

# 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*

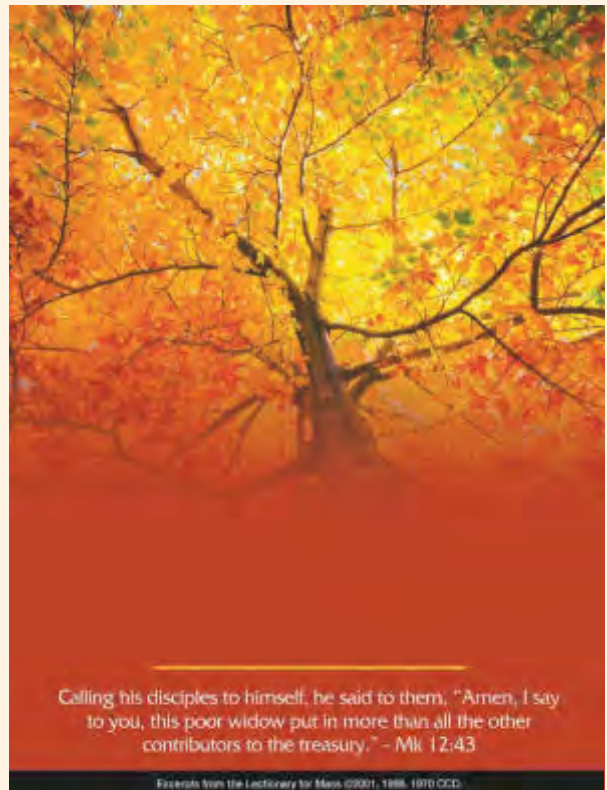
## CONTACT INFORMATION

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)



Calling his disciples to himself, he said to them, "Amen, I say to you, this poor widow put in more than all the other contributors to the treasury." - Mk 12:43

Excerpt from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1988, 1970 CCC.

## NOVEMBER 7, 2021 - THE 32ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

## THE WEEK AHEAD

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

<b>Mon. 11/08</b>	9:00 a.m.	Newsletter Mailing Party
	9:00 a.m.	Quilters
	9:30 a.m.	Steel Magnolias
	5:30 p.m.	Sisters of Scripture SCC
	6:30 p.m.	Pastoral Facilitator Mtg.
<b>Tue. 11/09</b>	1:00 p.m.	Potters Clay SCC
	2:00 p.m.	Prayer Shawl
	4:00 p.m.	Gr. 3-6 Religious Ed
<b>Wed. 11/10</b>	9:00 a.m.	Angels in Training SCC
	1:00 p.m.	Diamonds in the Rough
	6:30 p.m.	AGIFT Mtg.
	7:00 p.m.	Knights of Columbus
<b>Thur. 11/11</b>	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
<b>Fri. 11/12</b>	5:00 p.m.	Mission of Friendship Anniversary Mass
<b>Sat. 11/13</b>	9:00 a.m.	PF Training
	4:30 p.m.	Sacrament of Penance
<b>Sun. 11/14</b>	9:30 a.m.	Gr. K-2&7-8 Religious Ed.
	10:30 a.m.	Gr. 10 Retreat

## PRAYER LINE

9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Call Joanne Cargioli at 814-898-1068

4:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.

Call Gerri Extein at 814-490-9681



## SCRIPTURE READINGS

<b>Mon. 11/08</b>	Wis 1:1-7	/ Lk 17:1-6
<b>Tue. 11/09</b>	Ez 47:1-2, 8-9, 12 / 1 Cor 3:9c-11, 16-17	/ Jn 2:13-22
<b>Wed. 11/10</b>	Wis 6:1-11	/ Lk 17:11-19
<b>Thur. 11/11</b>	Wis 7:22b-8:1	/ Lk 17:20-25
<b>Fri. 11/12</b>	Wis 13:1-9	/ Lk 17:26-37
<b>Sat. 11/13</b>	Wis 18:14-16	/ Lk 18:1-8
<b>Sun. 11/14</b>	Dn 12:1-3 / Heb 10:11-14, 18	/ Mk 13:24-32

## MASS INTENTIONS

<b>Mon. 11/08</b>	8:30 a.m.	Margaret Klick
<b>Tue. 11/09</b>	8:30 a.m.	James Boris (The Extein Family)
<b>Wed. 11/10</b>	8:30 a.m.	Robert Liebel (The Liebel Family)
<b>Thur. 11/11</b>	8:30 a.m.	Denny Smith (Janet Smith)
<b>Fri. 11/12</b>	8:30 a.m.	John Porta
<b>Sat. 11/13</b>	8:30 a.m.	<del>NO MASS</del>
	6:00 p.m.	For the People of OLM
<b>Sun. 11/14</b>	8:30 a.m.	Don McCurdy (Frank & Joanne Cargioli)
	11:00 a.m.	Jim Bucklin (Lorraine Bucklin)

## We Remember...

Thomas Piskorski Jr.,  
nephew of Jane & Don Mallin, and  
Florence Adameck,  
mother of Joanne Fournier;  
who passed away recently.



Please hold them and their families in prayer during this difficult time.

## FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Offertory for the weekend of October 31, 2021

Envelopes sent:	357	
Envelopes returned:	54	\$ 3,327.00
Faith Direct Deposits:	136	\$ 3,446.08
Loose Change:		\$ 104.00
<b>TOTAL OFFERTORY:</b>		<b>\$ 6,877.08</b>

## For Mercy Sake Mailing Party

Can you help us get the newsletter folded, stuffed into envelopes and ready for the mail? We will have a mailing party at 9:00 a.m. Monday, Nov. 8 in Sperry Hall. If you can lend a hand, contact Irene at [ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org](mailto:ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org) or 814-899-6132.

## THIS SUNDAY'S REFLECTION

### MARK 12:38-44

"She, from her poverty, has contributed all she had, her whole livelihood."

I have fond memories of an uncle who visited my family's home several times every week throughout my childhood and early adult years. He lived a lifestyle that was frugal to the extreme. He preferred to use his income to support his parish, help build mission churches, care for the poor and to fund the education of his nephews and nieces. His generosity was more than equaled by his trust in God.

Despite the death of his wife and only child, the failure of two businesses, and the Cold War, he was always a man at peace. He responded to every situation with the words that I wish had been carved on the marker for his grave, "The Almighty still rules this world." He knew that before God he was powerless and his only response was to surrender.

I wish that I could say that I have reached my uncle's level of trust. Perhaps it will take the rest of my life and the acceptance of my death to achieve it. As I continue the journey, my uncle and today's widow serve as models for the humility and true self-awareness that characterize a disciple of Jesus.

For Reflection: Is my life's journey leading me to take greater steps of trust?

Richard Oswald



### Book Group

Join us on **Wednesday, Nov. 17 @ 7:00** at the home of Kay Kaeberlein to discuss The Mountains Sing by Nguyễn Phan Quế. We will begin the new year with a discussion of The Plot by Jean Hanff Korelitz. Unvaccinated members, PLEASE wear masks.



### Parents of Toddlers – Children Welcome

At Our Lady of Mercy, our ideal is that families come to Mass together, with their children of all ages. If the children are just learning how loud their voices are, don't be embarrassed, we consider it praise of God. If you have a runner – there are speakers in the Gathering Space so you can listen as you chase. If you need a contained room, try the nursery (the second room down the hall from the Bartlett Rd. door) which also has closed circuit TV of the Worship Space. If you are sitting next to a family with children, smile a lot.



### AV Ministry

We are looking for a few more people to learn how to work our livestream camera. Please contact Donna Clark.



### Grief Support

Losing a loved one can be disorienting and spattered with moments of anger and despair. One solution is to talk things out. Contact Donna Clark in the parish office for a one on one conversation.



### Help needed to prepare and install OLM Advent Environment

\* Several crafty/artistically inclined youth or adults to help prepare wreaths for Advent/Christmas environments. Can be scheduled throughout November. Contact Theresa Horanic as soon as possible at 814-384-6477.

\* A few guys/gals who climb ladders and can help hang wreaths, hangings, etc. in Worship Space and Gathering Space on the Saturday after Thanksgiving (November 27th) at 9am. Contact Nancy Mowery at 814-403-6621.

## 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 Oct. 25 was **Delaney Andrews, grade 6**, who could name several types of prayer including intercession, thanks, sorrow and praise.

### Mission of Friendship 50th Anniversary Celebration

Our Lady of Mercy is honored to be asked to host the diocesan celebration of 50 years of partnership with the Diocese of Merida. All are invited to join Bishop Persico for a Mass at 5:00 on Friday, Nov. 12 followed by an authentic Mexican dinner and a fashion show.



### Youth Ministry Core Team

The OLM Youth Ministry Core Team is looking to add to its roster. The YM Core Team is a fun, energetic group of adults over the age of 18 that meet once a month to plan and implement different Youth Ministry activities such as retreats, youth events, service projects and fellowship opportunities. If you are interested in joining the team, send an email to Katie at [youthminister@ourladyofmercychurch.org](mailto:youthminister@ourladyofmercychurch.org) or give her a call in the Parish Office.



### Soup For The Advent Soul

Mark your calendar for **Sunday, Dec. 5 from noon to 2:00** for our annual parish celebration of Advent. Warm up with a homemade soup lunch and time with parish friends. Kids will enjoy a craft and game and...., maybe a visit from a special guest.



### Soups Needed

We are looking for parish soup makers to bring a crock pot of homemade soup to our Advent celebration on Dec. 5. A sign up list will be in the Gathering Space next Sunday.



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

In September of 1988, Msgr. Sperry, Barb Jacquel and Irene Lubecki attended a workshop regarding a method of restructuring parishes into small communities. Of all the parishes that attended the workshop, Our Lady of Mercy was the only parish to follow through and develop a CORE Team along with training facilitators. The parish's experience in setting up small faith communities has been shared with many other parishes who only later began following in its footsteps.





## Social Justice

"We are put on earth, a little space that we may learn to bear the beams of love."  
William Blake

### Sunday Morning \*C\*A\*F\*E\*

We are delighted to announce that the Sunday Morning CAFÉ is back! Today, Sunday, Nov. 7, we will host our first Sunday CAFÉ in nearly 22 months. Join us in Sperry Hall for fresh coffee and baked goods. "I Was A Stranger And You Welcomed Me, In the 25th chapter of the Gospel of Matthew, the judgment of the world is likened to a shepherd separating sheep from goats. When the perplexed crowd asks why they find themselves among the rewarded or banished, Jesus answers "I was hungry and you fed me...I was a stranger and you welcomed me... Whenever you did it to the least, you did it to me." Currently, the globe is seeing the largest movement of refugees since the Second World War. Erie has become home to a number of those seeking a new life. But, what is life like for a refugee in Erie? What resources are available to them? And, what could a community of faith or individual Christians do to welcome the stranger in our midst? Senada Alihodzic, Program Coordinator for Community Resources at the Erie International Institute, will share with us the journey of a typical refugee arriving in Erie.



## OLM 10th Grade Retreat You Are Called

Hey did you hear about the 10th Grade Retreat at OLM?

Yeah! Its on Sunday November 14th from 10:30 a.m. - 6:30 p.m. in Sperry Hall! I heard lunch is provided!

Don't forget...it's mandatory!

Our 10th graders will gather in Sperry Hall at 10:30 a.m. before attending 11 a.m. Mass. For more information, please contact Katie at [youthminister@ourladyofmercychurch.org](mailto:youthminister@ourladyofmercychurch.org) or 814-899-5342.

## Youth THANKS-Gathering Sunday, Nov. 21, 3:00-5:00 p.m. at Our Lady of Mercy Parish

*"Let us love,  
not in word or speech,  
but in truth and action."  
1 John 3:18*

A Christian fellowship event for Harborcreek youth, grades 6-12

Everyone is welcome for fellowship, fun, service, and of course, food!

**Theme: "Faith in Action"**

**Guest Speaker: Andy Kerr, chaplain at the Erie City Mission, will share about his ministry at the Mission and how we can help. The afternoon's service projects will support the City Mission, the Ella Cochran Food Pantry, and the Soldiers and Sailors Home.**

Sponsored by First Presbyterian, Faith Lutheran, Our Lady of Mercy, and South Harborcreek United Methodist Churches.



## Child Protection and Creating Safe Environments



### Digital Behavior

Parents create trust with children by initiating open, honest discussions. These dialogues are an opportunity to communicate values and expectations about your family's appropriate digital behavior, including viewing or sharing content, and apps they can and cannot use. Check in frequently with your children about their digital experiences to address any potential risk of cyberbullying and harm. Be clear that your intention is to look out for their wellbeing, and that you want to have an open dialogue. Listen to their concerns and express your perspective. To minimize the risk of cyberbullying or harm from digital behavior, parents can: set clear expectations about digital behavior and online reputation, educate about the harmful effects of cyberbullying, posting hateful speech or comments, sexting, and sharing naked photos of themselves or others (including potential legal issues), be clear about what content can be viewed or shared, and identify which apps are appropriate for your child's use and which are not. Establish rules about the amount of time that a child can spend online or on their devices. Model positive, respectful digital behavior on your own devices and accounts. For more information on cyberbullying go to: [www.stopbullying.gov](http://www.stopbullying.gov). For additional parent resources visit <https://www.eriecd.org/childprotection/>.

## HAVE YOU HEARD ABOUT THE

# SYNOD?

### What is Synodality?

Synodality literally translates as "on the same path" or "journeying together."

"Fundamentally, synodality is about journeying together. This happens through listening to one another in order to hear what God is saying to all of us. It is realizing that the Holy Spirit can speak through anyone to help us walk forward together on our journey as the People of God."

In short, a synod is like a family meeting. Good family meetings listen to everyone in the family - from oldest to youngest. They are marked by deep listening in an effort to understand one another and to understand what the Holy Spirit is asking the family to do and to be. Like families, synods are not a democracy.

Every voice must be heard, but the path isn't necessarily determined by the loudest voice. It is determined by deep listening and discerning the voice of the Holy Spirit in each person's experience and insights.

Discerning the Holy Spirit is a "Church speak" way to talk about listening and understanding how the Holy Spirit is moving in our concrete reality. It happens through prayerful listening in the context of the Scriptures and the way God has acted in the Church in the past.

<https://slmedia.org/blog/what-is-the-synod-on-synodality>

### What is the process for Erie?

**October-November:** Pastors will select parishioners to facilitate the synodal process at the parish level, and facilitators will be chosen for those on the margins, such as the differently abled, impoverished, and non-practicing Catholics.

**January:** Diocesan training of facilitators

**February - March:** Local Synodal gatherings take place. The faithful are encouraged to take part in the synodal gathering hosted by their parish, or if that is not feasible, the gathering hosted by another parish.

**March-April:** Diocesan representatives process responses and write synodal report.

### Does my voice matter ?

**Your voice is important to hear the breadth of what the Holy Spirit is saying to the Diocese of Erie for the 2021 Diocesan phase of the Synod on Synodality. More importantly, your participation in listening and discerning the Holy Spirit's action is important for building a culture of synodality in our diocese for the long term.**

In the *Vademecum*, a document released before a synod to prepare participants, Pope Francis writes that the primary question for this synod is, "How does this "journeying together" take place today on different levels (from the local level to the universal one), allowing the Church to proclaim the Gospel? and what steps is the Spirit inviting us to take in order to grow as a synodal Church? (PD, 2)" (VD 1.3)

Over the next 6 months, the Diocese of Erie will be listening to its people to hear, honestly and charitably, about how we listen and journey with one another at the familial, parish, and diocesan level. The Diocese will also be listening to discern ways that the Holy Spirit is calling it to grow in a spirit of "journeying together," attentive to the direction of the Holy Spirit speaking through all its members and in the signs of the times.

In some synods, the questions focus on a particular challenge or topic (eg. Eucharist, New Evangelization) and the work of the synod is primarily done in preparation to or during the synod. This synod is different. The diocesan phase will take place over the next 6 months, but the most important work remains in continuing and growing a diocesan culture of synodality. Your participation helps us as a diocese continue listening and discerning; to become more fully a people who are "journeying together" in the Holy Spirit.



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*Membership Form*

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Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Change of Address     Moving out of the Parish

New Parishioner  
 To start the new member process please call the parish office at 899-5342; or request a phone call by filling out this form and returning it to the office by mail or collection basket.