

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*

Patti Reavel, *Music Director*

Katie Stephenson, *Administrative Assistant
& Youth Minister*

Kirk Mientkiewicz, *Maintenance Coordinator*

Andrea Maille, *Lifelong Faith Formation Secretary*

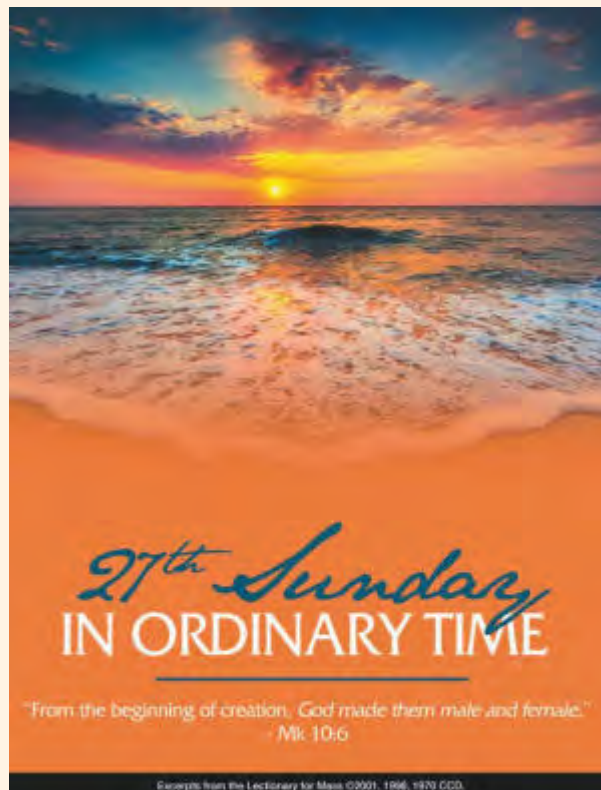
CONTACT INFORMATION

Parish Office: 814-899-5342

Office of Lifelong Faith Formation: 814-899-6132

Fax: 814-898-3306

Email: info@ourladyofmercychurch.org



OCTOBER 3, 2021 - THE 27TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

THE WEEK AHEAD

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

Mon. 10/04	9:00 a.m.	Quilters
	9:30 a.m.	Steel Magnolias
Tue. 10/05	9:00 a.m.	Creative Writing Group
	1:00 p.m.	Potters Clay SCC
	2:00 p.m.	Prayer Shawl
	3:00 p.m.	Grief Support Group
	4:00 p.m.	Gr. 3-6 Religious Ed
	7:00 p.m.	Pastoral Council
Wed. 10/06	9:15 a.m.	"The Creed"
	1:00 p.m.	Diamonds in the Rough
	7:00 p.m.	"The Creed"
Thur. 10/07	9:00 a.m.	Painting Class
	12:00 p.m.	Midday Prayer
	1:00 p.m.	Legion of Mary
	6:00 p.m.	Prayer Shawl
	6:30 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Fri. 10/08		
Sat. 10/09	4:30 p.m.	Sacrament of Penance
Sun. 10/10	9:30 a.m.	Religious Ed Gr. K-2 & 7-8
	9:45 a.m.	First Reconciliation
		Parent Meeting

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



UPDATED OFFICE HOURS

The Parish Office will be open from 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. Monday-Friday beginning Thursday, September 23rd. Regular office hours of 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. will resume on Tuesday, October 5.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Mon. 10/04	Jon 1:1-2:2, 11	/ Lk 10:25-37
Tue. 10/05	Jon 3:1-10	/ Lk 10:38-42
Wed. 10/06	Jon 4:1-11	/ Lk 11:1-4
Thur. 10/07	Mal 3:13-20b	/ Lk 11:5-13
Fri. 10/08	Jl 1:13-15, 2:1-2	/ Lk 11:15-26
Sat. 10/09	Jl 4:12-21	/ Lk 11:27-28
Sun. 10/10	Wis 7:7-11 / Heb 4:12-13 / Mk 10:17-30	

THIS SUNDAY'S

REFLECTION

MARK 10:2-16

From the beginning of creation, God made them male and female.

The discussion in today's Gospel is about more than marriage. It is about women and how Jesus respected them. Jesus taught, by word and example, that women were equal to men in sight of God. Going against the prevailing Hebrew customs of the day, Jesus looked on women, not as property, but as people.

Knowing that Hebrew law concerning divorce often discriminated against women and left them alone and unsupported, Jesus deliberately moves from debating the legalities to talking about something deeper - God's purpose for marriage. The Church, following Jesus' teaching, sets forth the ideal of marriage as a lifelong commitment. At the same time, the Church realizes that, in practice, not everyone lives up to that idea.

People in many circumstance will hear today's Gospel. Those whose marriages have failed despite their best efforts can rest assured of God's forgiveness. Those who are working hard at their marriages, but find it a lonely struggle, should hear that the Lord will strengthen their efforts.

And, no matter what our circumstances, we all can count on the fact that respect for both women and men is a constant of Jesus' teaching.

For Reflection: How do your commitments to others help you to grow in respect for them as well?

Judy Hoelzeman



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 2nd grade and Jr. High. All of these groups meet on Sunday. We also need volunteers to serve as substitute catechists. If you are interested, contact Irene at 814-899-6132 or ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org.



Grade 4, 5, 6 Retreat

The annual retreat for youth in grades 4-6 will take place Tuesday, Oct. 19. It will begin at the normal class time and extend to 7:00. Supper will be provided.

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon. 10/04	8:30 a.m.	Fr. Dan Arnold (Tom & Sheri Noyer)
Tue. 10/05	8:30 a.m.	John Oregia (John Abbate)
Wed. 10/06	8:30 a.m.	Betty Weber (Ed & Brenda Pasko)
Thur. 10/07	8:30 a.m.	Irene Abbate (Bill & Anne Spring)
Fri. 10/08	8:30 a.m.	Margie Carr
Sat. 10/09	8:30 a.m.	NO MASS
	6:00 p.m.	Scott Emling (Gerry & Carol Stauffer)
Sun. 10/10	8:30 a.m.	For the People of OLM
	11:00 a.m.	Jack Case (Family)

Thursday Midday Prayer

Need a spiritual boost during the week? Join us on **Thursdays at Noon** for 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.



Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for articles for the November 2021 Newsletter is fast approaching. Please submit your articles to Irene at ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org before the **October 17th** deadline.



Daytime Grief Support

Tuesday Oct 5 at 3 p.m. is our daytime grief support group. This is an opportunity for people to gather and share their experience or listen to others. This exchange of experiences helps in the healing process. To arrange a one on one meeting please contact Donna Clark in the parish office.



Parish Stories

We are still collecting stories about parish life. Please contact Donna Clark in the parish office to share your experience.



Liturgical Ministry Schedules Now Available

Eucharistic Minister and Lector Schedule for Oct. through Nov. is available on MSP and a hard copy is available on the table in the Sacristy. Please pick up your schedules as soon as possible and contact Deacon Paul Barko with any conflicts.



Question & Answer With The Pastor

Got questions? Fr. Ritchie has answers. Join us **Tuesday, Oct. 12** at 7:00 for a Q & A w/t Pastor. This will be an in-person event unless the COVID situation changes. All welcome.



Book Group

Join us on **Thursday, Oct. 21 @ 7:00** at the home of Donna Huff to discuss The Extraordinary Life of Sam Hell by Robert Dugoni. Our November title will be The Mountains Sing by Nguyễn Phan Quế



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.

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

The Question of the week winner for the week of Sept. 20 was Ellie Stauffer, grade 4 who knew that St. Peter is the name of the cathedral of the Diocese of Erie.

“The Creed” with Bishop Robert Barron

Every week at Mass, we recite The Creed. Sunday after Sunday, we pledge our lives to the faith that is professed in its ancient lines. In this 6 week series, we will unpack the mysteries contained in this prayer. Dynamic video presentation by Bishop Robert Barron using stunning documentary footage along with group conversation will characterize each gathering. Each session will be offered twice, at 9:15 a.m. and at 7:00 p.m. on **Wednesday** from Sept. 29 to Nov. 3. There is no cost, no need to register, no need to commit to every week. For more information, contact Irene at 814-899-6132 or ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org



The Creed Zoom Version

There was a request to offer The Creed over Zoom. If you are interested, please contact Irene at ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org with a time that would be good for you.



Halloween Decorations Needed

Our Lady of Mercy Youth Ministry is decorating a “Haunted Horse Trailer” for the OLM Trunk or Treat event this October. We will be decorating the trailer on **Sunday, October 24** and we are in need of decorations. If you have Halloween decorations you are willing to let us borrow, please drop them off in the Parish Office **before Sunday, October 24** with your name on them so we know who to return them to. We are also making our own decorations, so we are accepting donations of Halloween crafting materials. Thank you in advance for your generous contribution to the OLM Youth Ministry Program.



Celebrating the 75th Anniversary of Our Lady of Mercy Parish



With the cost of a new permanent church considered beyond the parish’s financial means, the building proposed in 1962 was a parish social hall with folding partitions that would be used to create six temporary classrooms for religious education.



Social Justice

I believe that Saint Francis is the example par excellence of care for the vulnerable and of an integral ecology lived out joyfully and authentically. He is the patron saint of all who study and work in the area of ecology, and he is also much loved by non-Christians. He was particularly concerned for God's creation and for the poor and outcast. He loved, and was deeply loved for his joy, his generous self-giving, his openheartedness. He was a mystic and a pilgrim who lived in simplicity and in wonderful harmony with God, with others, with nature and with himself. He shows us just how inseparable the bond is between concern for nature, justice for the poor, commitment to society, and interior peace.

Laudato Si' ("Praise Be"), Pope Francis

Knights News

Congratulations to Our Lady of Mercy Knights of Columbus receiving the Star Council Award for 2020-2021. This is a well-deserved prestigious award that only a few councils ever receive. Way to go Knights!



Child Protection and Creating Safe Environments



Diocesan Code of Conduct

The Diocese of Erie is committed to protecting the children and youth who are entrusted to its care and to ensuring that those in ministry with our young people are in right relationship with the children/youth receiving services. To share in the ministry of Christ is a great privilege as well as a tremendous responsibility. The *privilege* is the joy of sharing in the mission of Jesus Himself. The *responsibility* is acting in a way that conforms to the attitude and actions of Christ. In this spirit, the diocese has issued a ministerial Code of Conduct. The code is included in the diocesan *Policy for the Protection of Children*. To read the Code of Conduct, go to: <https://www.erieecd.org/images/sections/childprotection/pdf/CURRENTPolicy.pdf> For more information, contact Mrs. Cindy Zemcik, in the diocesan Office for the Protection of Children at 814-824-1195.

OUR LADY OF MERCY
PRESENTS...

TRUNK OR TREAT

SATURDAY OCTOBER 30
@ 3:00 P.M.

PLEASE RSVP ON THE FACEBOOK
EVENT PAGE, OR TO THE PARISH
OFFICE @ 814-899-5342

OCTOBER 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3 8:30 & 11:00 AM MASS Casserole Club DROP OFF Monthly Food Pantry Collection 9:30 AM Gr. K-2 & 7-8 Rel. Ed. 12:00 PM Baptismal Prep Class	4 8:30 AM Mass 9:00 AM Quilters 9:30 AM Steel Magnolias	5 8:30 AM Mass 9:00 AM Creative Writing Group 1:00 PM Potters Clay 2:00 PM Prayer Shawl 3:00 PM Grief Support Group 4:00 PM Gr. 3-6 Rel. Ed. 7:00 PM Pastoral Council Mtg. 7:30 PM AA	6 8:30 AM Mass 9:15 AM "The Creed" With Bishop Robert Barron 1:00 PM Diamonds in the Rough 7:00 PM "The Creed" With Bishop Robert Barron	7 8:30 AM Mass 9:00 AM Painting Class 12:00 PM MIDDAY Prayer Legion of Mary 1:00 PM Prayer Shawl 6:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	8 8:30 AM Mass	9 10:00 AM AA 4:30 PM Sacrament of Penance 6:00 PM Mass
10 8:30 & 11:00 AM MASS 9:30 AM Gr. K-2 & 7-8 Rel. Ed. 9:45 AM First Reconciliation Parent Mtg.	11 8:30 AM Mass 9:00 AM Quilters 9:30 AM Steel Magnolias 5:30 PM Sisters of Scripture	12 8:30 AM Mass 9:00 AM Creative Writing Group 1:00 PM Potters Clay 2:00 PM Prayer Shawl 4:00 PM Gr. 3-6 Rel. Ed. 6:30 PM Roman Candles 7:00 PM Q & A With the Pastor 7:30 PM AA	13 8:30 AM Mass 9:00 AM Angels in Training 9:15 AM "The Creed" With Bishop Robert Barron 1:00 PM Diamonds in the Rough 7:00 PM "The Creed" With Bishop Robert Barron 7:00 PM Knights of Columbus	14 8:30 AM Mass 9:00 AM Painting Class 12:00 PM MIDDAY Prayer Legion of Mary 1:00 PM Prayer Shawl 6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	15 8:30 AM Mass	16 10:00 AM AA 4:30 PM Sacrament of Penance 6:00 PM Mass
17 8:30 & 11:00 AM MASS Gr 11 Rite of Presentation all Masses Newsletter Deadline 9:30 AM Gr. K-2 & 7-8 Rel. Ed. 9:30 AM Healing Ministry 9:45 AM First Eucharist Parent Mtg. 12:15 PM Gr.11 Candidate/Sponsor Mtg.	18 8:30 AM Mass 9:00 AM Quilters 9:30 AM Steel Magnolias 6:30 PM AGIFT Meeting 7:00 PM Grief Support Group	19 8:30 AM Mass 9:00 AM Creative Writing Group 1:00 PM Potters Clay 2:00 PM Prayer Shawl 4:00 PM Gr. 3 Rel. Ed. 4:00 PM Gr. 4 - 6 Retreat 6:30 PM Sofia's SCC 7:00 PM LFF Mtg. 7:30 PM AA	20 8:30 AM Food Pantry Distribution 8:30 AM Mass 9:15 AM "The Creed" With Bishop Robert Barron 1:00 PM Diamonds in the Rough 7:00 PM "The Creed" With Bishop Robert Barron	21 8:30 AM Mass 9:00 AM Painting Class 12:00 PM MIDDAY Prayer Legion of Mary 1:00 PM Prayer Shawl 6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM OLM BOOK GROUP	22 8:30 AM Mass	23 10:00 AM AA 4:30 PM Sacrament of Penance 6:00 PM Mass
24 8:30 & 11:00 AM MASS 9:30 AM Gr. K-2 Rel. Ed. 12:00 PM Gr. 7 & 8 Youth Event	25 8:30 AM Mass 9:00 AM Quilters 9:30 AM Steel Magnolias 5:30 PM Sisters of Scripture	26 8:30 AM Mass 9:00 AM Creative Writing Group 1:00 PM Potters Clay 2:00 PM Prayer Shawl 4:00 PM Gr. 3-6 Rel. Ed. 6:30 PM Roman Candles 7:00 PM Jacquelin continuum 7:00 PM Youth Ministry Committee Meeting 7:30 PM AA	27 8:30 AM Mass 9:00 AM Angels in Training 9:15 AM "The Creed" With Bishop Robert Barron 1:00 PM Diamonds in the Rough 7:00 PM "The Creed" With Bishop Robert Barron	28 8:30 AM Mass 9:00 AM Painting Class 12:00 PM MIDDAY Prayer Legion of Mary 1:00 PM Prayer Shawl 6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	29 8:30 AM Mass	30 10:00 AM AA 3:00 PM Trunk or Treat 4:30 PM Sacrament of Penance 6:00 PM Mass

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OUR LADY OF MERCY CATHOLIC CHURCH
Membership Form

Name _____

Address _____

City/Zip _____

Phone _____

Change of Address Moving out of the Parish

New Parishioner

To start the new member process please call the parish office at 899-5342; or request a phone call by filling out this form and returning it to the office by mail or collection basket.