

OUR LADY OF MERCY CHURCH

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



January 24th, 2021 - Third 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*

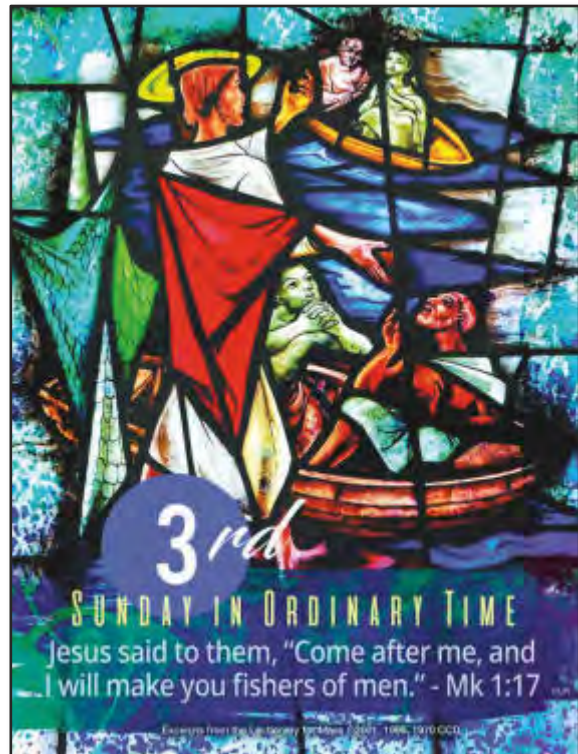
CONTACT INFORMATION

Parish Office: 814-899-5342

Office of Lifelong Faith Formation: 814-899-6132

Fax: 814-898-3306

Email: info@ourladyofmercychurch.org



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. 01/25	9:00 a.m.	Quilters
	9:30 a.m.	Steel Magnolias SCC
	7:00 p.m.	Catholicism - Zoom
Tue. 01/26	11:00 a.m.	Catholicism - Zoom
	2:00 p.m.	Prayer Shawl
	6:45 p.m.	Roman Candles SCC
	7:00 p.m.	Lifelong Faith Formation
Wed. 01/27	1:00 p.m.	Diamonds in the Rough SCC
Thur. 01/28	9:00 p.m.	Painting Class
	6:00 p.m.	Prayer Shawl
Fri. 01/29		
Sat. 01/30	4:30 p.m.	Sacrament of Penance
Sun. 01/31	9:45 a.m.	Religious Ed Gr. K-8
	12:00 p.m.	Gr. 7 & 8 Youth Event
	5:00 p.m.	Gr. 11 Candidate/ Sponsor Reflection/ Penance Service



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



FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Offertory for the weekend of January 17, 2021

Envelopes sent:	355	
Envelopes returned:	44	\$ 3,615.00
Faith Direct Deposits:	133	\$ 3,459.70
Loose Change:		\$ 30.00
TOTAL OFFERTORY:		\$ 7,104.70

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Mon. 01/25	Acts 22:3-16 or Acts 9:1-22
	/ Mk 16:15-18
Tue. 01/26	2 Tm 1:1-8 or Ti 1:1-5
	/ Mk 3:31-35
Wed. 01/27	Heb 10:11-18
	/ Mk 4:1-20
Thur. 01/28	Heb 10:19-25
	/ Mk 4:21-25
Fri. 01/29	Heb 10:32-39
	/ Mk 4:26-34
Sat. 01/30	Heb 11:1-2, 8-19
	/ Mk 4:35-41
Sun. 01/31	Dt 18:15-20/1 Cor 7:32-35/Mk 1:21-28

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon. 01/25	8:30 a.m.	Donald & Sarah Vallimont (Ray Luniewski & Family)
Tue. 01/26	8:30 a.m.	Eleanor Boris (The Extein Family)
Wed. 01/27	8:30 a.m.	Denny Smith (Janet Smith)
Thur. 01/28	8:30 a.m.	Scott Parmenter
Fri. 01/29	8:30 a.m.	Jack Case (Family)
Sat. 01/30	8:30 a.m.	No Mass-
	6:00 p.m.	For the People of OLM
Sun. 01/31	8:30 a.m.	John Yochim (Ken & Pat Marshall)
	11:00 a.m.	Lois Leibel (The Leibel Family)

We Remember...

James "Jimmy" Wuerstle, brother of Tom Wuerstle, and uncle of Jacob Wuerstle and Julie Hicks, who passed away recently. Please hold them and their families in prayer during this difficult time.



THIS SUNDAY'S REFLECTION

MARK 1:14-20

"Repent, and believe in the gospel."

When the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults is done well in a parish, those who participate - catechumens, candidates, as well as their catechists and sponsors - truly experience the conversion called for in today's Gospel.

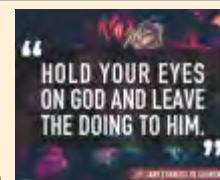
In many ways, these people experience what the first disciples experienced: they come to know and love Jesus and become of that attraction they want to make changes in their lives so they can become more like him. This is the repentance or transformation Jesus invites us to experience.

The Gospel helps us to know Jesus. Belief in the Gospel demands following Jesus' example of healing and reconciling a world that seems to grow more harsh and polarized. Is the Gospel the center of our lives? Are we people who live the experience of "dying and rising" each day?

In six weeks you and I will be invited to receive ashes and hear the injunction, "Turn from your sin and be faithful to the Gospel." Through the invitation to turn from sin in most pronounced as we begin the Lenten season, the call to make changes in our lives is always present; in fact it is at the heart of who we are as disciples of Jesus.

For Reflection: What changes do I see in my life when I allow myself to repent and believe?

Susan McCarthy, R.D.C.



Winter Study – Catholicism with Bishop Robert Barron



Our presentation of “Catholicism: The Mystery and Majesty of the Church” continues with episode 3 which will explore our understanding of the Trinity. It will be shown **Monday at 7:00 p.m. and again on Tuesday at 11:00 a.m.** over Zoom. You don’t have to watch every episode. To get the link, contact Irene at ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org.

Hope – Restoring the Heart



Felling unsettled? Need someone to talk to? Come together with a group of people who are restoring their heart through hope. As we share uplifting stories we can help each other move through these challenging times. The next session is **Tuesday, Feb 2, at noon**. You can also attend this meeting by zoom. To obtain the Zoom meeting ID and passcode 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, please call **Donna** in the parish office for other arrangements. One on one sessions are also available.

Daytime Grief Support Group

Meets on **Tuesday, Feb. 2 at 3:00 p.m.**, (the First Tuesday of the month). When experiencing grief, the winter months can seem to drag on. Take some time to connect with others who can offer a word of hope. 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. *The next support group is Monday, Feb 15 at 7:00 p.m.*



Social Justice

“I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have placed before you life and death, the blessing and the curse. So choose life in order that you may live, you and your descendants, by loving the Lord your God, by obeying His voice, and by holding close to Him; for this is your life and the length of your days, so that you may live in the land which the Lord swore to your ancestors, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give them.” Deut. 30:19-20



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.

Newsletter Mailing Party

Help us fold the parish newsletter and stuff envelopes at 9:00 a.m. on **Monday, Feb. 8**. We will spread out in Sperry Hall wearing our masks so that we are safe. If you can help, call **Irene** at 899-6132 or email ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org.



Question & Answer With the Pastor



The first Q&A w/t Pastor will be **Tuesday, Feb. 9 at 7:00 p.m.** over Zoom. Bring your questions. Invite a friend. And join us for a night of great conversation about your faith questions with our wise pastor, **Fr. Ritchie**. To get the zoom link for this gathering, contact ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org by noon on **Sunday, Feb. 7**.

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.



Thank You for Assisting Santa

To the parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy Church:

On behalf of “Operation Assisting Santa” I would like to take this

opportunity to thank you for your tremendous support for our project to help local veterans and their families this Christmas season. We were able to help many veterans, as well as provide for hundreds of their children, because of your generosity.

2020 has been a trying year for everyone, and we couldn’t have our usually luncheon honoring the Veterans and their families because of the pandemic. Workers and volunteers delivered the food, toys, and gift cards. Each one returned with stories of tears, very sincere thanks, and much gratitude.

Again, thank you from the bottom of my heart for your support over the years,

Mooch Zielewski

Coordinator Operation Assisting Santa

FORMED®

PICK OF THE WEEK

January 24, 2021

WATCH

**THE BIBLE COLLECTION -
PAUL THE APOSTLE**

The story of Paul's life acts as an incredible witness to God's mercy and love as he went from persecuting the Church to proclaiming it to all the nations! This film brilliantly captures portrays this great missionary saint!



**Thank You
From The
Second Harvest
Food Bank**



Thank you for choosing to help our children who are facing difficult times by giving to Second Harvest Food Bank of Northwest Pennsylvania Backpack Program. There are 28, 340 food insecure individuals under the age of 18 in northwest Pennsylvania, that is nearly 1 in every 5 children. Your generous gifts will be put to work, helping to supply food to children facing difficult circumstances.

Second Harvest operates the Backpack Program at 50 sites within northwest Pennsylvania. This program provides children with nutritious, child-friendly food when other resources, such as school lunches and after-school meals or snacks, are not available. Backpacks are discreetly distributed to participating children at schools in Harborcreek and helps provide the proper nutrition necessary for overall growth, physical and cognitive development, and satisfactory performance in school.

You can be assured your gift will be used wisely. For every \$120 donated to the Second Harvest Backpack program, one child is provided food every week for an entire academic year. In 2020, we were able to provide 65,409 students backpacks in northwest Pennsylvania. In addition, we are proud to have earned Charity Navigator's coveted 4-star rating for sound fiscal management once again this year.

I appreciate your belief in our mission, and I am thankful for your support.

Sincerely,

Karen S. Seggi

Karen S. Seggi
Chief Executive Officer

**Ever-constant God,
You remain eternal and unchanged
while the earth spins us each day toward
a new sunrise and a new reality.**

**Help us as we search for a minister
of music and liturgy.**

**Strengthen us to live for a time
within the haze of uncertainty
assured that you are present with us
and already acting to provide for our
needs.**

**Open our hearts and minds
to recognize and welcome
into our midst a new guide
to engage our spiritual imagination,
touch our hearts and form us
ever more deeply in the spirit of the
liturgy.**

**We ask this through Christ, our Lord,
Amen.**

From The Office of Youth Ministry

OLM January Jr. High Youth Event

Date: Sunday January 31st

Time: 12-2pm

Place: VIRTUAL (Zoom)

Due to increased numbers, we are going to meet virtually this month

We will be doing a small lesson on Spiritual growth, and have time to socialize and play some virtual games!!

Spiritual Growth



You are **CHOSEN!**

11TH GRADERS

Confirmation Retreat 2021

- Sunday February 21st from 8-3pm
 - St. Mark the Evangelist Church
- **Subject to change due to social distancing protocol modifications**

YOUTH GROUP

Help Wanted

Calling any adults! We need volunteers to help at youth events and retreats. If you are interested, please email me at youthminister@ourladyofmercychurch.org

We would need all clearances before starting



For more information, contact our Youth Minister, Sarah Phipps at youthminister@ourladyofmercychurch.org

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