

OUR LADY OF MERCY CHURCH

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



December 6, 2020 - Second 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*

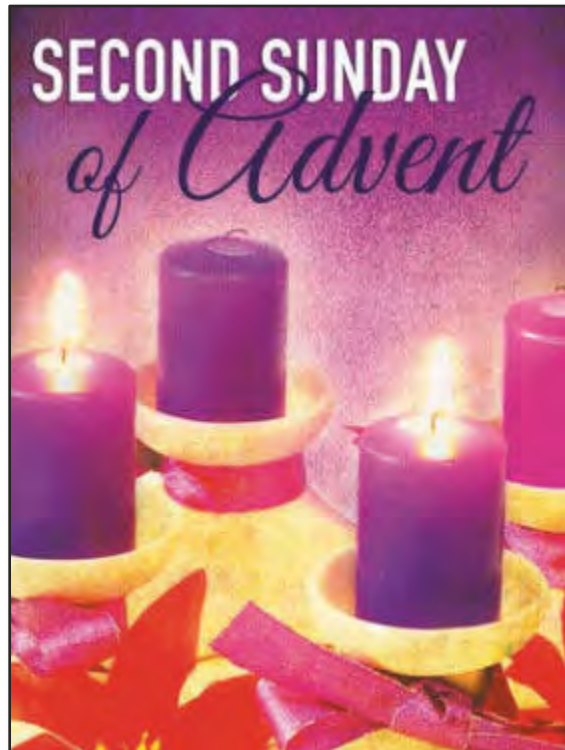
CONTACT INFORMATION

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. 12/07	9:00 a.m.	Quilters
	9:30 a.m.	Steel Magnolias SCC
Tue. 12/08	12:00 p.m.	HOPE: Restoring the Heart
	2:00 p.m.	Prayer Shawl
	6:45 p.m.	Roman Candles SCC
	7:00 p.m.	Faith & Racial Justice
Wed. 12/09	1:00 p.m.	Diamonds in the Rough SCC
	5:00-7 p.m.	Sacrament of Penance
	6:30 p.m.	AGIFT Meeting
	7:00 p.m.	Advent Evening Prayer - Virtual
	7:00 p.m.	Knights of Columbus
Thur. 12/10	9:00 a.m.	Painting Class
	6:00 p.m.	Prayer Shawl
Fri. 12/11		
Sat. 12/12	9:00 a.m.	Angels in Training SCC
	4:30 p.m.	Sacrament of Penance
Sun. 12/13		Third Sunday of Advent
	9:45 a.m.	Religious Ed. Gr. K-8

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Mon. 12/07	Is 35:1-10	/ Lk 5:17-26
Tue. 12/08	Gn 3:9-15, 20 / Eph 1:3-6, 11-12	
		/ Lk 1:26-38
Wed. 12/09	Is 40:25-31	/ Mt 11:28-30
Thur. 12/10	Is 41:13-20	/ Mt 11:11-15
Fri. 12/11	Is 48:17-19	/ Mt 11:16-19
Sat. 12/12	Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10	
		/ Lk 1:39-47
Sun. 12/13	Is 61:1-2, 10-11	/ 1 Thes 5:16-24
		/ Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

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. 12/07	8:30 a.m.	Don McCurdy (Janet Smith)
Tue. 12/08	8:30 a.m.	Ruth Extein (The Extein Family)
Wed. 12/09	8:30 a.m.	Dan Sweeney (The Hallelujah Girls)
Thur. 12/10	8:30 a.m.	John Eckendorf (Pam & Dale Snyder)
Fri. 12/11	8:30 a.m.	Joe Charles
Sat. 12/12	8:30 a.m.	No Mass-
	6:00 p.m.	Chet Szymecki (Jim & Maxine Tonks)
Sun. 12/13	8:30 a.m.	Blair Crosby
	11:00 a.m.	For the People of OLM

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Offertory for the weekend of November 29, 2020

Envelopes sent:	392	
Envelopes returned:	40	\$2,070.00
Faith Direct Deposits:	133	\$3,432.70
Loose Change:		\$ 55.00
TOTAL OFFERTORY:		\$5,557.70

We Remember... *The Loving Memory*

Helen Black, Cathy Altieri,
Patricia Lynch - sister of Tim Lynch,
Donald Vallimont - father of Margy Luniewski,
and Joseph Marshall - brother of Ken Marshall;
who passed away recently.

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



ADVENT



HOPE. LOVE. JOY. PEACE.

THIS SUNDAY'S REFLECTION

MARK 1:1-8

"Prepare the way of the Lord; make straight his paths."

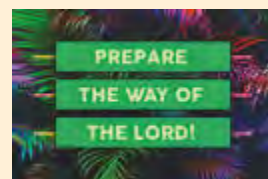
I remember a comment I made about this Gospel passage when I was an adolescent. *What's so great about a straight path? It's on the winding roads that you find the scenery.* That memory returns to me as I reflect on this Gospel.

In quoting this passage from Isaiah, John the Baptist suggest an urgency about opening our hearts to God. Metaphorically the winding roads slow us down. Although I like winding roads, if I am in a hurry I take the straight road. Of course it is not speed we are advocating here, but rather steadfastness on the spiritual journey. The season of Advent is a time to evaluate, not our speed, but our stability in our quest for God. It is time to evaluate the obstacles in our lives.

John was called to be a herald of the Lord's coming. He was to prepare hearts to recognize God's arrival in Christ. Each of us has a John-the-Baptist-spirit in us. From our own wilderness places we proclaim with our lives that it is time to get ready.

For Reflection: In what small way can I help to prepare others to be vessels of openness for God's coming?

Macrina Wiederkehr, O.S.B.



Hope – Restoring the Heart

The next session is Tuesday December 8 at 12 Noon; If you would like to attend this meeting by Zoom please contact Donna Clark in the parish office. 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. 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.



Evening Grief Support Group

Monday Dec 21 at 7:00 p.m. is the next evening grief support group meeting. The holidays can pose a challenge to those in the grief process. In this session we will share different ways to get through the holidays. If you would like to attend the meeting by Zoom please or have questions contact Donna Clark in the parish office. We can also do one on one ministry on the phone as well.

OLM Book Group

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



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 Jacquiel 725-9869 or e-mail pigggywiggy59@yahoo.com for more information.

Now Available!

OLM is now selling \$25 gift cards to Stan's Garden Center! Stop by the office Monday-Friday from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. or after each Mass to purchase yours!

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.

"Since we first got the parish subscription to FORMED, I have been using the site. I have watched a variety of their interesting talks and short films. All are very well done. But the thing I have been using the most, on a daily basis, is the FORMED DAILY reflection that you can sign up for and comes to your email. Each day, Dr. Timothy Gray gives a 5-minute daily reflection on that day's readings. They are always interesting, insightful and thought provoking. I never miss listening to it each morning, and have recommended it to my Small Faith Group members as well." Rose Galeza

Social Justice



Really! Who actually likes wearing face masks? They fog up your glasses and make your face itch. It's hard to talk intelligibly through them and nearly impossible to pick up nonverbal facial expressions that add vital texture to conversation. And they make it impossible to forget the depressing reality that COVID-19 is still around.

Plus the mask has become such a divisive political symbol, the masked and the masked-nots assuming the worst about each other. It's a sad commentary on our national state of mind that it's come to this: politicizing masks.

We are faced with an avalanche of evolving information and no shortage of inconsistency and hypocrisy from our government leaders. We default to siding with whatever partisan camp to which we belong. For most of us, independent, nuanced appraisal of a litany of complex issues is unrealistic for our already taxed brains.

For the members of Our Lady of Mercy Church, though, it's important to rise above the political partisanship and think through what our *faith* would call us to with regard to wearing or not wearing masks. What if our view on masks were shaped more by our Christian identity rather than our American political identity?

Christ calls us to care for the least of these among us — the sick, the elderly and the stranger included (Matt 25: 31-46.) We are challenged to sacrifice our own personal comfort, put on a mask and respect the lives of others. It is what all of us should do for the sake of our families, friends, neighbors, fellow parishioners, employees, customers and the community at large.

(The ideas above have been taken from the writings of Brett McCracken, <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/4-reasons-wear-mask/>)



the light is ON for you at

All Saints, Waterford	St. Boniface
Blessed Sacrament	St. Francis Xavier, McKean
Holy Cross	St. George
Holy Rosary	St. James
Our Lady of the Lake, Edinboro	St. Joseph/Bread of Life Community
Our Lady of Mercy, Harborcreek	St. Lawrence, Albion
Our Lady of Mount Carmel	St. Luke
Our Lady of Peace	St. Mark the Evangelist, Lawrence Park
Our Mother of Sorrows (St. Ann)	St. Peter Cathedral

Celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation
Wednesday, December 9, 2020
5:00 - 7:00 pm

WAYS TO PREPARE DURING THE SEASON OF ADVENT

It is Advent, a time to wait. By the light of the second candle, we wait. In stillness while the world rushes, we wait. In joyful hope during a time of anxiety, we wait. For the Christ Child who came, for the Christ of Glory who will come, for the Christ of Love who is always coming, we wait. It is Advent, time to wait.

- † Each Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. on Facebook and YouTube, Brandon Vogt will lead our community in Evening Prayer during these weeks of Advent.
- † The Diocese of Erie has created a special page with Advent family ideas and resources at the diocesan website. <https://www.eriecd.org/christmas.html>
- † The parish is also making copies of “The Word Among Us” available for this holy season. Free copies of the Advent issue are available on the bulletin tables.
- † Our Lady of Mercy will join parishes throughout the diocese to “keep the light on” on Wednesday, Dec. 9 from 5:00-7:00 PM. During this time, all are welcome for silent prayer and for the Sacrament of Reconciliation.
- † Formed.org offers a new Advent project called The Road to Bethlehem. This exciting new project from FORMED will allow you to grow in your faith from anywhere you can access FORMED—from your home, in the car, on a run, or taking a walk. Sign up at www.formed.org/advent. It includes: daily Advent reflections by Dr. Tim Gray; weekly videos, audio talks, and book excerpts on FORMED related to the theme of the week; email reminders every morning; Brother Francis Advent reflections for kids; and a weekly action item to help you put the Advent message into practice.



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.

Tickets go on sale on January 2nd



Child Protection and Creating Safe Environments

Keeping God’s Children Protected and Safe: The safe environment training of our children and youth is a key component in the Policy for the Protection of Children. Each year our schools and parishes are mandated to provide this training to all youth in catholic school and parish programs. Since 2003 over 200,000 children have received age-appropriate abuse prevention education. The Diocese maintains a working relationship with agencies in each of our 13 counties to provide training for our youth in schools and parishes. In addition, the Office for the Protection of Children and Youth maintains a media library containing videos for schools and parishes to provide child abuse prevention education. From 2016-19 over 31,000 parents have also received child abuse prevention education. Visit <https://www.eriecd.org/childprotection/> to see what the diocese is doing to help maintain safe environments for children and youth.

Our Neighbors' Place

Our Neighbors' Place is a beautiful ministry that addresses the people of the community who are homeless. The coordinators have been working very hard to come up with a plan that allows us to continue this ministry this unique year! We are very happy to say that there will be a season 9! The program will tentatively run from November 18, 2020 to March 17th or 24th, 2021. Space will be made available during our hosting times at the Mental Health building which is on the corner of 11th and Peach. We tentatively will be hosting 2 weeks in January and 2 weeks in March, with exact dates to be determined. There will be many changes made to this program due to COVID. These changes include:

- ◆ The number of cots will be limited. Cots will be 6 feet apart. We expect 25-30 beds.
- ◆ No-one with COVID, symptoms of COVID or those having a fever will be allowed to enter.
- ◆ Masks must be worn at all times; social distancing rules will apply.
- ◆ Guests must stay at their cots while in the shelter. Lights out will be at 10:00 p.m.
- ◆ There will be no food or beverages served for dinner or breakfast with the exception of Saturday dinner.
- ◆ We will need volunteers to prepare a Saturday meal; this must be a bagged or to-go dinner guests can eat at their cots.
- ◆ Bottled water will be made available.
- ◆ There will be a hired staff person from EUMA present at all times.
- ◆ We will need 2 people for each shift which are 7:00 -11:00 p.m., 11:00 p.m. - 3:00 a.m., and 3:00 a.m. - 7:30 a.m.
- ◆ Critical/hardest shifts to fill are the 11-3 and 3-7 shifts. If possible, we need one man and one woman for each shift.
- ◆ Regular cleaning will be a priority, volunteers will clean on the hour and a cleaning service will deep clean after guests leave each morning.

In order to establish a tentative schedule, we need to know if you are able/willing to volunteer this year. If you are interested or have any questions, please contact Mary Hoffman at 814-873-2981 or May Ellen Lieb at 814-873-1284.

TENNESSEE BACKPORCH-FOLLOW THE STAR

We hope you are all well and keeping safe. This year would have been our 12th year for Follow the Star. It is sad for us that we could not perform it live this year. Instead we would like to inform you that it will be airing on WQLN radio on two Saturday nights in December, the 5th and the 19th from 6 to 8 p.m. EST. The show can be live streamed from anywhere in the world. We hope you can enjoy what has become a tradition for some every year to attend. There is no fee to listen in.

Thank you so much and have a wonderful holiday.

Chris and Julie Moore

Our Lady of Mercy is a PurpleOne site:

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".

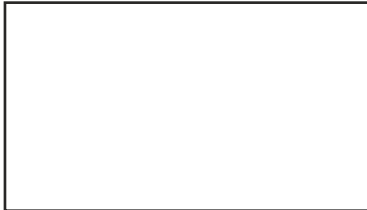
LYNCH
Home Medical Supply
TIMOTHY P. LYNCH
 Parishioner, Owner, Certified Orthotic Fitter
 Lift Chairs & Scooters • Wound Care • Walkers
 Wheelchairs • Commodes & Much More
 4020 Main St. • Lawrence Park
 899-3636
 www.lynmhmedical.com

Stans
GARDEN CENTER
 Where There's Always Something GROWING on!
 Jim Skarzenski & Bob Rocky - Parishioners

East
 5001 Buffalo Road
 Erie, PA 16510
 899.5424

West
 5341 West Lake Road
 Erie, PA 16505
 835.6960

HEISE REBUILDING
 Mechanical Repairs
 PA Inspections:
 Vehicle & Motorcycle
899-8186
 1291 Walbridge Rd. • Erie, PA 16511
 heiserebuilding.com
 ~ Parishioner ~



4LPi

WE'RE HIRING
AD SALES EXECUTIVES

• Full Time Position with Benefits
 • Sales Experience Preferred
 • Paid Training
 • Overnight Travel Required
 • Expense Reimbursement

CONTACT US AT
careers@4LPi.com
www.4LPi.com/careers



PRICHARD
CHIROPRACTIC OFFICES

 6095 Buffalo Road
 Harborcreek, PA
899-1966

DR. LOREN J. PRICHARD
 DR. SCOTT V. PRICHARD

William D. Elkin
Funeral Home
 65 South Lake St. • North East
725-4511
 Timothy P. Elkin, F.D.
 William D. Elkin, F.D.
 Pre-Arrangements Available

FIDDLE INN
 HARBORCREEK, PA
 "Home of the EVERYTHINGS"
 6615 Buffalo Road
 814-899-9005
 www.diningverse.com/fiddleinn

ADT-Monitored Home Security
 Get 24-Hour Protection From a Name You Can Trust

- Burglary
- Fire Safety
- Flood Detection
- Carbon Monoxide

ADT Authorized Provider | SafeStreets | **1-855-225-4251**

SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL PARISH.
 Buy a bulletin ad space today!

catholicmatch
 Pennsylvania
 CatholicMatch.com/PA

Widget
 Financial
 widgetfinancial.com



HARBORCREEK AUTO Gallery
 6850 Buffalo Rd.
814-315-4051
 Harborcreek, PA
 www.harborcreekautogallery.com
 • Sales • PA Inspections
 • Notary • Detailing

DUSCKAS - TAYLOR
 FUNERAL HOME & CREMATION SERVICES, INC.
 5151 BUFFALO RD.
 ERIE, PA 16510
 ROBERT D. TAYLOR, SUPERVISOR
 814-315-0911
 WWW.DUSCKAS-TAYLORFUNERALHOME.COM

OLLINGER
PLUMBING, HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING

Residential • Commercial
 Quality Installations & Service
899-2809

THIS SPACE IS AVAILABLE

FREE AD DESIGN
 WITH PURCHASE OF THIS SPACE.
 - 800-477-4574 -

AVAILABLE FOR A LIMITED TIME
ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS HERE

Contact **Tim Weir** to place an ad today!
tweir@4LPi.com or **(800) 477-4574 x6568**

JDL @ .com
 "Your Computer Professional"
 NEW SYSTEMS USED • REPAIRS
 "WE SERVICE ALL BRANDS"
898-8300
 Jerry & Dee Law - Parishioners
JDLCOMPUTERS.COM

Brevillier Village
 5416 East Lake Road
 Erie, PA 16511
 814-899-8600
 www.brevillier.org

Ball Pavilion
 Short Term Rehab
 Long Term Nursing Care

Barnabas Court
 Licensed Personal Care,
 Residency & Independent Living.

Conrad House
 Independent Living

Too Sick for Mass?
SUPPORT OUR PARISH NO MATTER WHERE YOU ARE!

Sign-up to get your bulletin delivered right to your inbox!
 www.parishesonline.com

