

# OUR LADY OF MERCY CHURCH

837 Bartlett Road • Harborcreek, PA 16421 • [www.ourladyofmercychurch.org](http://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*

Patti Reavel, *Music Director*

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](mailto:info@ourladyofmercychurch.org)



**SEPTEMBER 5, 2021 - THE 23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

## THE WEEK AHEAD

For a complete calendar of events, please visit [ourladyofmercychurch.org/calendar](http://ourladyofmercychurch.org/calendar)

Mon. 09/06		<b>Labor Day</b> Parish Office Closed
Tue. 09/07	1:00 p.m.	Potters Clay SCC
	3:00 p.m.	Grief Support Group
	4:00 p.m.	Gr. 3-6 Religious Ed
	6:00 p.m.	Pastoral Council Picnic
Wed. 09/08	6:00 p.m.	Gr. 9 Parent/Candidate Meeting
	7:00 p.m.	Knights of Columbus
Thur. 09/09	9:00 a.m.	Painting Class
	12:00 p.m.	Midday Prayer
	1:00 p.m.	Legion of Mary
	6:00 p.m.	Gr. 11 Parent/Candidate Meeting
	6:00 p.m.	Prayer Shawl
Fri. 09/10		
Sat. 09/11	4:30 p.m.	Sacrament of Penance
Sun. 09/12	8:00 a.m.	Pre-Cana
	9:30 a.m.	Gr. K-2 Religious Ed.

## 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



## SCRIPTURE READINGS

Mon. 09/06	Col 1:24-2:3	/ Lk 6:6-11
Tue. 09/07	Col 2:6-15	/ Lk 6:12-19
Wed. 09/08	Mi 5:1-4 or Rom 8:28-30	/ Mt 1:18-23
Thur. 09/09	Col 3:12-17	/ Lk 6:27-38
Fri. 09/10	1 Tm 1:1-2, 12-14	/ Lk 6:39-42
Sat. 09/11	1 Tm 1:15-17	/ Lk 6:43-49
Sun. 09/12	Is 50:4-9 / Jas 2:14-18	/ Mk 8:27-35

## MASS INTENTIONS

Mon. 09/06	8:30 a.m.	<b>-NO MASS-</b>
Tue. 09/07	8:30 a.m.	<b>Dan Sweeney</b> (The Extein's)
Wed. 09/08	8:30 a.m.	<b>Florence Kobylinski</b> (Jim & Sue Carpenter)
Thur. 09/09	8:30 a.m.	<b>Rose Cerula</b> (Rose Galeza)
Fri. 09/10	8:30 a.m.	<b>John &amp; Cecelia Turner</b> (Dianne Hoover)
Sat. 09/11	8:30 a.m.	<b>-NO MASS-</b>
	6:00 p.m.	<b>Betty Kaerberlein</b> (Fred & Kay Kaerberlein)
Sun. 09/12	8:30 a.m.	<b>John Yochim</b> (Ken & Pat Marshall)
	11:00 a.m.	<b>For the People of OLM</b>



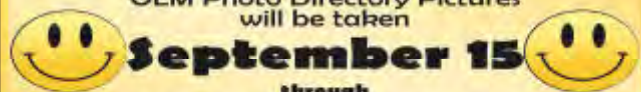
## FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Offertory for the weekend of August 29, 2021

Envelopes sent:	357	
Envelopes returned:	74	\$ 2,653.00
Faith Direct Deposits:	137	\$ 3,584.33
Loose Change:		\$ 56.00
<b>TOTAL OFFERTORY:</b>		<b>\$ 6,293.33</b>

**Sign-up Now...**  
...and get ready to SMILE!

OLM Photo Directory Pictures will be taken



**September 15**

through

**September 18, 2021**

**\*\*SIGN-UP NOW\*\***

If you have any questions, please call Katie in the Parish Office 814-899-5342

## THIS SUNDAY'S REFLECTION

### MARK 7:31-37

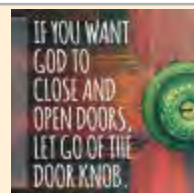
He has done all things well.

Jesus had a lot of common sense, which we know is regrettably not all that common in the human family. Jesus knew that the witnesses to his Ephphatha moment of making the deaf and mute man hear and speak would not follow his bidding and be mum about it. Good news travels fast. He realized that the crowd would tell the tale of that miracle far beyond the district of the Decapolis.

Let us, too, be attentive and have our ears open to the message of the Gospel. We should daily, like Jesus, help family members and neighbors with chores, extend warm greetings and kind words. On a strictly human level, we can also have mini-Ephphatha moments right in our neighborhoods and workplaces where we, through good works, help others. It may be donating to the victims of an earthly disaster, or having lunch with a lonely colleague, or helping a son or daughter with a math assignment. Such responses may not garner shouts of astonishment, but we will have the self-assurance of trying to do "all things well."

For Reflection: What events have helped me to open my ears to the Gospel message?

Mark Twomey



### Thursday Midday Prayer

Need a spiritual boost during the week? Join us on **Thursdays at Noon** for a short spiritual reflection from the book Jesus Today. Share the message or the challenge you receive if you are comfortable. Questions – contact Donna Clark.



### Day Time Grief Support

**Tuesday Sept 7 at 3:00 p.m.** To attend this meeting by Zoom contact Donna Clark. Grief moves in and out of our lives like a meandering stream. We often don't know when we will be overcome with emotion and can't always see where it is taking us. To get our bearings sometimes it is helpful to talk to others who have had similar experiences. Questions? Contact Donna.



### Book Group

Join us on **Wednesday, Sept. 15 @ 7:00** to discuss Woman 99 by Greer Macallister. Our October title will be The Extraordinary Life of Sam Hell by Robert Dugoni.



### A Creative Writing Group

Writing can be healing. It can assist with decision-making and offer clarity in times of transition. The unconscious can become conscious and we can experience love from the Divine Writer of Words. Please join us on **Tuesdays beginning Sept. 21, from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.**, and concluding on Nov. 2, 2021. Bring a journal and pen. An RSVP to the parish office is appreciated but not required. A free will offering would be gratefully received. The facilitator, Suzanne Hudson, M.S. Ed., studied with San Francisco poet Jane Hirshfield in the Los Padres National Forest for Writing Conferences.



### Baptismal Prep Parent Session

The next Baptismal Preparation Session for Parents and Godparents will be held on **Sunday, Oct. 3 at noon**. All parents wishing to celebrate the Sacrament of Baptism with their child are required to attend a session to prepare for this sacrament. These sessions are held semi-annually at OLM. To register for the Oct. 3 session, please call the parish office at **814-899-5342**. Participants are asked to register prior to attending to ensure sufficient materials.



## 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.



### Religious Education Registration

If you were unable to register your children for religious education last weekend, please visit the Faith Formation Office during normal working hours to complete the paper work. Classes will begin on **Sept. 7**

### Volunteers Needed

The religious education ministry at OLM needs faith-filled parishioners to share our Catholic faith and the love of God with our youth. In particular, we need a volunteer catechist for 9th grade. Substitute catechists and aids are also needed. If you are interested, contact Irene at 814-899-6132 or [ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org](mailto:ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org).

### Religious Education classes begin on Sept. 7.

There are several important parent meetings during the first week of religious education.

Gr. 9 Parent and Youth meeting  
@ 6:00 p.m. Sept. 8

Gr. 11 Parent and Youth Meeting  
@ 6:00 p.m. on Sept. 9

Gr. K-2 Family Session  
@ 9:30 a.m. in Sperry Hall on Sept. 12.

The Kdg-Gr. 2 ministry will begin with a shared family event on the first day of class. After a half hour of shared time, the children will meet in grade specific groups with their catechists and parents will remain for a meeting.

### Confirmation Interviews:

Candidates in their final year of preparation for Confirmation (Grade 11) are reminded that the first of two mandatory interviews will be held at **12:15 on September 19**.



## Celebrating the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Our Lady of Mercy Parish

Continued growth of the parish as well as the Harborcreek community can be seen in the fact that in the first 10 years of Fr. Sperry's pastorate, he performed 438 baptisms!





## Social Justice

Unfortunately, especially when there is a crisis and the need is pressing, inhumane work increases, slave-labor, work without the proper security or respect for creation, or without respect for rest, celebrations and the family and work on Sundays when it isn't necessary. Work must be combined with the preservation of creation so that this may be responsibly safeguarded for future generations.

*Pope Francis*

## Our Lady of Mercy Celebrates 75 Years

What is your favorite story about Our Lady of Mercy?

Do you have a favorite memory from Our Lady of Mercy that you are willing to share with the community? Connect with Donna Clark in the parish parlor before or after Mass

Sept 11 or 12. Other ways to share. Call Donna Clark and tell your story; write down your story and turn it in; video yourself and send it to [dclark@ourladyofmercychurch.org](mailto:dclark@ourladyofmercychurch.org)



**History Photos for the 75th Anniversary**  
Please drop off your photos by Sept 5 or send an electronic copy to:

[dclark@ourladyofmercychurch.org](mailto:dclark@ourladyofmercychurch.org). We are collecting photos of past events at Our Lady of mercy dating back to the start at the Boys Home around the topics of: "Prayer, Community, Service, Care". We hope to put together a timeline to include in our new picture directory celebrating our 75th Anniversary.

### Founder of Homeboy Industries to speak at Mercyhurst University

Father Gregory Boyle, SJ, will draw on his experience working with gang members when he delivers a lecture at Mercyhurst University in Erie Sept. 23 at 7 p.m. As the founder of Homeboy Industries in Los Angeles, the largest gang-intervention, rehabilitation and reentry program in the world, Father Boyle will share a message of courage and hope. The lecture, titled "Be Fearless for Me: Courage and the Gospel of the Marginalized," will be held at the renovated Mercyhurst Athletic Center and is free and open to the public. Father Boyle is a recipient of the California Peace Prize and has been inducted into the California Hall of Fame.



## Child Protection and Creating Safe Environments



### Diocesan Child Protection Policies

The Diocese of Erie, along with all other dioceses in the United States, has policies and procedures in place to address the national problem of child abuse and to aid in maintaining safe environments. The three main components of the Policy for the Protection of Children are: screening of all employees and volunteers who work with minors, training of all youth, parents, employees and volunteers, and reporting all suspected child abuse. The diocese is committed to promptly reporting any suspected child abuse directly to ChildLine or law enforcement. The diocese requires on-going screening and training of all personnel, paid or unpaid, who have regular contact with our children and youth under the age of 18. The diocese also requires yearly safe environment training of our children, youth and parents regarding touching-safety and safe environments. Visit <https://www.eriecd.org/childprotection/> to read the policy and learn what the diocese requires for all personnel who work with children and youth in parishes/schools/agencies.

### Catholic Education Collection

The 2021 Catholic Education Collection will take place on September 18-19. This important collection supports lifelong faith formation for all generations throughout our diocese. Please give generously and know that half of what you give will remain here at Our Lady of Mercy to support our own religious education and faith formation programs.



## KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

### Knights of Columbus Spaghetti Dinner

Saturday, September 25th at St. Gregory's school gym, 136 West Main St North East, Pa. Presented by your OLM and St. Gregory Knights of Columbus. 2 sessions: 1:00 - 3:00 / 3:00 - 5:00 Both dine-in & take-out available \$12 / Adults \$6 / 12 yrs & under. Proceeds to benefit Women's Care Center of Erie Tickets available after all Masses and at our OLM and St. Gregory parish offices and the Women's Care Center, 4408 Peach St

### Free Bus Ride To PA March For Life

The Pennsylvania Knights of Columbus are sponsoring a free bus trip to attend the PA March for Life on **Monday September 27th** in Harrisburg. The bus will leave St. George's Church approximately 2:30 a.m. on the 27th and return that same day. Headline speakers include Jeanne Mancini President National March for Life, Ryan Bomberger The Radiance Foundation and Abby Johnson former Planned Parenthood executive from the movie "Unplanned". Call Lou Norton 814-790-9341 to make a reservation.

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS  
COUNCIL 11144  
50-50 RAFFLE**



To benefit projects for  
Our Lady of Mercy Parish.

Suggested Donation:

\$1/1 Ticket • \$5/ 6 Tickets • \$10/15 Tickets

Please fill out tickets and return with donation to the Parish Office.

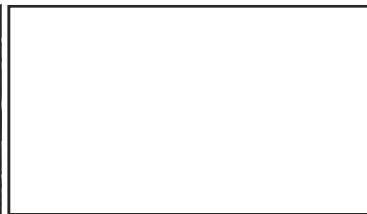
The drawing will be held on September 26, 2021.

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