

OUR LADY OF MERCY CHURCH

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



August 30, 2020 - 22nd 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*

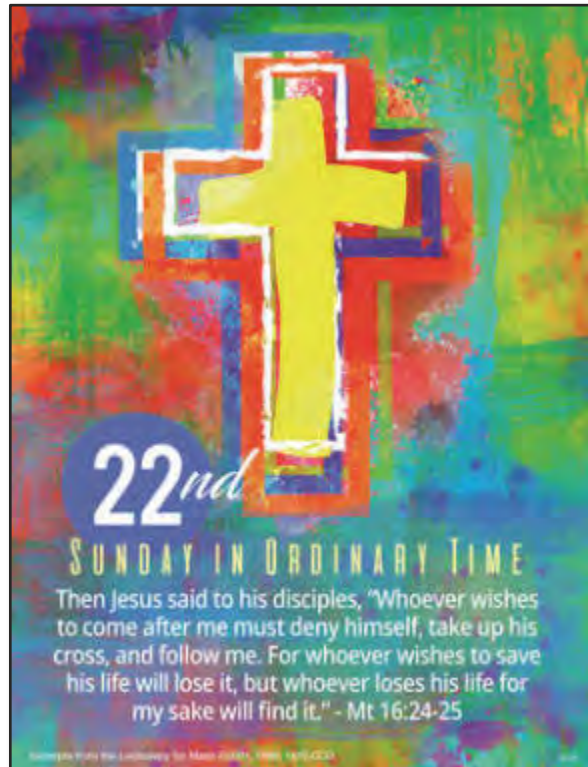
CONTACT INFORMATION

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. 08/31		
Tue. 09/01	9:30 a.m.	Steel Magnolias SCC
	7:00 p.m.	Pastoral Council
Wed. 09/02		
Thur. 09/03	11:00 a.m.	Scripture Study - Zoom
Fri. 09/04		
Sat. 09/05	4:30 p.m.	Sacrament of Penance
Sun. 09/06		Casserole Club Drop-Off Monthly Food Pantry Collection

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



Catholic Education Collection September 19-20, 2020

The 2020 Catholic Education Collection will take place on September 19-20. This important collection supports lifelong faith formation for all

generations throughout our diocese. Please give generously and know that half of what you give will remain here at Our Lady of Mercy parish to support our own religious education and faith formation.



SCRIPTURE READINGS

Mon. 08/31	1 Cor 2:1-5	/ Lk 4:16-30
Tue. 09/01	1 Cor 2:10b-16	/ Lk 4:31-37
Wed. 09/02	1 Cor 3:1-9	/ Lk 4:38-44
Thur. 09/03	1 Cor 3:18-23	/ Lk 5:1-11
Fri. 09/04	1 Cor 4:1-5	/ Lk 5:33-39
Sat. 09/05	1 Cor 4:6b-15	/ Lk 6:1-5
Sun. 09/06	Ez 33:7-9 / Rom 13:8-10 / Mt 18:15-20	

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon. 08/31	8:30 a.m.	Margaret Latchford
Tue. 09/01	8:30 a.m.	Bob Jones (Barb Jones)
Wed. 09/02	8:30 a.m.	Dick Meyer (Dave & Marge LeFaiver)
Thur. 09/03	8:30 a.m.	Joseph Abate
Fri. 09/04	8:30 a.m.	Puleo Family (Candy Henry)
Sat. 09/05	8:30 a.m.	No Mass-
	6:00 p.m.	For the People of OLM
Sun. 09/06	8:30 a.m.	Willy Skeel (Janet Smith)
	11:00 a.m.	Don & Mary Duckett (Family)

We Remember... *The Loving Memory*

Mary Simonian, mother of Sherry Tyzinski,
Doris Myers, aunt of Dave Jacquell,
and Joe Abate, brother of Frank Abate;
who passed away recently.

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

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Offertory for the weekend of August 23, 2020

Envelopes sent:	392	
Envelopes returned:	46	\$2,653.15
Faith Direct Deposits:	134	\$3,412.20
Loose Change:		\$ 73.00
TOTAL OFFERTORY:		\$6,138.35

THIS SUNDAY'S REFLECTION



MATTHEW 16:21-27

Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, "God forbid, Lord! No such thing shall ever happen to you." He turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are an obstacle to me. You are thinking not as God does, but as human beings do."

To be a disciple is to be a student. In addition to Peter's profound love for Jesus, his relationship with the Lord was one of student to teacher. When Jesus began to tell his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem to suffer, die, and be raised, Peter tried to be the teacher instead of the student.

As soon as Peter stepped outside his proper place in this relationship, he became like Satan - Jesus' adversary. Peter finds himself an obstacle to Jesus' mission. Unlike the relationship of disciples to Jewish rabbis, where a good student may aspire to one day be the master, Peter must understand that he will always be the disciple, never the master. Jesus instructs Peter "get behind me." Peter is not sent away, but only told to return to his proper place as a follower.

Do we always follow Jesus, or do we sometimes blindly go our own way without looking to Jesus for guidance? If we come to a point in our lives where we somehow feel distant from the Lord, it may be that, like Peter, we are behaving as if we are the teacher rather than the disciple.

Reflection: Am I willing to be a follower, a student, a disciple of Jesus? How can I help myself to remember that Jesus has much to teach me?

Roy Goetz

A safe Place for Victims

Sign up for training and be part of a team to help victims of domestic violence. The webinar is scheduled for **Sept 9 or Oct 15 from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.** 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 elect to be registered as a "Safe Place for Domestic Violence Victims." We would display the PurpleOne dot on our window. Contact Donna Clark for more information.



OLM Book Group



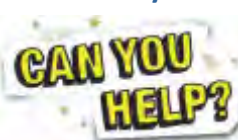
Join us on **Wednesday, Sept. 16 @ 7:00 p.m.** at the home of Pat Marshall, 4159 Ridge Pkwy, to discuss *Olive Again* by Elizabeth Strout. Our October title will be *Big Little Lies* by Liane Moriarty.

Parish Mission

Mark your calendar for **Oct. 4-6** for our annual Parish Mission. Originally scheduled for March, this was postponed due to COVID. Attend in person or via live stream. Fr. Frank Desiano is a nationally recognized author and speaker. This mission "Being a Disciple Today: How Can I Live My Faith in a New Way?" will challenge us to a deeper, more authentic witness to the Gospels in our daily lives.



AV Ministry About To Go Live



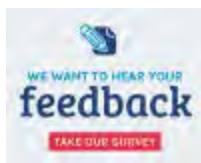
We are working on our permanent live-stream system so we can continue to live stream Mass and other parish events. We are looking for people who would

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

Parish Life Check In

Normally from weekend to weekend we would see people and chat with them. We listen to what is going on in your lives and listen to the Holy Spirit for ideas on how to serve the community better. Since we can't see you face to face we invite you to take this very short parish check in survey.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/VMYM936>



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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.

Silver Linings



In the last 6 months have you seen a silver lining? What blessings have you had during this pandemic? What is something you have done during the pandemic that you never used to do? Can you name one positive thing that has happened in your life since

March? Send your story to Donna Clark at dclark@ourladyofmercychurch.org or call 899-5342. We will collect the stories and circulate them among the community.

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 Parent Meetings

Adjustments have been made to the faith formation ministry at OLM because of COVID. September will open with a series of parent meetings to explain what is happening. All meetings will be held in the Worship Space to ensure social distancing.
 Sept. 2 @ 6:00 PM – Kindergarten – Grade 8
 Sept. 10 @ 6:00 PM – Grade 9 & 10
 Sept. 13 @ 12:15 – Grade 11

Religious Education Registration

Families with children intending to participate in religious education at Our Lady of Mercy this year are reminded to return their updated and signed forms to the church as soon as possible. Families who are new to the ministry this year can find forms at the parish website or can call the church to have forms mailed to them. Religious education virtual classes begin on September 13.

OLM Gives Grace

Without our Great Mass and tureen lunch, this parish feast day won't be like those in the past. We may be unable to hold hands, separated by a computer screen, but we can still find ways



to touch each other's hearts. Giving Grace is an opportunity to show one another how much we care. Based on the concept of "Secret Santa", parish families will be matched secretly. On feast day weekend (or sometime near to it) you are asked to leave a small gift and note of support at the front door of your assigned family. NO TOUCHING. No actual visits. Just leave your gift for the family to find.

How Do I Sign Up?

To sign up call the Parish Office at 899-5342 or email secretary@ourladyofmercychurch.org The deadline to sign-up is September 13th.

How Does it Work?

By September 18th, you will be given the name and address of another OLM family. We ask that you deliver a small gift to their address within a few days of our Parish Feast Day on September 27th.

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.

Cursillo Update

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



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.

Day of prayer for Creation

We are invited to participate in The Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation on Sept. 1st. Watch a short video by Pope Francis <https://catholicclimatemovement.global/world-day-of-prayer/> inviting us to participate in this prayer. During these months of staying home and limited travel many of us have been spending more time in nature. According to Pope Francis, "The annual World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation offers to individual believers and to the community a precious opportunity to renew our personal participation in this vocation as custodians of creation, raising to God our thanks for the marvelous works that He has entrusted to our care, invoking his help for the protection of creation and his mercy for the sins committed against the world in which we live."

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)



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September Birthdays!

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 6		1	2 Reagen Kelly-2	3	4	5 Zach Olson-18
6	7 Kayla Kohut-15	8 Georgia Weber-15	9 Logan Gerrans-7	10 Aiden Ollinger-13	11 Riley Whitney-12 Louis Morgan-5	12 Ryder Daniels-11 Sadie Lander-12
13	14 Annie Sarvis-16 Mikayla Habursky-18	15	16	17 Anthony Allegretto-13	18	19
20	21 Amiya Sacco-18	22 Clara Camillo-12	23	24	25	26
27	28 Cole Maloney-3	29	30 Annabelle Cillessen-1			
Montgomery Varo-14 Lillian Zielinski-12						

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