

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*

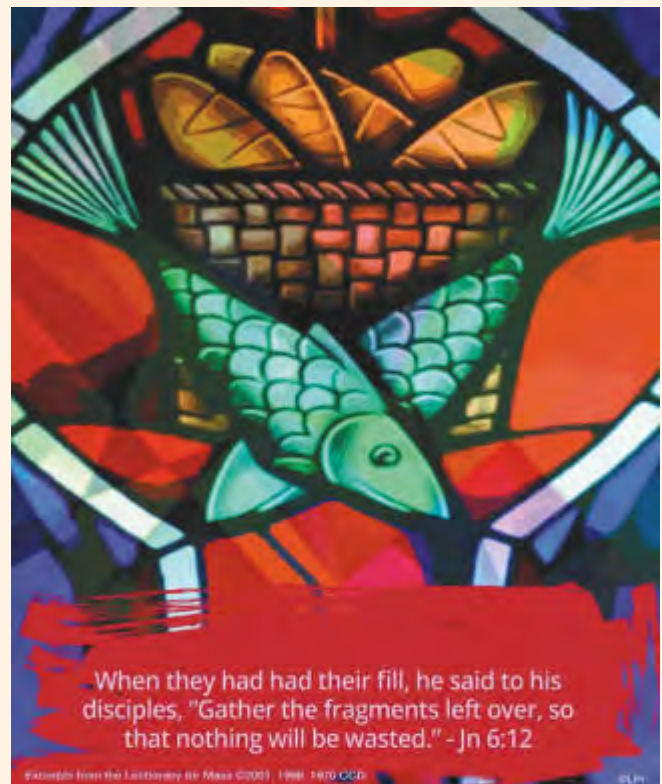
CONTACT INFORMATION

Parish Office: 814-899-5342

Office of Lifelong Faith Formation: 814-899-6132

Fax: 814-898-3306

Email: info@ourladyofmercychurch.org



JULY 25, 2021 - THE 17TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

THE WEEK AHEAD

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

| | | |
|-------------|------------|---|
| Mon. 07/26 | 9:00 a.m. | Vacation Bible School |
| | 5:30 p.m. | Sisters of Scripture SCC |
| | 7:00 p.m. | Fruit of the Vine SCC |
| Tue. 07/27 | 9:00 a.m. | Vacation Bible School |
| | 1:00 p.m. | Potters Clay SCC |
| Wed. 07/28 | 9:00 a.m. | Vacation Bible School |
| Thur. 07/29 | 9:00 a.m. | Vacation Bible School |
| | 12:00 p.m. | Midday Prayer |
| | 1:00 p.m. | Legion of Mary |
| Fri. 07/30 | 9:00 a.m. | Vacation Bible School |
| Sat. 07/31 | 4:30 p.m. | Sacrament of Penance |
| Sun. 08/01 | | Casserole Club Drop Off Monthly Food Pantry Collection |

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Offertory for the weekend of July 18, 2021

| | | |
|-------------------------|-----|--------------------|
| Envelopes sent: | 357 | |
| Envelopes returned: | 58 | \$ 2,448.00 |
| Faith Direct Deposits: | 140 | \$ 3,590.20 |
| Loose Change: | | \$ 167.00 |
| TOTAL OFFERTORY: | | \$ 6,205.20 |

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. 07/26 | 8:30 a.m. | Barb Payne (Theresa Yauch) |
| Tue. 07/27 | 8:30 a.m. | Rite Desser (Family) |
| Wed. 07/28 | 8:30 a.m. | Irene Abbate (Dave & Peggy Jacquel) |
| Thur. 07/29 | 8:30 a.m. | Fr. Dan Prez |
| Fri. 07/30 | 8:30 a.m. | Patricia Bory |
| Sat. 07/31 | 8:30 a.m. | NO MASS |
| | 6:00 p.m. | For the People of OLM |
| Sun. 08/01 | 8:30 a.m. | Leo Heise (The Heise Family) |
| | 11:00 a.m. | Mary Ann Spring (The Slomski Family) |

We Remember...

MaryElla Eaglen,
who passed away recently.
Please hold her and her family in
prayer during this difficult time.



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.



SCRIPTURE READINGS

| | | |
|-------------|---------------------------------|---------------|
| Mon. 07/26 | Ex 32:15-24, 30-34 | / Mt 13:31-35 |
| Tue. 07/27 | Ex 33:7-11, 34:5b-9, 28/ | Mt 13:36-43 |
| Wed. 07/28 | Ex 34:29-35 | / Mt 13:44-46 |
| Thur. 07/29 | Ex 40:16-21, 34-38 | / Jn 11:19-27 |
| Fri. 07/30 | Lv 23:1, 4-11, 15-16, 27, 34-37 | / Mt 13:54-58 |
| Sat. 07/30 | Lv 25:1, 8-17 | / Mt 14:1-12 |
| Sun. 08/01 | Ex 16:2-4, 12-15 | |
| | Eph 4:17, 20-24 | / Jn 6:24-35 |

THIS SUNDAY'S REFLECTION



JOHN 6:1-15

“There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish, but what good are these for so many?”

Sharing a meal with someone allows us to be open to a relationship. In the Scriptures Jesus shares a meal with others not just to satisfy their physical hunger but also to invite them into intimacy and at times to offer reconciliation.

In today's Gospel Jesus takes a small amount of food and feeds a large crowd. He does so because a lad is willing to share what little he has for the good of the community assembled. No one is excluded. Not only is there enough to feed everyone but there is an abundance left over, “twelve baskets full of pieces.”

Perhaps this Gospel is asking us to be like the lad, willing to use our gifts no matter how insignificant they seem for others. When we do that our gifts are multiplied a thousand fold, and having touched others there is still an abundance left over to be used again and again.

Each time we celebrate the Eucharist and partake of the bread blessed and broken, we are invited into a deeper intimacy with Jesus. We are also challenged not to keep what we have received for ourselves but to be willing to be Eucharist for others.

For Reflection: How might I be Eucharist for others?

Mary Glynn, S.J.C.



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.



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.

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.eriecd.org/familylifeoffice/anniv.html> or contact your parish office or the Family Life Office at (814) 824-1261.

Daytime Grief Support

The next meeting is **Tuesday August 3 at 3:00 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.



For Mercy Sake Mailing Party

There will be a mailing party on **Monday, Aug. 9 at 9:00** to prepare the summer issue of For Mercy Sake for the mail. If you can give an hour, please let Irene know by calling 814-899-6132 or email ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org



Book Group

Our August title will be Ordinary Grace by William Kent Krueger.



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.



Religious Education Registration

Registration for this year of religious education will take place after all Masses the weekend of **Aug. 14-15**. All youth who will participate in religious education at OLM this academic year need to be registered by a parent or guardian prior to attending class.

Volunteers Needed

The religious education ministry at OLM needs faith-filled parishioners to share our Catholic faith and the love of God with our youth. In particular, we need a volunteer catechist for 1st grade, 4th grade and 9th grade. We also need volunteers to support the program as an aid. Substitute catechists are also needed. If you are interested, contact Irene at 814-

**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



Celebrating the 75th Anniversary of Our Lady of Mercy Parish
By 1948 the little chapel could no longer accommodate the growing parish and Mass was offered in the gym at Harborcreek Home For Boys. Mass continued to be offered at the school until 1954





Social Justice

“In every human child who is born, under no matter what circumstances, and of no matter what parents, the potentiality of the human race is born again.”

James Agee



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.

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

OLM Youth Ministry

For all youth entering 7th-12th grades

BACK TO SCHOOL BASH

Mark Your Calendar!

Friday August 13th

6:00 - 9:00 p.m.

KofC Scholarship Winners

This year's winners of the Ed Cudicio Memorial Scholarships are Kathryn Lucas and Megan Smith. Katie will be attending Duquesne University and Meghan will be attending Slippery Rock University. We wish them well in their studies. Both are Harborcreek High School graduates and have impressive accomplishments. Our Lady of Mercy Council of the Knights of Columbus awards scholarships annually to high school seniors of our parish. The scholarship program is named in honor of one of our founding members, Ed Cudicio, who was instrumental in establishing the program. Normally, scholarships are funded from our annual Golf and Sports Raffle, but since we did not have one this year, we dipped into our rainy-day fund for the second year in a row to continue this important program.



Dispensation lifted

Catholics return to Sunday Mass Aug. 15



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

As you have heard, the Catholic bishops of Pennsylvania have issued statements indicating that the dispensation from the obligation to attend Mass, which went into effect in March 2020 — just as the pandemic began significantly impacting all facets of life in the United States — will soon be lifted. I am reinstating the obligation to attend Mass in person on Sundays and holy days in the Diocese of Erie beginning on Sunday, Aug. 15, 2021, the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. As always, the obligation does not apply to those with serious illness or health risks, as well as their caregivers.

For most of us, the thought of a global pandemic impacting nearly every aspect of our lives had never crossed our minds. As I said in my letter to you in March of 2020, given the challenges brought by the COVID-19 pandemic, I made the best decisions I could for the good of the community, especially the most vulnerable among us.

I am deeply grateful to the clergy in our diocese who did everything they could to respond to the challenges. Many used technology to include parishioners in livestreamed Masses, prayer services and events. Others were creative in their efforts to remain in touch, assuring you of their prayers and support. Still others were called upon in these extraordinary circumstances to be present to COVID patients and their families.

I also want to extend my thanks to each of you. People in every stage of life were faced with significant sacrifices — from children attending school remotely and adults navigating unexpected challenges, to young adults rethinking social interactions and postponing important plans. All the while, our

elderly parishioners faced a time of deep isolation. My heart is especially with those of you whose livelihoods were disrupted and those of you who lost loved ones due to the pandemic. I know your pain was increased as a result of the many restrictions we had to endure.

St. Paul tells us we are to rejoice in the Lord always. While I will not minimize the pain and difficulties we have faced — and will continue to face in new ways — I encourage you to reflect on what he says in his letter to the Philippians 4:4-7:

“Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again: rejoice! Your kindness should be known to all. The Lord is near. Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God. Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.”

Many of you have begun returning to Sunday Mass, and I am hearing from pastors that there is a sense of renewal and of deepened appreciation for the Eucharist and for our parish communities. It is my hope and my prayer we all will continue to grow in our faith and live in the peace God promises.

Our Lady of Guadalupe, patroness of the Americas, pray for us.

St. Patrick, patron of the Diocese of Erie, pray for us.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
+Lawrence T. Persico

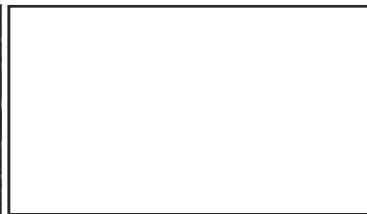
The Most Reverend Lawrence T. Persico, JCL
Bishop of Erie

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