

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.

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*

Linda Peters, *Director of Music*

Matthew Clark, *Director of Liturgy*

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

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.

Prayer to the Holy Spirit

Holy Spirit, Breath of the Creator,
as advocate whom the Father sent,
fall afresh with the sparks of faith
on this community.

Ignite our hearts to give bold witness of your love;
creating a culture of belonging.

Open our eyes to the present,
enable us to see your vision for our future;
showing us the way to go.

Give us the wisdom to wait for you
as we trust you to teach us and guide us.

May we be filled with passion and desire
to intentionally and eagerly journey
the path you have laid out for us.

Amen

SEPTEMBER 18, 2022 - THE 25TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

THE WEEK AHEAD

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

Mon. 09/19	10:00 a.m.	Sisters of Scripture SCC
	6:30 p.m.	Fireside Chatters SCC
	7:00 p.m.	Grief Support Group
Tue. 09/20	1:00 p.m.	Potter's Clay SCC
	2:00 p.m.	Prayer Shawl
	4:00 p.m.	Religious Ed Gr 3-6
	7:00 p.m.	Lifelong Faith Formation
Wed. 09/21	8:30 a.m.	Food Pantry Distribution
	9:00 a.m.	Painting Group
	1:00 p.m.	Diamonds in the Rough SCC
	7:00 p.m.	Book Group
Thur. 09/22	12:00 p.m.	Jesus Today Prayer
	6:00 p.m.	Prayer Shawl
Fri. 09/23		
Sat. 09/24		
Sun. 09/25	10:30 a.m.	Feast Day Mass
	12:00 p.m.	Gr. 7 & 8 Youth Event

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Offertory for the weekend of September 12, 2022

Envelopes sent:	357	
Envelopes returned:	73	\$ 2,442.10
Faith Direct Deposits:	140	\$ 3,813.70
Loose Change:		\$ 30.00
TOTAL OFFERTORY:		\$ 6,285.80

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 INTENTION UPDATE

We are unable to schedule new Mass Intentions at this time. Due to the limited weekday Mass schedule, the rescheduling of missed Mass Intentions will take top priority. We thank you for your patience and understanding.

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon. 09/19	8:30 a.m.	Dr. Loren Prichard (Janet Smith)
Tue. 09/20	8:30 a.m.	NO MASS
Wed. 09/21	8:30 a.m.	NO MASS
		- COMMUNION SERVICE
Thur. 09/22	8:30 a.m.	NO MASS
Fri. 09/23	8:30 a.m.	NO MASS
		- COMMUNION SERVICE
Sat. 09/24	6:00 p.m.	NO MASS
Sun. 09/25	10:30 a.m.	For the People of OLM



Feast Day of
Our Lady of Ransom
(Our Lady of Mercy)

September 25

Feast Day Mass

Sunday September 25 @ 10:30 a.m.

(this will be our ONLY MASS next weekend)

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Mon. 09/19	Prv 3:27-34	/ Lk 8:16-18
Tue. 09/20	Prv 21:1-6, 10-13	/ Lk 8:19-21
Wed. 09/21	Eph 4:1-7, 11-13	/ Mt 9:9-13
Thur. 09/22	Eccl 1:2-11	/ Lk 9:7-9
Fri. 09/23	Eccl 3:1-11	/ Lk 9:18-22
Sat. 09/24	Eccl 11:9-12:8	/ Lk 9:43b-45
Sun. 09/25	Jer 29:8-14 / Rom 12:1-2	/ Lk 1:45-55

THIS SUNDAY'S REFLECTION

LUKE 16:1-13

"For the children of this world are more prudent in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light."

These words offer a clue as to why Jesus might tell a parable in which dishonesty seems to be praised. Examining this story more closely we see that it is not so much his employee's deceit that the wealthy landowner is intrigued by as it is the creativity and resourcefulness used to deal with the crisis that has befallen him. Thus the scoundrel in this parable is held up to us as a model.

As followers of Jesus we are challenged to seek out the creativity and vision needed for the work of increasing our spiritual treasures. If only we children of light would burn up as much energy in storing up treasures that will not rust or fade as we do in seeking out earthly treasures, how different our lives might be! An excessive concern over money can provoke our propensity toward greed. All of this has the tendency to crowd out the deepest desire of our heart which is our need for the love of God to be primary in our lives.

For Reflection: How can I be a more faithful steward of my spiritual wealth?

Macrina Wiederkehr, O.S.B.



Grief Support Group

The grief support group meets Sept 19 at 7 p.m. in the parish parlor (the **third Monday of the month**). Many in grief have commented that it feels like they are going crazy. They don't talk about it because they think it is just them. But when they have an opportunity to share, they realize that it is a common experience and they are relieved to learn they are not alone. Questions or need to talk to someone privately please call Donna in the parish office.



Book Group



Join us on **September 21** to discuss We Begin At The End by Chris Whitaker At the home of Donna Huff, 4517 N. Woods Dr. Our October title will be Thicker Than Water by Tyler Schultz.

Do you know a lot of people in the parish?

We are looking for help doing one of the tasks that Fr Ritchie always did. We need someone to read through the obituaries so we can identify parishioners who have lost a family member. This was one of Fr Ritchie's passions and it helped that he knew everyone. If you think you can help us with this task please contact Donna in the parish office.



Parent Baptismal Prep Session

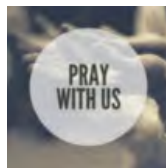


Parent Baptismal Prep Session: It is an awesome responsibility and amazing privilege to bring your child to the waters of Baptism. Parents who wish to schedule the Sacrament of Baptism

for their child are asked to prepare for this new life of grace by attending a preparation session. These sessions are held twice a year at OLM. Our next session will take place on **Sunday, Oct. 2 at noon**. Registration prior to the session is required. Register by calling the parish office at **814-899-5342** between 9:00-3:00. Another session will not be held until 2023.

No New News

We anxiously await the appointment of a new pastor for our community, and it is hard not to speculate who the Priest Personnel Board will choose for us, throwing out a name or a wish as we chat among ourselves. The Personnel Board asked us to be patient with the process and give them until the end of September to find the best fit for us. There have been no official leaks – if you hear a rumor, please ask the staff. Until then let us continue to be the loving caring community that Fr. Sperry and Fr. Ritchie raised us to be. *Perhaps we could all pray the prayer to the Holy Spirit that the Pastoral Council composed for our visioning process.*



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 September 6 was **Landon Stephenson, grade 4**, who knew that Adam and Eve were the first people God made.

Cantors Needed for Music Ministry

Linda Peters, our new music director wants to extend a warm welcome to all current cantors, and invite anyone that has previously considered being a cantor to give it a try this year! We need you! Please don't hesitate – Linda will make sure you're comfortable with what you need to do. She can be contacted at **607-731-5908**, or you can email her at: lspeters001@gmail.com.



The Healing Ministry



The healing ministry will be available after the **8:30 Mass on the first and third Sundays** of the month. For other requests, please call the office.

An Invitation to Explore the Catholic Faith

Some days, the world feels as if it is spinning out of control. Natural disasters, international crisis, political discord, economic uncertainty, ecological threat, we often find ourselves grasping for an anchor to steady our lives. God is the one anchor that remains sure and stable, no matter what troubles shake the ground under our feet. A relationship with God, our Creator, our Savior, our Advocate lived in the supportive arms of the Church family and nourished by the grace of the sacraments can help us live with peace and joy no matter what life throws at us. Would you like to learn more about the Catholic faith? Have you toyed with the idea of being baptized? Would you like to explore your questions about what life as a Catholic Christian would mean? If you would like to start a conversation or learn more about the process of preparing to join the Catholic faith, contact Irene Lucas at ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org or **814-899-6132**.



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.



FEAST OF OUR LADY OF MERCY September 25, 2022

A time to celebrate being the faith community of Our Lady of Mercy.

OUR FEAST DAY MASS is at 10:30 a.m.

Followed by a pot luck meal in Sperry Hall.

Please bring a dish to share for the luncheon according to your last name:

A-G Salad or Appetizer

H-O Dessert or Snack

P-Z Casserole or Fruit

Gluten-free items are welcome.



“Our Mother Mary”

By: MaryAnn McQuiston

Jesus, came to be
a baby, born to Mary.
And on this day,
we celebrate her as our Mother;
for there is no other...
woman above all,
for she answered God’s call,
to be one with Him in piety and love,
for she was sent from heaven above.

God loved her into being,
and she provided him,
His life, amid the strife,
to save us all in every way,
as she lights the way,
to our salvation,
starting at the time of her creation.

She lived her life with joy and bliss,
as if touched by an angel’s kiss.
She knew she could cope,
for she lived with faith and hope.

In her life,
the Holy Spirit came down to comfort
and console,
making her feel loved and whole
deep within her soul.

And so, we thank you,
dear Mary,
most pure, for your fidelity to endure.
For there is no one like you
our friend who is ever true.



What Is Liturgy?

What is liturgy? One simple answer is that it is the Eucharist, the Mass, that we celebrate every Sunday. But liturgy is more than Mass. It includes the Sacraments, Morning and Evening prayer— what the Church calls the Liturgy of the Hours— and more. So, how do we recognize liturgy and distinguish it from other prayers and devotions?

The ancient church called liturgy, “the work of the people” stemming from an understanding of a corporate work, like building an amphitheater, something that was done as a community. How do you see our Sunday liturgy? What is the work being done and who is doing it?

For a moment, think about what happens in the first half of a Sunday Mass. We gather. We sing a song. We say the Sign of the Cross together. The presider proclaims an opening prayer. Then the lector proclaims an Old Testament Scripture; we sing a psalm; the lector reads a New Testament Scripture. We sing an alleluia; the priest or deacon proclaims the Gospel; A homily is given and the words of Scripture are broken open for us.

Gabe Huck, a noted liturgical writer, once said that three related elements describe liturgy: Ritual, Prayer, and Community. Let’s look for them in this overview of the beginning of Mass.

In Mass, we see a Ritual structure, a predictable form, repeated each week. We know it. In it are embedded prayers, such as, the Opening prayer or Collect, the Penitential Rite prayer and the Glory to God. After the homily these are followed by our common prayer of belief, the Creed, and then our prayers of intercession. When the community engages in

these ritual actions by singing, praying with the presider and responding to the other prayers, we have a liturgy, that is, a community engaged in common prayer and ritual.

But there is more to liturgy than we see at Mass. Its preparation involves many people. For instance, greeters/ushers welcome all and help those in need to access the gathering space and the worship space. These spaces are

attractively prepared by an environment group for each liturgical season, e.g. Lent, Easter, Ordinary Time, to further welcome the community. Presiders and deacons prepare homilies and intercessions; Musicians select music appropriate to the readings and the seasons. Readers, choirs and cantors practice and prepare to proclaim their part.

The familiar phrase “It takes a village” works for us as an analogy for liturgy. Liturgy requires a village: the engaged assembly, the

readers, the presider, the greeters, the cantor, the environment ministers, the servers, the musicians. All are necessary for liturgy to happen the way it is meant to.

Seeking harmony and excellence among the various ministries undertaken by the community as part of the “big picture” of liturgy, requires still others, often a liturgy committee or a liturgist who seek to coordinate these various elements as the church moves through the liturgical year.

Now, think for a moment about the last liturgy you attended. How did it go? Did you participate? What role did you assume?



America Magazine

Matthew Clark
Liturgy Director

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OUR LADY OF MERCY CATHOLIC CHURCH
Membership Form

Name _____

Address _____

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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.