Our Lady of Mercy Church

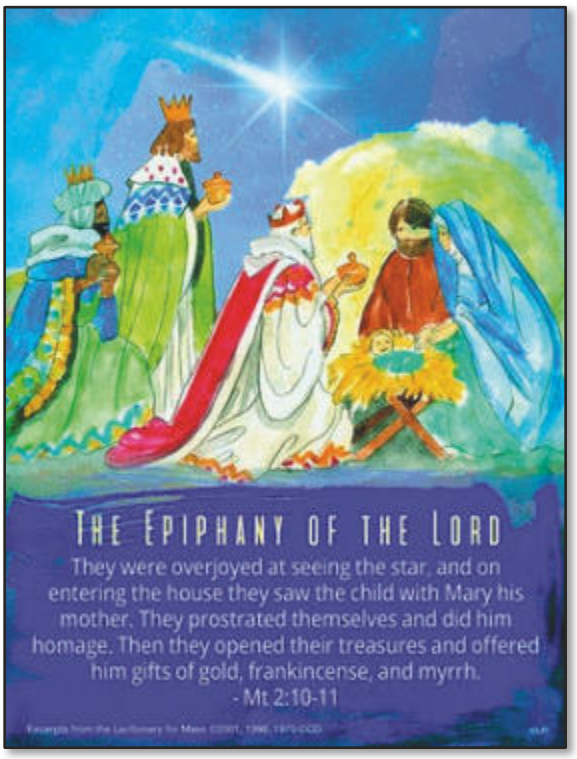
837 Bartlett Road • Harborcreek, PA 16421 • www.ourladyofmercychurch.org

January 3rd, 2021 - The Epiphany of the Lord

Mass Schedule

Weekday and Weekend Mass has resumed with the following schedule and covid-19 protocols in place:

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*
Donna Clark, *Pastoral Minister*
Irene Lucas, *Director of Lifelong Faith Formation*
Brandon Vogt, *Director of Liturgy & Music*
Katie Stephenson, *Administrative Assistant*
Sarah Phipps, *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

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.

The Week Ahead

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

Mon.	01/04	9:00 a.m.	Quilters
		9:30 a.m.	Steel Magnolias SCC
Tue.	01/05	12:00 p.m.	HOPE: Restoring the Heart
		2:00 p.m.	Prayer Shawl
		3:00 p.m.	Grief Support Group
		7:00 p.m.	Pastoral Council
Wed.	01/06	1:00 p.m.	Diamonds in the Rough SCC
		2:00 p.m.	Social Justice Committee - Zoom
Thur.	01/07	9:00 p.m.	Painting Class
		6:00 p.m.	Prayer Shawl
Fri.	01/08		
Sat.	01/09	9:00 a.m.	Angels In Training SCC
		4:30 p.m.	Sacrament of Penance
Sun.	01/10	9:45 a.m.	Religious Ed Gr. K-8

Scripture Readings

Mon.	01/04	1 Jn 3:22-4:6	/ Mt 4:12-17, 23-25
Tue.	01/05	1 Jn 4:7-10	/ Mk 6:34-44
Wed.	01/06	1 Jn 4:11-18	/ Mk 6:45-52
Thur.	01/07	1 Jn 4:19-5:4	/ Lk 4:14-22
Fri.	01/08	1 Jn 5:5-13	/ Lk 5:12-16
Sat.	01/09	1 Jn 5:14-21	/ Jn 3:22-30
Sun.	01/10	Is 55:1-11 / 1 Jn 5:1-9 / Mk 1:7-11	

Be Alert!
It has been brought to our attention that Parishioners have received emails and text messages from someone claiming to be Fr. Ritchie. This is just a reminder that Fr. Ritchie will never solicit through email or text. Please delete the message ASAP.

Prayer Line

9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
Call **Donna Smicker** at 899-9108
4:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.
Call **Gerri Extein** at 490-9681

Mass Intentions

Mon.	01/04	8:30 a.m.	**Steve Lion**
Tue.	01/05	8:30 a.m.	**Scott Emling** (Gerry & Carol Stauffer)
Wed.	01/06	8:30 a.m.	**Frank Antalek**
Thur.	01/07	8:30 a.m.	**Don McCurdy** (Bob Meister)
Fri.	01/08	8:30 a.m.	**Frances Somolani** (Morning Mass Group)
Sat.	01/09	8:30 a.m.	-No Mass-
		6:00 p.m.	**Joseph Seyboldt** (Marilyn Rinke)
Sun.	01/10	8:30 a.m.	**Francis Ritchie**
		11:00 a.m.	**For the People of OLM**

Financial Support

Offertory for the weekend of December 6, 2020

Envelopes sent:	392	
Envelopes returned:	68	$5,828.00
Faith Direct Deposits:	132	$3,447.70
Loose Change:		$ 50.00
TOTAL OFFERTORY:		$9,310.70

We Remember…

Leo Kosobucki,
and **Sean Victory**
- uncle of Bailey Haislip,
who passed away recently.

In Loving Memory

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

This Sunday's Reflection

Matthew 2:1-12

"Go and search diligently for the child."

King Herod's search for the "newborn king of the Jews" fills readers with dread; we know the plans Herod has for this child who might someday threaten his power. And yet Herod's words contain great wisdom. We too are called to make a diligent search for Jesus.

Diligence is characterized by a steady effort, an unwavering spirit, and an ability to focus on the object of our desire. It's not that Jesus is so hard to find - he's right in our midst. That's the lesson of the Incarnation. Diligence is needed because we can so easily be distracted and lose our way.

When we search diligently for the child Jesus, we discover at the same time the immensity of God's loving desire to be one with us. We encounter not only a babe in swaddling clothes, but in the manger we find all the hopes and dreams of humanity and we are invited to bow low in awe - in awe of what Jesus reveals to us about God and in awe of what Jesus reveals to us about our own human nature.

Like the Magi who are filled with anticipation, our search is one of longing. Like the Magi, our search will lead to joy.

For Reflection: When has my search for Jesus let me to a greater realization of God's own desires for my life?

Cackie Upchurch

Hope – Restoring the Heart

The next session is **Tuesday, Jan. 5 at noon.** These sessions are for anyone feeling stress, fear or anxiety. Sometimes it is difficult to pray and it appears as though we are losing hope. If you are in need of a spiritual boost please join us for an opportunity to share stories of hope and healing. You can also attend this meeting by zoom or by phone. To obtain the Zoom meeting ID and passcode or phone number to call please contact Donna Clark in the parish office or check the parish website. We are encouraging people to stay safe. We are taking precautions and following the county health department guidelines. If you would like to participate but don't feel comfortable, please **call Donna** in the parish office for other arrangements. One on one sessions are also available.

Daytime Grief Support Group

Meets on **Tuesday, Jan. 5 at 3:00 p.m.** (the First Tuesday of the month). This support group gives people the opportunity to share the challenges one faces after losing a loved one and to learn from others how to cope with those challenges and emotions. Unexpected things come up and often those who have been through the process can best understand and offer support, prayers and practical suggestions. This meeting will also be available to you by phone or video on Zoom. **Call Donna Clark** in the parish office or email dclark@ourladyofmercychurch.org to obtain the Zoom information. If you are uncomfortable with Zoom please contact Donna for other arrangements.

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline to submit items for the February issue of *For Mercy Sake* is **Jan. 17**. Send items to ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org.

OLM Book Group

In January, we will discuss The Hummingbird's Daughter by Luis Alberto Urrea.

Help for Heating – LIHEAP

The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) was open to help alleviate heating bill stress on low income families. A family of four with a gross annual income of $39,300, qualifies for a grant. To find out if you qualify based on your household size and income, how to apply and what you need to apply, see the bulletin boards in the Gathering Space.

FORMED.ORG

If you are new to the parish subscription, 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.

Formed.org has been a great resource for our family. Not only has it helped me explore my faith, but there are great videos for the kids to watch and learn!

Vickie Gilcrist

Sunday Morning *C*A*F*E*

Join us for our first Sunday Morning CAFÉ of 2021 on **Sunday, Jan. 17 at 9:45 a.m.** in the Worship Space and live streamed. Lori Palisin, the Executive Director of Safe Journey (and the daughter-in-law of Tom and Barbara Palisin) will present *Communities Against Domestic Violence: You Can Make a Difference.* Victims of domestic violence are in our communities; they are among our co-workers, our neighbors, our family, our parish. But too often, we are unaware of their situation because they suffer in silence. Lori Palisin will help us understand the many forms domestic violence takes, the signs by which we can recognize domestic violence and the ways we can help those we encounter who are struggling. Lori Palisin has served victims of domestic violence for 24 years, providing resources, support, advocacy and education.

Child Protection and Creating Safe Environments

January is Human Trafficking Prevention Month

Who are the perpetrators? Traffickers can be anyone who profits from the selling of a child for sex to a buyer, including family members, foster parents, friends, gangs, trusted adults, or "boyfriends." Much of the trafficking of children has moved from street corners and truck stops to the internet where children are sold for sex. Online classified sites allow traffickers and buyers anonymity and accessibility when exploiting children. In some case, there is no identified trafficker, and it is the person buying sex from the child who is exploiting the child's vulnerabilities. A child cannot consent to being bought and sold for sex, and anyone purchasing sex from a child is committing a serious crime. If you suspect a case of Child Sex Trafficking you can call **1-800-THE-LOST** or make a report at www.CyberTipline.org .

Visit https://www.eriercd.org/childprotection/ *to see what the diocese is doing to help maintain safe environments for children and youth.*

Sunday, January 31

for the Religious Education Ministry

POSTPONED!

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we have made the difficult decision to postpone the spaghetti dinner fundraiser until further notice. We feel this is in the best interest of our parishioners. Thank you for your continued support of the Religious Ed. Ministry.

Catholicism:

A Journey Through the Mystery and Majesty of the Church

This is a 10-part series

Journey around the world and deep into the Faith.
In breathtaking, high-definition cinematography, the beauty, goodness and truth of the Catholic Faith are illustrated in a rich, multimedia experience.
Journey with acclaimed author, speaker and theologian Bishop Robert Barron to more than 50 locations throughout 15 countries. Be illuminated by the spiritual and artistic treasures of this global culture that claims more than one billion of the earth's people.
From the sacred lands of Israel to the beating heart of Uganda... from the glorious shrines of Italy, France, and Spain, to the streets of Mexico, Kolkata, and New York City, the fullness of CATHOLICISM is revealed.
Journey deep into the Faith as you watch each episode.
Mike Leonard, a veteran NBC Today Show correspondent and acclaimed filmmaker, is the Executive Producer of this groundbreaking series.

Each week will include a video followed by an opportunity for discussion.
Due to COVID, this program will be provided via Zoom.

When:Monday @ 7:00 PM beginning Jan. 11
OR Tuesday @ 11:00 AM beginning Jan. 12

Contact ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org for the Zoom link
Participants do not need to be present for every week of the series.

FORMED®

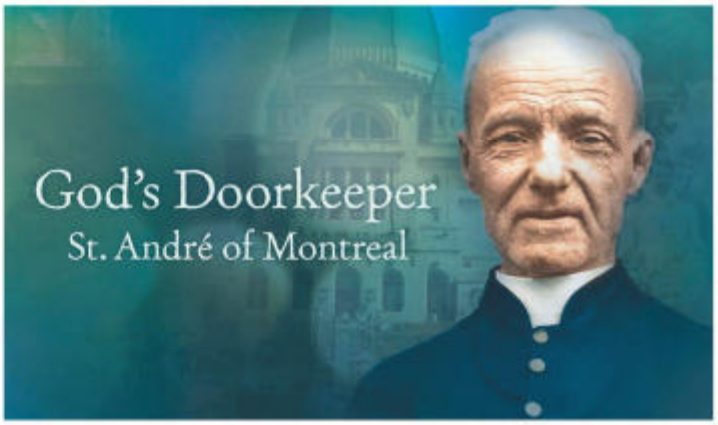
PICK OF THE WEEK

January 3, 2021

WATCH

GOD'S DOORKEEPER: ST. ANDRÉ OF MONTREAL

This week, we celebrate the memorial of a humble doorkeeper, St. André of Montreal. Learn how this man became a great saint through his small acts of love!



LEARN

FORMED NOW! HOW TO PRAY

Whether you are a veteran in the spiritual life or are just beginning, start this year off right by recommitting yourself to prayer! Join Drs. Tim Gray and Elizabeth Klein as they discuss ways to kickstart your prayer life this year!

LISTEN

PREPARE THE WAY OF THE KING BY DR. SCOTT HAHN

As we celebrate the Epiphany, Dr. Scott Hahn explains how we should understand the three Magi and their gifts to the Lord!

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