

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*

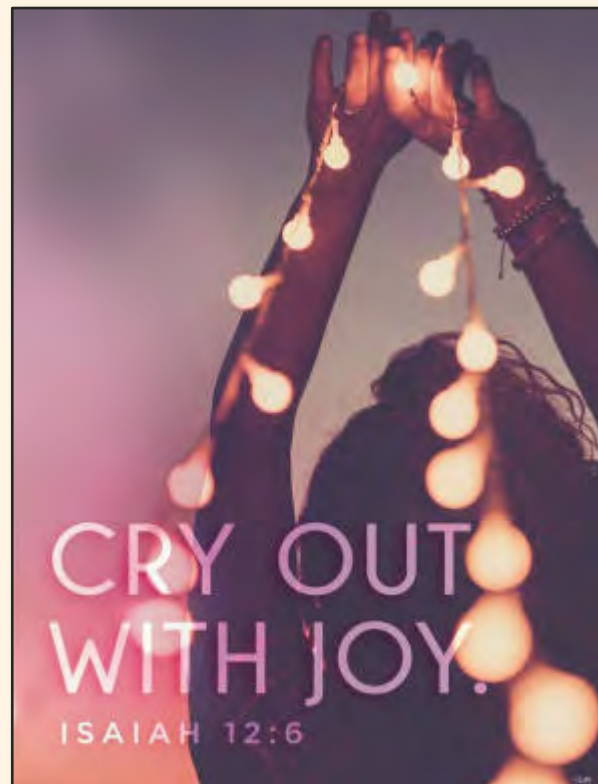
CONTACT INFORMATION

Parish Office: 814-899-5342

Office of Lifelong Faith Formation: 814-899-6132

Fax: 814-898-3306

Email: info@ourladyofmercychurch.org



DECEMBER 12, 2021 - THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

THE WEEK AHEAD

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

Mon. 12/13	9:00 a.m.	Quilters
	9:30 a.m.	Steel Magnolias SCC
Tue. 12/14	1:00 p.m.	Potter's Clay SCC
	2:00 p.m.	Prayer Shawl
	4:00 p.m.	Religious Ed Gr. 3-6
	5:30 p.m.	Children's Choir
Wed. 12/15	8:30 a.m.	Food Pantry Distribution
	1:00 p.m.	Diamonds in the Rough
	6:30 p.m.	OLM Book Group
Thur. 12/16	9:00 a.m.	Painting Class
	12:00 p.m.	Mid Day Prayer
	1:00 p.m.	Legion of Mary
	6:00 p.m.	Prayer Shawl
	6:30 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Fri. 12/17		
Sat. 12/18	4:30 p.m.	Sacrament of Penance
Sun. 12/19		FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
	9:30 a.m.	Religious Ed K-2 & 7-8
	9:30 a.m.	Healing Ministry
	12:00 p.m.	Gr. 7 & 8 Youth Event

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



We Remember...

Dr. Loren Prichard,
who passed away recently.

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

*Loving
Memory*



FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Offertory for the weekend of December 5, 2021

Envelopes sent:	357	
Envelopes returned:	66	\$ 4,995.00
Faith Direct Deposits:	136	\$ 3,449.83
Loose Change:		\$ 98.00
TOTAL OFFERTORY:		\$ 8,539.83

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Mon. 12/13	Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a	/ Mt 21:23-27
Tue. 12/14	Zep 3:1-2, 9-13	/ Mt 21:28-32
Wed. 12/15	Is 45:6b-8, 18, 21-25	/ Lk 7:18b-23
Thur. 12/16	Is 54:1-10	/ Lk 7:24-30
Fri. 12/17	Gn 49:2, 8-10	/ Mt 1:1-17
Sat. 12/18	Jer 23:5-8	/ Mt 1:18-25
Sun. 12/19	Mi 5:1-4a / Heb 10:510	/ Lk 1:39-45

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon. 12/13	8:30 a.m.	Our Lady's Intentions (Todd Beckes)
Tue. 12/14	8:30 a.m.	Dan Sweeney (Sandy Jordan)
Wed. 12/15	8:30 a.m.	Denny Smith (Janet Smith)
Thur. 12/16	8:30 a.m.	Jack Case (Family)
Fri. 12/17	8:30 a.m.	George Geisler
Sat. 12/18	8:30 a.m.	-NO MASS-
	6:00 p.m.	For the People of OLM
Sun. 12/19	8:30 a.m.	John Yochim (Ken & Pat Marshall)
	11:00 a.m.	Anthony Massaro (Joe & Laurie Mongillo)

THIS SUNDAY'S

REFLECTION

LUKE 3:10-18

All were asking in their hearts whether John might be
the Christ.

Water cleanses, but fire changes. The one purifies the surface; the other radically alters what it touches. John baptized with water for the forgiveness of sins and invited people to examine and change their behaviors; even sly tax collectors and hardened soldiers lined up at the Jordan to be cleansed.

Forgiveness, like water, cleanses us but doesn't necessarily change us at a deep level. "I am baptizing you with water," John says, "but one mightier than I is coming...He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit to do the things that Jesus did - serve others with love, even to the point of giving our lives.

John's baptism led people to alter their behaviors, but that was only the beginning. Jesus' baptism recreates us in his own image, so that with the help of the Spirit we can serve God like he did, from the depths of our very selves.

For Reflection: How has the fire of Jesus begun to transform my life?

David LeSieur

Would your child like to participate in a children's Christmas choir?

Patti Reavel, our music director, would like parents' feedback regarding their child's interest in participating in a Children's Christmas Choir which would sing at the children's Christmas Eve liturgy, **Friday, Dec. 24, 2021 at 6 p.m.** Rehearsals would be minimal. Patti is also looking for young instrumentalists that would like to play at any of the Christmas Masses. If you have an interested child, please contact Patti at 814-899-5342 preavel@gmail.com. Please include your child's age and the best contact email/phone.



Grade 9 & 10 Advent Day of Service



The youth of Our Lady of Mercy in 9th and 10th grade, will participate in an Advent Service Event **TODAY Sunday, December 12 from noon-2.** We will spend our time together, baking cookies and making cards for the homebound of OLM to enjoy this Advent and Christmas Season. Contact Katie at youthminister@ourladyofmercychurch.org for more information.

Donor Match Money for Our Lady of Mercy

For every new parishioner who signs up for recurring monthly offertory donations through Faith Direct Faith before **December 15th**, the Faith Direct Company will match that first gift, up to \$50 per parishioner. To be eligible for the matching gift, more than one installment must be set-up and the first recurring gift must be processed through Faith Direct by **December 31, 2021.**



Religious Education Fundraiser



Can you or your group donate a basket for the Feb. 6 religious education spaghetti dinner? Our Spaghetti Dinner will return in 2022 with dining in and dining out options. The gift basket auction raised about \$1,500 last time. If you can donate a gift basket, please bring it to the Faith Formation Office by **Jan. 30.**

Healing Ministry

We regret to say because of Covid we will not be having the Advent Healing Service. The Healing Ministry is available after the 8:30 Mass on the first and third Sunday of the month. Special requests may be made by calling the office.



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

Question-of-the-Week Winner for the week of Nov. 29 was **Amelia Bernatowicz, grade 5**, who knew that purple is the color the Church uses for Advent.

The Season of Advent

Reconciliation Service

Wednesday, December 15—4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

There will be three priests available

Because of the pandemic there will be no Advent Penance Celebration with our neighboring parishes

Book Group

On Dec. 15 at 6:30, we will gather at the home of Pat Marshall for a movie night. We will watch "Hamilton". We will begin the new year with a discussion of The Plot by Jean Hanff Korelitz. Unvaccinated members, PLEASE wear masks.



Holiday Grief



The Holidays usually bring joy but if this is the first Christmas without your loved one it can also bring sadness or pain. The topic for the next grief support group will be on managing the holidays when you really don't feel like celebrating. Join us **Monday, Dec 20 at 7 p.m.** in the parish parlor. We will have some suggestions that may help. Questions call Donna Clark in the parish office.

Smile for Our Lady of Mercy

To link to our Amazon Smile charity listing visit: <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/25-1563277>. If you shop Amazon please consider using Amazon Smile and naming "Our Lady of Mercy – Harborcreek" as your charity.



Celebrating the 75th Anniversary of Our Lady of Mercy Parish

Established during Msgr. Sperry's pastorate was the parish newsletter, "For Mercy's Sake," published first in February 1975 with Mary Grzegorzewski as its first editor. Ever since, it has chronicled the important events of an ever changing and growing parish community.





Social Justice

"Let us dream, then, as a single human family as fellow travelers sharing the same flesh, as children of the same earth which is our common home, each of us bringing the richness of his or her beliefs and convictions, each of us with his or her own voice_ brothers and sisters all"

("Fratelli 'Putt," No. 8).

Medical Equipment Needed

Chosen International Medical Assistance will take used medical equipment. The equipment is cleaned, refurbished, then given to those in need, both at home and abroad: Wheelchairs, walkers, transfer benches, shower chairs, canes, hospital beds, etc. They also collect diabetic supplies in their original packaging. Rolling walkers are in great demand. Questions about what is accepted contact jeff@chosenima.org or 833-3023. Bring to Chosen International located at 3638 West 26 St. 8am to 3pm M-F.



WAYS TO GIVE THIS SEASON

Operation Assisting Santa

If you picked a name from the Operation Assisting Santa table, please return the unwrapped gifts and the card with the child's name THIS WEEKEND December 11 and 12. If you Have any questions, please contact Janet Smith at 814-899-5495 or refereesmith@roadrunner.com Or Mochie Zielewski at 814-823-6505 or mzielewski999@hotmail.com

Food Pantry Book Drive

The Ella Cochran Food Pantry is looking for gently used children's books. Donations will be available to families during our Christmas distribution. Please place books in the book box in the Gathering Space. Thank you!



For the Religious Education Ministry

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2022

12:00 - 3:00 p.m.

- Spaghetti & Meatballs
- Refreshments
- Salad
- Italian Bread
- Cookies
- Chinese Auction

Sit down and take-out options are available

\$10 for Adults
\$5 for Children 10 and under

WE ARE REQUESTING DONATIONS OF GIFT BASKETS

PLEASE DROP OFF BASKETS TO THE FAITH FORMATION OFFICE NO LATER THAN JANUARY 30.

Synod: Key Term #2

What is synodality?

The Church has been holding synods since ancient times. While the concept of synodality is old, the word "synodality" is very new. It means the entire People of God assembling together, journeying together, and actively participating in the evangelizing mission of the Church. Pope Francis is calling us to recognize synodality as the way the entire Church operates. Everyone is involved, everyone contributes. In particular, it means listening to each other and not remaining oblivious in our own bubbles. Synodality is not only for internal affairs, but also manifests the Church's universal and missionary nature to the world. Hopefully this Synod on Synodality will help us to better understand and live out this emerging concept.

What is the Synod on Synodality?

Pope Francis has asked the entire world to participate in a synod on the topic "For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, Mission." The central question he asks of everyone is:

A synodal Church, in announcing the Gospel, "journeys together." How is this "journeying together" happening today in our diocese? What steps does the Spirit invite us to take in order to grow in our "journeying together"?

You may be invited to participate in listening sessions at your local parish, or you may wish to give your input online. Participation in a synod should always involve prayer, listening, discussion, and above all, discerning the way that the Holy Spirit is guiding us. Hopefully these questions and answers can help you as you prepare your input.

Room for wandering toddlers

We love to have children at Mass. However, when Toddlers start running or fidgeting and you want a contained space to let their energy flow but don't want to miss Mass then try our Toddler/Nursery room. Located in the classroom area just past the parish parlor (to the right as you come in the front doors.) This room has closed circuit TV of the church. There are rocking chairs for nursing mothers and toys to occupy a little one. Best of all . . . you can close the door.



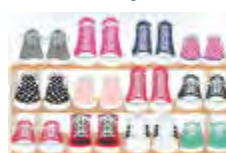
First Aid Kits in Church

When there is a need the First Aid Kits at Our Lady of Mercy are located in the

- Conference Room in the cabinet above the microwave
- in the Usher's Room
- In the Sperry Hall Kitchen over the ice machine
- There is an Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) machine in the Hall opposite the women's restroom.

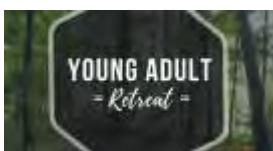


Too Many Shoes?



Chosen International Medical Assistance will take gently worn, new or used shoes. They work with funds2orgs to raise money. The shoes are given to help create micro-enterprise opportunities for

low-income entrepreneurs in developing nations. This keeps the shoes out of the landfills as well. Bring them to Chosen International located at 3638 West 26 St. 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. M-F.



A Young Adult Retreat

Established for those who are 19 to 35 years old to bring God, Young People and their desires together. Held at the Villa Maria Education and

Spirituality Center from January 3 to 7, 2022. The cost is \$150 with scholarships available. To register contact Jillian jzaczuk@eriercd.org or go to <https://www.eriercd.org/youth/silentretreat.html>

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OUR LADY OF MERCY CATHOLIC CHURCH
Membership Form

Name _____

Address _____

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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.