

OUR LADY OF MERCY CHURCH

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



December 27, 2020 - The Holy Family

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*

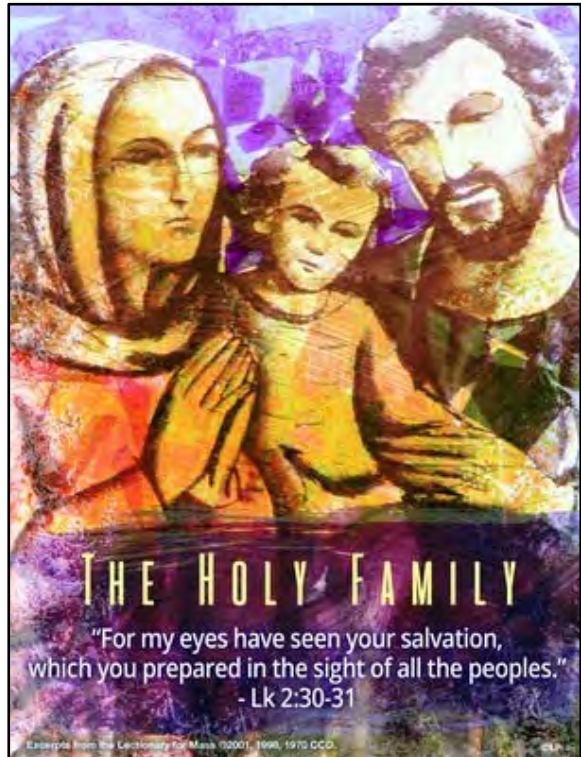
CONTACT INFORMATION

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. 12/28	9:00 a.m.	Quilters
	9:30 a.m.	Steel Magnolias SCC
	5:30 p.m.	Sisters of Scripture SCC
Tue. 12/29		
Wed. 12/30		
Thur. 12/31		
Fri. 01/01		New Year's Day - Parish Office Closed Mary Mother of God
	10:00 a.m.	Holy Day Mass
Sat. 01/02	4:30 p.m.	Sacrament of Penance
Sun. 01/03		Casserole Club Drop Off Monthly Food Pantry Collection

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Mon. 12/28	1 Jn 1:5-2:2	/ Mt 2:13-18
Tue. 12/29	1 Jn 2:3-11	/ Lk 2:22-35
Wed. 12/30	1 Jn 2:12-17	/ Lk 2:36-40
Thur. 12/31	1 Jn 2:18-21	/ Jn 1:1-18
Fri. 01/01	Nm 6:22-27 / Gal 4:4-7	/ Lk 2:16-21
Sat. 01/02	1 Jn 2:22-28	/ Jn 1:19-28
Sun. 01/03	Is 60:1-6 / Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6	/ Mt 2:1-12

Holiday Office Hours

The Parish Office will be closed on **Friday, January 1st** for the New Year holiday. Regular office hours of 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. will resume on **Monday, January 4th**.



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. 12/28	8:30 a.m.	Lewis Peters (Carole Peters)
Tue. 12/29	8:30 a.m.	John Eckendorf (Marilyn McDaniel)
Wed. 12/30	8:30 a.m.	Special Intentions for Nancy Dill (Dan Ott)
Thur. 12/31	8:30 a.m.	Joyce Baum
Fri. 01/01	10:00 a.m.	Donald Vallimont
Sat. 01/02	8:30 a.m.	-No Mass-
	6:00 p.m.	Mary Simonian (Sherry Tyzinski)
Sun. 01/03	8:30 a.m.	Andrew Tarasovitch (Jan & Mike Brown)
	11:00 a.m.	For the People of OLM



THIS SUNDAY'S REFLECTION



LUKE 2:22-40

Tragedy and disappointment are inevitable. What sees you through this? There will be challenges, changes, unexpected circumstances, interrupted plans, hurts, and injustices experienced by every human being at some point in their lives. We will be asked to adjust our plans, change course, and even encounter suffering and death. Where do we learn all of the lessons we need to live life well? Some of them we learn along the way but much of what we bring to life, positive and negative, comes from our early beginnings, our families. This is our early world and provides the blueprint for how we see the bigger, more inclusive world, which unfolds before us.

Our families of origin can be sources of grace, heartache or a combination of both. Families are intended to be pivotal in providing us with proper social structure and understanding, a support system, lessons about relationships and communication, and the unconditional acceptance and love we so desperately crave. They can also determine whether we have an accessible and healthy relationship with God. Many of life's challenges can literally bring us to our knees and require that we possess a strength of character that resides well beyond the superficialities of our world. At some point we will all need three coping gifts that can be given to us only by God: faith, hope, and love. Our families help us learn that we are not the ones responsible for their creation, but God!

Our experience of early family life colors all of our relationships and what we expect to achieve from life in general. Resolving conflicts, dealing with difficulty and suffering, celebrating accomplishments, prioritizing our needs, listening to God's call, understanding relationships, understanding disappointment, learning about the virtues and living a centered focused life are all lessons our families either succeed in teaching or do not. To succeed, as God has designed and ordered our world, is to discover his presence and then trust that Presence. The Holy Family can teach even the most dysfunctional family how to best use God's gifts of faith, hope, and love to find him and do his will. Their simple humble example is always before us, showing us the way. Jesus, Mary and Joseph, pray for us!

Hope – Restoring the Heart

The next session is **Tuesday, Jan. 5 at Noon**. These sessions are for anyone feeling stress, fear or anxiety. Sometimes it is difficult to pray and it appears as though we are losing hope. If you are in need of a spiritual boost please join us for an opportunity to share stories of hope and healing. You can attend this meeting by zoom or by phone. To obtain the Zoom meeting ID and passcode or phone number to call please contact Donna Clark in the parish office or check the parish website. We are encouraging people to stay safe. We are taking precautions and following the county health department guidelines. If you would like to participate but don't feel comfortable with Zoom video or phone, please **call Donna** in the parish office for other arrangements. One on one sessions are also available.



Daytime Grief Support Group

Meets on **Tuesday, Jan. 5 at 3:00 p.m.** (the First Tuesday of the month). This support group gives people the opportunity to share the challenges one faces after losing a loved one and to learn from others how to cope with those challenges and emotions. Unexpected things come up and often those who have been through the process can best understand and offer support, prayers and practical suggestions. This meeting will also be available to you by phone or video on Zoom. **Call Donna Clark** in the parish office or email dclark@ourladyofmercychurch.org to obtain the Zoom information. If you are uncomfortable with Zoom please contact Donna for other arrangements.



Newsletter Deadline

The deadline to submit items for the February issue of *For Mercy Sake* is **Jan. 17**. Send items to ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org.



OLM Book Group

In January, we will discuss The Hummingbird's Daughter by Luis Alberto Urrea.



Help for Heating – LIHEAP

The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) was open to help alleviate heating bill stress on low income families. A family of four with a gross annual income of \$39,300, qualifies for a grant. To find out if you qualify based on your household size and income, how to apply and what you need to apply, see the bulletin boards in the Gathering Space.



Be Alert!

It has been brought to our attention that Parishioners have received emails and text messages from someone claiming to be Fr. Ritchie. This is just a reminder that Fr. Ritchie will never solicit through email or text. Please delete the message ASAP.

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.

Have you used the formed.org parish subscription this past year? Would you be willing to share your experience with the parish? Please send your thoughts to ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org so we can print it in the bulletin and encourage others to take advantage of this digital library.

January Birthdays!



Jan. 02	Hayley D'Angelo	13
Jan. 05	Ellie Stauffer	10
Jan. 07	Kayla Shaffer	18
Jan. 08	Grace Galbreath	13
Jan. 08	Brodynn Smith	10
Jan. 11	Makenna Pearson	10
Jan. 20	Avery Ollinger	16
Jan. 23	Aidan Reinsel	17
Jan 25	Ryan Stauffer	8
Jan. 26	Kenslie Inthavong	4
Jan. 27	Madison Rizzo	11
Jan. 28	Lila Bly	12



From the Knights of Columbus...

A reminder from the Our Lady of Mercy Knights of Columbus to "Keep Christ in Christmas".



Our Lady of Mercy Knights of Columbus #11144



**Sunday,
January 31**

for the Religious Education Ministry

Take-Out Only! Tickets go on sale on January 2nd

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

**Pick-up times are:
Noon-1:00 & 1:30-2:30**

**\$10 for Adults
\$5 for Children 10 and Under**

- Spaghetti & Meatballs
- Salad
- Italian Bread

Catholicism: A Journey Through the Mystery and Majesty of the Church

This is a 10-part series

Journey around the world and deep into the Faith. In breathtaking, high-definition cinematography, the beauty, goodness and truth of the Catholic Faith are illustrated in a rich, multimedia experience.

Journey with acclaimed author, speaker and theologian Bishop Robert Barron to more than 50 locations throughout 15 countries. Be illuminated by the spiritual and artistic treasures of this global culture that claims more than one billion of the earth's people.

From the sacred lands of Israel to the beating heart of Uganda... from the glorious shrines of Italy, France, and Spain, to the streets of Mexico, Kolkata, and New York City, the fullness of CATHOLICISM is revealed.

Journey deep into the Faith as you watch each episode.

Mike Leonard, a veteran NBC Today Show correspondent and acclaimed filmmaker, is the Executive Producer of this groundbreaking series.

Each week will include a video followed by an opportunity for discussion. Due to COVID, this program will be provided via Zoom.

**When: Monday @ 7:00 PM beginning Jan. 11
OR Tuesday @ 11:00 AM beginning Jan. 12**

Contact ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org for the Zoom link
Participants do not need to be present for every week of the series.

Fratelli Tutti

INSPIRATION *for* YOUR PARISH BULLETIN *or* WEBSITE



On October 4, the feast of St. Francis of Assisi, Pope Francis issued his latest encyclical, *Fratelli Tutti, On Fraternity and Social Friendship*. This is more than just another Church document. It is Pope Francis' "cry from the heart" to all people of the earth to see beyond their differences—indeed, to work *with* their differences—and begin to grow together to build a new and peaceful world.

Using the parable of the good Samaritan as a model, the pope lays out concrete ways to begin this process: listening to one another, caring for one another, reaching out beyond our own culture, and being willing to engage in honest and open dialogue. To achieve all this, we need to be like the good Samaritan—acting as a loving neighbor, leaving behind our self-imposed border walls (prejudice, judgmentalism), and taking the risk to encounter others as they are.

Returning again and again to themes he has developed throughout his papacy, Pope Francis speaks of the need for equality and justice for all, cooperation, caring for the most vulnerable, doing the hard work of learning to listen to and accompany others, and caring for the earth that nurtures and sustains us all.

The pope ends his letter to the world with this prayer to the Holy Spirit: "Come, Holy Spirit, show us your beauty, reflected in all the peoples of the earth, so that we may discover anew that all are important and all are necessary, different faces of the one humanity that God so loves."