

# 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.

## 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

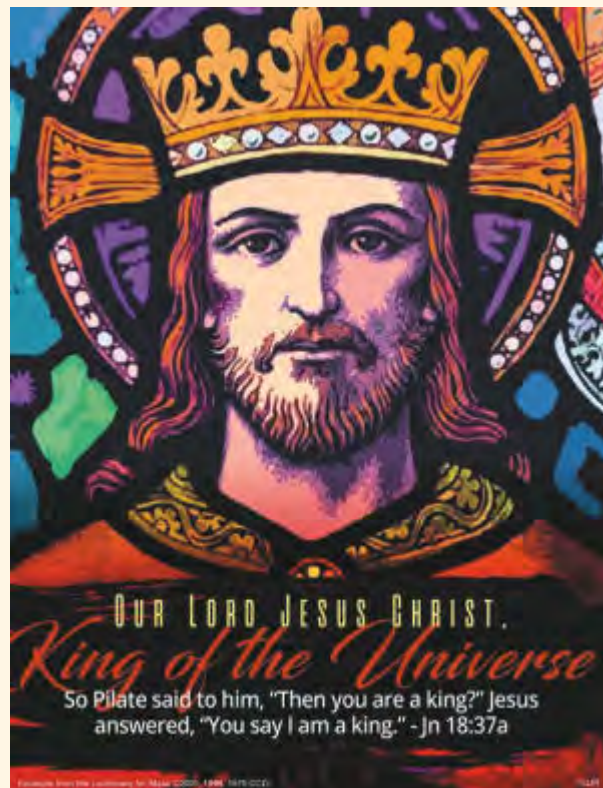
Office of Lifelong Faith Formation: 814-899-6132

Fax: 814-898-3306

Email: [info@ourladyofmercychurch.org](mailto:info@ourladyofmercychurch.org)

## 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.*



# NOVEMBER 21, 2021 - CHRIST, THE KING OF THE UNIVERSE

## THE WEEK AHEAD

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

<b>Mon. 11/22</b>	9:00 a.m.	Quilters
	9:30 a.m.	Steel Magnolias
	5:30 p.m.	Sisters of Scripture SCC
<b>Tue. 11/23</b>	2:00 p.m.	Prayer Shawl
<b>Wed. 11/24</b>	9:00 a.m.	Angels in Training SCC
	1:00 p.m.	Diamonds in the Rough
<b>Thur. 11/25</b>	<b>THANKSGIVING DAY</b>	
	<b>PARISH OFFICE CLOSED</b>	
<b>Fri. 11/26</b>	<b>PARISH OFFICE CLOSED</b>	
<b>Sat. 11/27</b>	4:30 p.m.	Sacrament of Penance
<b>Sun. 11/28</b>	<b>FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b>	

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

<b>Mon. 11/22</b>	Dn 1:1-6, 8-20	/ Lk 21:1-4
<b>Tue. 11/23</b>	Dn 2:31-45	/ Lk 21:5-11
<b>Wed. 11/24</b>	Dn 5:1-6, 13-17, 23-28	/ Lk 21:12-19
<b>Thur. 11/25</b>	Dn 6:12-28	/ Lk 21:20-28
<b>Fri. 11/26</b>	Dn 7:2-14	/ Lk 21:29-33
<b>Sat. 11/27</b>	Dn 7:15-27	/ Lk 21:34-36
<b>Sun. 11/28</b>	Jer 33:14-16	/ 1 Thes 3:12-4:2 / Lk 21:25-28, 34-36



## FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Offertory for the weekend of **November 14, 2021**

Envelopes sent:	357	
Envelopes returned:	58	\$ 2,760.00
Faith Direct Deposits:	136	\$ 3,446.08
Loose Change:		\$ 60.00
<b>TOTAL OFFERTORY:</b>		<b>\$ 6,266.08</b>

## 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



## We Remember...

**Barbara Schlosser and Judy Hewett,**  
sister of Jean Bleil;  
who passed away recently.

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

*In Loving Memory*

## MASS INTENTIONS

<b>Mon. 11/22</b>	8:30 a.m.	<b>Don McCurdy</b> (Kelly & Demaris Edwards)
<b>Tue. 11/23</b>	8:30 a.m.	<b>Dawn Williams</b> (Sandra Jordan)
<b>Wed. 11/24</b>	8:30 a.m.	<b>Marie Zirolli</b>
<b>Thur. 11/25</b>	9:00 a.m.	
<b>Fri. 11/26</b>	8:30 a.m.	<b>Thomas Liebel</b> (The Liebel Family)
<b>Sat. 11/27</b>	8:30 a.m.	<del>NO MASS</del>
	6:00 p.m.	<b>Chet Szymecki</b> (Family)
<b>Sun. 11/28</b>	8:30 a.m.	<b>Patricia Lynch</b> (The Lynch Family)
	11:00 a.m.	<b>For the People of OLM</b>

## THIS SUNDAY'S REFLECTION



### JOHN 18:33b-37

**"My kingdom does not belong to this world."**

While we Americans can appreciate the tradition and the panoply associated with kings and queens, we would never prefer monarchical government to our own democratic form. After all, we know what it's like from our colonial days and we fought a war to be free from kingship rule.

So today's solemnity of Christ the King may seem a little quaint to Americans, a little out of step with our 230-year experiment in democracy. Perhaps, but we honor today a ruler whose kingdom is not of this world. Jesus redefined kingship.

Pilate thought he knew all about kings; he was a "friend of Caesar" - a political title bestowed on loyal middle managers such as himself. But he didn't know about Jesus's kind of kingdom.

Pilate understood power and control, the strength of horses and soldiers. But he didn't get the notion of service and the washing of feet. Nor would he understand how Jesus put up no resistance at his arrest, telling his followers to sheathe their swords. Those who buy into the allurements of power and control over others will not understand a kingdom based on truth, mercy, and justice for the rights of everyone, nor will they understand its King.

**For Reflection: What does it mean to me to celebrate the kingship of Christ? Do I recognize the kind of kingdom he embodies?**

*David LeSieur*

### Book Group

We will begin the new year with a discussion of The Plot by Jean Hanff Korelitz. Unvaccinated members, PLEASE wear masks.



### Drumming Circle



On **Sunday Dec 5 at 6:30 p.m.** Our Lady of Mercy will host another Drumming Circle. Drumming calms the body and mind while reducing anxiety and stress. No experience or musical ability required. Age 12 and up invited to bring your own drum or contact Debbie by **December 1st** to reserve an instrument (text or ph: 814.397.1176). \$15 cash donation per person.

### Donor Match Money for Our Lady of Mercy

For every new parishioner who signs up for recurring monthly offertory donations through Faith Direct **before December 15th**, the Faith Direct Company will match that first gift, up to \$50 per parishioner. To be eligible for the matching gift, more than one installment must be set-up and the first recurring gift must be processed through Faith Direct by **December 31, 2021**.



### 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**. If you can help, please add your name to the list on the easel in the Gathering Space. Please let us know what kind of soup you will be bringing so that we can have labels prepared.



### Thanksgiving Prayer Cubes

A gift for you from OLM's Small Christian Communities. Simply roll the cube at mealtime and recite the prayer that comes up. It's a fun way to involve your family and learn new prayers. These are available in the gathering area next to the bulletins. (some assembly required)



### Harborcreek Thanksgiving Service

A special music presentation will be offered by members from the combined Choirs from our local Harborcreek churches, along with members of our own OLM Choir and directed by Patti Reavel in celebration of Thanksgiving and song during this year's Community Service. It has been many years since OLM has hosted this event. We hope you can join us **Sunday, November 21 at 6 p.m.** All offerings will benefit our local food pantry.

### 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.



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




In 1970, the first parish council was formed to assist the pastor in the administration of the parish. Also, the Legion of Mary was established in 1970 and has, throughout the years of its existence, provided both spiritual and temporal services to the parish as well as the greater community.



**Social Justice**  
 "Feeding the hungry is a greater work than raising the dead."  
*St. John Chrysostom*


**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 Nov. 8 was **Makayla Inthavong, grade 3**, who knew that "eucharist" means to give thanks.



**Religious Education Calendar**  
 There is no religious education classes Nov. 23-28 for the Thanksgiving holiday. Classes will resume on Nov. 30.

**Would your child like to participate in a children's Christmas choir?**

Patti Reavel, our music director, would like parents' feedback regarding their child's interest in participating in a Children's Christmas Choir which would sing at the children's Christmas eve liturgy, **Friday, Dec. 24, 2021 at 6 p.m.** Rehearsals would be minimal. If you have an interested child, please email Patti at [preavel@gmail.com](mailto:preavel@gmail.com). Please include your child's age and the best contact email/phone.



**Smile for Our Lady of Mercy**

To link to our Amazon Smile charity listing visit: <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/25-1563277>. If you shop Amazon please consider using Amazon Smile and naming "Our Lady of Mercy – Harborcreek" as your charity.



**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**.



LITURGICAL ENVIRONMENT MINISTRY

\* 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**.

**Season of GIVING**

**WAYS TO GIVE THIS SEASON**

**CHRISTMAS CARING TREE PROGRAM**  
 If you took a name for The Ella Cochran Food Pantry's "Christmas Caring Tree" please return the wrapped gift by **December 5th**.

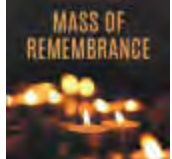
**Operation Assisting Santa**  
 If you would like to help the children of needy veterans, the children's gift cards will be available the weekend of **November 20th and 21st**. Unwrapped gifts need to be returned by **December 5**. If you cannot come in person to pick up a card please contact **Janet Smith at 814-899-5495** or [refereesmith@roadrunner.com](mailto:refereesmith@roadrunner.com) Or Mochie Zielewski at **814-823-6505** or [mzielewski999@hotmail.com](mailto:mzielewski999@hotmail.com)

**Food Pantry Book Drive**  
 The Ella Cochran Food Pantry is looking for gently used children's books. Donations will be available to families during our Christmas distribution. Please place books in the book box in the Gathering Space. Thank you!

**Erie International Institute Donations Needed**  
 Our Lady of Mercy will be collecting winter hats, coats, books, gloves and scarves, along with blankets for the International Institute of Erie. Senada Alihodzic, Program Coordinator for Community Resources at the Erie International Institute spoke to us at our November Café about the typical journey of a refugee arriving in Erie. It was then brought to our attention of their need for proper winter attire. Please drop off your donations to the program in the Gathering Space.

**Mass of Remembrance**

The annual Mass of Remembrance is **Saturday, December 4th 2021, at 10 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. Due to the COVID 19 pandemic, some of our Parishioners may be uncomfortable attending this Mass, although they would dearly want to attend. Our Parish will be live streaming the Mass, through YouTube or, FaceBook from the OLM website at [www.ourladyofmercychurch.org](http://www.ourladyofmercychurch.org)



# The Season of Advent



Mass of Remembrance: Saturday, December 4—10:00 a.m.

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception:

Wednesday, December 8—Masses 8:30 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.

Reconciliation Service: Saturdays of Advent, 4:30 p.m.

Wednesday, December 15—4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

There will be three priests available

*Because of the pandemic there will be no Advent Penance  
Celebration with our neighboring parishes*

Families of young and old are invited to celebrate Advent in Sperry Hall on December 5, 2021 from noon until 2pm. Guests are asked to bring a pot of soup to share for lunch.

## Soup For The Advent Soul

There will be:

- Crafts
- Games
- There's even a possibility of a special holiday surprise guest!

Homemade Soup's are needed for lunch. Please sign-up to bring soup on the display in the Gathering Space.



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**OUR LADY OF MERCY CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
*Membership Form*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

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.