

OUR LADY OF MERCY CHURCH

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



August 23, 2020 - 21st 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*

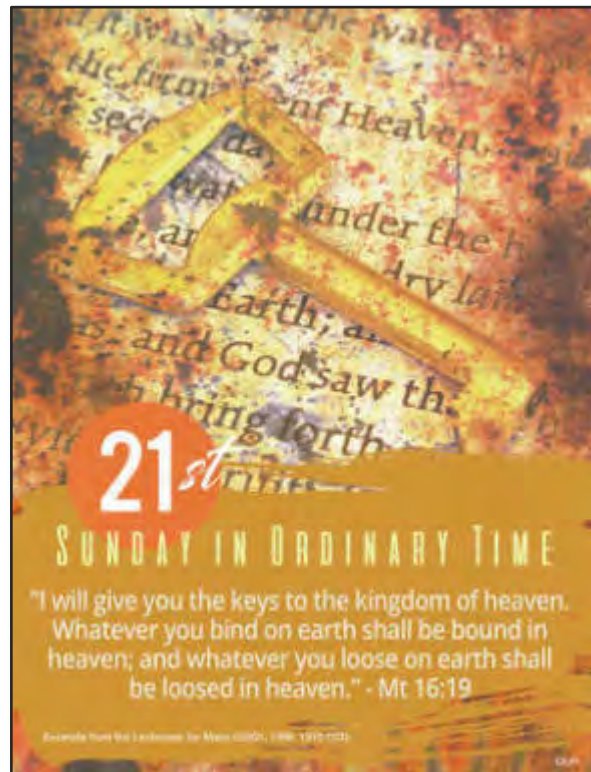
CONTACT INFORMATION

Parish Office: 814-899-5342

Office of Lifelong Faith Formation: 814-899-6132

Fax: 814-898-3306

Email: info@ourladyofmercychurch.org



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

Mon. 08/24	5:30 p.m.	Fruit of the Vine SCC
Tue. 08/25	7:00 p.m.	Core Team - Conference Call
Wed. 08/26		
Thur. 08/27	11:00 a.m.	Scripture Study - Zoom
	6:00 p.m.	Prayer Shawl
Fri. 08/28	4:30 p.m.	Widow's Picnic
Sat. 08/29	4:30 p.m.	Sacrament of Penance
Sun. 08/30		

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



FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Offertory for the weekend of August 16, 2020

Envelopes sent:	392	
Envelopes returned:	43	\$2,920.00
Faith Direct Deposits:	132	\$3,399.70
Loose Change:		\$ 48.00
TOTAL OFFERTORY:		\$6,367.70

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Mon. 08/24	Rv 21:9b-14	/ Jn 1:45-51
Tue. 08/25	2 Thes 2:1-3a, 14-17	/ Mt 23:23-26
Wed. 08/26	2 Thes 3:6-10, 16-18	/ Mt 23:27-32
Thur. 08/27	1 Cor 1:1-9	/ Mt 24:42-51
Fri. 08/28	1 Cor 1:17-25	/ Mt 25:1-13
Sat. 08/29	1 Cor 1:26-31	/ Mk 6:17-29
Sun. 08/30	Jer 20:7-9 / Rom 12:1-2	/ Mt 16:21-27

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon. 08/24	8:30 a.m.	Sally Talerico (Sandy Jordan)
Tue. 08/25	8:30 a.m.	
Wed. 08/26	8:30 a.m.	Denny Smith (Janet Smith)
Thur. 08/27	8:30 a.m.	Margaret Rathers
Fri. 08/28	8:30 a.m.	Mary Duckett (Family)
Sat. 08/29	8:30 a.m.	No Mass-
	6:00 p.m.	James Boris (The Extein Family)
Sun. 08/30	8:30 a.m.	Scott Emling (Ron & Marty Morris)
	11:00 a.m.	For the People of OLM

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 1st, 4th and 6th 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



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 received their registration form in the mail last week. To register children, parents are asked to update, sign and return all forms. A letter has accompanied these forms describing how we will handle faith formation this year. Families registering for the first time are able to download the registration form from the parish website. Thank you for your cooperation.

THIS SUNDAY'S REFLECTION

MATTHEW 16:13-20

"Who do you say that I am?"

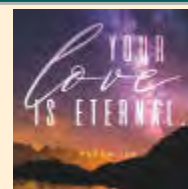
How do we come to know who we are?

Our parents, teachers, relatives, and friends provide guidelines/rules for proper acceptable behavior that reflects the love of God. They help us to know God, to discern and develop the talents God has given us. Through their words of affirmation, we are encouraged to use these guidelines and talents as a committed teacher, a caring parent, a faithful friend, a loving spouse, a dedicated employee, a skilled laborer.

In times of quiet we reflect on what kind of person we are, in what ways we are faithful to our God, to our calling. We acknowledge how we have failed to be true to our calling, how we have failed to heed the laws of God.

Who do I say that Jesus is? Jesus is my brother, my friend, my savior, my Lord. Many years ago I become aware that being a Christian was more than just being baptized and following the faith of my parents. I had to accept it for myself. Many others prepared me for that awareness by their words and actions. But one day I accepted it for myself. I became aware that I was indeed a child of God.

Reflection: Who is Jesus for me at this time in my life? Who am I for Jesus?



Scripture Study

Join us for a Scripture Study on Mary beginning Thursday, July 23 at 11:00 AM. 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. If you have not yet explored the parish subscription to 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.

CAN YOU 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

School Backpack Program Needs Volunteers

Local Area Pastors, coordinated by Pastor Jean Kuebler, of Faith Lutheran Church, are making an ecumenical effort to start a "Backpack" program at Clark Elementary as the first pilot school. This program sends food home with children of families who are in need. The volunteers would pick up food from Second Harvest, pack it into bags for the children and deliver it to Clark School. Right now the volunteers are needed for Tuesday mornings between 10 and noon, starting in October. If you can help please contact Donna Clark.



A Safe Place for Victims



Sign up for training and be part of a team to help victims of domestic violence. Webinar is scheduled for Sept 9 or Oct 15 from 8am to 12:30pm. Learn how to recognize, respond to and refer victims of domestic violence during this free, four-hour online training. Following the training Our Lady of Mercy can elect to receive PurpleOne Certification and can be registered as a "Safe Place for Domestic Violence Victims" allowing us to display the PurpleOne dot on our window. Contact Donna Clark for more information.

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... *In Loving Memory*

John Figurski, Father of Jack Figurski,
Murry Hamilton, father of Kathy Pearson,
and **Bernie Juliano**, brother of Connie Kohut;
who passed away recently.

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



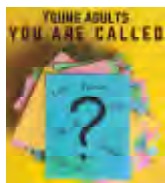
Widows Picnic

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.

OLM Book Group

Join us on Wednesday, Sept. 16 @ 7:00 PM to discuss *Olive Again* by Elizabeth Strout.



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.eriecd.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 or Jillian Zaczyk, director of Young Adult and Youth Ministry, at jzaczyk@ErieRCD.org.

Love My Neighbor: Civility in Dialogue

Join the Social Justice & Life Office of the Diocese of Erie via Zoom on **Sept. 3 at 6:30 p.m.**

as Bishop Lawrence Persico and a representative of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' Department of Justice, Peace and Human Development explore civil dialogue. As followers of Christ, we are called to bring the best of ourselves and our faith to the public square — and yet, many conversations have become filled with vitriol and harsh language. This presentation offers suggestions and insight on how to love our neighbors with whom we might disagree. Register for this event by **Aug. 28** at <https://form.jotform.com/202113804687049>.

Questions may be directed to Patrice Swick, director of the Social Justice & Life Office, at pswick@ErieRCD.org.



Cursillo Update

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

Social Justice

Two weeks ago, Bishop Persico joined religious leaders from the Erie area to pray and work for racial justice and healing in our community and country. He said, "The failure to act to end systemic racism, which is often animated in our laws, policies, and structures, hurts those who are victimized and denies all of us the opportunity to benefit from the gift of diversity." Calling people to wake up, stand up and speak up, Bishop Persico told participants, "This is how we love our neighbor as ourselves." Bishop Persico challenged all Catholics of our diocese to be part of the process of racial healing.

In response to the call of our Bishop, Our Lady of Mercy will hold an 8-week study entitled "Faith and Racial Healing" this fall. Through prayer, group discussion, book reflections and study, participants will learn about our history of racism and reflect on this history in light of the Gospel and teachings of the Church.

Because of COVID, the sessions will be held via Zoom. The group will gather semi-monthly on Tuesday evenings beginning on Sept. 20. In addition, the study will begin with a remote retreat and will incorporate a cultural experience later in the fall.

Three books will guide our study with an approximate cost of \$40. We can order the books for participants or people can search the web for copies on their own. No one should let the cost of books prevent them from participating. We can cover the cost of the books for anyone who requests.

In order to have books purchased in time, people are asked to register by Sept. 1. To register, send your email to ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org. If you have any questions, call Irene Lucas at 899-6132 or email ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org.

Meditation on Creation

Find a comfortable position/place for this meditation.

Breath: Take three deep breaths, filling your lungs thoroughly, holding your breath momentarily and exhaling through your mouth.

Heart: Quiet your inner self – embracing the gift of life with each breath and heartbeat

Let yourself reflect on these words of St. Hildegard of Bingen: "Human beings are the thinking heart, called to be co-creators with God in shaping the world."

Express your gratitude for the wonders of creation's rhythm of interconnection.

Reflect: How do you feel that this most beautiful place, Earth, is threatened by destruction due to our own actions and neglect?

Ponder the call to be co-creators and not dominators and oppressors of this web of life for now and future generations.

Resolution: Come in touch with the passion/energy you feel to protect this most beautiful place, Earth. In what way(s) might you help sustain Earth's life?

(Adapted and used with permission by the Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods. Written by Sister Barbara Sheehan and Providence Associate Gene Majewski.)

Pray: God of all creation, your goodness and glory shine forth through everything you have made. Through the light of faith, help us to see this world, our common home, not as a resource to dominate and exploit, but as a gift to be cherished by all generations. Prompted by your Spirit, we ask this in the name of Jesus, through whom all creation was made. Amen.

(Prayer from Catholic Charities)



catholicclimatecovenant.org

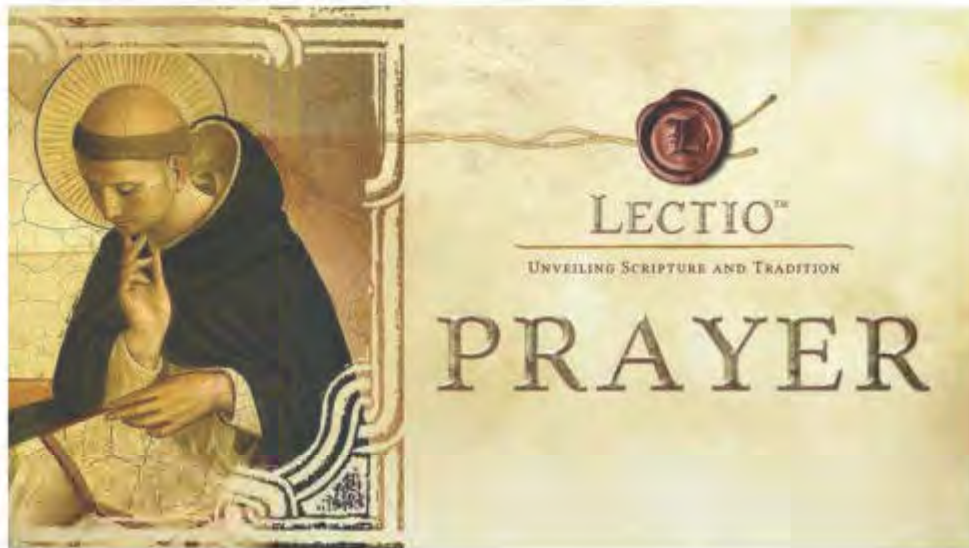


May our struggles and our concern for this planet never take away the joy of our hope.

– Pope Francis, *Laudato Si'*, 244

FORMED

PICK OF THE WEEK



Lectio: Prayer

With the clear teaching and artistry of the Augustine Institute's Lectio series, Dr. Tim Gray masterfully uses the discipline of Lectio Divina to show you how to make prayer an effective effort of love and intimacy.

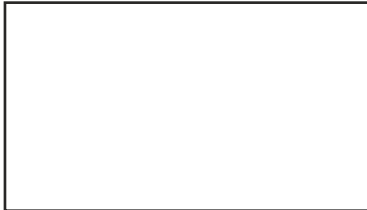
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