

# OUR LADY OF MERCY CHURCH

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



## October 11, 2020 - The 28th 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*

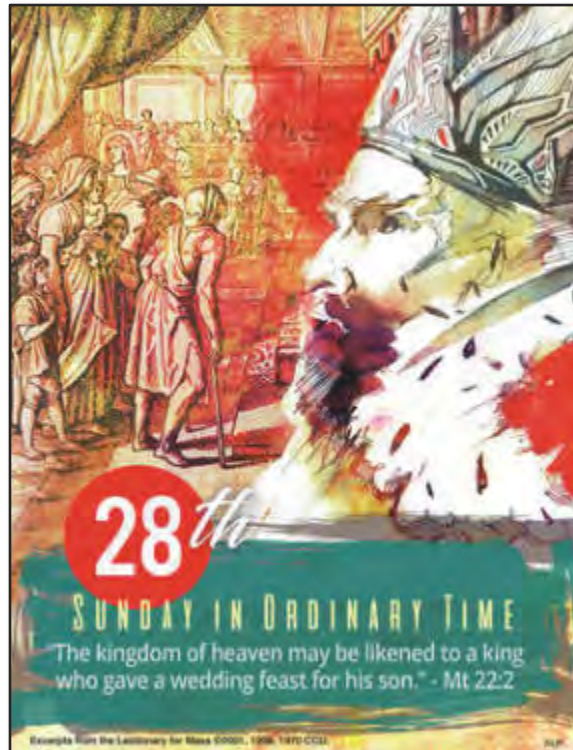
### CONTACT INFORMATION

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. 10/12	9:00 a.m.	Quilters
	5:30 p.m.	Fruit of the Vine SCC
	6:30 p.m.	Fireside Chatters SCC
Tue. 10/13	9:30 a.m.	Steel Magnolias SCC
	2:00 p.m.	Prayer Shawl
	3:00 p.m.	Grief Support Group
	6:45 p.m.	Roman Candles SCC
	7:00 p.m.	Faith & Racial Healing
Wed. 10/14	7:00 p.m.	Jacqueline Continuum Team
	1:00 p.m.	Diamonds in the Rough SCC
	6:30 p.m.	AGIFT Meeting
	7:00 p.m.	Hallelujah Girls SCC
	7:00 p.m.	Knights of Columbus
Thur. 10/15	9:15 a.m.	Painting Class
	9:30 a.m.	Potter's Clay SCC
	6:00 p.m.	Prayer Shawl
	7:00 p.m.	Scripture Study - Zoom
Fri. 10/16		
Sat. 10/17	4:30 p.m.	Sacrament of Penance
		<b>Newsletter Deadline</b>
Sun. 10/18	9:45 a.m.	Religious Ed. Gr. K-8
	12:00 p.m.	Baptismal Prep Class
	6:00 p.m.	Community Connection

## FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Offertory for the weekend of October 4, 2020

Envelopes sent:	392	
Envelopes returned:	65	\$4,023.00
Faith Direct Deposits:	134	\$3,435.83
Loose Change:		\$ 78.00
<b>TOTAL OFFERTORY:</b>		<b>\$7,536.83</b>

## 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



## MASS INTENTIONS

Mon. 10/12	8:30 a.m.	Joanne Smith (Liana Pasquale)
Tue. 10/13	8:30 a.m.	Norm Schlosser (Rochelle Edwards)
Wed. 10/14	8:30 a.m.	Lewis Peters (Carole Peters)
Thur. 10/15	8:30 a.m.	Nona Sewell
Fri. 10/16	8:30 a.m.	Chet Szymecki (Ed Lacastro)
Sat. 10/17	8:30 a.m.	<del>No Mass</del>
	6:00 p.m.	Gertrude Peters (Ross Peters)
Sun. 10/18	8:30 a.m.	For the People of OLM
	11:00 a.m.	Paul DeLuca (Rose Marie DeLuca)

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

Mon. 10/12	Gal 4:22-24,26-27,31-5:1	/Lk 11:29-32
Tue. 10/13	Gal 5:1-6	/Lk 11:37-41
Wed. 10/14	Gal 5:18-25	/Lk 11:42-46
Thur. 10/15	Eph 1:1-10	/Lk 11:47-54
Fri. 10/16	Eph 1:11-14	/Lk 12:1-7
Sat. 10/17	Eph 1:15-23	/Lk 12:8-12
Sun. 10/18	Is 45:1, 4-6/1 Thes 1:1-5/Mt 22:15-21	

*We Remember...* *Loving Memory*  
Judith Bleil-Smith, sister of Jim King;  
and Antoinette Miller,  
who passed away recently.  
Please hold them and their families in prayer during  
this difficult time.

### 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).

## THIS SUNDAY'S REFLECTION

### MATTHEW 22:1-14

"My friend, how is it that you came in here without a wedding garment?"



Is there something wrong with this ruler? He can't get anyone on the wedding list to come to his son's wedding feast so he sends for the poor and the outcasts of the realm. Then, when they show up without wearing formal attire, they are sent to the gallows

I like the parable more when I think of my mother. I remember how gracious my mother always was when, as a child, I would ask for one of my friends to join us at the table. I also remember her irrepressible look of horror if my friend's hands revealed how deep in the flower garden we had been digging before the call to dinner came. The welcome at our meal was real. Washing was not an option.

God is the most gracious of hosts, but the feast to which we are called can be disrespected both by not showing up, or by displaying indifference at the feast itself. Matthew seems to say that while the invitation is enough to make us welcome, our response to the welcome cannot be a thoughtless, lackadaisical acceptance. If we are grateful guests our gratitude will be evident.

Reflection: How am I presenting myself to God for service each day? What thought do I put into my preparations for daily service to God and to the people of God?

Clifford Yeary

### 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.



### 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. 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.



### 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.



### Connecting with the Community- A Reflective Process on Our Covid Experience

Many have experienced the ups and downs of the last 9 months including myself. If you would like to process these experiences in a reflective prayerful session you can attend in person or on zoom at either of these times: Sunday Oct 18 at 6:00 p.m. or Monday Oct 19 at 4:00 p.m. We will meet in the large classroom. For more information or for the zoom link contact Donna Clark – 899-5342 or [dclark@ourladyofmercychurch.org](mailto:dclark@ourladyofmercychurch.org)



### 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.



### Ladies' Lunch

For women who live alone we will gather on Thursday Oct 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.

### Question & Answer With the Pastor



We all miss our conversations with Fr. Ritchie, the opportunity to ask him all the burning questions about our spiritual life. If we can't gather in person just yet, we can gather through the magic of technology. You are invited, along with your questions, to a virtual Question & Answer w/t Pastor at 7:00 on Thursday, Oct. 29. To get the link for the Zoom session, email [ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org](mailto:ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org) by noon on Oct. 27

### 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.



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

### 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.





## SILVER LINING STORY #3

In the early 1980's my sister and her family moved to Lawrence Park. It was then that I met her neighbor Sandy and Sandy's family. This friendship created many happy memories over the decades. Tragically, Sandy suddenly passed away shortly after becoming a first-time grandmother to her daughter Jenny's baby girl Kensley. Because of Covid, Jenny and her husband Mike (both professionals) needed a babysitter for Kensley and her brother Mikey. And so, began the summer of babysitting by Aunt Cindy. Caring for a 3 and a 5-year-old could be exhausting at times but was such a privilege to be able give them the same kind of care that I know their grandma Sandy would have given. It was a treasured time for our two families - again forming memories to cherish. "Aunt" Cindy Skarzenski

## 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!



## Special Collections

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ, The weekend of October 18-19 marks this year's World Mission Sunday, our annual worldwide Eucharistic celebration of our shared call to mission. With 2020 being an extraordinarily difficult year, our awareness of this call is needed more than ever. During the month of October, Pope Francis invites all baptized Christians to a personal encounter with Jesus Christ through prayer, meditation on the Word of God, and pilgrimage. What, then, does our Lord ask of us during this encounter? World Mission Sunday reminds us that we are all the "Church of Christ on Mission in the World," and we are all called to share the good news of the gospel with others. I invite you to please continue to encourage all in our diocese to take this opportunity to revitalize our ardor, passion, and zeal for the faith with loving missionary hearts. One way we can respond to our

missionary call is through charity, giving generously to the collection for the Society for the Propagation of the Faith on World Mission Sunday. Your financial gift helps to sustain priests, religious, and lay pastoral leaders in more than 1,100 mission dioceses in Asia, Africa, and the Pacific Islands as well as parts of Latin America and Europe. Additionally, your prayer and support help them to proclaim the Gospel, build the Church, and serve the poor. Thank you for your continuous commitment to mission and for your generous response to this collection, and throughout the Mission Month, as you are able. Let us join our hearts in prayer with our Holy Father for this special moment for the missions. You and your families remain in my prayer.

Sincerely yours in Christ,  
*Lawrence T. Persico*

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

# A Celebration of Ministries

Did you know there are 405 parishioners involved in ministries at Our Lady of Mercy? That is impressive! The Stewardship committee offers a heartfelt thank you to everyone who has given of their time and talent.



In past Octobers we had a celebration of ministries along with our recommitment. We will still have the celebration of ministries the weekend of Oct 17 & 18 at all the weekend masses.



Since we can't have people leafing through pages of ministry lists we are sending a card to each person involved in ministry. If you would like to make any changes please contact Donna or Katie in the parish office. 899-5342 or [dclark@ourladyofmercychurch.org](mailto:dclark@ourladyofmercychurch.org), or send back your card with the correct changes.



## Child Protection and Creating Safe Environments

### Bullying Prevention Month

Relational bullying is unwarranted, persistent, unwelcome behavior in the form of criticism, isolation, or fabricated allegations that can damage relationships. Examples include social exclusion ("You can't be with us"), spreading rumors ("Did you hear...?"), and withholding friendship ("I won't be your friend if you..."). Though relational bullying can often seem ambiguous to outside observers and often garners less attention than physical bullying or verbal bullying, it should not be discounted simply as normal, adolescent behavior. In fact, several recent studies suggest relational bullying is more strongly related to emotional distress and teen depression than any other form of bullying. To see what the diocese is doing to help maintain safe environments, visit <https://www.eriecd.org/childprotection/>

**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)

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