

# OUR LADY OF MERCY CHURCH

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



## October 4, 2020 - The 27th 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*

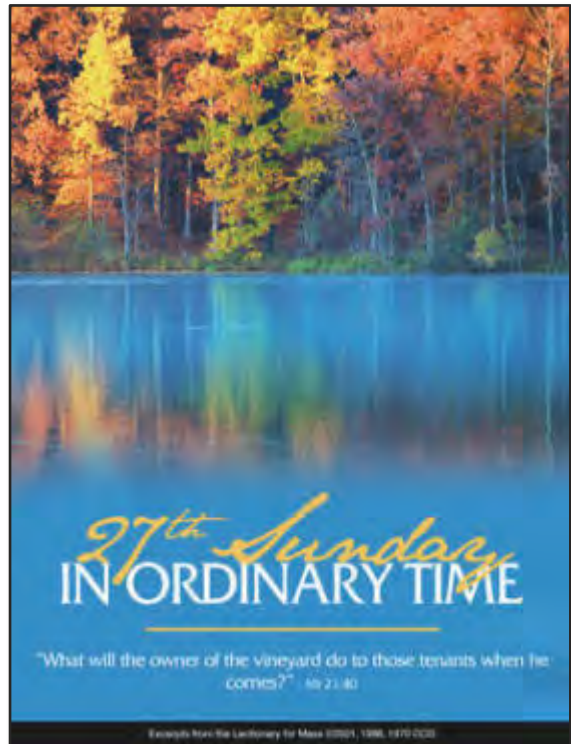
### CONTACT INFORMATION

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. 10/05	9:00 a.m.	Quilters
	7:00 p.m.	Parish Mission
Tue. 10/06	9:30 a.m.	Steel Magnolias SCC
	2:00 p.m.	Prayer Shawl
	7:00 p.m.	Parish Mission
Wed. 10/07	1:00 p.m.	Diamonds in the Rough SCC
	7:00 p.m.	Pastoral Council
Thur. 10/08	9:30 a.m.	Potter's Clay SCC
	11:00 a.m.	Scripture Study - Zoom
	6:00 p.m.	Prayer Shawl
	7:00 p.m.	Scripture Study - Zoom
Fri. 10/09		
Sat. 10/10	9:00 a.m.	Angels in Training SCC
	4:30 p.m.	Sacrament of Penance
	7:30 p.m.	Confirmation
Sun. 10/11	9:45 a.m.	Religious Ed. Gr. K-8
	12:00 p.m.	First Reconciliation Parent Meeting

## 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 September 27, 2020

Envelopes sent:	392	
Envelopes returned:	47	\$2,715.00
Faith Direct Deposits:	134	\$3,435.83
Loose Change:		\$ 33.00
<b>TOTAL OFFERTORY:</b>		<b>\$6,183.33</b>

## For Mercy Sake Deadline



The deadline to submit items for the November issue of *For Mercy Sake*, the parish quarterly newsletter, is **Sunday, Oct. 18**. Send items to [ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org](mailto:ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org).

## We Remember...

Nona Sewell, sister of Mary Ella Eaglen; and Maryann Fetchik, who passed away recently.

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



## SCRIPTURE READINGS

Mon. 10/05	Gal 1:6-12	/ Lk 10:25-37
Tue. 10/06	Gal 1:13-24	/ Lk 10:38-42
Wed. 10/07	Gal 2:1-2, 7-14	/ Lk 11:1-4
Thur. 10/08	Gal 3:1-5	/ Lk 11:5-13
Fri. 10/09	Gal 3:7-14	/ Lk 11:15-26
Sat. 10/10	Gal 3:22-29	/ Lk 11:27-28
Sun. 10/11	Is 25:6-10a	/ Phil 4:12-14, 19-20 / Mt 22:1-14

## MASS INTENTIONS

Mon. 10/05	8:30 a.m.	Francis Talerico (Sandra Jordan)
Tue. 10/06	8:30 a.m.	Frances Somolani (Janet Smith)
Wed. 10/07	8:30 a.m.	Sam Garwig (Liana Pasquale)
Thur. 10/08	8:30 a.m.	Margie Carr
Fri. 10/09	8:30 a.m.	Mary Ann Fetchik
Sat. 10/10	8:30 a.m.	<b>-No Mass-</b>
	6:00 p.m.	For the People of OLM
Sun. 10/11	8:30 a.m.	Evelyn Seyboldt (Tom & Sheri Noyer)
	11:00 a.m.	Rita Desser (Rick & Deb Majewski)

## THIS SUNDAY'S REFLECTION

### MATTHEW 21:33-43

The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.

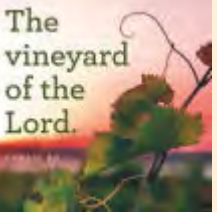
Even in biblical times, it seems, people made choices by asking, "What's in it for me?" Money and profit "were in it" for the vine growers. So intent were they on profits that they made stupid choices. Clearly they chose to serve the wrong master.

Each of us will choose to serve some master in life. Some people give all their attention to their job or career. Others become slaves to possessions. It is common for people to be so concerned about others' opinions that they become enslaved by what others think of them.

While serving these "masters" may bring a temporary fix to our human longings, it won't bear lasting fruit or save us. The allegorical story in today's gospel tells us to recognize and choose the right master.

One way to do this is to bring our deepest needs to God in honest prayer. Then relax and leave the burden with God. Gradually God will show us that we don't need the masters of busyness, greed, or low self-esteem. With attention and commitment to regular prayer, we will recognize that the master who wants to fulfill our deepest longings has been waiting quietly within us all along.

**Reflection: What are the building blocks in my life? What supports have I relied on and can I continue to rely on them? How can I make sure Jesus is the cornerstone?**



Judy Hoelzeman

## Parish Mission

Our Parish Mission with Fr. Frank Desiano is this week, **Sunday-Tuesday at 7:00 p.m.** Experience it in person in the Worship Space or in the comfort of your home via live stream. Fr. Desiano will challenge us to live our discipleship in new and transforming ways.



## Scripture Study on Angels



Our Scripture Study on the topic of angels has begun, but you can still join us via Zoom at either 11:00 a.m. or 7:00 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 8, 15 & 22. To get the Zoom link, email [ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org](mailto:ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org).

## 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 @ 7:00 p.m.** at the home of Florence Voelker, 2406 Cumberland Rd., to discuss Big Little Lies by Liane Moriarty. In November we will share In An Instant by Susan Redford.

## Harvest Soups

COVID has cancelled our annual Harvest Fest, but we are adapting. If we can't gather to sample soups, we can gather soup recipes to sample. Send your favorite soup recipe to [ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org](mailto:ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org) by Oct. 18. We will compile the submissions and share them with members of the parish.



## 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 facebook. [dclark@ourladyofmercychurch.org](mailto:dclark@ourladyofmercychurch.org) or call 899-5342.

## Ladies' Lunch

For women who live alone we will gather on **Thursday, October 22 at 1 p.m.** in Sperry Hall. Please RSVP to Donna Clark.



## 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.

## Puzzle Exchange

Puzzles are coming in so if you need a new puzzle stop by classroom # 5 (the Kindergarten room – just beyond the nursery). Drop off puzzles that you want to share with others and pick up a new puzzle for fun and entertainment.



## Community Connection



Some people who responded to the survey were looking for more opportunities to connect. We have scheduled two opportunities to gather **Sunday Oct 18 at 6:00 p.m.** and **Monday Oct 19 at 4:00 p.m.** You can attend each gathering in person or on zoom. For more information or

for the zoom link contact Donna Clark – 899-5342 or [dclark@ourladyofmercychurch.org](mailto:dclark@ourladyofmercychurch.org)

## Daytime Grief Support Group

We are adding a daytime Grief Support Group. The first meeting will be at 3:00 p.m. on **Tuesday Oct 13**. The evening group will also meet at its regular date on **Monday Oct 19 at 7 p.m.** For more information, contact Donna Clark. Sharing our struggle helps to heal.



## 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.



## First Reconciliation Parent Meeting

There will be an important meeting for families with children in grade 2 Religious Ed. It will be held **Sunday, October 11** in the Worship Space at noon.

## 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.

**Oct 4** – Confirmation Practice @ 1:00  
**Oct. 10** – Confirmation @ 7:30  
**Oct 18** – Home Session

# Prayer Resources

When in  
doubt-  
Pray it out.

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.



## Social Justice Faithful Citizenship

An important election confronts us in November. As individuals, we must decide how we will cast our votes. Does our faith and our Church have anything to say about those choices? The answer is “yes!” and the U. S. Bishops have created a document to help us. No, it does not tell us for whom we should vote, but it does guide us through what our faith says about this moral choice. The document is called **Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship: A Call to Political Responsibility** and it is available at that link on the website of the US Conference of Catholic Bishops. The guide answers four questions and includes a summary of policy positions on many major issues of the day. It was written in 2015 with a new introductory letter added in 2019. The letter includes these words from Pope Francis, “The call to holiness requires a firm and passionate defense of the innocent unborn. Equally sacred are the lives of the poor, those already born, the destitute, the abandoned and the underprivileged, the vulnerable infirm and elderly exposed to covert euthanasia, the victims of human trafficking, new forms of slavery, and every form of rejection.” A summary of the four questions follows.

**Why does the Church teach about issues affecting public policy?** “Because we are people of both faith and reason, it is appropriate and necessary for us to bring this essential truth about human life and dignity to the public square.”

**Who in the Church should participate in political life?** “In the Catholic Tradition, responsible citizenship is a virtue, and participation in political life is a moral obligation.”

**How Does the Church Help the Catholic Faithful to Speak About Political and Social Questions?** “The Church equips its members to address political and social questions by helping them to develop a well-formed conscience.....conscience always requires serious attempts to make sound moral judgments based on the truths of our faith.” They further state, “The Church's teaching is clear that a good end does not justify an immoral means.”

**What does the Church say about Catholic Social Teaching in the Public Square?**

The bishops use four principles to provide a moral framework for decisions in public life. The dignity of the human person, subsidiarity, the common good, and solidarity. Each of these principles are rich concepts that cannot be fully developed in this small space. I encourage you to take a few moments and skim this document, form your conscience and cast your vote to respect the dignity of every human being and the common good of all!

## A Polish Food Extravaganza Day

St. Stanislaus Parish is hosting a “Polish Food Extravaganza Day” on Sunday, October 11, 2020, 11:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. A delicious “Polish Platter Dinner” will be available for take-out only. Cost for Adults - \$12; Children - \$6. Frozen pierogi for sale ½ dozen - \$10; 1 dozen - \$20. Homemade baked goods for sale. A “grand raffle” – Grand prize - \$1,250; 2<sup>nd</sup> prize - \$500; 3<sup>rd</sup> prize - \$250.

All proceeds benefit St. Stanislaus Parish.



# Our Lady of Mercy is looking for "trunkers" for Trunk or Treat on Saturday October 24 @ 3:00 p.m.

Please sign-up to be a "trunker" by calling the  
Parish Office at 899-5342 or sending an email to  
[secretary@ourladyofmercychurch.org](mailto:secretary@ourladyofmercychurch.org)

## Special Collections

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

From the beginning the Church has made it a priority to help the neediest of our brothers and sisters in the human family. On the weekend of October 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> the Peter's Pence Collection will be taken up in our diocese and throughout the world. Peter's Pence is the name given to the financial support offered by the faithful to the Holy Father as a sign of their sharing in the concern of the Successor of Peter for the many different needs of the Universal Church. This collection is normally taken up at the end of June, but due to the situation brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic, Pope Francis moved the collection to October 4<sup>th</sup>. Funds from this collection help victims of war, oppression, and natural disasters, as well as seminaries and religious houses, orphanages, AIDS treatment centers, and other medical facilities in developing nations.

We are all feeling the effects of the pandemic, but I ask you, if possible, to please take this opportunity to support the charitable works of Pope Francis. This is a chance to strengthen the ties that bind us together as the Family of God.

Please know of my gratitude and of my continued prayers for you and your families during this trying time.

Sincerely yours in Christ,  
*Lawrence T. Persico*

The Most Reverend Lawrence T. Persico, JCL  
Bishop of Erie



## Child Protection and Creating Safe Environments

### Diocesan Code of Conduct

The Diocese of Erie is committed to protecting the children and youth who are entrusted to its care and to ensuring that those in ministry with our young people are in right relationship with the children/youth receiving services. To share in the ministry of Christ is a great privilege as well as a tremendous responsibility. The *privilege* is the joy of sharing in the mission of Jesus Himself. The *responsibility* is acting in a way that conforms to the attitude and actions of Christ. In this spirit, the diocese has issued a ministerial Code of Conduct. The code is included in the diocesan *Policy for the Protection of Children*. To read the Code of Conduct, go to: <https://www.eriecd.org/images/sections/childprotection/pdf/CURRENTPolicy.pdf> For more information, contact Mrs. Cindy Zemcik, in the diocesan Office for the Protection of Children at 814-824-1195.

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