

OUR LADY OF MERCY CHURCH

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



February 7th, 2021 - Fifth 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. 02/08	9:00 a.m.	Quilters
	9:00 a.m.	Newsletter Mailing Party
	9:30 a.m.	Steel Magnolias SCC
	7:00 p.m.	Catholicism - Zoom
Tue. 02/09	11:00 a.m.	Catholicism - Zoom
	2:00 p.m.	Prayer Shawl
	6:45 p.m.	Roman Candles SCC
	7:00 p.m.	Q & A With the Pastor -Zoom
Wed. 02/10	1:00 p.m.	Diamonds in the Rough SCC
	7:00 p.m.	Knights of Columbus
	7:00 p.m.	OLM Book Group
Thur. 02/11	9:00 a.m.	Painting Class
	6:00 p.m.	Prayer Shawl
Fri. 02/12		
Sat. 02/13	4:30 p.m.	Sacrament of Penance
Sun. 02/14	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...

Loving Memory
Helen Hollister, and Deborah Cleer, mother of Andy Gabler & Laura Beckes and Anthony Massaro, son of Marilyn & Tony Massaro; who passed away recently. Please hold them and their families in prayer during this difficult time.

A snowflake is one of God's most fragile creations, but look what they can do when they stick together!

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Offertory for the weekend of January 31, 2021

Envelopes sent:	355	
Envelopes returned:	53	\$ 3,185.00
Faith Direct Deposits:	133	\$ 3,444.70
Loose Change:		\$ 15.00
TOTAL OFFERTORY:		\$ 6,644.70

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Mon. 02/08	Gn 1:1-19	/ Mk 6:53-56
Tue. 02/09	Gn 1:20-2:4	/ Mk 7:1-13
Wed. 02/10	Gn 2:4b-9, 15-17	/ Mk 7:14-23
Thur. 02/11	Gn 2:18-25	/ Mk 7:24-30
Fri. 02/12	Gn 3:1-8	/ Mk 7:31-37
Sat. 02/13	Gn 3:9-24	/ Mk 8:1-10
Sun. 02/14	Lv 13:1-2, 44-46	/ 1 Cor 10:31-11:1 / Mk 1:40-45

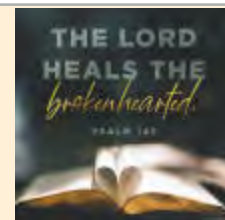
MASS INTENTIONS

Mon. 02/08	8:30 a.m.	Leo Kosobucki (Terry Miller)
Tue. 02/09	8:30 a.m.	Helen Hollister
Wed. 02/10	8:30 a.m.	Norm Schlosser (Karen Kleck & Family)
Thur. 02/11	8:30 a.m.	Deb Cleer
Fri. 02/12	8:30 a.m.	Analida Braeger (Tom Braeger)
Sat. 02/13	8:30 a.m.	No Mass-
	6:00 p.m.	John Eckendorf (The Hallelujah Girls)
Sun. 02/14	8:30 a.m.	For the People of OLM
	11:00 a.m.	Helen Black (Family)

THIS SUNDAY'S REFLECTION

MARK 1:29-39

Her fever left her and she waited on them.



Yes, Jesus healed many sick and with this same confidence, Peter knew that the Master would heal his mother-in-law.

We could think it was a simple fever, but in Jesus' time, fever was one of the main causes and a sure sign of death. It was a symptom that indicated that whatever the disease, it was advanced.

This passage, although brief in its narration, possesses a profound example of conversion. Jesus "approached," and grasped her hand, and "helped her up." The fever was gone and she waited on them. We might have expected her to sing and dance for joy, but she uses her miraculous, newfound health to serve others.

A true, authentic, and real conversion always starts with an encounter, a "coming together" face to face with Jesus, where, in the presence of that God who can do all things, we are transformed, or "raised up." Those who have truly been touched by the Lord will be grateful for his love and mercy and will empty themselves, turning over their whole being to him by attending others, making possible the kingdom of God here and now.

For Reflection: How can I help show others the possibility of the kingdom of God?

Esperaza Micaela Espinoza, M.C.P.

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.



Winter Study – Catholicism with Bishop Robert Barron

Our presentation of “Catholicism: The Mystery and Majesty of the Church” continues with episode 5 which will look at the witness of St.

Peter and St. Paul and their legacy for the Church today. 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.

Question & Answer With the Pastor

The first Q&A with the 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.



Book Group

Our next gathering of the book group will be Wednesday, Feb. 10 at 7:00 p.m. to discuss The Hummingbird’s Daughter by Luis Alberto Urrea.

Evening Grief Support Group

Meets on Monday, Feb. 15 at 7:00 p.m. 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 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.



Social Justice

In our day, there is a growing awareness that world peace is threatened not only by the arms race, regional conflicts and continued injustices among peoples and nations, but also by a lack of due respect for nature, by the plundering of natural resources and by a progressive decline in the quality of life. The sense of precariousness and insecurity that such a situation engenders is a seedbed for collective selfishness, disregard for others and dishonesty. Pope John Paul II

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.

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.



YOUTH GROUP

Help Wanted

Calling my 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

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

Child Protection and Creating Safe Environments



February is Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month

Over one quarter of youth (12-17) who have been in a romantic relationship during the previous year say they'd been the victim of digital dating abuse according to *Psychology Today*. Digital dating abuse is physical, sexual or psychological/emotional violence that occurs between romantic partners through the use of texting, social media and related online mediums. 81% of youth who had been the target of digital dating abuse had also been the target of off-line dating abuse. So what are some of the best ways for a parent to open up communication with their kids about a delicate topic like online dating? First and foremost, ask kids what they are doing online and then really *listen* to why they like or don't like what's going on there. Parents must be diligent about staying on top of the latest trends. Great parenting and online dating tips can be found at www.cyberwise.org. To see what the diocese is doing to help maintain safe environments for children and youth visit www.eriecd.org/childprotection/

Prayer For A New Director of Music & Liturgy

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.

Our Lady of Mercy Roman Catholic Church, Harborcreek, PA is seeking a Director of Music and Liturgy. The full-time Director of Music and Liturgy is actively engaged in the worship life of the parish and leads a music ministry program that includes a mix of cantors, a 20+ voice choir and various instrumentalists to support three liturgies a weekend. Candidates must possess a bachelor's degree in music or equivalent experience; strong keyboard skills; vocal skills; and be open to different styles of music; knowledge and understanding of Catholic liturgy and the ability to plan liturgies; excellent organizational and communication skills. For the complete ad for this full-time position check our parish website. Applicants should send a cover letter and resume with salary requirements and three named references to info@ourladyofmercychurch.org. Applicants are encouraged to include a link demonstrating their musical proficiencies and to visit <https://www.ourladyofmercychurch.org/> to learn more about Our Lady of Mercy.



The 2021 Catholic Services Appeal will be held next weekend in our parish. The CSA is an opportunity for Catholics throughout the diocese to join together in doing the work of Christ. The CSA reminds us that we are all part of the same Catholic

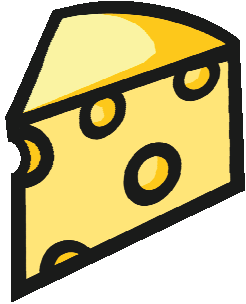
family and that the work of the diocese is the work of the church. The church serves each of us and our support is essential in continuing God's work in our area. Every CSA donation also brings us closer to being able to complete our own parish projects. No gift is too small, but please give as generously as you can.

Lenten Dinners Lenten Dinner Options Around The Diocese

†St. Stanislaus Parish will be serving their annual Fish and Pierogi Dinners "Take Out Only" in the Parish Hall on Fridays, February 19, March 5 & March 19 from 4:00 – 7:00 p.m. or till sold out. The proceeds benefit their parish.

†Holy Trinity Parish will be serving Fish/Pierogi/Potato Pancake Dinners "Take Out Only" on Ash Wednesday, February 17 and on Friday, March 12, from 4:00 – 7:00 p.m. The PCEP program will host these dinners to help build their education fund.

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



**Tuesday, Feb. 9
@ 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

by noon Monday, Feb. 8.

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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