

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.**

Holy Day of Obligation: **8:30 a.m. & 7:00 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*

Marsha MacKinnon McKinley, *Admin. Assistant*

Geri Hadlock, *Youth Minister*

Kirk Mientkiewicz, *Maintenance Coordinator*

Andrea Maille, *Lifelong Faith Formation Secretary*

CONTACT INFORMATION

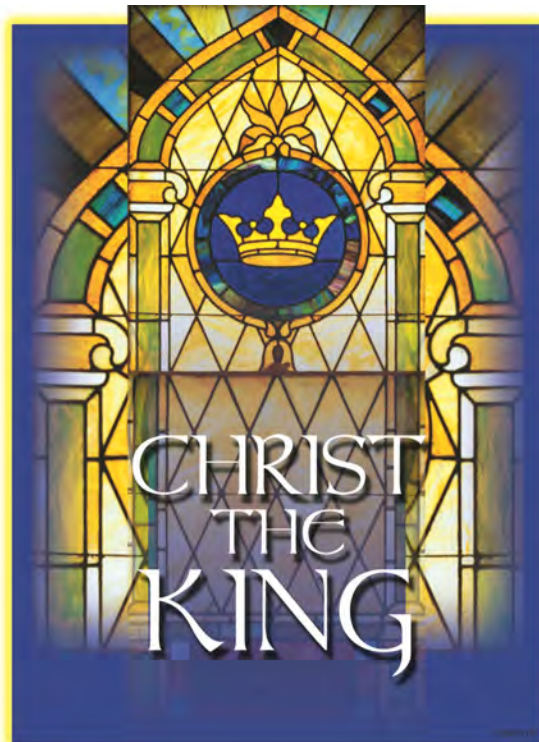
Parish Office: 814-899-5342

Office of Lifelong Faith Formation: 814-899-6132

Fax: 814-898-3306

Email: info@ourladyofmercychurch.org

November 26, 2017



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. 11/27 Youth Fundraiser—Bob Evans**
 11:00 a.m. Centering Prayer
 6:30 p.m. SCC-Fruit of the Vine
- Tue. 11/28 Youth Fundraiser—Bob Evans**
 9:30 a.m. SCC- Steel Magnolias
 2:00 p.m. Prayer Shawl
 4:00 p.m. Rel Ed Gr 3-6
 5:30 p.m. Children's Choir Rehearsal
 6:00 p.m. Sister Parish Meeting
- Wed. 11/29** 1:00 p.m. SCC-Diamonds in the Rough
- Thur. 11/30** 9:00 a.m. Painting Class
 6:00 p.m. Prayer Shawl
 6:45 p.m. Choir Rehearsal
 7:00 p.m. Tech Comm Mtg
- Fri. 12/01** 1:30 p.m. Legion of Mary
- Sat. 12/02** 10:00 a.m. Mass of Remembrance
 4:30 p.m. Sacrament of Penance
- Sun. 12/03 First Sunday of Advent**
Casserole Club Drop Off
Food Pantry Monthly Collection
 9:30 a.m. Healing Ministry
 9:30 a.m. Rel Ed Gr K-2
 12:00 p.m. Rel Ed Gr 7 & 8
 12:00 p.m. Mother Daughter Strengths Workshop

MASS INTENTIONS

- Mon. 11/27** 8:30 a.m. Communion Service
- Tue. 11/28** 8:30 a.m. Communion Service
- Wed. 11/29** 8:30 a.m. Communion Service
- Thur. 11/30** 8:30 a.m. Communion Service
- Fri. 12/01** 8:30 a.m. Communion Service
- Sat. 12/02** 8:30 a.m. NO MASS
 6:00 p.m. **Luke Purvis (Barb & Daughters)**
- Sun. 12/03** 8:30 a.m. **For the People of OLM**
 11:00 a.m. **Sal Frontino**
 (Joan Zwick & Sarah Heilman)

SCRIPTURE READINGS

- Mon. 11/27** Rom 11:29-36 / Luke 14:12-14
- Tue. 11/28** Rom 12:5-16b / Luke 14:15-24
- Wed. 11/29** Rom 13:8-10 / Luke 14:25-33
- Thur. 11/30** Ez 47:1-2,8-9,12/1 Cor 3:9c-11,16-17/
 John 2:13-22
- Fri. 12/01** Rom 15:14-21 / Luke 16:1-8
- Sat. 12/02** Rom 16:3-9,16,22-27/ Luke 16:9-15
- Sun. 12/03** Wis 6:12-16/ 1 Thes 4:13-18/Mt 25:1-13

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 899-6875
 The **Hospital Visitor** for the week is Marilyn Garwig.

OLM PARISH OFFICE REMINDERS

Due to the publisher's filing deadlines for the Christmas and New year's Holidays, bulletin content is due as follows:

December 8—content due for the Dec. 17 bulletin
 December 11—content due for the Dec. 24 bulletin
 December 14—content due for the Dec.31 bulletin
 December 20—content due for the Jan. 7 bulletin



The OLM Parish Office will be closed Monday, December 25 through Monday, January 1, 2018 in observance of the Christmas and New Year's Holidays.

THIS SUNDAY'S REFLECTION

Matthew 25:31-46



Israel maintained the belief that God alone was their king, yet they continually turned to earthly kings for leadership. They should have been mistrustful of human rulers who abused their power and exploited the people to benefit themselves. In contrast, King David was a "shepherd" to God's people. Like a shepherd, he cared for the flock and protected them from harm.

Jesus was not a king in the way we understand rulers, as those who levy taxes, raise armies, and subjugate their citizens. Jesus shepherded his people and led them on the right way. At the end of time, we will gather the people before God's judgment seat and separate "the sheep from the goats." This is a symbolic way of saying that Jesus will distinguish between those who did or did not do God's will. Unlike the commands of tyrants who ruled the world, Jesus' commands were not oppressive. He simply asked his people to care for the poor and suffering of the world. As faithful followers or our servant-king, we must join in his work to bring about his "kingdom of truth and life, holiness and grace, justice, love, and peace."

For Reflection: Is the role of king or servant more attractive to me? Do I help to prepare the way for Christ's coming into our world?

© Kay Murdy



Today, we culminate the liturgical year with the Solemnity of Christ the King. Next weekend, Advent begins. Please refer to the sheet you received in last week's bulletin regarding all of the events and liturgies that make up this beautiful season. There are extra flyers on the tables in the Gathering Space.

Mass of Remembrance

The annual **Mass of Remembrance** is **Saturday, December 2 at 10:00 a.m.** The Bereavement Ministry invites all members of Our Lady of Mercy to attend this annual Memorial Mass to support the families of our parish who have lost loved ones during the past year. Please join us for this special celebration.

Answer The Call

The Erie Diocese and Bishop Persico welcome 75 singers and musicians from many Erie area parishes in the performance of **Answer the Call** on **December 3 at 2:00 p.m. at Cathedral Prep.** This Lessons and Carols bridges Advent to Christmas through scripture readings and music composed by Michael Malthaner, music director at Sacred Heart. **The concert is free and open to the public.** OLM Parishioners Ken and Brian Marshall, and Sue Haynes will be performing in the choir. Following the performance a free-will offering will be collected to benefit the retired priests and religious funds. Please mark your calendar and join in this celebration of hope as we hear God's message to *Answer the Call*.

Taize Prayer

Mark your calendars for an evening of meditative sung prayer on **Monday, December 11 at 6:00 p.m.** Take some time to slow down amidst the busy holiday season to allow your heart to rest quietly and prepare a place for the coming of the Savior.

Concert Success and Thanks!

Thank you to all who attended the "My Heart Shall Sing" Concert on November 12. It was a beautiful afternoon. We raised over \$500 dollars for the National Association of Pastoral Musicians Mark Kulyk Fund. Thank you for your generosity.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Due to the publisher's submission deadline for this bulletin the financials had not yet been reported. Results will appear in the next bulletin.

Youth Fundraiser at Bob Evans Fundraiser

Our first Mission Trip fundraiser is at **Bob Evans on Buffalo Rd. on Monday, November 27 and Tuesday November 28.** this is a great way to help the youth of the parish. Bring in the Bob Evans flyer from the Nov. 19 bulletin; extras are on the bulletin tables. The youth will receive 15 % of your check. While you are there, also check out the raffle at the door.

Veteran's Family - Gift Donation

If you would like to buy a gift for the child of a needy Veteran, please contact Janet Smith at 899-5495 or see the display in the parish office to take an information card. **Gifts need to be returned by November 28.**

Christmas Caring Tree Program

The Ella Cochran Food Pantry's "Christmas Caring Tree" is on display in the Gathering Space. If you would like to brighten a child's or senior's Christmas, **please take a name from the tree and return a wrapped gift by December 9 and 10.** If you have any questions, contact Aimee McKinney at 899-1361.

The Question-Of-The-Week Contest Winner

The winner for the week of November 14 was, Sydney Kisiel Grade 6, who knew that the Bible is the Word of God.

Check Out Catholic Central

A new biweekly video series for young adult Catholics is on YouTube. Designed with the young-adult Catholic in mind, Catholic Central features chat about faith, the Bible, Catholicism, and prayer (with tons of puns, costume changes, and sketches thrown in).

Teen Help Needed

If you love to baby sit we could use you in the Nursery about once a month during the 11:00 a.m. Mass. If you are interested please Donna Clark at 899-5342 or dclark@ourladyofmercychurch.org

Counseling Available

Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy are offering their professional skills as counselors for **adults, teens and family counseling.** Counseling meetings are at the church, in a confidential setting. To schedule an appointment contact Donna Clark at 899-5342.

The Letter's of Stewardship

G: Gratitude – Stewardship is based on Gratitude. When I am grateful for the blessings and gifts from God I am moved to give back.

Electronic Giving Available

Our Lady of Mercy uses **Faith Direct** to manage our electronic giving. Donations can be deducted from checking or savings accounts, or you may also use a credit card. Go to: www.ourladyofmercychurch.org and look for the Faith Direct icon on the left hand column.

DECEMBER 2017

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Dec. 3	Aidan Tylman	16
Dec. 4	Aubrie Olson	14
Dec. 6	Shania Martin	12
Dec. 7	Gabriella Licata	11
Dec. 8	Perrin Baker	1
Dec. 9	Morgan Wilhelm	12
Dec. 11	Samuel Camillo	8
Dec. 12	Ava Froess	11
Dec. 13	Raegan Andrews	10
Dec. 15	Noah Bleil	18
Dec. 16	Adam Wright	14
Dec. 17	Laurel Prokopchak	18
Dec. 17	Ariel Owens	16
Dec. 21	Alivia Smith	11
Dec. 22	Leo Nicolussi	17
Dec. 23	Angel Gilbert	9
Dec. 26	Emily Desser	15
Dec. 26	Hayley Montano	10
Dec. 27	Joey Bernatowicz	10



**Order
Now!**

Order Scrip Now for Christmas

Need a stocking stuffer? Order gift cards for Christmas stockings from the SCRIP Program. Pick up your order form from the Scrip table after Mass or pick one up in the parish office. **Orders**

must be placed no later than December 10 for guaranteed delivery before Christmas.

Special Thanks from the Youth

We just want to say Thank You so much for your generosity in support of our trip to NCYC. The money donated for meals is enough to cover everyone's meals for our trip. As always the support we receive from the parish is a real blessing for our youth ministry program. Thank you so much.

**Thank
You**

Social Justice Committee News



As we continue to reflect on the call to respect the dignity of all human life, we turn to the social issue of capital punishment. During the month of November, section will offer the teaching of Scripture and the Church on this pro-life issue.

Since 1973, 160 individuals in the U.S. sentenced to death have been exonerated. The most recent was Rickey Dale Newman on Oct. 11, 2017. One wrongly convicted of a crime has the possibility of being released; one wrongly executed for a crime can never have justice restored.

<https://deathpenaltyinfo.org/innocence-and-death-penalty>
(Jn. 8:5, 7)

Up-Coming Events

The Erie Pro-Life community has three events in January 2018 that provide you an opportunity to speak out on behalf of unborn children and the unalienable right to life.

Pro-Life Breakfast: Saturday, January 13 at 9:00 a.m. Erie Bayfront Convention Center. Cost \$16 for adults and \$8 for children 3-12 years of age. The featured speaker is Ann McElhinny, author of "Gosnell."

DC March for Life: Friday, January 19, 2018. Annual bus trip sponsored by People for Life. \$55 per seat, \$50 if registered by December 1.

Go to People for Life at: www.Peopleforlife.life or call 882-1333 for information/reservations. You can also call Phil Legler at 504-1048.

Women's Luncheon

Join a group of ladies who live alone for some great fellowship on **Tuesday, November 28 at 1:00 p.m. at Bob Evans**. Bring the youth mission trip coupon with you to help raise money for the youth group. Questions: Call Donna in the parish office 899-5342.

OLM Book Group

Because the holidays keep us all so busy, rather than read a book in December, we will meet on **Wednesday, December 20 at 6:30 p.m.** at the home of Claudette Terrill, 6821 East Lake Rd. to watch a movie, "The Help".

Frosty Party

You are invited to a **Frosty Party on Sunday, December 10 from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. in Sperry Hall**. Crafts, games, food, fun and maybe even a special guest surprise. Come and celebrate Advent with us. Please bring a plate of cookies to share.



December 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 8:30 & 11:00 AM MASS Feast of Christ the King	27 Youth Fundraiser - Bob Evans 8:30 AM Mass 11:00 AM Centering Prayer 6:30 PM Fruit of the Vine (SCC)	28 Youth Fundraiser - Bob Evans 8:30 AM Mass 9:30 AM SCC-Steel Magnolias 2:00 PM Prayer Shawl 4:00 PM Rel Ed Gr. 3-6 5:30 PM Children's Choir Rehearsal 6:00 PM Sister Parish Meeting 7:00 PM Dance Class in Gym 7:30 PM AA	29 8:30 AM Mass 1:00 PM SCC- Diamonds in the Rough	1 8:30 AM Mass 1:30 PM Legion of Mary	2 8:30 AM Mass 10:00 AM AA 10:00 AM Mass of Remembrance 4:30 PM Sacrament of Penance 6:00 PM MASS	
3 8:30 & 11:00 AM MASS Casserole Club DROP OFF FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT Monthly Food Pantry Collection 9:30 AM Healing Ministry 9:30 AM Rel Ed Gr. K-2 12:00 PM Cub Scouts 12:00 PM Mother Daughter Strengths Workshop 12:00 PM Rel. Ed. Gr. 7 & 8	4 8:30 AM Mass 11:00 AM Centering Prayer 7:00 PM Evening of Healing - Worship Space 7:00 PM Knights of Columbus Chapter Meeting - Sperry Hall 7:00 PM Pastoral Facilitator Mtg.	5 8:30 AM Mass 9:30 AM SCC-Steel Magnolias 9:30 AM Staff Meeting 2:00 PM Prayer Shawl 4:00 PM Rel Ed Gr. 3-6 5:30 PM Children's Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM Dance Class in Gym 7:30 PM AA	6 8:30 AM Mass 11:00 AM RCIA Inquiry 1:00 PM SCC- Diamonds in the Rough 2:00 PM Contemplative Prayer 6:30 PM AGIFT Meeting	8 IMMACULATE CONCEPTION 8:30 AM Mass (Holy Day) 1:30 PM Legion of Mary 7:00 PM Mass (Holy Day)	9 8:30 AM Mass 10:00 AM AA 4:30 PM Sacrament of Penance 6:00 PM MASS	
10 8:30 & 11:00 AM MASS SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT 9:30 AM Rel Ed Gr. K-2 12:00 PM Frosty Family Party 12:00 PM Mother Daughter Strengths Workshop 12:00 PM Rel. Ed. Gr. 7 & 8 3:00 PM Penance Celebration - Mt Calvary	11 8:30 AM Mass 11:00 AM Centering Prayer 6:00 PM Taize Prayer 6:30 PM Fruit of the Vine (SCC) 7:00 PM Penance Celebration - St Gregory's	12 8:30 AM Mass 9:30 AM SCC-Steel Magnolias 2:00 PM Prayer Shawl 4:00 PM Rel Ed Gr. 3-6 5:30 PM Children's Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM Dance Class in Gym 7:00 PM Penance Celebration - St. James 7:30 PM AA	13 8:30 AM Mass 1:00 PM SCC- Diamonds in the Rough 7:00 PM Knights of Columbus 7:00 PM Penance celebration - Our Lady of Mercy	15 8:30 AM Mass 1:30 PM Legion of Mary	16 8:30 AM Mass 10:00 AM AA 4:30 PM Sacrament of Penance 6:00 PM MASS	
17 8:30 & 11:00 AM MASS THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT 9:30 AM Healing Ministry 9:30 AM Rel Ed Gr. K-2 12:00 PM Rel. Ed. Gr. 7 & 8	18 8:30 AM Mass 11:00 AM Centering Prayer 7:00 PM Grief Support Group	19 8:30 AM Mass 9:30 AM SCC-Steel Magnolias 2:00 PM Prayer Shawl 4:00 PM Rel Ed Gr. 3-6 5:30 PM Children's Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM Dance Class in Gym 7:30 PM AA	20 8:30 AM FOOD PANTRY DISTRIBUTION 8:30 AM Mass 1:00 PM SCC- Diamonds in the Rough 2:00 PM Contemplative Prayer 6:30 PM OLM BOOK GROUP	22 8:30 AM Mass 1:30 PM Legion of Mary	23 8:30 AM Mass 10:00 AM AA 4:30 PM Sacrament of Penance 6:00 PM MASS	
24 8:30 & 11:00 AM MASS FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT 6:00 PM CHRISTMAS EVE MASS 9:20 PM <i>Christmas Music with Choir and Instruments</i> 10:00 PM CHRISTMAS EVE MASS	25 CHRISTMAS Parish Office Closed 10:00 AM CHRISTMAS DAY MASS	26 Parish Office Closed 8:30 AM Mass 9:30 AM SCC-Steel Magnolias 2:00 PM Prayer Shawl 7:00 PM Dance Class in Gym 7:30 PM AA	27 Parish Office Closed 8:30 AM Mass 1:00 PM SCC- Diamonds in the Rough	28 Parish Office Closed 8:30 AM Mass 9:00 AM Painting Class 6:00 PM Prayer Shawl	30 Parish Office Closed 8:30 AM Mass 10:00 AM AA 4:30 PM Sacrament of Penance 6:00 PM MASS	
31 8:30 & 11:00 AM MASS FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY	1 Parish Office Closed SOLEMNITY OF MARY 10:00 AM Mass 7:00 PM Pastoral Facilitator Mtg.	2 8:30 AM Mass 9:30 AM SCC-Steel Magnolias 2:00 PM Prayer Shawl 4:00 PM Rel Ed Gr. 3-6 5:30 PM Children's Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM Dance Class in Gym 7:30 PM Pastoral Council Meeting	3 8:30 AM Mass 1:00 PM SCC- Diamonds in the Rough 2:00 PM Contemplative Prayer	4 8:30 AM Mass 9:00 AM Painting Class 6:00 PM Prayer Shawl 6:45 PM Choir Rehearsal	5 8:30 AM Mass 1:30 PM Legion of Mary	6 8:30 AM Mass 10:00 AM AA 4:30 PM Sacrament of Penance 6:00 PM MASS

LYNCH
Home Medical Supply
TIMOTHY P. LYNCH
Parishioner, Owner, Certified Orthotic Fitter
Lift Chairs & Scooters • Wound Care • Walkers
Wheelchairs • Commodes & Much More
4020 Main St. • Lawrence Park
899-3636
www.lynmhmedical.com

Stans
Where There's Always Something GROWING on!
Jim Skarzinski & Bob Rocky - Parishioners
East
5001 Buffalo Road
Erie, PA 16510
899.5424
West
5341 West Lake Road
Erie, PA 16505
835.6960

HEISE REBUILDING
Starters • Alternators • Electrical
Rewiring • Mechanical Repairs
PA Inspections
899-8186
1291 Walbridge Rd. • Erie, PA 16511
heiserebuilding.com
~ Parishioner ~

OLLINGER
PLUMBING, HEATING
& AIR CONDITIONING
Residential • Commercial
Quality Installations & Service
899-2809

Andy says ...
"Write it Up!"
LAKESIDECHEVYBUICK.COM
-Andy Gabler
President
LAKESIDE
CHEVROLET
BUICK

MR
McCreary Roofing Co., Inc.
PA HIC Registration# 029146
Family Owned Since 1890
814-452-2640

PRICHARD
CHIROPRACTIC OFFICES
6095 Buffalo Road
Harborcreek, PA
899-1966
DR. LOREN J. PRICHARD
DR. SCOTT V. PRICHARD

Online Shopping
for Catholic
Gifts of Faith
www.parishstore.com

FIDDLE INN
HARBORCREEK, PA
"Home of the EVERYTHINGS"
6615 Buffalo Road
814-899-9005
www.diningverse.com/fiddleinn

**SUL FARMS
& TRUCKING**
12050 Kerr Rd • Northeast
(814) 882-3320
Custom Farming • Pick Your Own
24 Hr. Snow Plowing • Detachable Low Boy
Trailer with Winch • Salt and Ice Control
Trucking & Dumping

Howard Hanna
Real Estate • Mortgage • Title • Insurance
Cindy Fabin,
Realtor, GPA, RRS, CNHS
Multi Million Dollar Producer, PARISHIONER
FOR OUTSTANDING RESULTS,
YOU NEED AN OUTSTANDING AGENT!
Cell: 814-881-1087 • Office: 814-899-3005
Email: cFabin@howardhanna.com | Erie, PA, 16510

Widget
Financial
widgetfinancial.com

See What's in Store!
JEWELRY • ROSARIES • BOOKS
AND MORE
www.parishstore.com

William D. Elkin
Funeral Home
65 South Lake St. • North East
725-4511
Timothy P. Elkin, F.D.
William D. Elkin, F.D.
Pre-Arrangements Available

DUSCKAS - TAYLOR
FUNERAL HOME & CREMATION SERVICES, INC.
5151 BUFFALO RD.
ERIE, PA 16510
ROBERT D. TAYLOR, SUPERVISOR
814-315-0911
WWW.DUSCKAS-TAYLORFUNERALHOME.COM

Foster's
Rose of Sharon
Floral & Gift Shop
10% OFF Any Fall and
Homecoming Flowers
2703 Buffalo Rd • 814-899-5071

Erie City
MEMORIALS by Ericson
Because Every Life is Worth Remembering
Located just down the road
2515 Buffalo Rd • Erie, PA 16510
(Across from St. James School)
814-898-0709
Indoor and Outdoor Showrooms
Cemetery Memorials • Bronze Markers
Vases • Candles • Pet Urns

AVAILABLE FOR A LIMITED TIME
ADVERTISE YOUR
BUSINESS HERE
Contact **Tim Weir** to place an ad today!
tweir@4LPi.com or (800) 477-4574 x6568

"Your Computer
Professional"
NEW SYSTEMS
USED • REPAIRS
"WE SERVICE ALL BRANDS"
898-8300
Jerry & Dee Law - Parishioners
JDLCOMPUTERS.COM

**RUSSELL C. SCHMIDT &
SON FUNERAL HOME, INC.**
5000 Wattsburg Road • Erie, PA 16504
(814) 824-5000 • Fax (814) 824-5006
www.SchmidtFuneralHomeErie.com
Dennis D. Schmidt, President/Supervisor
Pre-Arranged, Pre-Financed, and
Cremation Funerals Available

catholicmatch®
Pennsylvania
CatholicMatch.com/PA

A Deli and So Much More
Harborcreek
Marketplace Deli
814-899-3671
6992 Buffalo Road
Harborcreek
Shur's Fine

Holiday Sale
GET HELP AT THE TOUCH OF A BUTTON
\$29.⁹⁵ / Mo. **BILLED QUARTERLY**
• Providing Protection In the Home • One Month Free • No Long-Term Contracts • Price Guarantee
CALL TODAY! 877.801.7772