

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.

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



SEPTEMBER 12, 2021 - THE 24TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

THE WEEK AHEAD

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

Mon. 09/13	9:00 a.m. Quilters 9:30 a.m. Steel Magnolias 5:30 p.m. Sisters of Scripture SCC 6:00 p.m. SCC PF and Core Team Fall Kickoff
Tue. 09/14	75th Anniversary Photo Sessions 1:00 p.m. Potters Clay SCC 2:00 p.m. Prayer Shawl 4:00 p.m. Gr. 3-6 Religious Ed 6:30 p.m. Roman Candles SCC 7:00 p.m. Lifelong Faith Formation Committee
Wed. 09/15	75th Anniversary Photo Sessions 8:30 a.m. Food Pantry Distribution 9:00 a.m. Angels in Training SCC 1:00 p.m. Diamonds in the Rough 7:00 p.m. OLM Book Group
Thur. 09/16	75th Anniversary Photo Sessions 9:00 a.m. Painting Class 12:00 p.m. Midday Prayer 1:00 p.m. Legion of Mary 6:00 p.m. Prayer Shawl
Fri. 09/17	75th Anniversary Photo Sessions
Sat. 09/18	75th Anniversary Photo Sessions 4:30 p.m. Sacrament of Penance
Sun. 09/19	9:30 a.m. Gr K-2 & 7-8 Religious Ed. 9:30 a.m. Healing Ministry 12:15 p.m. Gr. 11 Interviews

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



FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Offertory for the weekend of September 5, 2021

Envelopes sent:	357	
Envelopes returned:	69	\$ 4,073.00
Faith Direct Deposits:	137	\$ 3,584.33
Loose Change:		\$ 50.00
TOTAL OFFERTORY:		\$ 7,707.33

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Mon. 09/13	1 Tm 2:1-8	/ Lk 7:1-10
Tue. 09/14	Nm 21:4-9 / Phil 2:6-11	/ Jn 3:13-17
Wed. 09/15	1 Tm 3:14-16 / Jn 19:25	or Lk 2:33-35
Thur. 09/16	1 Tm 4:12-16	/ Lk 7:36-50
Fri. 09/17	1 Tm 6:2c-12	/ Lk 8:1-3
Sat. 09/18	1 Tm 6:13-16	/ Lk 8:4-15
Sun. 09/19	Wis 2:12, 17-20	/ Jas 3:16-4:3 / Mk 9:30-37

THIS SUNDAY'S REFLECTION

MARK 8:27-35

...the Son of Man must suffer greatly.

This Gospel speaks to me about vulnerability - about the way Jesus preached it and the way we reject it.

Jesus asks his disciples, "Who do you say that I am?" Peter answers, "You are the Messiah." Peter's answer sounds right. But Jesus knows that Peter wants the Messiah to be strong and powerful enough to free the Hebrew people from the Romans and lead the Jews to their destiny. Jesus himself understand his role quite differently. He knows his destiny as a Messiah holds rejection, suffering, and death.

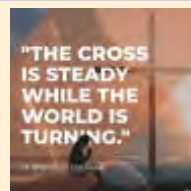
After this scene, there is a turning point in Mark's Gospel. From now on, Jesus will be trying to make the disciples (and us) understand that not only will he suffer and die, but that anyone who wants to be a true follower will have to do the same.

Another question, "What kind of Messiah will Jesus be?" has now been answered. As Messiah, Jesus will accept his Father's will, becoming vulnerable and completely powerless at the end.

The more we can stand to be vulnerable and powerless in life, the better we will be ready to step across to death. Maybe vulnerability is the "cross" that Jesus, the Messiah, is asking us to bear.

For Reflection: Can I allow myself to be vulnerable? What might I gain by letting go of the need to control?

Judy Hoelzeman



Rides Needed for Feast Day

A few of our parishioners are looking for a ride to our Feast Day Mass. They need a ride from the west side of Erie. If you can give a ride to these parishioners, please call the Parish Office at 814-899-5342.

For Free

•Two 76" x 15" smoked glass doors with hinges. •Large black office chair on rollers. See Donna Clark



MASS INTENTIONS

Mon. 09/13	8:30 a.m.	Ruth Extein (The Extein's)
Tue. 09/14	8:30 a.m.	Denny Smith (Janet Smith)
Wed. 09/15	8:30 a.m.	Arlene Barlekoff (Sandra Jordan)
Thur. 09/16	8:30 a.m.	Ted Hutchinson (John Abbate)
Fri. 09/17	8:30 a.m.	Willa Ponce
Sat. 09/18	8:30 a.m.	NO MASS-
	6:00 p.m.	Joseph Seyboldt (Marilyn Rinke)
Sun. 09/19	8:30 a.m.	For the People of OLM
	11:00 a.m.	Lewis Peters (Carole Peters)

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.



Book Group



Join us on **Wednesday, Sept. 15 @ 7:00 p.m.** at the home of Bunny Weber. to discuss *Woman 99* by Greer Macallister. Our October title will be *The Extraordinary Life of Sam Hell* by

Robert Dugoni.

Evening Grief Support

Monday Sept 20 at 7:00 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.



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 9:00am to 10:00am**, 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.

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 & 2nd grade. We also need volunteers to serve as substitute catechists. If you are interested, contact Irene at **814-899-6132** or ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org.



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**.

"The Creed" with Bishop Robert Barron

"The Creed", is a 6 week series that will combine video presentation and group discussion. Using documentary footage and clear explanation, Bishop Barron guides viewers into the depths of the Nicene Creed, a fourth-century statement of faith that has profoundly influenced both Eastern and Western spirituality, theology, and liturgy. Explore the meaning of "belief" and whether it contradicts reason; the creative love of God the Father; the shocking mystery of his Son's Incarnation and the great drama of his Crucifixion and Resurrection; the life-giving power of the Spiritus Sanctus, or "Holy Breath," shared between them; and the mystical reality of the Church, which calls all of humanity out of the world of sin to receive forgiveness and participate in Christ's divinity—not only in the next world but here and now. "The Creed" will help you rediscover the great intellectual and spiritual depths of Christian doctrine and reclaim the unity, clarity, and conviction of the Christian faith. **Beginning Wednesday, Sept. 29**, join us each Wednesday for a new topic. Each session will run twice, at **9:15 a.m. and at 7:00 p.m.** For more information, contact Irene at **814-899-6132** or ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org



Celebrating the 75th Anniversary of Our Lady of Mercy Parish
The growth of the Harborcreek community would lead to Fr. Sperry's first building project as pastor, that of the parish social hall.





Social Justice

O God, help us not to despise or oppress what we do not understand.

William Penn

Our Lady of Mercy Celebrates 75 Years

Do you remember when the hamsters got loose in the church? 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

History Photos for the 75th Anniversary

Please drop off your photos soon or send an electronic copy to:

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.

Catholic Education Collection

Next weekend is the 2021 Catholic Education Collection. Please give generously. Without you, our faith formation and religious education programs would not be as successful as they are. Because of you, our many children and their families, both young and old, are led to greater faith. Thank you for your support.



A message from OLM music director, Patti Reavel

With the end of the summer season comes the beginning of the OLM choir season! During July and August I have thoroughly enjoyed making music with the dedicated musicians from our parish who so faithfully enhance our Liturgies with their time and talents. We will be resuming the Adult Choir rehearsals on **Thursday, September 16 at 6:30 p.m. till 8 p.m.** If you are interested in joining the choir, the ability to read music is very helpful, but not necessary. The ability to sing in tune is more important. A short audition will be held for any new or interested persons. Adult Choir is open to high school age students and beyond. Please see Patti immediately after any of the weekend masses prior to **September 16** if interested.



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 March for Life is coming up on **September 27, 2021**. We will be in the capital meeting with our area legislators to convince them to support the right to life in the face of the most repressive abortion bill yet in Pennsylvania. We have been gifted with a free bus that carries a total of 56 passengers. Currently we have about 50 seats left. While there is no charge for the bus itself, we will be accepting donations to cover the cost of the local shuttle services. Anyone wishing to ride to Harrisburg on the bus should contact either of the following below with their name, email address, and cell phone number (in case we need to contact you about the trip as well as for your security and protection on the trip.) We will be leaving Erie at about 3 a.m. on **September 27th** from the St. George R.C. Church for the trip down to be there in time for a 9 a.m. Mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral. We will be leaving Harrisburg at approximately 3 p.m. and arrive at about 9 p.m. back in Erie. Mike Case - 814-504-0251 Lewis Nordin - 814-790-9341

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.

DRUMMING CIRCLE

Friday, September 24th

Our Lady of Mercy Church

837 Bartlett Rd. Harborcreek, PA

Donation of \$15 CASH per person requested



Drumming has been shown to calm the body and mind while reducing anxiety and stress. For thousands of years indigenous cultures have used drumming to connect with the earth and ground themselves to nature.

Come and spend an evening of fun drumming with friends. No experience required. In fact most of us have no musical ability.

For 9 years, Mary Lou Bechter, has led drumming circles in the Erie area, bringing the freedom and joy of beating a drum to people of all ages.

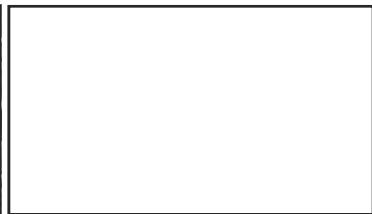
Ages 12 and up are invited to attend. Bring your own drum or percussion instrument if you have one. If you will need a drum, please contact Debbie, at 814.397.1176 (text or call), by September 21st, so an instrument can be reserved for you.

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