

OUR LADY OF MERCY CHURCH

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



September 13, 2020 - 24th 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*

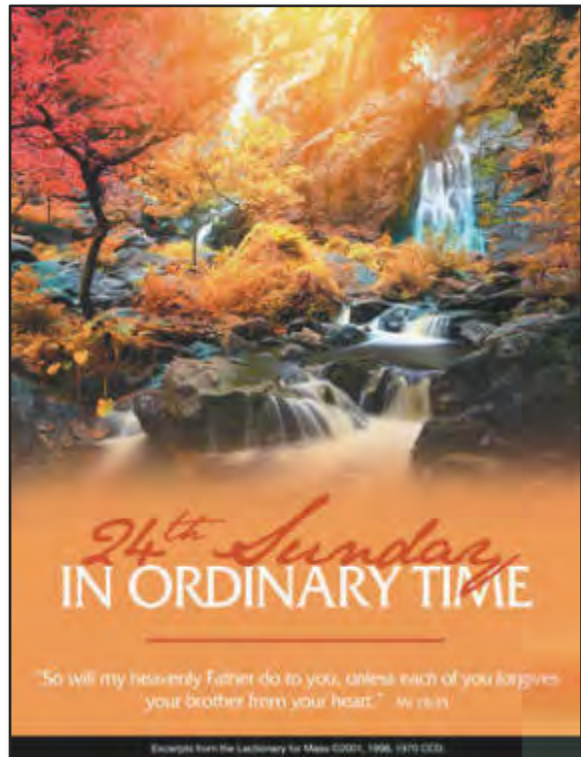
CONTACT INFORMATION

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. 09/14	9:00 a.m.	Quilters
	5:30 p.m.	Fruit of the Vine SCC
	7:00 p.m.	Pastoral Facilitator Mtg.
Tue. 09/15	9:30 a.m.	Steel Magnolias SCC
	7:00 p.m.	Lifelong Faith Formation
Wed. 09/16	8:30 a.m.	Food Pantry Distribution
	7:00 p.m.	OLM Book Group
Thur. 09/17	11:00 a.m.	Scripture Study - Zoom
Fri. 09/18		
Sat. 09/19	4:30 p.m.	Sacrament of Penance
Sun. 09/20	9:30 a.m.	Religious Ed Gr. K-8
	12:15 p.m.	Gr. 12 Interviews

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Offertory for the weekend of September 6, 2020

Envelopes sent:	392	
Envelopes returned:	64	\$5,314.00
Faith Direct Deposits:	134	\$3,412.20
Loose Change:		\$ 57.00
TOTAL OFFERTORY:		\$8,783.20

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. 09/14	Nm 21:4b-9 / Phil 2:6-11 / Jn 3:13-17
Tue. 09/15	1 Cor 12:12-14, 27-31a / Lk 2:33-35
Wed. 09/16	1 Cor 12:31-13:13 / Lk 7:31-35
Thur. 09/17	1 Cor 15:1-11 / Lk 7:36-50
Fri. 09/18	1 Cor 15:12-20 / Lk 8:1-3
Sat. 09/19	1 Cor 15:35-37, 42-49 / Lk 8:4-15
Sun. 09/20	Is 55:6-9 / Phil 1:20-24, 27 / Mt 20:1-16

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon. 09/14	8:30 a.m.	Edward Spellman (Family)
Tue. 09/15	8:30 a.m.	Jack Smelko
Wed. 09/16	8:30 a.m.	Special Intentions for Nancy Dill (Dan Ott)
Thur. 09/17	8:30 a.m.	
Fri. 09/18	8:30 a.m.	John Green (Family)
Sat. 09/19	8:30 a.m.	No Mass-
	6:00 p.m.	For the People of OLM
Sun. 09/20	8:30 a.m.	Helen Heise (The Heise Family)
	11:00 a.m.	Rob Sedelmeyer (Family)

We Remember...

Agatha Tyzinski, mother of Tim Tyzinski,
 Donald McCurdy, husband of
 Margaret McCurdy,
 Joseph Seyboldt, brother of Marilyn Rinke,
 John Eckendorf, husband of Marilyn McDaniel
 and father of Tom Eckendorf, and
 Dan Sweeney, husband of Karen Sweeney;
 who passed away recently.

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

In Loving Memory

THIS SUNDAY'S REFLECTION

MATTHEW 18:21-358

"Lord, if my brother sins against me, how often must I forgive?"

Isn't it strange how so much pain and tragedy in the world seems to boil down to lack of forgiveness? Either people are unable to forgive others or they feel guilty and unforgiven themselves.

In today's gospel Peter asks Jesus how many times he must forgive someone who wrongs him. Surely Jesus' answer, "seventy times seven times," is completely unrealistic.

Often we label Jesus' teachings unrealistic out of fear. In this case we are afraid to forgive. We're afraid we'll become vulnerable; we're afraid of what will replace our familiar outrage at being wronged by another; we're afraid we'll seem weak.

But the truth is, we are weak. The secret to forgiving others is to be honest enough to admit that we are on the same footing with every other child of God. Sometimes we do good; at other times our attitudes and actions hurt others. When we think about how often we ourselves need to be forgiven, we realize that we really have no right to judge, punish, or absolve anyone.

Forgiving becomes easier once we experience the peace that comes from letting go of resentment and blame. Hateful and negative thoughts use up our energy; peaceful thoughts replenish it.

Reflection: Who is God calling me to forgive?
 Whose forgiveness do I need to seek?

Judy Hoelzeman



Ladies' Lunch

If you live alone and are seeking company to share a meal and good conversation, join us for the Ladies' Lunch on **Monday, Sept 14 at 1:00pm** at Harborveiw Grill, 3730 Harbor Ridge Trail. Questions contact Donna Clark.



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.



Grief Support

Every third Monday of the month we host a Grief Support Group. The next one is **Sept 21 at 7:00pm**. The grief journey is something we don't choose; it just happens to us. This support group helps people find the best way to walk their grief journey. Hearing other people's stories helps with the healing process. For questions contact Donna Clark.



Baptismal Preparation Parent Session

Families desiring to celebrate the Sacrament of Baptism with a child are asked to attend a preparation session before scheduling the baptism. The next Baptismal Preparation Parent Session will be held **Sunday, Oct. 18 at 12:15** in the Worship Space. To register, contact the parish office at 899-5342.



A Safe Place for Victims

Our Lady of Mercy has an opportunity to create a safe Place for Victims of domestic Violence. We are getting a team together to be trained to recognize, respond to and refer victims of Domestic Violence to get help. The PurpleOne Initiative is sponsoring webinar on **Oct 15 from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.** If you are interested, contact Donna Clark for the sign up link. The PurpleOne Initiative seeks to empower the community to confront domestic violence and support victims through education and outreach. 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.



Puzzle Exchange

People have commented that it has been difficult to get new puzzles during these last few months. Do you have a puzzle that you want to exchange? Drop it off to Donna Clark. All puzzles will be quarantined for 72 hours before we give them out. Contact Donna Clark to set up a time to pick through the puzzles



FORMED.ORG

FORMED

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.

Look for the "Silver Lining"

In an effort to help people connect we are collecting your "silver lining" stories. Have you had any blessings in the past few months? Have you done something during the pandemic that you never used to do, and you found it uplifting? Can you share one positive thing that has happened since March? Tell your stories to us, Katie or Donna in the parish office, by phone, in person, or by email. We will share these stories with the community, at mass, in the bulletin or in our email blasts and on face book. dclark@ourladyofmercychurch.org or call 899-5342



Confirmation News

Candidates preparing to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation this October are reminded that many events are on their calendar in the coming weeks.

- Sept. 13 – Home Session
 - Sept. 20 – Confirmation Interviews @ 12:15
 - Sept. 27 – Penance Service @ 6:30
 - Oct 4 – Confirmation Practice @ 1:00
 - Oct. 10 – Confirmation @ 7:30
 - Oct 18 – Home Session
- Service essay and letter to the bishop are due no later than the Sept. 20 interview.



Catechist Needed

Due to COVID, we will have to offer faith formation remotely this year. We need help to make that happen. We 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

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.

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.



Scripture Study

A new on-line Scripture Study is under way. Join us Thursday mornings at 11:00 via Zoom to study the Gospel of Matthew. Each week will listen to the next two sessions from Lectio Matthew on formed.org. Then, we will discuss the content when we gather. Sept. 17 Session # 5 & 6. If you want to join, send an email to ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org by 5:00 Wednesday and Irene will send you the link.



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

Catholic Education Collection -

September 19-20, 2020



Next weekend is the 2020 Catholic Education Collection. Please give generously. Without you, our faith formation and religious education programs would not be as successful as they are. Because of you, our many children and their families, both young and old, are let to greater faith. THANK YOU for your support.



Social Justice

Christians have a moral responsibility to participate in the political process to form a society in keeping with the values of the Gospel. As the United States prepares to hold a presidential election, we are challenged by our faith and by the Bishops of the United States to reflect on the issues of our time in light of the teachings of Christ. Voting is not merely a right, it is a responsibility. As baptized disciples of Christ, we are obligated to contribute to the building of the Kingdom of God by working for the common good in shaping a just society. The Bishops of the United States tell us that: "In the Catholic Tradition, responsible citizenship is a virtue, and participation in political life is a moral obligation. "People in every nation enhance the social dimension of their lives by acting as committed and responsible citizens" (*Evangelii Gaudium*, no. 220). The obligation to participate in political life is rooted in our baptismal commitment to follow Jesus Christ and to bear Christian witness in all we do. As the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* reminds us, "It is necessary that all participate, each according to his position and role, in promoting the common good. This obligation is inherent in the dignity of the human person. . . . As far as possible citizens should take an active part in public life" (nos. 1913-1915). Unfortunately, politics in our country often can be a contest of powerful interests, partisan attacks, sound bites, and media hype. The Church calls for a different kind of political engagement: one shaped by the moral convictions of well-formed consciences and focused on the dignity of every human being, the pursuit of the common good, and the protection of the weak and the vulnerable. As Pope Francis reminds us, "Politics, though often denigrated, remains a lofty vocation and one of the highest forms of charity, inasmuch as it seeks the common good. . . . I beg the Lord to grant us more politicians who

are genuinely disturbed by the state of society, the people, the lives of the poor!" (*Evangelii Gaudium*, no. 205). The Catholic call to faithful citizenship affirms the importance of political participation and insists that public service is a worthy vocation. As citizens, we should be guided more by our moral convictions than by our attachment to a political party or interest group. When necessary, our participation should help transform the party to which we belong; we should not let the party transform us in such a way that we neglect or deny fundamental moral truths or approve intrinsically evil acts. We are called to bring together our principles and our political choices, our values and our votes, to help build a civilization of truth and love. As the Holy Father also taught in *Deus Caritas Est*, "The direct duty to work for a just ordering of society is proper to the lay faithful" (no. 29). This duty is more critical than ever in today's political environment, where Catholics may feel politically disenfranchised, sensing that no party and too few candidates fully share the Church's comprehensive commitment to the life and dignity of every human being from conception to natural death. Yet this is not a time for retreat or discouragement; rather, it is a time for renewed engagement. Forming their consciences in accord with Catholic teaching, Catholic lay women and men can become actively involved: running for office; working within political parties; communicating their concerns and positions to elected officials; and joining diocesan social mission or advocacy networks, state Catholic conference initiatives, community organizations, and other efforts to apply authentic moral teaching in the public square. Even those who cannot vote have the right to have their voices heard on issues that affect their lives and the common good. "*Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship - Part I - The U.S. Bishops' Reflection on Catholic Teaching and Political Life*" United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

ANGELS IN SCRIPTURE

A BIBLE STUDY



Thursdays October 1 through October 22

7:00~8:00 PM

From classic paintings to handmade crafts, angels are part of our popular culture. But before they became adorable ornaments for our mantel, they were revealed to us in the pages of Scripture. What are angels? What are their roles? What can we learn about these magnificent, awesome, spiritual creatures in the Word of God? This four week Bible Study will explore the biblical passages in which angels are present.

Because of COVID concerns, this study will be held via Zoom. To receive the link, email ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org by Sept. 27.

This study is free and open to all. No prior knowledge of Scripture is needed.

If anyone would like to see this study run at a different time slot, contact Irene at 899-6132 or ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org.

LYNCH
Home Medical Supply
TIMOTHY P. LYNCH
Parishioner, Owner, Certified Orthotic Fitter
Lift Chairs & Scooters • Wound Care • Walkers
Wheelchairs • Commodes & Much More
4020 Main St. • Lawrence Park
899-3636
www.lynmhmedical.com

Stans
Where There's Always Something GROWING on!
Jim Skarzenski & Bob Rocky - Parishioners
East 5001 Buffalo Road Erie, PA 16510 899.5424
West 5341 West Lake Road Erie, PA 16505 835.6960

HEISE REBUILDING
Mechanical Repairs
PA Inspections:
Vehicle & Motorcycle
899-8186
1291 Walbridge Rd. • Erie, PA 16511
heiserebuilding.com
~ Parishioner ~

PRICHARD
CHIROPRACTIC OFFICES
6095 Buffalo Road
Harborcreek, PA
899-1966
DR. LOREN J. PRICHARD
DR. SCOTT V. PRICHARD

WE'RE HIRING
AD SALES EXECUTIVES
• Full Time Position with Benefits
• Sales Experience Preferred
• Paid Training
• Overnight Travel Required
• Expense Reimbursement
CONTACT US AT
careers@4LPi.com
www.4LPi.com/careers

- No Job Too Small -
Shalkham
ELECTRIC
shalkhamelectric.com
814-873-2788
PA140374

William D. Elkin
Funeral Home
65 South Lake St. • North East
725-4511
Timothy P. Elkin, F.D.
William D. Elkin, F.D.
Pre-Arrangements Available

FIDDLE INN
HARBORCREEK, PA
"Home of the EVERYTHINGS"
6615 Buffalo Road
814-899-9005
www.diningverse.com/fiddleinn

ADT-Monitored Home Security
Get 24-Hour Protection From a Name You Can Trust
• Burglary • Flood Detection
• Fire Safety • Carbon Monoxide
ADT Authorized Provider SafeStreets
1-855-225-4251

SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL PARISH.
Buy a bulletin ad space today!

catholicmatch
Pennsylvania
CatholicMatch.com/PA

Widget
Financial
widgetfinancial.com

HARBORCREEK AUTO Gallery
6850 Buffalo Rd.
814-315-4051
Harborcreek, PA
www.harborcreekautogallery.com
• Sales • PA Inspections
• Notary • Detailing

DUSCKAS - TAYLOR
FUNERAL HOME & CREMATION SERVICES, INC.
5151 BUFFALO RD.
ERIE, PA 16510
ROBERT D. TAYLOR, SUPERVISOR
814-315-0911
WWW.DUSCKAS-TAYLORFUNERALHOME.COM

OLLINGER
PLUMBING, HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING
Residential • Commercial
Quality Installations & Service
899-2809

THIS SPACE IS AVAILABLE

FREE AD DESIGN
WITH PURCHASE OF THIS SPACE.
- 800-477-4574 -

AVAILABLE FOR A LIMITED TIME
ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS HERE
Contact **Tim Weir** to place an ad today!
tweir@4LPi.com or (800) 477-4574 x6568

"Your Computer Professional"
NEW SYSTEMS USED • REPAIRS
"WE SERVICE ALL BRANDS"
898-8300
Jerry & Dee Law - Parishioners
JDLCOMPUTERS.COM

LET US PLACE YOUR AD HERE.

Too Sick for Mass?
SUPPORT OUR PARISH NO MATTER WHERE YOU ARE!
Sign-up to get your bulletin delivered right to your inbox!
www.parishesonline.com

Brevillier Village
5416 East Lake Road
Erie, PA 16511
814-899-8600
www.brevillier.org

Ball Pavilion
Short Term Rehab
Long Term Nursing Care
Barnabas Court
Licensed Personal Care,
Residency & Independent Living.
Conrad House
Independent Living