

# OUR LADY OF MERCY CHURCH

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



## October 25, 2020 - The 30th 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*

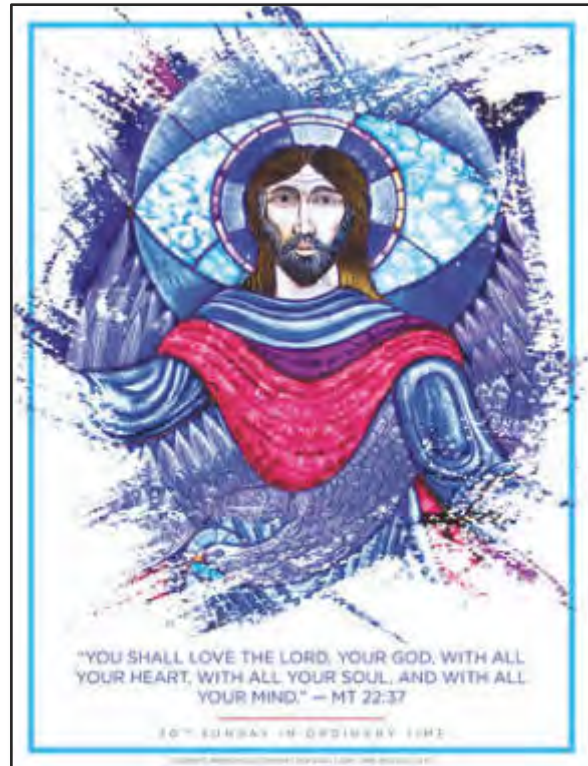
### CONTACT INFORMATION

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)

<b>Mon. 10/26</b>	9:00 a.m.	Quilters
	5:30 p.m.	Sisters of Scripture SCC
	6:30 p.m.	Fireside Chatters SCC
<b>Tue. 10/27</b>	9:30 a.m.	Steel Magnolias SCC
	2:00 p.m.	Prayer Shawl
	6:45 p.m.	Roman Candles SCC
	7:00 p.m.	Faith & Racial Healing
<b>Wed. 10/28</b>	1:00 p.m.	Diamonds in the Rough SCC
<b>Thur. 10/29</b>	9:15 a.m.	Painting Class
	9:30 a.m.	Potter's Clay SCC
	6:00 p.m.	Prayer Shawl
	7:00 p.m.	Q&A with the Pastor -Zoom
<b>Fri. 10/30</b>	4:30 p.m.	Widow's Dinner
<b>Sat. 10/31</b>	4:30 p.m.	Sacrament of Penance
<b>Sun. 11/01</b>		<b>Casserole Club Drop Off</b> <b>Monthly Food Pantry Collection</b> 9:45 a.m. Religious Ed Gr. K-8

## 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



## We Remember...

Irene Edwards, and  
Edwin Stankiewicz,  
uncle of Karen Sweeney;  
who passed away recently.



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

## MASS INTENTIONS

<b>Mon. 10/26</b>	8:30 a.m.	Dan Sweeney (The Hallelujah Girls)
<b>Tue. 10/27</b>	8:30 a.m.	Special Intention for David Hardner (Dan Ott)
<b>Wed. 10/28</b>	8:30 a.m.	John Yochim (Janet Smith)
<b>Thur. 10/29</b>	8:30 a.m.	Margaret Rathers
<b>Fri. 10/30</b>	8:30 a.m.	Judith Bleil Smith
<b>Sat. 10/31</b>	8:30 a.m.	<b>-No Mass-</b>
	6:00 p.m.	For the People of OLM
<b>Sun. 11/01</b>	8:30 a.m.	Ken Whitney (Laurie Whitney)
	11:00 a.m.	Rob Sedelmyer (Family)



## FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Offertory for the weekend of October 18, 2020

Envelopes sent:	392	
Envelopes returned:	47	\$1,687.00
Faith Direct Deposits:	133	\$3,432.70
Loose Change:		\$ 30.00
<b>TOTAL OFFERTORY:</b>		<b>\$5,149.70</b>

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

<b>Mon. 10/26</b>	Eph 4:32-5:8	/ Lk 13:10-17
<b>Tue. 10/27</b>	Eph 5:21-33	/ Lk 13:18-21
<b>Wed. 10/28</b>	Eph 2:19-22	/ Lk 6:12-16
<b>Thur. 10/29</b>	Eph 6:10-20	/ Lk 13:31-35
<b>Fri. 10/30</b>	Phil 1:1-11	/ Lk 14:1-6
<b>Sat. 10/31</b>	Phil 1:18b-26	/ Lk 14:1, 7-11
<b>Sun. 11/01</b>	Rv 7:2-4, 9-14 / 1 Jn 3:1-3 / Mt 5:1-12	

## THIS SUNDAY'S REFLECTION

### MATTHEW 22:34-40

"You shall love..."



What a contrast there is between "thou shalt not" and the command to love! The injunctions of the Ten Commandments enable a society to live in relative peace and safety, free from the threat of robbery, murder, and adultery, but Jesus, throughout his ministry, by his actions and his teachings, makes it clear that they represent the minimum in human behavior. A new paradigm has replaced the old. Jesus' followers are to be known by their love.

Throughout the Christian Scriptures the emphasis on our obligation to love is unambiguous. To love God, to love our neighbor, and yes, to love ourselves, is the core of the Old Testament covenant and the call of Jesus. Compassion, generosity, forgiveness are the nature of this love.

Love is not simply and emotion, it is action. Love is walking the extra mile, giving from our poverty, listening to the tedious, caring for the helpless, welcoming the stranger. Love calls us to live as if the Kingdom of God were already here and, by doing so, to make it a reality. Love demands us to go beyond our basic instinct of self-preservation to serve the needs of others.

Reflection: How can I put my love into action throughout this week?

Jerre Roberts

### 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



### Newsletter Mailing Party

Can you help us fold newsletters and stuff envelopes on Monday, Nov. 9? We will have a newsletter mailing party at 9:00 a.m. in Sperry Hall, socially distanced and wearing masks. If you can help, call Irene at 899-6132 or email [ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org](mailto:ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org).



### OLM Book Group

Join us on Wednesday, Nov. 18 to discuss *In An Instant* by Susan Redford.



### 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.



### Scrip Coordinator Needed.

After many years Peggy Jacquell is retiring as our scrip coordinator. The job involves keeping a small supply of different cards in stock and ordering more as needed; manage the "shop-with-scrip" account and validate online orders. One needs to be comfortable with managing an online account. If you are interested in the position, please contact Donna Clark.



### Daily Devotional

Do you use a daily devotional that you found helpful over the past seven months? Is it an e mail that you get each day from some organization? A book you read from each day? A website that you visit regularly? Share that resource with us so we can share that with others. Send thoughts and Ideas to Donna Clark 899-5342 or [dclark@ourladyofmercychurch.org](mailto:dclark@ourladyofmercychurch.org)



## 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.

### Book of Remembrance

In November we remember our deceased relatives and friends. As in our custom, we will place the "Book of Remembrance" in the Gathering Space for you to list the names of those you would like to remember.



### Backpack Food Program

The Backpack Food Program started at Clark Elementary this month is off to a great start. There are over 50 volunteers to help with the food packing. Enthusiasm is high and the community of volunteers, working out of South Harborcreek United Methodist desires to start the program in the other two Harborcreek Elementary Schools. Starting these programs requires funding. Since the National Honor Society is running a food drive to collect the food for the annual thanksgiving dinners we will not be putting out a shopping list for thanksgiving dinners. Instead, we are asking our local church community members to make a donation to fund the new Backpack programs. If you would like to donate please make checks payable to Our Lady of Mercy and mark it for the backpack program.



### OLM Wreath

Two hand-made wreaths donated by Marty Eisert are being raffled and the proceeds donated for the livestream equipment costs. Chances are \$2.00 each or 3 chances for \$5.00. In addition people can order a personalized wreath from Marty at a discounted price and she will donate 10% of the sale to the church. Contact Marty at: [eiserthaus@roadrunner.com](mailto:eiserthaus@roadrunner.com) No email? Call Donna in the Parish Office.



### 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.



### 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.





### A Family Perspective

In today's gospel the Pharisee was talking about commandments, and Jesus was talking about love. One demands allegiance, the other requires personal commitment. In our families we daily lay down our lives for each other not because we have to, but because love compels us to make sacrifices.



### Domestic Violence Support



Do you know someone who is living through domestic violence? You can help. Call the National Domestic Violence Hotline for resources and support 800-799-SAFE (7233) {TTY 800-787-3224} or find help on line at [thehotline.org](http://thehotline.org).

### Parish Quilt

New parish families are encouraged to decorate a quilt square for our parish quilt that hangs on the back wall of the worship space. You may find a square in the basket on the table next to classroom #1. After you decorate your family square please return it to the parish office.



### Family Honor Webinars Available Online This Fall!

Parents: need help speaking with your young child about 'the birds and bees'? Or, are you looking for tips on talking with your teen about purity, sex and, dating? Or, maybe you've heard about Pope St. John Paul II's **Theology of the Body**, and you'd love for you and your teen to sit in on a talk **together**. Or you may just need some hope and encouragement as a parent. Whatever your reasons, we invite you to sign up for one of Family Honor's new **Fall 2020 Webinars**, which our Family Honor adult presenters will deliver live via Zoom! Some sessions are for parents only; others are for you and your teen or pre-teen to participate in together. There are lots of sessions to choose from and you can join us from the comfort of your home, no matter where you live! Research shows that a strong sense of parent-child 'connectedness' is the most significant factor in reducing teen risk-taking behavior. We hope you'll take advantage of this terrific opportunity! To register, go to: <https://familyhonor.org/programs/find-a-family-honor-program-near-you/> Family Honor, created in 1988, provides a Catholic framework on the truth and meaning of sexuality, love, and family. Questions? Contact us at: 803.929.0858 or [info@familyhonor.org](mailto:info@familyhonor.org).



## Social Justice



Fr. Frank DiSiano, CSP who preached the Mission at Our Lady of Mercy commented one evening that on a walk Harborcreek he noticed many yard signs and wondered if the neighbors with different political signs talked with each other. No matter your source for news, you see daily reports of rancor and even violence in our streets as we approach Election Day. Disagreements on social media are becoming more and more nasty, revealing deep hostility towards those with whom we disagree.

What does it mean to love our neighbors in the midst of such a divisive climate? Catholics are called to bring the best of ourselves and our faith to the public square—and yet today, many shy away from such involvement because our national and local conversations are filled with anger and harsh language, often directed at peoples themselves. As Catholics, we must model a better way. We invite you to model love for neighbor by pledging to *Civilize It* and committing to civility, clarity, and compassion this election year.

**Civility:** Recognize the human dignity of those with whom you disagree, treat others with respect, and rise above attacks when directed at me.

**Clarity:** Root your political viewpoints in the Gospel and a well formed conscience, which involves prayer, conversation, study and listening. Stand up for your convictions and speak out when you witness language that disparages others' dignity, while also listening and seeking to understand others' experiences.

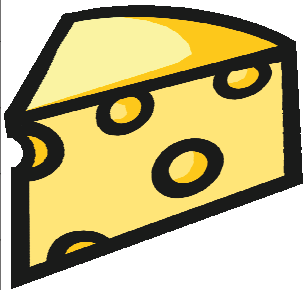
**Compassion:** Encounter others with a tone and posture which affirms that you honor the dignity of others and invites others to do the same. Presume others' best intentions and listen to their stories with empathy. Strive to understand before seeking to be understood.

*Civilize It: Dignity Beyond the Debate* is a **non-partisan** call to focus on the dignity of all people, even those with whom we disagree, and to put faith in action. Make room in your heart for those with whom you disagree and pledge dignity beyond the debate today at [CivilizeIt.org](http://CivilizeIt.org)!

**What You Always  
Wanted  
to Know About...**

**Thursday, Oct. 29 @ 7:00**

Join Us For A



**Q & A With  
Fr. Ritchie**



Over Zoom

**Bring your questions  
To get the Zoom link, email**

**[ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org](mailto:ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org)**

**by noon Tuesday, Oct. 27.**

*This is your opportunity to chat with your pastor about those questions concerning the Bible, the Church, Catholic beliefs, etc. that you have never known how to answer. Every question is worthwhile as we will learn from one another. Whether you have a specific question in mind or just want an opportunity to learn and discuss, bring a friend and join us.*

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