

OUR LADY OF MERCY CHURCH

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



November 29, 2020 - First Sunday of Advent

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. 11/30	9:00 a.m.	Quilters
	9:30 a.m.	Steel Magnolias SCC
Tue. 12/01	2:00 p.m.	Prayer Shawl
	3:00 p.m.	Grief Support Group
	7:00 p.m.	CORE Team Meeting
	7:00 p.m.	Pastoral Council
Wed. 12/02	1:00 p.m.	Diamonds in the Rough SCC
Thur. 12/03	9:00 a.m.	Painting Class
	6:00 p.m.	Prayer Shawl
	7:00 p.m.	HOPE: Restoring the Heart—Zoom
Fri. 12/04		
Sat. 12/05	10:00 a.m.	Memorial Mass
	4:30 p.m.	Sacrament of Penance
Sun. 12/06		Casserole Club Drop-Off
		Monthly Food Pantry Collection
	9:45 a.m.	Religious Ed. Gr. K-8
	12:15 p.m.	Gr. 11 Interviews
	1:00 p.m.	Family Advent Celebration - Zoom

We Remember...

Gregory Sanner, husband of Linda Sanner, Msgr. Jerry Orbanek, cousin of Helen Behringer and Blair Crosby; who passed away recently.



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

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Mon. 11/30	Rom 10:9-18	/ Mt 4:18-22
Tue. 12/01	Is 11:1-10	/ Lk 10:21-24
Wed. 12/02	Is 25:6-10a	/ Mt 15:29-37
Thur. 12/03	Is 26:1-6	/ Mt 7:21, 24-27
Fri. 12/04	Is 29:17-24	/ Mt 9:27-31
Sat. 12/05	Is 30:19-21, 23-26	/ Mt 9:35-10:1, 5a-8
Sun. 12/06	Is 40:1-5, 9-11 / 2 Pt 3:8-14 / Mk 1:1-8	

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon. 11/30	8:30 a.m.	
Tue. 12/01	8:30 a.m.	
Wed. 12/02	8:30 a.m.	
Thur. 12/03	8:30 a.m.	
Fri. 12/04	8:30 a.m.	
Sat. 12/05	8:30 a.m.	-No Mass-
	6:00 p.m.	Carolyn Charney (Vicki Gurieo & Family)
Sun. 12/06	8:30 a.m.	Fredrick Trester (Faye Froess)
	11:00 a.m.	For the People of OLM

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



THIS SUNDAY'S REFLECTION

MARK 13:33-37



Today we begin the season of **Advent**, which marks the start of a new liturgical year for the Church. The readings for Sunday Mass are arranged on a three-year cycle. Each year features a different Gospel—Matthew, Mark, or Luke. Readings from the Gospel of John are interspersed throughout all three years. With this year's first Sunday of Advent, we begin Cycle B of the Lectionary, which focuses our attention on the Gospel of Mark. This week and next week, our readings from Mark's Gospel present two important Advent themes: the Lord's return at the end of time and John the Baptist's preparation for Jesus.

Today's Gospel is taken from the end of Mark's Gospel, the chapter that immediately precedes Mark's account of Jesus' Passion. Having been questioned repeatedly by the scribes and the Pharisees, Jesus is now questioned by his disciples—Peter, James, John, and Andrew—who want details about his prediction of the destruction of the Temple. Jesus answers with many warnings about the difficulties that the disciples will face.

Today's passage comes at the conclusion of Jesus' warnings to his disciples. Jesus emphasizes the need for watchfulness. The Son of Man will come without warning; only the Father knows the exact hour. The disciples must not be caught unprepared when this time comes.

Scholars believe that Mark's Gospel was written around the time of the destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans in A.D. 70. Mark's audience consisted of Christians who were living in difficult social and political times, times of conflict. They were likely beginning to face persecution as followers of Jesus. In this difficult time, it helped to recall that Jesus had foretold of such difficulties. Early Christian communities took courage from Jesus' warning to remain alert and watchful, and they found in his words a way to persevere through suffering.

Today's Gospel reminds us that Advent is about more than our preparation for the Church's celebration of Christ's birth at Christmas. Advent is also about preparing ourselves for Christ's return in glory at the end of time. Like the disciples and the faithful in Mark's community, we must also stay alert and watchful. Our faithfulness to God, through the good times as well as the difficult times, shows us to be ready for the coming of the Son of Man

Loyola Press

Hope – Restoring the Heart

Many of us have had an emotionally difficult time as we struggle with the uncertainty of our current situations. We may be feeling stress, anxiety, or fear. Maybe our prayer is dry or non-



existent. If you are looking for a spiritual boost please join us for an opportunity to share stories of hope and healing. **Sunday Nov. 22 at 1:00 p.m.** in the parish parlor. Or a meeting via Zoom **Thursday, Dec 3 at 7:00 p.m.** For more information contact:

carrieo22@hotmail.com or Donna Clark in the parish office. We are encouraging people to stay safe. We are taking precautions and following the county health department guidelines. If you would like to talk with someone but don't feel comfortable coming out or are uncomfortable with zoom meetings, please call Donna in the parish office.

Harborcreek Community Thanksgiving



Since this year there is no Harborcreek Community Thanksgiving Service we are asking people to donate to the Harborcreek Backpack food program. The Food Backpack program provides child friendly, easy to prepare food items

on a weekly basis to local students who otherwise would not have enough to eat over the weekend. . It costs only \$3.50 per week, or \$120 per student per year, or approximately \$5000 per school for up to 40 children per school. Can you sponsor a child for a month and donate \$15.00? Checks can be made payable to Our Lady of Mercy. Thank you for your support.

Daytime Grief Support Group

Meeting the first Tuesday of every month, this group meets next on **Tuesday Dec 1 at 3 p.m.** We have added a daytime group especially now that it gets dark early and many people do not drive at night. Questions? Call **Donna Clark** in the parish office.



Confirmation Interviews

The candidates in their final year of preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation are reminded that they have mandatory interviews on **Sunday, Dec. 6 at 12:15.** We will meet in the **Worship Space.**



OLM Book Group

For those who want to read ahead, our January title will be The Hummingbird's Daughter by Luis Alberto Urrea.



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.

Do you use E mail?

Sign up for our parish e newsletter. Go to the bottom of our home page on the Our Lady of Mercy website and click "Subscribe to Parish Newsletter" You will receive two e mails each week describing upcoming events and links to our live Mass, prayers and meditative reflections and songs.



Missing Our Faith Community? Stay in Touch Virtually!



Watch Our Lady of Mercy on You Tube or Facebook. Go to "Our Lady of Mercy Harborcreek" on You Tube. We live stream our **11:00 a.m. Sunday Liturgy** which is also

available later in the day. You can watch our recent Parish Mission with Fr. Frank DeSiano. Check out the video Celebrating our Feast Day. You can also find these videos on Our Lady of Mercy's Facebook page.

How do I get the bulletin if I am not going to Mass at this time?

Here are four ways you can get the bulletin: 1) Stop in during the week to pick one up when there are fewer people in church. 2) Go to our parish website ourladyofmercychurch.org and click "Download Bulletin" in the upper right. 3) Call the parish office to have a bulletin mailed to you. 4) Sign up to receive the bulletin in your inbox. Go to Parishesonline.com, search for Our Lady of Mercy in Harborcreek. You will see our bulletins and an option to subscribe to receive the bulletin when it is published.



New E mail scam going through parish.

Many parishioners are getting emails from "Msgr Ritchie" from a gmail account asking for help. If you write back the scammer asks for gift cards. Please always call the parish office to verify any e mail or text solicitation. Fr Ritchie will never ask for gift cards by e mail or text. We believe scammers are getting this information from contacts listed on our website.





Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser for the Religious Education Ministry

Sunday, January 31, 2021

Take-Out Only!

\$10 for Adults

\$5 for Children 10 and Under

- Spaghetti & Meatballs
- Salad
- Italian Bread

You will reserve your pick-up time when you purchase your ticket.



OUR LADY OF MERCY SCRIP NEWS

With Christmas fast approaching, please consider purchasing your gift cards from Our Lady of Mercy's SCRIP program. There are a number of cards in stock at church. If the card you want is not in stock, you can order your cards by filling out a paper form or order on-line. To guarantee your card is available by Christmas, we must receive your order form and money by **December 7**. **YOU CAN NOW USE YOUR CREDIT CARD FOR ON-LINE PURCHASES!** Go on-line to ShopWithScrip.com for more information. In-stock cards are available after each mass and during parish office hours (Mon - Fri: 9-3). Our Lady of Mercy benefits from each card sold and the money is used toward the church expenditures. Call Peggy Jacquel 725-9869 or e-mail piggywiggy59@yahoo.com for more information.

WAYS TO GIVE THIS SEASON

CHRISTMAS CARING TREE PROGRAM

If you took a name off of the Ella Cochran Food Pantry's "Christmas Caring Tree", please return the wrapped gift by **December 5th and 6th**.

Operation Assisting Santa

If you participated in Operation Assisting Santa, please return unwrapped gifts need to be returned by **December 6**. If you have any questions please contact Janet Smith at 814-899-5495 or

refereesmith@roadrunner.com Or Mochie Zielewski at 814-823-6505 or mzielewski999@hotmail.com



In this Thanksgiving season we give thanks to all the couples who made their commitment this year, to God and to all of us to teach us about Jesus unselfish love by the lives they lead together.

- Robert Neil & Amanda Mallin
- John Curtin & Meghan Ruland
- Brandon Mlakar & Amy Shamburg
- Nick Spring & Alena Costello
- Charles Krugger & Brittany Barko
- "Jake" Gamble & Danielle Pelinsky

Social Justice

Prayer After an Election



God of all nations,
Protector of the human family,
we give you thanks for the freedom we exercise and the many blessings of democracy we enjoy in these United States of America.

We ask for your protection and guidance for all who devote themselves to the common good, working for justice and peace at home and around the world.

We lift up all our duly elected leaders and public servants,
those who will serve us as president, as legislators and judges,
those in the military and law enforcement.
Heal us from our differences and unite us, O Lord, with a common purpose, dedication, and commitment to achieve liberty and justice in the years ahead for all people, and especially those who are most vulnerable in our midst.

Amen.

Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers, revised edition (Washington, DC: United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2007).

MASS OF REMEMBRANCE

The annual Mass of Remembrance is Saturday, December 5th 2020, at 10 a.m. The Bereavement Ministry invites all members of Our Lady of Mercy to attend this annual Memorial Mass to support the families of our parish who have lost loved ones during the past year. Please join us for this special celebration.



Due to the COVID 19 pandemic, some of our Parishioners may be uncomfortable attending this Mass, although they would dearly want to attend. Our Parish will be live streaming the Mass, through YouTube or, FaceBook from the OLM website at www.ourladyofmercychurch.org

Our Lady of Mercy is a PurpleOne site: purpleOne™

What does this mean?

Our parish is a safe place for Domestic Violence Victims to receive help.

Walk ins are welcome at the parish office and after-hours contacts are available upon request.

We have a team able to **Recognize**, **Respond** and **Refer** victims to Safe Journey/Safe Net. We are here to listen if someone needs to talk. Conversations are always confidential. This is a no judgement, safe place to get help and/or information.

The **PurpleOne** initiative includes: Public awareness, Training of community members, and being a safe place for domestic violence victims to find help.

Are you being abused?

This might be a complicated and difficult question to answer. Abuse is about power and control. An abusive partner uses various methods to establish and maintain control in the relationship. The methods of control are as broad as the abuser's imagination. Please see the checklist in the **PurpleOne** booklet to help identify techniques of control and abuse. This checklist and more information are available on the table under the bulletin board in the gathering space in a booklet entitled: "When Someone You Know is Being Hurt".



Dec. 2	William Drotar	2	Dec. 13	Reagan Andrews	13
Dec. 4	Aubrie Olson	17	Dec. 15	Casey Brigham	2
Dec. 5	Blake Bleil-Tersigni	6	Dec. 21	Cole Marshall	16
Dec. 7	Gabriella Licata	14	Dec. 23	Angel Gilbert	12
Dec. 8	Perrin Baker	4	Dec. 26	Emily Desser	18
Dec. 9	Morgan Wilhelm	15	Dec. 26	Jackson Froess	8
Dec. 11	Samuel Camillo	11	Dec. 27	Joey Bernatowicz	13
Dec. 12	Ava Froess	14	Dec. 29	Rosalie Gilchrist	3

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