



Are you looking for a prayerful, welcoming and nurturing place
to call your spiritual home?

You are always welcome here!

May the presence of Christ enlighten you, enliven you,
and bless you this Christmas and always.

Merry Christmas!



Our Lady of Mercy - Christmas 2019

837 Bartlett Road • Harborcreek, PA 16421
www.ourladyofmercychurch.org • 814-899-5342



The Three Kings looked for the Messiah. What is it you are looking for? Come and see...

Looking for God?

See:

“Awaken Your Faith” on page 5.
Come and see...

Looking for Peace & Healing?

Check out:

“Healing the Faith Journey” page 3
“Healing Ministry” page 5
“Confidential Conversation” page 5
“Prayer Shawl Ministry” page 5
Come and see...

Looking for Personal Spiritual Growth?

Try:

“Formed.org” page 6
“SCC” page 8
Come and see...

Looking for Spiritual Conversion?

Go find:

“Parish Alive Retreat” page 7
Come and see...

Looking for Family Support?

Take a look at:

“Let the Little Children Come to Me”
page 4
“Family Movie Night” page 4
Come and see...

Looking for Community?

Join us for:

“Epiphany Concert” page 3
“Mardi Gras Celebration” page 6
“Spaghetti Dinner” page 6
Come and see...

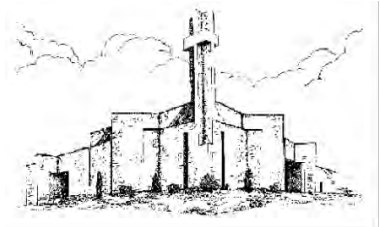
Do you have questions about our...

- Parish
- Activities/Ministries
- Prayer groups
- Would you like a tour of the church?

Please contact one of our Welcome Ministry members:
Linda Kaleta – 814-440-6294, lkaleta75@gmail.com
Chris Morealli – 814-397-5530, Chrismorealli@aol.com
Mary Beth Smith – 814-823-3637, Mbsmith25@hotmail.com

Contact Information

Parish Office: 814-899-5342
Office of Lifelong Faith Formation: 814-899-6132
Fax: 814-898-3306
Email: info@ourladyofmercychurch.org



www.ourladyofmercychurch.org find us on Facebook: [@ourladyofmercyharborcreek](https://www.facebook.com/ourladyofmercyharborcreek)

Healing the Faith Journey -Monday February 10 at 7pm

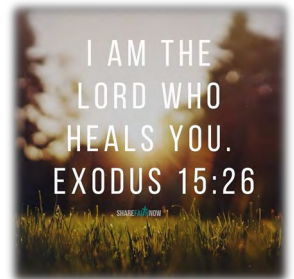
How do we move –

- from fear of God to an experience of God's Love
- from anger and resentment to pardon and compassion
- from hurt because of abuse to forgiveness
- from painful memories to peace of mind

Our life journey can be full of mountains & valleys, twists & turns that sometimes cause us anger, frustration and pain.

How do we get back on track, moving towards love instead of away from it?

This session will allow us to process our hurts in a prayerful environment and take a step towards healing and forgiveness. **Questions Call Donna Clark, Pastoral Minister 899-5342.**



The Music Ministry of Our Lady of Mercy
presents the 2020

Epiphany Concert

SUNDAY, JANUARY 5 AT 3:00 P.M.

Join the combined adult choirs, children's choir,
and instrumentalists as we sing and celebrate the sounds of the Christmas season.
A light social will follow.

**OUR LADY OF MERCY CHURCH
837 BARTLETT ROAD
HARBORCREEK, PA 16421**

“Let the Little Children Come to Me”

As parents, we invite you to relax.

God put the wiggle in your children. Don't feel you have to suppress it in God's house.

All are welcome!

Sit toward the front where it is easier for your little ones to see and hear what is going on at Mass. They tire of seeing the backs of others. Pick up a children's Mass book at the display in the Gathering Space and follow along with your child—teaching them the responses and the parts of the Mass.

We also offer Children's Liturgy of the Word at the 11 AM Mass.

Help them find the songs and prayers in the hymnals or booklets. Sing the songs, participate in the liturgy, and pray!

Children learn about worship and liturgical behavior by copying you.

If you have to leave Mass with your child, feel free to do so, **but please come back.** As Jesus said, “Let the children come to me.”

Remember that the way we welcome children in the church directly affects the way they respond to the church, to God, and to one another. Let them know that they are at home in His house of worship.

The nursery is available when you need a space with a door. It has closed circuit TV, rockers, a playpen, a changing station and toys. It is located in the classroom area off the Gathering Space.

As you leave take a Children's Worship bulletin off the bulletin table. The activities will help young children think about the Gospel all week.



Our Lady of Mercy Presents... Family Movie Night

Saturday February 8th, 2020

One Showing Only!

7:00 p.m. in the Large Classroom

Popcorn provided!

Bring a comfy blanket, pillow or chair to sit in!

Stay tuned to the bulletin for further details!

What You Always Wanted to Know About...

Monday, January 13 @ 7:00 PM

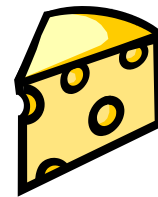
Join Us For A

Q & A With Fr. Ritchie

Informal gathering in the Conference Room

Wine, Cheese and Your Questions

(Feel free to bring a snack to share, if you wish)



This is your opportunity to chat with your pastor about those questions concerning the Bible, the Church, Catholic beliefs, etc. that you have never known how to answer. Every question is worthwhile as we will learn from one another. Whether you have a specific question in mind or just want an opportunity to learn and discuss, bring a friend and join us.

Awaken Your Faith

Wednesday January 22 at 7pm

Has your faith journey been confusing, frustrating, filled with guilt? Has it pushed you out of the faith community? Are you seeking to awaken your faith but are not ready to re-enter the community. Join this discussion group to explore the ups and downs of the faith journey and discover the next step on this journey that works for you. Questions Call Donna Clark, Pastoral Minister 899-5342.



Healing Ministry Can Pray with You

The first and third Sundays at 9:30am in Mary's Chapel.

Do you need to experience the healing hand of God?

Our Healing Ministry regularly offers an experience of hands on healing. The "dis-ease" in our lives could be physical, mental, spiritual or emotional.

Jesus spent his time healing people and directed his followers to do the same.

Healing has been part of the Christian culture since then. When we are suffering, when we are experiencing "dis-ease" it may help to have someone pray over us and lay healing hands upon us. Questions call Donna Clark at 899-5342.



Prayer Shawl Ministry - Wrapped in His Love

The Prayer Shawl Ministry knits and crochets shawls for those experiencing physical illness or emotional distress. Prayer Shawls are an outward sign of the enfolding prayer of the community and the loving embrace of God. If you would like a prayer shawl, **contact Irene Lucas, Faith Formation Director, at 899-6132.** There is no cost for a prayer shawl.

Need a Confidential Conversation?

Call 814-303-9282 to speak to Donna Clark, Pastoral Minister and Spiritual Director.

OLM Sister Parish
Mardi Gras Celebration

Join us for a night of fun to help benefit our sister parish in Peto, Mexico.

When: Saturday, February 22, 2020 - 7:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m.

Where: Our Lady of Mercy Sperry Hall - 837 Bartlett Road, Harborcreek, PA

How Much: \$10 Admission Ticket

Admission will include a taco dinner, beer, wine, pop and entertainment including:

- ♦Murder Mystery (8:15 - 8:30 p.m.) - Prize Drawing
- ♦Homemade Brew, Wine, and Salsa Contest (7 - 8 p.m.) - Cash Prize
- ♦Tip Boards and 50/50
- ♦Reverse Raffle - Grand Prize \$500.00

Admission ticket gives you one chance at the reverse raffle. Attendance not needed to win.
Tickets for the raffle will only be sold prior to the event.

Homemade Brew, Wine and Salsa Makers: Contact Irene Lucas

Email: ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org

Phone: 814-899-6132



**For the Religious
Education Ministry**

SUNDAY,

JANUARY 26, 2020

- First Sitting: **\$10 for Adults**
12-2 p.m. **\$5 for Children**
- Second Sitting: **10 and under**
2-4 p.m.

****Take-out tickets and gluten free
options are available****

- Spaghetti & Meatballs
- Refreshments
- Salad
- Italian Bread
- Cupcake Bar
- Chinese Auction

A Parish Christmas Gift To You

A Subscription to FORMED.ORG

Through an Education Grant of the Catholic Foundation of Northwest Pennsylvania, Our Lady of Mercy has been able to subscribe to Formed.org.

Now you can access a complete library of great Catholic material. Stream movies for the family. Download eBooks for your spiritual reading. Listen to outstanding podcasts. Study the Bible. Formed.org offers movies, audio, eBooks and more for children, families and adults available on your web browser, iOS, Android and TVOS, Roku, Amazon Fire, Tizen and AndroidTV.

Whether it's family movie night or entertaining kids on long car rides, your personal devotional reading or the desire to learn more about prayer, Scripture or current events, this is an excellent resource. And it is free to all people at Our Lady of Mercy for 2020.

How to log in to Formed.org and begin to access the

content:

Once you have registered, you are free to browse the

- Visit FORMED.org
- Click Sign Up
- Select "I Belong to a Parish or Organization"
- Find your parish by name, zip, or address
- Enter your email - and you're in!

website vast library of content or search for particular types of content or specific topics.

No internet? No problem! Formed.org offers offline playback to all FORMED users at no additional charge. Simply download the FORMED app on your portable device, find the content you want to watch offline, and download it to your device. Then watch it anywhere without Internet.



Parish Alive Retreat

What is Parish Alive?

Parish Alive is a weekend retreat for adults. It is an opportunity to deepen your relationship with Christ and with the Body of Christ (the Church). It is an opportunity for spiritual renewal.

What Takes Place at a Parish Alive Weekend?

The Parish Alive weekend is full. The schedule is sufficiently diverse to meet the various spiritual needs of the participants. During the 24 hour period that Parish Alive covers, participants will have the opportunity to:

- listen to spiritually challenging talks,
- explore spiritual insights in small groups of other participants,
- enjoy silent time for personal reflection,
- share group prayer in a variety of forms,
- celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation if desired,
- feast on wonderful homemade meals.

Who Can Participate in a Parish Alive Weekend?

Parish Alive is open to any adult (out of high school) parish member and their spouse.

What is the Time? Date? & Location?

Parish Alive 2020 will be held:

Friday, Feb. 28 & Saturday, Feb. 29

Friday night begins with supper at 6:30 and concludes around 10:30 PM

Saturday resumes at 9:00 with breakfast and concludes with the 6:00 Vigil Mass.

The entire weekend takes place at Our Lady of Mercy, except for the over night hours during which people return home.

How Does Someone Sign-Up?

Participants **MUST** register prior to the weekend. Space is limited. To register, complete the simple form on the parish website and submit to the parish office by Feb. 4. Additional registration forms were included in the November issue of For Mercy Sake and will appear as a bulletin insert.

There is no cost for the weekend. It is our gift to you.



Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Do you have any special needs? _____

Check All That Apply:

- | | | | |
|--|--|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Female | <input type="checkbox"/> Male | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Married (registering w/ Spouse) | <input type="checkbox"/> Married (registering alone) | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Single | <input type="checkbox"/> Divorced | <input type="checkbox"/> Separated | <input type="checkbox"/> Widowed |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Catholic | <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Catholic | | |

Mail to Our Lady of Mercy Church, 837 Bartlett Rd, Harborcreek, Pa. 16421 Or place in the collection basket.

Encountering God in Every Day Life

The Small Christian Community members are ordinary people coming together to help connect everyday life with their faith life. Groups meet on a regular basis, mostly in their homes, with a focus on prayer, support, sharing, learning and outreach. A Trained facilitator guides the group as they read the scriptures for Mass and share how these readings reveal God to them in their daily life.



MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday Vigil: **6:00 p.m.**

Sunday: **8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.**

Weekday: **8:30 a.m.**

Sacrament of Reconciliation: **Saturday 4:30 p.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*

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.