

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



APRIL 17, 2022 - EASTER SUNDAY

THE WEEK AHEAD

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

Mon. 04/18	PARISH OFFICE CLOSED
	9:00 a.m. Quilters
	9:30 a.m. Steel Magnolias SCC
	1:00 p.m. Sisters of Scripture SCC
	6:30 p.m. Fireside Chatters SCC
	7:00 p.m. Grief Support Group
Tue. 04/19	1:00 p.m. Potter's Clay SCC
	2:00 p.m. Prayer Shawl
	6:30 p.m. Roman Candles SCC
Wed. 04/20	8:30 a.m. Food Pantry Distribution
	1:00 p.m. Diamonds in the Rough
	1:00 p.m. Legion of Mary
	7:00 p.m. OLM Book Group
Thur. 04/21	9:00 a.m. Painting Class
	4:00 p.m. Blood Drive
	6:00 p.m. Prayer Shawl
Fri. 04/22	
Sat. 04/23	8:45 a.m. First Eucharist Retreat
	4:30 p.m. Sacrament of Penance
Sun. 04/24	9:30 a.m. Gr. K-2 Religious Ed
	12:00 p.m. Gr. 7 & 8 Youth Event
	12:00 p.m. Sundae Sunday

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Offertory for the weekend of April 3, 2022

Envelopes sent:	357	
Envelopes returned:	68	\$ 5,314.00
Faith Direct Deposits:	138	\$ 3,602.58
Loose Change:		\$ 60.00
TOTAL OFFERTORY:		\$ 8,976.58

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Mon. 04/18	Acts 2:14,22-33	/ Mt 28:8-15
Tue. 04/19	Acts 2:36-41	/ Jn 20:11-18
Wed. 04/20	Acts 3:1-10	/ Lk 24:13-35
Thur. 04/21	Acts 3:11-26	/ Lk 24:35-48
Fri. 04/22	Acts 4:1-12	/ Jn 21:1-14
Sat. 04/23	Acts 4:13-21	/ Mk 16:9-15
Sun. 04/24	Acts 5:12-16 / Rv 1:9-19	/ Jn 20:19-31

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon. 04/18	8:30 a.m.	Barb Schlosser (Fireside Chatters SCC)
Tue. 04/19	8:30 a.m.	Millie Herrmann (Family)
Wed. 04/20	8:30 a.m.	Lewis Peters (Carole Peters)
Thur. 04/21	8:30 a.m.	Sam Garwig (Liana Wathen)
Fri. 04/22	8:30 a.m.	Paul Moran (The Nagosky's)
Sat. 04/23	6:00 p.m.	For the People of OLM
Sun. 04/24	8:30 a.m.	Carl Nagorski (Joe & Rose Tarquinio)
	11:00 a.m.	Linda June Kobielski (Mary Ida Eastman)

We Remember... *In Loving Memory*

Peter Jacquel, son of Dave & Peggy Jacquel & Michael Ricci, nephew of Char DeDionisio; who passed away recently.

Please hold them and their family in prayer during this difficult time.

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

JOHN 20:1-9

So she ran and went to Simon Peter and to the other disciple whom Jesus Loved...

It was love that drew this beautiful disciple of Jesus to the tomb on that first Easter morning. Standing in pre-dawn darkness, what must have been her thoughts as she discovered the stone removed?

Something turned over in her heart and then the running began. She ran to tell Peter and John. Peter ran. John ran. They ran because of love, fear, wonder, amazement, faith and uncertainty. Christians have been running ever since that glorious morning.

We have been running with the torch of our lives - bearing witness to the risen Christ, telling the unbelievable news of One for whom death had no power. We have been rolling away stones that are obstacles to living the Christian life. One this Easter look gently into your heart.

Prayerfully discern what blocks the risen life. What detains you from being another Christ in our world? What obstacles keep you from being your best self? What stones need to be rolled away from the door of your life? It is time to rise and run with the gospel of resurrection.

Reflection: What blocks my rising and my running?
Macrina Wiederkehr, O.S.B.



Grief Support Group

Monday April 18 at 7 p.m. in the parish parlor the Grief Support Groups will meet for prayer and discussion about how journeying through grief can seem like a roller coaster. Sometimes just listening to another's story can help us to heal. Questions call Donna Clark in the parish office.



Book Group



Join us at 7:00 p.m. on April 20 at the home of Donna Huff to discuss The Elephant Whisperer by Lawrence Anthony. Our May title will be Then She Was Gone by Lisa Jewell.

Sundae Sunday

Let's celebrate! God's blessings are beyond compare. Easter joy has filled our hearts. Our young people have spent a year of fun and faith growing as the disciples of Jesus. Join us for a celebration of God's amazing gifts on **Sunday, April 24 at noon** in Sperry Hall with a sundae bar and cake walk. We are looking for people to donate cakes for the cake walk. If you are willing to bake, please sign the list in the Gathering Space or email ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org.



For Mercy Sake Mailing Party

We will be folding newsletters and stuffing envelopes at 9:00 a.m. **Monday, May 9.** If you can lend a hand, contact Irene Lucas at ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org or 814-899-6132.

Save the Date: Knights of Columbus Golf and Sports Raffle

The Knights of Columbus will once again host their annual Golf and Sports Raffle Casino Night at Our Lady of Mercy on **Friday, May 13, 2022.** Tickets are \$10 each or 3 for \$25 and include food and refreshments. All tickets are eligible for all drawings, need not be present to win. Cash prizes will be awarded for those in attendance. Proceeds from this event will benefit youth activities at Our Lady of Mercy. For a list of prizes, please see the flyer on the bulletin boards in the Gathering Space. Tickets and posters are available in the Parish Office Monday-Friday from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.



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 April 5 was Natalie Bish, grade 3, who knew that the Triduum is made up of Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday.

Pastoral Council and Visioning Process – Join Us!

The Pastoral Council is one of the key groups involved in visioning for the parish. We want to add new members who will help with this process. To get more information about Pastoral Council and our visioning process contact Donna Clark. You will be invited to attend an informational session then take some time to discern what God is calling you to. We are looking for people who desire to go deeper in their walk with Christ, to discern how we create an environment for discipleship and how to meet people where they are and walk with them on the journey to discipleship.



Update Census Forms

We are updating our parish information. If you did not review your census form when you had your picture taken, then look for your form in the gathering space. If you would like your form mailed to you, please contact the parish office.



Need a Easter commitment?

Why not commit to attending Women's Cursillo #258? It will be held at Our Lady of Mercy on **April 29th - May 1st.** Applications can be filled out on the ericursillo.org website. The site can also answer any questions you might have. You must show proof of vaccination to attend or work the Cursillo. A list of candidates can also be found on the website. Questions, call Lois Heise at 814-882-9555. Pray and listen for God calling you!



Celebrating the 75th Anniversary of Our Lady of Mercy Parish
Construction of the new church building began and continued through the spring, summer and fall of 1999.



**JOB OPENING FOR
PART-TIME
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC
MINISTRIES**



Our Lady of Mercy Parish is seeking a director of music ministries who will be actively engaged in the worship life of the parish and support the song of the assembly at weekend and special liturgies. Candidates must possess a bachelor's degree in music or equivalent experience and have knowledge and understanding of Catholic liturgy. Additional requirements include the ability to plan liturgies, excellent organizational and communication skills, and adaptability. For a pastoral musician with additional skills, this part-time music director position can be expanded to full-time coordinator of liturgical ministries. Applicants should send a cover letter and resume to info@ourladyofmercychurch.org. For more information and a complete job description, contact the parish at 814-899-5342. To learn more about Our Lady of Mercy Parish, go to www.ourladyofmercychurch.org.

OUR LADY OF FATIMA

On May 13, we celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Fatima, looking to the Blessed Mother for peace and comfort in times of uncertainty.

Prayer to Our Lady of Fatima

Mother of all individuals and peoples,
you know all their sufferings and hopes.
In your motherly heart you feel all the struggles
between good and evil,
between light and darkness,
that convulse the world:
accept the plea which we make
in the Holy Spirit directly to your heart,
and embrace with the love of the Mother
and Handmaid of the Lord
those who most await this embrace,
and also those whose act of entrustment
you too await in a particular way.
Take under your motherly protection
the whole human family,
which with affectionate love
we entrust to you, O Mother.
May there dawn for everyone
the time of peace and freedom,
the time of truth, of justice and of hope.

**GOOD NEWS - SUMMERFEST
IS BACK IN FULL SWING!**

**Save the Date! July 10,
noon to 5**



NEW OUTSIDE ACTIVITIES!

We would like to have a CHILDREN'S AREA outside to keep the kids busy while their parents on busy elsewhere. These children would be supervised and safe while playing their games. Can you give us suggestions of games or ideas that would keep kids busy? We are considering a CORN HOLE TOURNAMENT! How about a BADMINTON TOURNAMENT, or CROQUET TOURNAMENT? Would you be interested in something like this? We will have extra volunteers on hand to take your place if you are volunteering in another area of the Festival to free up time for you to participate in the tournaments. We are currently in the process of calling Coordinators for each activity. If you haven't heard from us or have any questions, please call or text Karen Sweeney 814-323-1890!



SAVE THE DATE

Our Lady of Mercy has a reason to celebrate. Someone we love is turning 80 before the month ends. And we want to make his birthday as joyful as possible. Mark your calendar for Saturday evening, **May 7**. Join us for the 6:00 Mass followed by a birthday reception for Fr. Ritchie in Sperry Hall. Bring a finger food to share. All are welcome.



Child Abuse Prevention Month

Recent statistics tell us one out of every four girls and one out of every 6 boys are sexually abused before they turn 18. 91% of sexual abuse is perpetrated by someone the child or the child's family knows. This means that on every Sunday in our congregation there are people who have been abused and may continue to experience the pain of that abuse. Reaching out to all victims/survivors of abuse is critical in bringing hope and the love of Christ to them. Counseling assistance for victims/survivors of clergy sexual abuse is available by contacting the Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator, Dr. Gerard Tobin at 814-451-1521.



Pastoral Council Visioning Weekend Talk

March 26/27 2022 by Donna Clark

Over the last two years it seemed that things around us were shifting constantly – every day we embraced change. I don't know about you, but at times, I felt lost.

Last summer the staff started to explore a visioning process for our parish and with the approval of the pastoral council, we are moving ahead with the visioning process to propel us into a future full of hope.

On our Feast Day in September Fr. Ritchie talked about the need for a vision for our parish. At the start of the synod, Deacon Paul mentioned the opportunity for us to reflect and give feedback that we can use as part of our visioning process.

So now we move forward, not simply for the sake of movement, but toward a common vision that unites us in God's love. Let's tether ourselves to Christ. Let's re-affirm Jesus' call to be disciples.

Help create a vision that will change the culture of Our Lady of Mercy to embrace our full potential as the Body of Christ – as a community of disciples, engaged in prayer, in service and in building a community of peace so we can bring God's healing love to all.

The pastoral council is one of the key groups involved in crafting this vision for our parish.

- If you have a burning in your heart for more, to go deeper in your relationship with Christ, then consider joining the council.

- If you want to help identify elements to enable us to grow in discipleship, then consider joining the council.
- If you want to find and help heal our brothers and sisters with spiritual wounds, then please consider joining the council.

No one need feel lost if we can all look toward a common vision and help each other get there.

The next step would be to come to one of the informational sessions about Council and the visioning process. Coming to the informational session is part of the discernment process – If you are the least bit curious, I encourage you to come to the information session. Then we encourage you to take some time to discern what God is calling you to. Attending the information session does not mean that you must join the council.

To sign up or for more information please contact Donna Clark in the parish office. 814-899-5342 or dclark@ourladyofmercychurch.org

Sessions are set for: **Monday, April 25 at 7pm or Wednesday, April 27 at 4pm.** Other times can be arranged.

Although the body has many members, each of them has a part to play in the whole.

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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.