

OUR LADY OF MERCY CHURCH

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



September 20, 2020 - 25th 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. 09/21	9:00 a.m.	Quilters
	7:00 p.m.	Grief Support Group
Tue. 09/22	9:30 a.m.	Steel Magnolias SCC
	2:00 p.m.	Prayer Shawl
	7:00 p.m.	Faith & Racial Healing - Zoom
Wed. 09/23		
Thur. 09/24	9:30 a.m.	Potter's Clay SCC
	11:00 a.m.	Scripture Study - Zoom
	6:00 p.m.	Prayer Shawl
Fri. 09/25		
Sat. 09/26	9:00 a.m.	Angels in Training SCC
	4:30 p.m.	Sacrament of Penance
Sun. 09/27		<u>The Feast of Our Lady of Mercy</u>
		Gr. 7 & 8 Youth Event
	4:00 p.m.	Virtual Celebration
	6:30 p.m.	Confirmation Penance Service

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. 09/21	Eph 4:1-7, 11-13	/ Mt 9:9-13
Tue. 09/22	Prv 21:1-6, 10-13	/ Lk 8:19-21
Wed. 09/23	Prv 30:5-9	/ Lk 9:1-6
Thur. 09/24	Eccl 1:2-11	/ Lk 9:7-9
Fri. 09/25	Eccl 3:1-11	/ Lk 9:18-22
Sat. 09/26	Eccl 11:9-12:8	/ Lk 9:43b-45
Sun. 09/27	Ez 18:25-28 / Phil 2:1-11 / Mt 21:28-32	

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon. 09/21	8:30 a.m.	Mark Hall
Tue. 09/22	8:30 a.m.	Don Brooks
Wed. 09/23	8:30 a.m.	Special Intentions for Rebecca Gang (Dan Ott)
Thur. 09/24	8:30 a.m.	
Fri. 09/25	8:30 a.m.	Rod Haynes (Sue Haynes)
Sat. 09/26	8:30 a.m.	<u>-No Mass-</u>
	6:00 p.m.	For the People of OLM
Sun. 09/27	8:30 a.m.	For the People of OLM
	11:00 a.m.	For the People of OLM

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Offertory for the weekend of September 13, 2020

Envelopes sent:	392	
Envelopes returned:	59	\$4,870.00
Faith Direct Deposits:	134	\$3,412.20
Loose Change:		\$ 35.00
TOTAL OFFERTORY:		\$8,317.20

We Remember...

Jerry Carey, brother of Donna Smicker; who passed away recently.

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



THIS SUNDAY'S REFLECTION

MATTHEW 20:1-16A

"Are you envious because I am generous?"

"The devil made me do it!" was Bill Cosby's humorous attempt to defend his character's less than angelic behavior. I thought of this as I looked for an excuse for my own recent bout with envy.

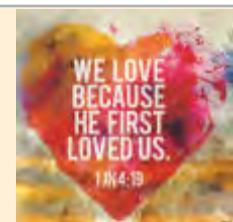
We are all subject to attacks of envy. (It is considered one of the deadly sins!) We are more or less susceptible depending on our life experiences. The trick is to learn to appreciate all that we have been given in life and not to allow feelings of deprivation to control us.

It is this attitude of gratitude that Jesus tries to instill in the full-day workers of the parable (and in us). After all, which one of us would not be delighted to receive a full day's pay for a few hours' work? What keeps us from seeing that our lives have been a series of such gifts?

This parable, as all others, challenges us to see the reign of God in a way that is different from the way we view our everyday world. Through the story of the generous landowner we are invited to recognize and acknowledge God's goodness to us and to accept this same generosity that God offers to our brothers and sisters.

Reflection: What permissions have I given envy to occupy my mind and heart? What gifts do I possess that are my unique contributions to the kingdom of God?

Susan McCarthy, R.D.C.



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.



Scripture Study on Angels

On Thursday evenings in October @ 7:00, we will hold a Scripture Study on the topic of angels via Zoom. To get the link to the Zoom gathering, contact Irene at ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org.

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.



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 a 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.



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.



OLM Book Group

Join us on Wednesday, Oct. 21 to discuss Big Little Lies by Liane Moriarty.

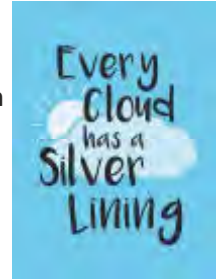
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Look for the "Silver Lining"

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 e mail. We will share these stories with the community, at mass, in the bulletin or in our email blasts and on Facebook.



dclark@ourladyofmercychurch.org or call 899-5342

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



Religious Education Registration

The 2020-2021 year of religious education is underway. If you have not yet registered your child, it is not too late. First grade Rel. Ed. is required by the Diocese of Erie before children can enter the First Reconciliation preparation process. Because of COVID, this year's program will be conducted largely on line.



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. 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.

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

CAN YOU HELP?

Be a Spirit-Filled Voter

Vote

NETWORK's Nuns on the Bus is coming to Erie and Pittsburgh (virtually)!! Please join for a Town Hall for Spirit-Filled Voters hosted by the Erie NETWORK Advocates Team.

The Town Hall takes place at 7PM on

Monday, September 21. Please RSVP for the access link: www.nunsonthebus.org/erie The program will focus on Western Pennsylvania specific issues and is intended for people living or working in this area.

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.



Catholic Education Collection

September 19-20, 2020



Today is the 2020 Catholic Education Collection! Please support this important program that funds faith formation opportunities. Half of what you give will remain at Our Lady of Mercy to support our own religious education and faith formation programs. You can make a gift by using the envelope provided in your offertory packet, through Faith Direct or online at www.ErieRCD.org/Catholic-Education-Collection.html. Thank you!

People for Life

People for Life's annual Life Run 5K/10K & Fun Walk will take place on Saturday, October 10.

Sign-in starts at 7:30 a.m., and the events start at 9 a.m. Life Run will be based at Slade Park in Harborcreek and feature:

professional timing, DJ, optional Jazzercise warm up, complimentary t-shirt and refreshments, and, afterward, free wine tasting at nearby Burch Farms Country Market. Registration is \$25 for ages 16 and up and \$15 for ages 7 to 15. Online registration will help with social distancing on race day. To be sure of getting a race t-shirt, register by September 28. For more information or to register, visit www.peopleforlife.life/liferun or call (814) 882-1333. See also www.facebook.com/LifeRunErie.

**PEOPLE
FOR LIFE**

Prayer Resources

In our recent survey people have asked for more prayer resources. Below are three options.

† Daily three-minute retreat

This three-minute daily retreat starts with gently music and a scripture passage displayed over a nature scene. There is a short reflection and a question or two to help us deepen our faith. Follow the link or simply type Three Minute Retreat in the search box.

<https://www.loyolapress.com/3-minute-retreats-daily-online-prayer/>

You can sign up to receive a daily reminder.

† Silver Lining Story

Check the ribbon on our web page for the "Silver Lining" Link. You can read uplifting stories from parishioners about blessings they have recognized in their life over the last few months. These stories are also available on our Facebook page.

† Praying with the Scriptures – How to do Lectio Divina (Divine Reading)

Divine Reading has a long history in our church. It is a slow reading of the scripture and a method of listening for a word or phrase that stands out. Meditate on the words, pray based on your meditation, contemplate the loving presence of God and act to find new direction in your life. Here is a step by step instruction video from Paulist Evangelization Ministries.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hhwRcg1mHec&feature=youtu.be>

This is a good way to enhance your experience of listening to the Sunday readings and deepen your understanding.

*When in
doubt-
Pray it out.*



SILVER LINING STORY #2

For the past 20 years, my older son Michael's job has kept him traveling for much of the year. Consequently, he would only be able to come home to Erie and visit about 3 times a year. But his job is one that has been greatly affected by the pandemic, and so he has been home and not traveling since mid-March.

So during this time of lockdown/shutdown, he and I have been able to spend so much more time together. It feels like making up for 20 years of not being able to see him much at all.

He and I have both seen this time of reconnecting as a "Silver Lining" that would never have occurred if not for the pandemic.

In addition, it has greatly helped me deal with Emily and Ray being away from home right now, and not able to travel home and visit as they would normally have done this spring and summer. So Michael's presence here in town right now has been a double blessing for me.

-Rose Galeza

OUR LADY OF MERCY'S PARISH FEAST DAY



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2020

Feast Day Mass Schedule:

Saturday, September 26 at 6:00 p.m.

Sunday, September 27 at 8:30 a.m.

and 11:00 a.m.

(a livestream of our 11:00 a.m. Mass will be featured on the Our Lady of Mercy Facebook and YouTube page.)

*A Virtual Feast Day Celebration will take place on
Sunday, September 27 at 4:00 p.m.*

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