

OUR LADY OF MERCY CHURCH

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



MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday Vigil: 6:00 p.m.

Sunday: 8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

Weekday: 8:30 a.m.

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.

PARISH STAFF

Msgr. Gerald T. Ritchie, *Pastor*

Deacon Paul Barko, *Deacon Assistant*

Donna Clark, *Pastoral Minister*

Irene Lucas, *Director of Lifelong Faith Formation*

Katie Stephenson, *Administrative Assistant
& Youth Minister*

Kirk Mientkiewicz, *Maintenance Coordinator*

Andrea Maille, *Lifelong Faith Formation Secretary*

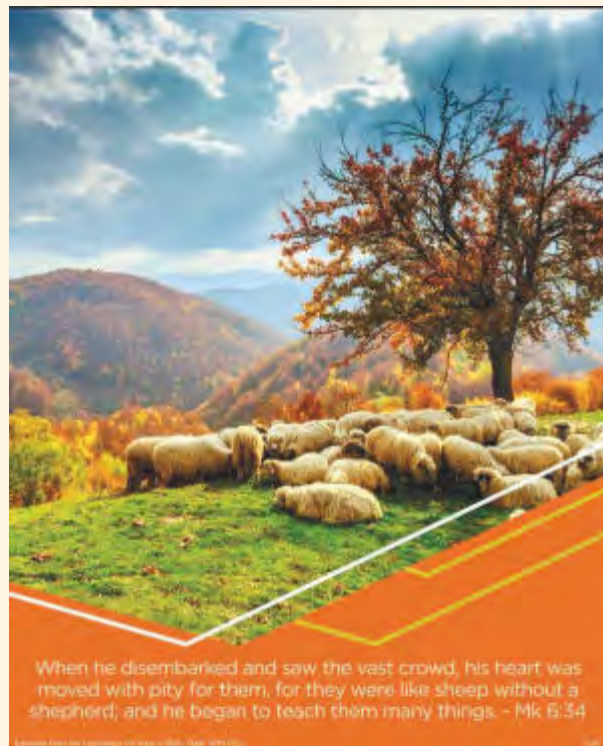
CONTACT INFORMATION

Parish Office: 814-899-5342

Office of Lifelong Faith Formation: 814-899-6132

Fax: 814-898-3306

Email: info@ourladyofmercychurch.org



When he disembarked and saw the vast crowd, his heart was moved with pity for them, for they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things. - Mk 6:34

JULY 18, 2021 - THE 16TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

THE WEEK AHEAD

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

Mon. 07/19	7:00 p.m.	Grief Support Group
Tue. 07/20	Parish Office Closed	
	1:00 p.m.	Potters Clay SCC
Wed. 07/21	8:30 a.m.	Food Pantry Distribution
	7:00 p.m.	OLM Book Group
	7:00 p.m.	Youth Ministry Core Team Mtg.
Thur. 07/22	9:00 a.m.	Angels in Training SCC
	12:00 p.m.	Midday Prayer
	1:00 p.m.	Legion of Mary
Fri. 07/23		
Sat. 07/24	4:30 p.m.	Sacrament of Penance
Sun. 07/25		

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Offertory for the weekend of July 11, 2021

Envelopes sent:	357	
Envelopes returned:	54	\$ 3,019.70
Faith Direct Deposits:	140	\$ 3,590.20
Loose Change:		\$ 35.00
TOTAL OFFERTORY:		\$ 6,644.90

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Mon. 07/19	Ex 14:5-18	/ Mt 12:38-42
Tue. 07/20	Ex 14:21-15:1	/ Mt 12:46-50
Wed. 07/21	Ex 16:1-5, 9-15	/ Mt 13:1-9
Thur. 07/22	Sg 3:1-4b or 2 Cor 5:14-17	/ Jn 20:1-2, 11-18
Fri. 07/23	Ex 20:1-17	/ Mt 13:18-23
Sat. 07/24	Ex 24:3-8	/ Mt 13:24-30
Sun. 07/25	2Kgs 4:42-44 / Eph 4:1-6 / Jn 6:1-15	

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon. 07/19	8:30 a.m.	Captain Norman Schlosser (Morning Mass Group)
Tue. 07/20	8:30 a.m.	Our Lady's Intentions (Todd Beckes)
Wed. 07/21	8:30 a.m.	Denny Smith (Janet Smith)
Thur. 07/22	8:30 a.m.	Catherine Lewis (Angels In Training SCC)
Fri. 07/23	8:30 a.m.	Glenn Merritt (The Mulligan Maidens)
Sat. 07/24	8:30 a.m.	NO MASS-
	6:00 p.m.	Betty Kaeberlein Dietrich (Fred & Kay Kaeberlein)
Sun. 07/25	8:30 a.m.	Patricia Lynch (Dave & Marge Lefaver)
	11:00 a.m.	For the People of OLM

Help with Housing

Our new Music Director is still looking for housing in the area. If you know of a place for sale – a single floor ranch style home, or of a house for rent that will allow pets, please contact Donna in the parish office.



Sign-up Now...
...and get ready to SMILE!

OLM Photo Directory Pictures will be taken



August 3rd



through

August 7th, 2021!

****SIGN-UP NOW****

Instructions to sign up for your photo session are on the insert page of the bulletin this weekend. If you have any questions, please call Katie in the Parish Office 814-899-5342

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



THIS SUNDAY'S REFLECTION

MARK 6:30-34

"...for they were like sheep without a shepherd"



I used to think of this biblical image of sheep and shepherd as something akin to Mary and her little lamb. But sheep are actually dull-witted and timid. They do not follow. They have to be driven. Without a shepherd they will kill a pasture by over-grazing. They easily get lost. They are vulnerable to predators. Not so nice to be compared to sheep.

What then is the point of this comparison? Like the people of Galilee we are hungry for the meaning of life. And also like the people of Galilee we want easy, immediate answers. Some wanted a Messiah to overthrow the Roman rule and establish a new political kingdom on earth. Instead Jesus taught them how to believe in a new kind of kingdom.

More than two thousand years later we still struggle to understand what Jesus teaches us. We need the shepherd to guide us, teach us, and push us. Perhaps most difficult for us to recognize that our ability to reason has limits. In matters of faith we have to surrender our ego to the mystery of God. We will always be sheep in need of the shepherd.

For Reflection: Where in my life am I in need of God's direction?

Peter Dwyer

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 group small group in the parish parlor to read a short spiritual reflection from the book *Jesus Today*. Share the message or the challenge you receive if you are comfortable. Questions – contact Donna Clark.



For Mercy Sake Deadline

The deadline to submit articles for the August issue of *For Mercy Sake* is **TODAY, July 18**. Please send submissions to ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org.

Book Group

Join us at 7:00 p.m. July 21 at the home of Donna Huff to discuss *West With Giraffes* by Lynda Rutledge. Our August title will be *Ordinary Grace* by William Kent Krueger.



Evening Grief Support

The next meeting is **Monday July 19 at 7:00 p.m.** To attend this meeting by zoom contact Donna Clark. Sometimes as summer approaches there are more events to distract us. This can be a healthy way of processing the grief. However, there are times when the grief becomes more intense because of summer memories with your loved one. Take some time to share these memories with others who can support you through the sadness to joy.

The Healing Ministry

The Healing Ministry will resume on the first and third Sunday after the 8:30 Mass in Mary’s Chapel. We look forward to seeing you starting July 18th. All are welcome.



2021 Diocesan Anniversary Celebrations

The 2021 Diocesan Anniversary Celebration Liturgies for couples celebrating 25, 50, 60, or more years of marriage will be held at two locations in the diocese: **Sunday, August 1, 2021 at 2:00 p.m.** at Immaculate Conception in Clarion and **Sunday, August 8, at 2:00 p.m.** at St. Jude in Erie. To register, please go online to <https://www.eriercd.org/familylifeoffice/anniv.html> or contact your parish office or the Family Life Office at (814) 824-1261.



FORMED.ORG



If you are new to the parish, 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.

Vacation Bible School

The ship is leaving for Treasure Island VBS! Don’t wait! Register now! Our week of faith, friends and fun is July 26-30 from 9:00-noon. This is open to youth age 4 through grade 6 and is free.



Vacation Bible School volunteers needed



We need a few more volunteers to work with specific age groups during our week of VBS. Volunteers must submit clearances. If you are interested or would like more information, contact Irene at 814-899-6132 or

ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org.

Stay in touch

Never miss a bulletin, even when you are traveling. You can get a bulletin notice to your e mail each week. Sign up at <https://parishesonline.com/> Find Our Lady of Mercy Harborcreek and subscribe.



Kids’ Summer Challenge



The Summer challenge is underway. Game boards and directions are available on the bulletin tables or can be downloaded from the parish website. Be the first to send Irene a bingo and get your name entered in the drawing twice. Watch the weekly eBlast and FB page for additional pop-up incentives.

Dish Towels Needed for Sperry Hall Kitchen

If you have any dish towels laying around, not being used, please consider donating them to Our Lady of Mercy. We are in need of dish towels in Sperry Hall. Please drop them off in the Sperry Hall kitchen at your earliest convenience.



Celebrating the 75th Anniversary of Our Lady of Mercy Parish
The first baptism Fr. Hastings performed was that of Louise Bleil on May 12, 1946.





Social Justice

"Our defence of the innocent unborn...needs to be clear, firm and passionate, for at stake is the dignity of a human life, which is always sacred and demands love for each person, regardless of his or her stage of development. Equally sacred, however, are the lives of the poor, those already born, the destitute, the abandoned and the underprivileged, the vulnerable infirm and elderly exposed to covert euthanasia, the victims of human trafficking, new forms of slavery, and every form of rejection."

Pope Francis Gaudete et Exsultate



Blueberry Festival Returns to Bethany Retreat Center!

Join us at 1031 Germania Rd in Frenchville, PA, on July 31st from 10:00 am to 7:00 pm for a

day of family fun! There will be games for all ages, arts & crafts for kids, basket raffles, 50/50, delicious food & refreshments and much more. Live musical entertainment by Heavenbound beginning at 2:00 pm and A Day Awaits at 4:00 pm. For more information visit www.bethanyretreatcenter.org or call 814-263-4855. Hope to see you there!"

Grounded Grieving Retreat offered at Bethany Retreat Center

When you've lost a loved one, the grief journey can be lonely and exhausting. Consider attending the Aug. 6-8 Grounded Grieving Retreat at Bethany Retreat Center in Frenchville. Participants will share stories, engage in creative expression, spend time in nature and deepen into the place where grief is grounded. The retreat facilitator is Jackie Naginey Hook, a spiritual director, Life-Cycle celebrant and end-of-life doula whose work helps people find hope, healing and wholeness. The \$235 cost includes meals, accommodations and all retreat sessions A commuter option is available. For more information or to register, go to www.bethanyretreatcenter.org or call 814-263-4855.

Domestic Violence Support

Do you know someone who is living through domestic violence? You can help. Call the National Domestic Violence Hotline for resources and support 800-799-SAFE (7233) {TTY 800-787-3224} or find help on line at thehotline.org.



Ink Jet Fundraiser



Please donate used black or color ink jet cartridges to the Religious Education ministry. Previously refilled and remanufactured cartridges can not be redeemed, nor can laser toner cartridges.

A Prayer of Thanks

Compassionate God,
in Luke's story of the 10 lepers
Jesus taught us to be grateful for
your gracious gifts.

And so we thank you for sending
Patti (Reé-vul) Reavel to us
as our new music minister.

Help us to welcome her into our community
and to assist and support her
as she becomes familiar with our parish.

Guide Patti as she engages us in song
and leads us in singing your praise
in the eternal song of thanksgiving
we call Eucharist.

We express our gratefulness in the words
of composer, Stephen Dean:

*Thanks be to God whose
love has gathered us this day.
Thanks be to God who
helps and guides us on our way.
Thanks be to God who gives us voice
that we may thank him.
Thanks be to God most high.*

Amen

Festival Thank You

Thank you to all of our wonderful volunteers and to those who donated to help make the OLM 2021 Festival the BEST FESTIVAL EVER! The donation of your time, gifts and hard work is appreciated and the very reason for another successful Festival season.

Festival Winners

Grand Prize - Fred Koller
TV—Carolyn Rothman

Restaurant Cards - Bernadette Myers

Lottery - Susan Payne
50/50 - Laurie Wilczynski

Quilt - Ruth Dennis

Afghan - Sherry Tyzinski

Congratulations to all of our prize winners!

OLM Youth Ministry

Youth Ministry Updates



OLM Youth Ministry is back in full force! I have spent most of the summer taking advantage of different youth ministry learning opportunities, though it has been fun I am SO excited to begin planning events. Here's what's going on in the world of OLM Youth Ministry:

July 21st at 7:00 p.m.

Do you have a passion for working with the youth of our parish? Are you energetic and ready to have some fun? If so, please consider joining OLM's newest ministry – The Youth Ministry Core Team! Katie is looking for a group of adults who are willing and able to help with all things Youth Ministry. The first meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 21st at 7:00 p.m. If you are interested in joining this new ministry, or are just looking for some more information about what it's all about, please contact Katie in the parish office or you can email her at youthminister@ourladyofmercychurch.org.

August 13th at 6:00 p.m.

Back to School Bash for those entering 7th-12th grade. Come join the youth of OLM for a fun evening with a tie-dye tent, an outdoor movie, a bon fire, yard games and MORE! Bring a friend and enjoy one of our last Fridays of summer as we get to know one another a little better before you head back to school. Please RSVP to this event by August 6th, 2021 by calling the Parish Office at 814-899-5342 or emailing Katie at youthminister@ourladyofmercychurch.org.

More information and tie-dye order forms for the **Back To School Bash** can be found on the OLM Youth Ministry Facebook page at

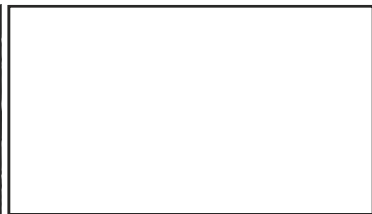
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