

OUR LADY OF MERCY CHURCH

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



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*

Katie Stephenson, *Administrative Assistant*

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.



MAY 16, 2021 - 7TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

THE WEEK AHEAD

For a complete calendar of events, please visit ourladyofmercychurch.org/calendar

Mon. 05/17	9:00 a.m.	Quilters
	9:00 a.m.	Newsletter Mailing Party
	9:30 a.m.	Steal Magnolias SCC
	3:00 p.m.	Photo Directory Meeting
	6:30 p.m.	Fireside Chatters SCC
Tue. 05/18	7:00 p.m.	Grief Support Group
	1:00 p.m.	Potters Clay SCC
	2:00 p.m.	Prayer Shawl
	7:00 p.m.	Lifelong Faith Formation
Wed. 05/19	7:00 p.m.	Sophia's SCC
	1:00 p.m.	Diamonds in the Rough SCC
Thur. 05/20	7:00 p.m.	OLM Book Group
	9:00 a.m.	Painting Class
	1:00 p.m.	Legion of Mary
Fri. 05/21	6:00 p.m.	Prayer Shawl
Sat. 05/22	4:30 p.m.	Sacrament of Penance
Sun. 05/23		Pentecost Sunday
	12:00 p.m.	Gr. 7 & 8 Youth Event

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Offertory for the weekend of May 9, 2021

Envelopes sent:	357	
Envelopes returned:	55	\$ 3,307.70
Faith Direct Deposits:	138	\$ 3,590.08
Loose Change:		\$ 55.00
TOTAL OFFERTORY:		\$ 6,952.78

PRAYER LINE

9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
 Call Donna Smicker at 814-899-9108
 4:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.
 Call Gerri Extein at 814-490-9681



MASS INTENTIONS

Mon. 05/17	8:30 a.m.	Dan Sweeney (Carole Peters)
Tue. 05/18	8:30 a.m.	Scott Emling (Sandy Emling)
Wed. 05/19	8:30 a.m.	John Winschel (Sandra Jordan)
Thur. 05/20	8:30 a.m.	Norm Schlosser (Karen Kleck & Family)
Fri. 05/21	8:30 a.m.	Betty Weber
Sat. 05/22	8:30 a.m.	NO MASS
	6:00 p.m.	Charlene Eckendorf (Tom & Bonnie Eckendorf)
Sun. 05/23	8:30 a.m.	John Yochim (Ken & Pat Marshall)
	11:00 a.m.	For the People of OLM

Pentecost Sunday - May 23, 2021

Next weekend, we celebrate Pentecost Sunday, please remember to wear red. Pentecost marks the end and the goal of the Easter season. For Christians, it is a memorial of the day the Holy Spirit descended on the apostles and the Virgin Mary in the form of fiery tongues, an event that took place fifty days after the Resurrection of Jesus. The Paschal Mystery --the Passion, the Death, the Resurrection, and the Ascension of Jesus -- culminates in the sending of the Holy Spirit by the Father (at the request of His Son), on Jesus' disciples. The feast also commemorates the official inauguration of the Christian Church by the apostolic preaching of St. Peter, which resulted in the conversion of 3000 Jews to the Christian faith.



SCRIPTURE READINGS

Mon. 05/17	Acts 19:1-8	/ Jn 16:29-33
Tue. 05/18	Acts 20:17-27	/ Jn 17:1-11a
Wed. 05/19	Acts 20:28-38	/ Jn 17:11b-19
Thur. 05/20	Acts 22:30; 23:6-11	/ Jn 17:20-26
Fri. 05/21	Acts 25:13b-21	/ Jn 21:15-19
Sat. 05/22	Acts 28:16-20, 30-31	/ Jn 21:20-25
Sun. 05/23	Acts 2:1-11	
	Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13	/ Jn 20:19-23

THIS SUNDAY'S REFLECTION

JOHN 17:11B-19

"KEEP THEM IN YOUR NAME...THAT THEY MAY BE ONE JUST AS WE ARE ONE."

There are times when I can hear or imagine my mother or father "speaking to me" from their place in heaven, reminding me to write a little note to my brother or give a call to my sister. If there was one thing our parents instilled in their nine children it was a sense of care and responsibility for each other.

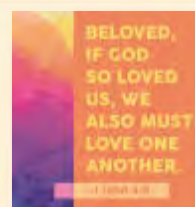
So it is easy for me to understand Jesus' pray for his disciples as he prepares to leave them. Just as he prays for unity for the disciples he wants each of us to be community builders in the places where we live and work.

My parents never expected that my brothers and sisters and I would always agree on everything. (That never happened while they were alive!) But they did expect that we would find ways to put our squabbles and disagreements aside in order to be a family.

As Jesus prays the "priestly prayer," he models his own intimate relationship with God. He invites us to become part of that kind of love for our God, for ourselves, and for all the children on earth.

For Reflection: Where is a lack of forgiveness or understanding in my life preventing the unity that Jesus prays for?

Susan McCarthy, R.D.C.



Day time Grief Support Group

Monday, May 17 at 7 p.m. the grief support group will meet in the parlor. Many normal activities can affect our grief. Usually there is a connection to the person we lost. It could be seeing their favorite food in the grocery store and then being overcome with a wave of sadness. It could be driving by a restaurant that you used to visit often. It is hard to predict what will affect us but the pain is diminished by sharing with others. If you would like to connect by zoom please contact Donna Clark dclark@ourladyofmercychurch.org



Newsletter Mailing Party



We need help to fold the newsletter and stuff the envelopes. If you can help us prepare the May issue of For Mercy Sake for the mail, join us in Sperry Hall at 9:00 a.m. tomorrow,

Monday, May 17. Wear your mask. Please let Irene know if you can help by calling 814-899-6132 or email lucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org

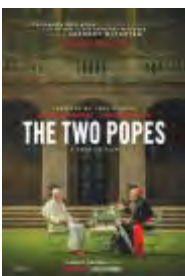
Book Group

We will be discussing This Is Happiness by Niall Williams on May 19 at 7:00 p.m. Want to read ahead? Our June book will be The Thursday Murder Club by Richard Osman.



Questions about joining us, contact Irene Lucas at the church.

The Two Popes



Join us for a viewing of this thought-provoking and beautifully presented account of the relationship between Pope Benedict and Pope Francis. It is funny, heart-warming and inspiring. We will show this movie in a socially distanced fashion after the 6:00 Mass on Saturday, May 22. We were originally scheduled to show this movie last March, but had to postpone plans

because it was the weekend that public celebration of the Mass was first suspended due to COVID. Better late than never!

Midday Spiritual Boost

Pause for a moment . . . sometimes that is just what we need to hear the word of God. **Thursdays at Noon** join a small group in the parish parlor or on zoom to read a short spiritual reflection from the book *Jesus Today*. Share the message or the challenge you receive if you are comfortable. Check the parish website for the link. Questions – contact Donna Clark.



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.

We Remember...

Thaddeus Zmijewski Jr,
nephew of Helen Schneider,
who passed away recently.



Please hold him and his family in prayer during this difficult time.

Scholarship Opportunity

The Knights of Columbus continue to support the younger members of our flock. One way that they lend a hand is through college scholarships. They are now accepting applications for the scholarships. Applications are available through the OLM Website or the church office. Along with an application, a brief essay is required and a certified and sealed most recently available transcript from the applicant’s school. The application deadline is **Friday, June 4**. Remind others who may be interested. Watch the weekly bulletin and the parish webpage.



Meals for People in Need.



If you or someone you know could use a hot meal delivered to your house periodically, please let Donna Clark know. Residents of Harborcreek have extra food that they need to cook and give away. Perhaps you live alone and cooking for one is discouraging, so a hot meal

once a week could be a great boost. Perhaps you are recovering from an illness and just do not have the energy to cook.

Parishioners, employees: Be cautious about sharing personal information

In this age when personal data can be misused by scam artists, please be aware that the Roman Catholic Diocese of Erie, its clergy, and entities such as parishes and schools will never solicit your personal or business information by any method unless initiated by you. Should you receive an unsolicited request for such information — including a request for gift cards of any type — exercise extreme caution. Contact the person or entity by using official contact information only. Do not use contact information provided in the potential fraudulent request.



Social Justice

Today . . . we have to realize that a true ecological approach always becomes a social approach; it must integrate questions of justice in debates on the environment, so as to hear the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor. (Laudato Si', 49)



Walk to end homelessness in Erie.

EUMA and Highmark are teaming up for a 5K walk on May 29 to raise money to house those in need locally. You can participate in 3 ways:

1. Join the walk at 10:00 a.m. on May 29 from The Refuge to Liberty House.
2. Walk on your own at any time during the month of May and send your contribution to EUMA.
3. Support a walker. Members of the Social Justice Committee will be walking. You can make a financial contribution by giving it to Irene Lucas at the parish.

A Special "Thank You"

The community of Our Lady of Mercy would like to send a special "thank you" to Patty Sacco for her beautiful creations for our worship space. If you don't already know, Patty is the one who created the beautiful drapes we hang from the rafters behind the alter. Thank you Patty, for sharing your special gifts with Our Lady of Mercy.



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.

MAY 2021 YOUTH EVENT

FOR ALL
7TH AND 8TH
GRADERS!

SUNDAY MAY 23RD
NOON - 3 P.M.
OLM PICNIC PAVILION
(Sperry Hall if there is inclement weather)

Food • Fun • Friends

RSVP to Katie at 814-899-5342 or
youthminister@ourladyofmercychurch.org

Year of St Joseph Fact Finding Raffle

Pope Francis has proclaimed a Year of St. Joseph in celebration of the 150th anniversary of the declaration of St. Joseph as patron of the Universal Church.



We hear so little about St Joseph in the bible. We proposed a "fact finding raffle" to celebrate this event. Our community was invited to submit information related to Saint Joseph for posting on our website and Facebook page. We are happy to announce that everyone who submitted a fact, will receive a gift certificate to the Fiddle Inn!

Prayer to St. Joseph

Joseph, by the work of your hands
and the sweat of your brow,
you supported Jesus and Mary,
and had the Son of God as your fellow worker.

Teach me to work as you did,
with patience and perseverance, for God and
for those whom God has given me to support.

Teach me to see in my fellow workers
the Christ who desires to be in them,
that I may always be charitable and forbearing
towards all.

Grant me to look upon work
with the eyes of faith,
so that I shall recognize in it
my share in God's own creative activity
and in Christ's work of our redemption,
and so take pride in it.

When it is pleasant and productive,
remind me to give thanks to God for it.
And when it is burdensome,
teach me to offer it to God,
in reparation for my sins
and the sins of the world.

Congratulations to the winner's of our Saint Joseph Raffle!

Ann DuShole
Roberta Buckel
Ginny Vereb
Irene Lucas
Frank Kaleta
Dick Pottorf
Keith Charles

From parishioner Anna DuShole: In a booklet from Catholic Digest, I found this helpful perspective on Saint Joseph as Patron of Workers. In answer to the question "why work?", we are likely to say it's to provide for the well-being of ourselves and our families. Plus, there's a deeper purpose - to participate in the Divine Plan for the human race. The example of Saint Joseph shows us the difference between work and vocation. His efforts were not drudgery because he embraced the tasks given. It can help us turn our tasks into prayers: framing how we feel about work, how we do it and even the meaning of the work itself "St. Joseph, you show us by your life that all work is sacred when we remember our importance in God's plan. Please ask Our Lord for us, for the grace to recognize the value of what we do."

JOIN US!

THE MEASURE OF A
MAN'S GREATNESS
IS NOT THE NUMBER
OF SERVANTS HE HAS,
BUT THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE
HE SERVES

Our Lady of Mercy
is broadcasting the
Permanent Diaconate Ordination
of our very own

DAVE JACQUEL & PAUL BARKO

in the OLM Worship Space on
Friday, May 28, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

If you are unable to attend
our in-person event, you can stream the
Ordination at home by going to

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/
UCdS696JU5ISTNIhIhPoErxQ](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCdS696JU5ISTNIhIhPoErxQ)



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