respond when God feels distant and seems to ignore our prayers? Perhaps the Canaanite woman in today's gospel should be our model. What compelled her to keep coming back to Jesus, even when it seemed futile? What qualities did she possess that finally persuaded Jesus to answer her request?

The woman was filled with love for her daughter, a love that reflects God's love for his children. She made her daughter's suffering her own. That love gave her the courage to approach Jesus and the stamina to endure his initial rejection. Her faith grew over the course of their encounter. She possessed persistence fueled by passionate hope for a cure, the urgent sense of need, and a refusal to be intimidated. She also possessed a certain gift of cheerfulness. What appears to be a rather harsh exchange might actually be the verbal sparring between two individuals who recognize the spirit and smile in one another's presence.

If we approach God with love, faith, persistence and joy - we can be certain God does respond to our prayers. As Anglican Archbishop Richard Trench once said, "Prayer is not overcoming God's reluctance; it is laying hold of his highest willingness."

**Reflection: In what matters is God inviting me to be persistent in my prayer and in trusting God's care for me?**

Dan Hennessey





### Grief Support Group

Monday, August 17 at 7pm is the next gathering for Grief Support Group. Hearing the story of others who have experienced a loss and sharing your own story

helps with the healing process. Perhaps a one on one exchange is more appealing. If so please contact Donna Clark in the parish office.

### OLM Book Group

Join us on Wednesday, August 19 @ 7:00 p.m. at the home of Kay Kaeberlein 190 Kraus Dr to discuss The River by Peter Heller. Our September title will be Olive Again by Elizabeth Strout.



### Scripture Study



Join us for a Scripture Study on Mary beginning Thursday, July 23 at 11:00 a.m. August 15 is the feast of the Assumption of Mary, so this is a perfect time to reflect on her witness and her role in the Church through the centuries. All are welcome to join our virtual study beginning Thursday, July

23. Prior to each gathering, participants are asked to view one of the lectures by Dr. Brant Pitre on [formed.org](https://watch.formed.org/lectio-mary-with-dr-brant-pitre), <https://watch.formed.org/lectio-mary-with-dr-brant-pitre> When we gather in our Zoom room, we will discuss what we learned. To get the Zoom link each week, email [ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org](mailto:ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org). If you have not yet explored the parish subscription to [formed.org](https://formed.org/), signing up is easy. Go to <https://formed.org/> Click on "sign up". Choose "sign up as parish or organization". Search for Our Lady of Mercy Harborcreek. It is that simple. If you have any problems, contact the parish office.

### 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.

## FORMED.ORG

FORMED

If you are new to the parish subscription, you can enjoy [formed.org](https://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.

### Widows Picnic

Friday Aug 28 at 4:30. Meet in the picnic pavilion at Our Lady of Mercy. Main dish and drinks provided. If you would like to bring a side dish or dessert, please contact Donna Clark. Please RSVP so we know how many to prepare for.



### School Supply Drive



The Ella Cochran Food Pantry is collecting the following supplies for the students: pens, pencils, colored pencils, markers, one subject notebooks, and printer paper. Please bring your donation to Our Lady of Mercy.



### Catechist Needed

Due to COVID, we will have to offer faith formation remotely this year. We need help to make that happen. We need volunteers willing to work with youth on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade level. We also need adults willing to provide current clearances and complete the on-line child protection in-service who would be willing to log into an on-line class to fulfill the diocesan requirement mandating 2 adults present when we work with youth on a conferencing platform. If you are willing to help this year, please contact Irene at 899-6132 or [ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org](mailto:ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org).

### Religious Education Registration

In an attempt to create the safest environment for everyone, religious education registration will be conducted by mail this year. Families who were registered for religious education in 2019-2020 school year will receive their registration form in the mail this week. To register children, parents are asked to update, sign and return all forms. A letter will accompany these forms describing how we will handle faith formation this year. Families registering for the first time will be able to download the registration form from the parish website. Thank you for your cooperation.

## St. Mark Church Annual Garage Sale

695 Smithson Ave  
 Wednesday, August 19 8:30 am - 4 pm  
 Thursday, August 20 8:30 am - 4 pm  
 Friday, August 21 8:30 am - 4 pm  
 Saturday, August 22 8 am - Noon  
 \*Masks Required\*  
 \*Social Distancing observed\*



### Job Openings



●Barbs Care-A-Lot is hiring a cook! They are looking for someone to come in from 10 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday to cook meals for the children. If you are interested, please call the day care at 899-9254.

●Burch Farms is hiring an apple picker for the season. This is a paid position. Please contact Tim Burch at 814-725-0747 if you are interested in filling this position.

### Cursillo Update

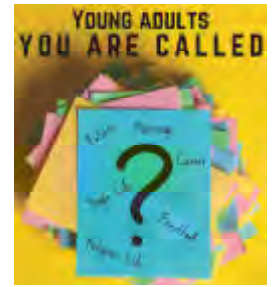
To keep everyone safe all 2020 Cursillo weekends are cancelled. We look forward to seeing everyone for a promising 2021!



### Samuel Group: a new initiative for young adults discerning any vocation

Just because everyone else seems to think you are prepared for life as an adult doesn't mean you aren't wrestling with the big questions. Not to worry — you are not alone! The Vocations

Office and the Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry are collaborating on a new initiative called Samuel Group. Are you contemplating marriage? Wondering if you are being called to the priesthood or religious life? Samuel Group may be just what you need. Young adults ages 20 to 30 are encouraged to participate in a seven-month journey that includes monthly gatherings at St. Mark Catholic Center, spiritual direction, prayer, talks, small group discussion and accompaniment. The goal is for each participant to grow in self-knowledge and to hear and respond to God's call with an open heart. Space is limited. Please visit [www.eriecnd.org/youth/samuelgroup.html](http://www.eriecnd.org/youth/samuelgroup.html) for an informational video, directions on how to apply and a downloadable flier. For further information, contact Father Mike Polinek, director of Vocations, at [mpolinek@ErieRCD.org](mailto:mpolinek@ErieRCD.org) or Jillian Zaczyk, director of Young Adult and Youth Ministry, at [jzaczyk@ErieRCD.org](mailto:jzaczyk@ErieRCD.org).



## FAITH & RACIAL HEALING

### Embracing Truth, Justice & Healing

An Opportunity To Reflect As A Community On Race In America  
 From The Perspective Of Our Faith

In the past few weeks, the issue of racial inequality has become a topic of conversation, news articles and debate. We have heard from people in positions of power and people walking on the streets. Our Christian tradition has also been talking about racial equality for quite some time. It is essential that we listen to the voice of our faith as we discern our response to this pressing social issue. In "Faith & Racial Healing", participants will look at the history of race in the U.S. through the Christian lens. Each session will focus on a different era or issue in our racial history.

This enrichment opportunity will be conducted via Zoom. Participants will gather for prayer and conversation, discussion of books and videos, reflection on society and on our own hearts as we journey toward reconciliation with God and our neighbor.

#### When:

Tuesday evenings at 7:00 p.m.

{There will be 8 sessions; 9/22, 9/29, 10/13, 10/27, 11/10, 11/24, 12/ 8, 12/15 plus a retreat to begin the study and a cultural experience mid-way through}

#### Where:

A Zoom room on your device of choice

#### Cost:

Participants will be asked to purchase 3 books at a cost of \$40. Participants are free to search the internet for used copies to save money.

(If this is a financial burden and will prohibit you from participating, please contact the Office of Lifelong Faith Formation.)

#### Registration:

To participate, email [ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org](mailto:ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org) with your email address by Sept. 1.

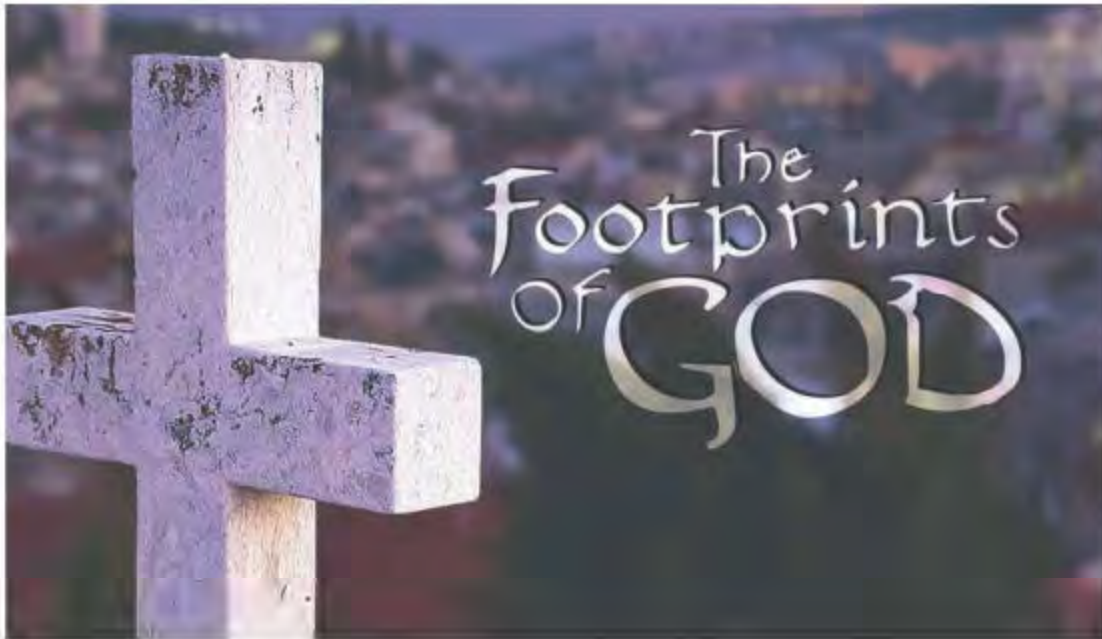
#### Questions:

Call the Office of Lifelong Faith Formation at 899-6132.

*Sponsored by the Social Justice Committee*

# FORMED

PICK OF THE WEEK



## Mary: The Mother of God

She was a humble girl from an ordinary Jewish family. Yet Mary said a simple "yes" and came to be exalted as the Daughter of Zion, the Mother of God, and the Queen of Heaven. Filmed on location in Turkey, Israel, and Greece with popular Catholic author and speaker Stephen Ray, this study allows us to follow the dusty paths that took Mary to the heart of the salvation story. By discovering the Mary of the Bible, you'll know and love her Son even more.

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