

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 19, 2021 - THE 25TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

THE WEEK AHEAD

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

| | | |
|--------------------|------------|--------------------------|
| Mon. 09/20 | 9:00 a.m. | Quilters |
| | 9:30 a.m. | Steel Magnolias |
| | 7:00 p.m. | Grief Support Group |
| | 7:00 p.m. | Youth Ministry Committee |
| Tue. 09/21 | 9:00 a.m. | Creative Writing Group |
| | 1:00 p.m. | Potters Clay SCC |
| | 2:00 p.m. | Prayer Shawl |
| | 4:00 p.m. | Gr. 3-6 Religious Ed |
| | 7:00 p.m. | Sofia's SCC |
| Wed. 09/22 | 1:00 p.m. | Diamonds in the Rough |
| Thur. 09/23 | 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 |
| | 6:30 p.m. | Choir Rehearsal |
| Fri. 09/24 | 6:30 p.m. | Drumming Circle |
| Sat. 09/25 | 4:30 p.m. | Sacrament of Penance |
| Sun. 09/26 | | Parish Feast Day |
| | 10:30 a.m. | Feast Day Mass |

UPDATED OFFICE HOURS

The Parish Office will be open from 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. Monday-Friday beginning Thursday, September 23rd. Regular office hours of 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. will resume on Tuesday, October 5.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

| | | |
|--------------------|-------------------------|---------------|
| Mon. 09/20 | Ezr 1:1-6 | / Lk 8:16-18 |
| Tue. 09/21 | Eph 4:1-7, 11-13 | / Mt 9:9-13 |
| Wed. 09/22 | Ezr 9:5-9 | / Lk 9:1-6 |
| Thur. 09/23 | Hg 1:1-1 | / Lk 9:7-9 |
| Fri. 09/24 | Hg 2:1-9 | / Lk 9:18-22 |
| Sat. 09/25 | Zec 2:5-9, 14-15a | / Lk 9:43b-45 |
| Sun. 09/26 | Nm 11:25-29 / Jas 5:1-6 | / Mk 9:38-48 |

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



MASS INTENTIONS

| | | |
|--------------------|------------|---|
| Mon. 09/20 | 8:30 a.m. | Tom Smith (Janet Smith) |
| Tue. 09/21 | 8:30 a.m. | Mark Hall |
| Wed. 09/22 | 8:30 a.m. | Leo Kosobucki (Candy Henry) |
| Thur. 09/23 | 8:30 a.m. | Captain Norman Schlosser (Morning Mass Group) |
| Fri. 09/24 | 8:30 a.m. | Kathleen Nowak |
| Sat. 09/25 | 8:30 a.m. | -NO MASS- |
| Sun. 09/26 | 10:30 a.m. | For the People of OLM |

We Remember...

Roger Rasch,
brother-in-law of Bob Cline,
who passed away recently.
Please hold him and his family in
prayer during this difficult time.



FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Offertory for the weekend of September 12, 2021

| | | |
|-------------------------|-----|--------------------|
| Envelopes sent: | 357 | |
| Envelopes returned: | 53 | \$ 3,487.70 |
| Faith Direct Deposits: | 139 | \$ 3,556.83 |
| Loose Change: | | \$ 87.00 |
| TOTAL OFFERTORY: | | \$ 7,131.53 |



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



THIS SUNDAY'S REFLECTION

MARK 9:30-37

"What were you arguing about on the way?"

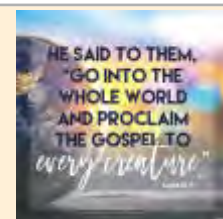
When I was in school I liked to talk a lot, and in general my bad grades were in consequence to my bad behavior. If the teacher approached me and caught me talking, I got scared and didn't know what to respond. I think the same happened with the apostles when Jesus asked them, "What were you arguing about on the way?"

They answered absolutely nothing, since it was difficult to reveal the desire to hold the first places, to be the greatest of the disciples. Jesus, as a great teacher, clarifies who is the greatest. Whoever serves others, whoever is simple as a child, whoever finds him in the less fortunate, in those who suffer, in those who are weak, in those who cannot defend themselves, he will be the first one, the greatest in the Kingdom of God. More important is that we receive him and his Father.

May our desire in life be to serve our brothers and sisters, especially those closer to us: our husband, wife, children, coworkers and our fellow parishioners, and do this with only the wish of receiving him and giving praise to Jesus and our Father.

For Reflection: What do my desires reveal about my relationship with Jesus?

Martha Elena Torres, M.C.P.



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.



Evening Grief Support

Monday Sept 20 at 7:00 p.m. 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

Please join us on on **Tuesdays beginning Sept. 21, from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.**, and concluding on **Nov. 2, 2021**. You can also join later if you cannot make the beginning session. Bring a journal and pen. An RSVP to the parish office is appreciated but not required. A free will offering would be gratefully received. 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.



Drumming Circle

Sept 24 at 6:30 p.m. in Sperry Hall. Spend an evening of fun drumming with friends. No experience required. 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 Sept 21** so an instrument can be reserved for you. For 9 years, Mary Lou Betcher has led drumming circles in the Erie area. Drumming has been shown to calm the body and mind while reducing anxiety and stress.



Book Group

Join us on **Wednesday, Oct. 20 @ 7:00** to discuss The Extraordinary Life of Sam Hell by Robert Dugoni.



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.

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

Question-of-the-Week Winner for the week of Sept. 7 was **Nathan Henry, grade 6**, who knew that God created light on the first day of creation; God called the light "day" and the dark "night".

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 2nd grade, 9th grade and Jr. High. All of these groups meet on Sunday. We also need volunteers to serve as substitute catechists. If you are interested, contact Irene at 814-899-6132 or ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org.



"The Creed"

Every week at Mass, we recite The Creed. Sunday after Sunday, we pledge our lives to the faith that is professed in its ancient lines. In this 6 week series, we will unpack the mysteries contained in this prayer. Dynamic video presentation by Bishop Robert Barron using stunning documentary footage along with group conversation will characterize each gathering. Each session will be offered twice, at 9:15 a.m. and at 7:00 p.m. on **Wednesday from Sept. 29 to Nov. 3**. There is no cost, no need to register, no need to commit to every week. For more information, contact Irene at 814-899-6132 or ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org

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.



Celebrating the 75th Anniversary of Our Lady of Mercy Parish

In a letter to parishioners in 1962, Fr. Sperry described the crowded and adverse conditions in which religious education classes were conducted. Classes were held every where - in the kitchen, sacristy, even garage! In addition to this overcrowding, he sensed a strong desire on the part of the parish community for a 'permanent' church.





Social Justice

The truth that the globe is inhabited by a single family, in which all have the same basic needs, and all have a right to the goods of the earth, is a fundamental principle of Catholic teaching.



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.



FEAST OF OUR LADY OF MERCY September 26, 2021

A time to celebrate being the
faith community
Of Our Lady of Mercy
for 75 years

Because many go to the same Mass each weekend, we never get to see or interact with those who go to other Masses.

Especially as we celebrate our 75th Anniversary as a parish community we will only celebrate one Mass on our Feast Day giving us an opportunity to gather all together as a community.

Our Feast Day Mass is at 10:30 a.m. on
Sunday, September 26th

History Photos for the 75th Anniversary

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

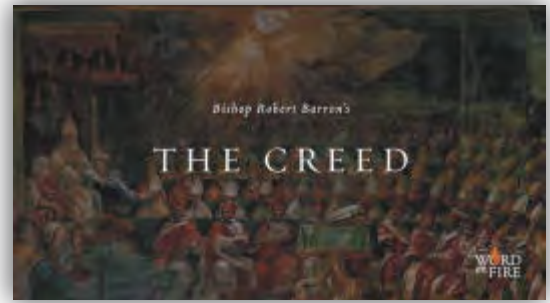
dclark@ourladyofmercychurch.org. We are collecting photos of past events at Our Lady of mercy dating back to the start at the Boys Home around the topics of: "Prayer, Community, Service, Care". We hope to put together a timeline to include in our new picture directory celebrating our 75th Anniversary.

To the Bereavement Ministry,

On behalf of the Bliss family, I would like to extend sincere thanks for your help, your prayers, and your comfort. To all the ladies serving food in Sperry Hall along with the kindest words about our mother, a very heartfelt thank you to all of you. With much appreciation and gratitude, Deb Barko and the family of Elizabeth Jane Owens Bliss.

Thank you

The Creed:



Every week at Mass, we recite The Creed. Sunday after Sunday, we pledge our lives to the faith that is professed in its ancient lines. In this 6 week series, we will unpack the mysteries contained in this prayer. Dynamic video presentation by Bishop Robert Barron using stunning documentary footage along with group conversation will characterize each gathering.

From the meaning of faith to the reality of the Church, this 6 week series will look at the core beliefs of our faith. Whether you are a lifelong Catholic wanting to refresh your knowledge or someone just beginning to learn about Catholicism, this program will inform, stimulate thought, clarify and renew.

Learn from acclaimed author, speaker and theologian Bishop Robert Barron as he engages heart, head and eyes in these stunning video programs. Grapple with the implications of Catholic teaching for the ways we respond to God and one another in each week's conversation.

When:
Wednesday morning at 9:15
Or Wednesday evening at 7:00
from September 29 - November 3, 2021

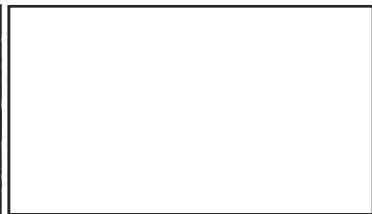
Contact ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org or **814-899-6132** with questions
There is no need to register, no cost, no need to be present for every week.

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.lynychmedical.com

Stans
GARDEN CENTER
 Where There's Always Something GROWING on!
 Jim Skarzenski & Bob Rocky - Parishioners

East
 5001 Buffalo Road
 Erie, PA 16510
 899.5424

West
 5341 West Lake Road
 Erie, PA 16505
 835.6960



WE'RE HIRING
AD SALES EXECUTIVES
BE YOURSELF. BRING YOUR PASSION.
WORK WITH PURPOSE.

- Work-Life Balance
- Paid Training
- Full-Time with Benefits
- Some Travel
- Serve Your Community

Contact us at careers@4lpi.com
www.4lpi.com/careers

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS!

PRICHARD CHIROPRACTIC OFFICES

6095 Buffalo Road
 Harborcreek, PA
899-1966

DR. LOREN J. PRICHARD
 DR. SCOTT V. PRICHARD

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

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

ADT-Monitored Home Security
 Get 24-Hour Protection From a Name You Can Trust

- Burglary
- Flood Detection
- Fire Safety
- Carbon Monoxide

ADT Authorized Provider | SafeStreets | **1-855-225-4251**

SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL PARISH.

Buy a Bulletin ad space today!

LET US PLACE YOUR AD HERE.

Widget Financial
 widgetfinancial.com



HARBORCREEK AUTO Gallery
 6850 Buffalo Rd.
814-315-4051
 Harborcreek, PA
 www.harborcreekautogallery.com
 • Sales • PA Inspections
 • Notary • Detailing

DUSCKAS - TAYLOR
 FUNERAL HOME & CREMATION SERVICES, INC.

5151 BUFFALO RD.
 ERIE, PA 16510

ROBERT D. TAYLOR, SUPERVISOR
 814-315-0911

WWW.DUSCKAS-TAYLORFUNERALHOME.COM

OLLINGER PLUMBING, HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING

Residential • Commercial
 Quality Installations & Service
899-2809

THIS SPACE IS AVAILABLE

FREE AD DESIGN

WITH PURCHASE OF THIS SPACE

LPI CALL 800.477.4574

AVAILABLE FOR A LIMITED TIME!
ADVERTISE HERE NOW!

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

Brevillier Village

5416 East Lake Road
 Erie, PA 16511
 814-899-8600
 www.brevillier.org

Ball Pavilion
 Short Term Rehab
 Long Term Nursing Care

Barnabas Court
 Licensed Personal Care,
 Residency & Independent Living.

Conrad House
 Independent Living

GROW YOUR BUSINESS AND SUPPORT YOUR COMMUNITY

Advertise Here!

LPI CONTACT US AT 800.477.4574