



# FOR MERCY'S SAKE

the quarterly newsletter of Our Lady of Mercy Church

837 Bartlett Road  
Harborcreek, PA 16421

814-899-5342

[www.ourladyofmercychurch.org](http://www.ourladyofmercychurch.org)



## 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

August 2021

*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.**

Followed by our 75th Anniversary reception in Sperry Hall

More details on the reception will be announced later

Looking forward to seeing you there.

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# A PANDEMIC BLESSING

In the midst of all the negative things that happened during the Covid-19 Pandemic, here at Our Lady of Mercy the Audio Visual equipment that we now have in our Parish is truly a blessing for us.



However, along with the blessing comes a need for the Parish. We are in need of people interested in being part of the audio visual and sound ministry. We are looking for High School or College students or any adults who would be interested in being part of the committee or working with the equipment. If you are interested or have any questions, please contact Donna Clark or the Parish Office.



## FESTIVAL 2021

Words cannot express our gratitude for how the community responded to our Drive-thru Festival. You did wonderfully. Thank you all so much and may God bless all of you.

AND  
THE WINNERS  
ARE..

### 2021 RAFFLES

\$1,000 Grand Prize	Fred Koller
50/50	Laurie Wilczynski
Afghan	Sherry Tyzinski
Lottery Tree	Susan Payne
Quilt	Ruth Dennis
Restaurant Cards	Bernie Myers
Television	Carolyn Rothmaan

### 2021 DRIVE THRU FESTIVAL RESULTS

### PRIOR YEAR PROFITS

Income	\$23,907.00	Dinners	\$15,626.00
		Raffles	\$ 7,609.00
		Donations	\$ 672.00
Total Expenses	\$ 6,820.03	Dinner	\$ 1,353.69
		Chicken	\$ 3,068.13
		Prizes	\$ 1,625.00
		Misc.	\$ 773.21
Profit	\$17,086.97		

2020	\$15,010.40
2019	\$20,938.08
2018	\$20,108.80
2017	\$20,041.60
2016	\$20,410.25



## Meet Our New Director of Music Ministry

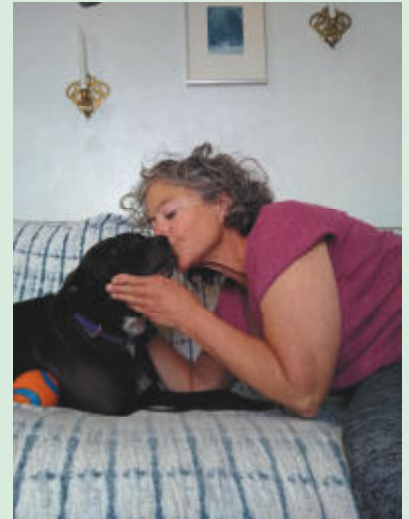
Patti Reavel is still making the journey from her home in Pittsburgh to our Worship Space in Harborcreek several times a month, but she has already completed the journey from stranger to member of the OLM family. After a four-month search, the Holy Spirit, working through the search committee guided Patti to our community where she will assume the responsibilities for leading the parish Music Ministry as a part-time position.

Patti is a native of Johnstown, PA, but has called Pittsburgh her home for the last 30 years. Music has been a part of her life from her earliest days. She began singing in the crib and playing the piano at 3 years of age. Her mother was her first piano teacher, but she quickly moved on to more challenging instruction. By the age of 12, she was giving piano lessons.

Patti has never hidden her talent under a bushel basket. She made her debut singing "Listen To The Cowie" which she promptly picked out on the piano without ever touching the instrument prior. She was singing in choirs in the first grade. In high school, she was a soloist at her Catholic parish. By college, she was singing professionally in choirs.

Patti's talent is not limited to music; she is also gifted in art. Not sure whether to pursue a degree in art or music, she double majored until her music won out. She completed her undergraduate degree at the College of Performing Arts of Philadelphia, after which she moved to Eastman School of Music in Rochester, N.Y. for her graduate work. Patti has ministered as pianist, vocalist and choir director in Catholic parishes for most of her adult life, taught piano to many students and served as an accompanist in various settings, including as the principle accompanist at the Chautauqua Institute for several summers.

Animals are Patti's other passion, a love she inherited from her father. She shares her home with two dogs and a rabbit: Charlie, a 14-year-old Staffordshire mix, Lilly, a five-year-old Lab mix and Erika, an 11 year old bunny.



Patti came to love Erie through frequent summer visits over the years. She enjoys playing and singing for residents of nursing facilities. When she came to Erie to entertain in elder care settings, Patti would then enjoy visiting Presque Isle and other Erie locations. Patti said, "I feel called to your church. I have fallen in love with the people I have met so far; everyone has been so kind and welcoming. I am excited about starting this final phase of my life."

Patti officially assumed her responsibilities the weekend of July 31-Aug. 1 and plans to move to the Harborcreek area soon. For those who have had a chance to meet Patti already, the feeling is mutual; we have fallen in love with her and her incredible talent. We are excited about starting this new phase in the life of our parish, invited into prayer by her gift of voice and piano and her direction of the singers and instrumentalists at each Mass. If you have not yet met Patti, take a moment over the coming weekends to welcome her to her new parish family.

## Religious Education Registration

After an incredibly challenging year for everyone, faith formation should look a lot more familiar this year. We pray and hope that COVID cases will remain low in Erie County so that we can hold in-person religious education classes through the coming months. I am so grateful to the youth and their families who were faithful to Zoom religious education classes despite “Zoom fatigue”. I am incredibly grateful to the catechists who found ways to reach their students on this unfamiliar and less-than-ideal platform. I am grateful to this parish community for their prayerful support. And I give all praise to the Holy Spirit who did for us far more than we could have asked or imagined.

*Registration* for the 2021-2022 religious education program will take place after all Masses the weekend of August 14-15. If you have found that you have missed the general registration weekend, please stop by the Office of Lifelong Faith Formation during normal working hours. All families with children intending to participate in the 2021-2022 Religious Education program are asked to register at this time. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

Again this year, there will be a \$10 discount on the registration fee for those families who provide the parish with current clearances for at least one parent. If you already submitted clearances and they are less than 3 years old, the discount will apply. As most of you know, all those who volunteer with children must have government issued clearances, both Criminal Background checks and Child Abuse Clearances. This law applies to parents helping with a classroom party, chaperoning a field trip, religious education substitutes and the like. These clearances are free for volunteers. However, they must be on file with the sponsoring organization before any volunteer can assist with any aspect of any program.

Our Lady of Mercy believes that parent participation in the religious education ministry is essential to its success. Whether parents can volunteer on a weekly basis or assist with a one-time project, we value your gifts and time. The only way that we can involve parents is if we have their clearances on file. Many of you already have obtained these clearances for school, scouting, sports or other programs. If you do not already have these documents, you can apply on-line. All links can be found at the diocesan website <http://eriercd.org>. If you have any difficulty completing the on-line application for these clearances, call the parish and we will assist you.

In an attempt to encourage parents to provide Our Lady of Mercy with these clearances, we are offering a \$10 registration discount to any family who provides us with both clearances on one parent (clearances must be less than 3 years old).

Program	Without Clearances	With Clearances
Registration—One child	\$40	\$30
Registration—Two children	\$50	\$40
Registration—Three or more children	\$60	\$50
Registration—Per child, non-parishioner	\$55	\$45
Youth Ministry Fee per child grades 7-12	\$10	\$10
Youth Ministry Fee for 3 or more children grades 7—12	\$25	\$25

*Kindergarten* religious education class is held on Sunday mornings from 9:30-10:45. Participants must be age 5 by September 1 and should be in the same school grade.

*Grade One* religious education is required prior to participation in the Sacramental Preparation program. First grade religious education students meet on Sunday mornings from 9:30-10:45.

*First Reconciliation* preparation is conducted on the second grade level. The First Reconciliation program, held 9:30-10:45 Sunday morning, is open to all students in Grade 2 or older who have previously been involved in at least one year of religious instruction and who have been baptized. No child can be registered for the grade 2 RE class who has not attended one year of formal religious education classes at a Catholic parish. In order to qualify as successfully completing 1 year of instruction, the child must have been present for a minimum of 3/4th of the schedule classes or provide a letter of completion from the pastor or director of the parish program they attended stating such. Participation in a 3-hour preparatory retreat is required prior to the celebration of the sacrament. The celebration of First Reconciliation occurs in March. Parental support and involvement is essential during periods of sacramental preparation.

**First Eucharist** preparation is the curriculum for the third grade program. Individuals must have celebrated the sacraments of Baptism and Reconciliation prior to the celebration of their First Eucharist. First Eucharist is celebrated in May. Students are required to participate in an April retreat day as part of the preparation program. Parental involvement and support is essential during periods of sacramental preparation.

**The Intermediate Program** encompasses grades 3-6. Students participating in religious education on this level gather for classes on Tuesday afternoons from 4:00-5:30. Our Lady of Mercy arranges for bus transportation from the Harborcreek public elementary schools to the church. Parents are responsible for picking up their children at class end.

Behavior for the Rel. Ed. bus follows the same policies as that enforced by the Harborcreek School District. Failure by any student to behave in an appropriate fashion while riding the bus to religious education classes will result in the suspension of the privilege to receive this transportation for the remainder of the academic year.

**Junior High Program** is conducted on Sundays. On the first three Sundays of each month, students meet from 9:30 to 10:45 AM for classroom style sessions. On the final Sunday of each month, the young people gather for an extended youth ministry session from noon to 3:00 which combines opportunities for community service, retreats, community building and more.

**Confirmation Preparation** is a three year process. Individuals may enter the program in the ninth grade or later. Those attending a Catholic high school are not required to participate in the first two years of this process. This program includes Home Sessions, service projects, retreat days, etc. Those celebrating the sacrament of Confirmation must be in the second semester of eleventh grade or older, have been baptized, and have completed all requirements.

**Days of Retreat** are provided for students in the formal religious education program. All program provided retreat experiences are free to participants. Attendance at these events is required for those preparing for a sacramental celebration (Grade 2 First Reconciliation, Grade 3 First Eucharist and Grade 9-11 Confirmation). All other experiences are encouraged, but not mandatory. These days combine fun with spiritual growth.

**Family Faith Days** are opportunities for families to share in the faith formation process with their children. Currently, these are scheduled three times during the school year during the Sunday morning program (the first day of class, late autumn, winter). On these specially designated mornings, all children in Kindergarten through gr. 2 are joined by parents, siblings and any extended family members to share in a special morning of prayer and fun.

**Parent Meetings** enable family members to best support the faith development of their child. Every year we hold a series of parent meetings designed to inform parents of curriculum topics, special projects and other details of interest. All parent meetings are designed to be informative and brief. All parents and guardians are highly encouraged to attend these meetings. Please consult the religious education calendar and the bulletin for specific times and dates.

**Absentee Policy:** Preparing for a sacramental celebration is a very important process. Extra care and attention is directed to these parts of the program by the R. E. Office, the catechists and the families. To ensure that youth are as well prepared as possible, attendance policies are in place for these years. **Children preparing for First Reconciliation and First Eucharist (grades 1, 2 & 3) must be present for a minimum of  $\frac{3}{4}$  of scheduled classes.** Any child absent for more than a quarter of the scheduled classes will not be approved to celebrate this sacrament. (Any first grade student who has missed more than a quarter of the scheduled classes will not have met the requirement of completing a year of religious ed necessary to enter the First Reconciliation program.) **Confirmation candidates (grade 9, 10 & 11) are permitted a maximum of 2 absences per year.** Additional absences must be made up with the Director of Lifelong Faith Formation before the candidate can continue in the process. Additionally, these years of preparation include work to be done at home. **All homework must be completed and returned before the individual will be approved for the sacramental celebration.**

To all returning catechetical ministers, students and families, I look forward to seeing you soon.

To all new participants in the religious education program, I welcome you. To all members of this parish community, I encourage your comments, ideas and suggestions.

*Religious Education Classes begin on Tuesday, September 7.*

*Religious Education calendars are available at the time of registration.*

*May you continue to deepen your love for God and one another. May this coming year of faith formation bring many blessings to all.*

## PARENT BAPTISMAL PREPARATION SESSION

The next Baptismal Preparation Session for Parents and Godparents at Our Lady of Mercy will be held Sunday, Oct. 3 from noon to 2:00. Before a family can arrange for the baptism of a child, the parents must attend a preparation session. Families may attend a preparation session at any Catholic parish in the diocese.



Baptismal Preparation Sessions for Parents & Godparents are held semi-annually at Our Lady of Mercy, in the fall and spring. If you are expecting a child or want to have a child baptized before Easter, you may want to consider registering for this session.

Participants need to register prior to attending so that adequate materials are available. To register, call 814-899-5342 between 9:00-3:00. If you have questions about the baptism of a child, you may want to check out the FAQ on Baptism at the parish website.

## Sunset Mass

Sunday, August 22 @ 7:00 PM

This Mass will count for your Sunday commitment



Faith Lutheran Church  
5414 East Lake Road

*Because of concerns about Covid, we were asked to move the location of our annual outdoor Mass last year. Faith Lutheran graciously offered to host us. The location worked so well, that we were asked to return there again this year.*

**Bring a chair and bug spray. Faith Lutheran has benches for services but there may not be enough for all of us.**

# GIFT CARD ORDER FORM

Our Lady of Mercy earns cash with every gift card purchased  
2.5% to 14% depending on the gift card

The cards listed below are those available in the parish office or visit the RaiseRight mobile application or ShopWithScrip.com to see all 750+ brands and available denominations

Three ways to order:

- ❑ Stop by the parish office after the weekend Masses or during the week between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m.
- ❑ Fill out the form below and drop it off or mail it to OLM, 837 Bartlett Road, Harborcreek PA 16421
- ❑ Text (814) 440-4890 or email pmm1955.erie@gmail.com

Please make checks payable to Our Lady of Mercy Church  
For questions or more information please call Pat Marshall at 814-440-4890

Vendor	Amount	Quantity	Total Cost	Vendor	Amount	Quantity	Total Cost
Amazon	\$25			Old Navy	\$25		
	\$100			Panera	\$10		
Apple /iTunes	\$25				\$25		
Applebee's	\$25			Stan's Garden Center	\$25		
Arby's	\$10			Starbuck's	\$10		
Barnes & Noble	\$10				\$25		
Bob Evans	\$10			Subway	\$10		
	\$25			Target	\$10		
Burger King	\$10				\$25		
Buffalo Wild Wings	\$10				\$50		
	\$25			Tim Hortons	\$10		
Country Fair	\$25			Walmart	\$25		
	\$50				\$100		
	\$100			Wendy's	\$10		
Dairy Queen	\$10			Enter Vendor Name    Amount    Quantity    Total Cost			
Darden Restaurants	\$25						
Giant Eagle	\$25						
	\$100						
Home Depot	\$25						
Kohl's	\$25						
Kwik Fill	\$25						
	\$50						
	\$100						
Michael's	\$25						

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_



### **SCHOLARSHIPS**

This year's winners of the Ed Cudicio Memorial Scholarships are Kathryn Rose Lucas and Megan Smith. Kathryn will be attending Duquesne University and Megan Slippery Rock University. We wish them well in their studies. Both are Harborcreek High School graduates and have impressive accomplishments. Our Lady of Mercy Council of the Knights of Columbus awards scholarships annually to high school seniors of our parish. The scholarship program is named in honor of one of our founding members, Ed Cudicio, who was instrumental in establishing the program. Normally, scholarships are funded from our annual Golf and Sports Raffle, but since we did not have one this year, we dipped into our rainy-day fund for the second year in a row to continue this important program.

### **DEGREES FOR NEW KNIGHTS**

We will be holding initiation degrees on September 8th for those wishing to join our council. If any of our parishioners wish to join the council, please contact one of our members or officers to obtain the necessary information. Officers are: Dave Lefaiver (Grand Knight), Tom Palisin (Deputy G K), Gus Manna (Treasurer), John Skuce (Secretary) and Dan Szczesny (Financial Secretary).

### **PARISH DANCE WITH THE GROOVE AND**

#### **50 - 50 RAFFLE, SEPTEMBER 17th**

After a year's hiatus the Knights have again secured the GROOVE BAND, the most popular band in Erie, to hold a

dance in conjunction with the Parish Feast Day Celebration and OLM's 75th anniversary of its founding. This has been a very popular dance in the past and all who have attended have had a wonderful time. Sperry Hall will be lively. **Mark your calendars and save the date.**

As the Knights have not had their annual Golf and Sports Raffle for the past two years and in conjunction with the dance, a 50 - 50 raffle will be held, with the proceeds used to benefit parish projects. Tickets will be available in the parish office from 9:00 until 3:00 starting mid August. Tickets will also be sold after all Masses three weeks prior to the dance and at the door the night of the dance. See the enclosed flyers for information on the dance and 50-50 raffle.

### **DRIVE-THROUGH CHICKEN DINNER**

Although the rain came, it didn't dampen the spirits of The Knights during our first drive-through chicken dinner. They not only did an awesome job of keeping cars on the move, but were busy in various areas to make it a huge success. Due to this new venue, there was great concern as to how well uninterrupted flow could be maintained for the large number of customers we hoped would show. They had a good time as they worked together to provide great service to all who came to our parish - members and non-members alike. Thank you Knights!





# KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL 11144



## **OLM Knights of Columbus dance featuring **The Groove****



# **Friday September 17, 2021 7 - 11 p.m.**

**Our Lady of Mercy Church Gym 837 Bartlett Road, Harborcreek**

**Cost is \$15 and tickets are available to  
purchase after Mass and in the Parish office  
Monday-Friday from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.**

## **50-50 RAFFLE** To benefit projects for Our Lady of Mercy Parish.

**DRAWING TO BE HELD ON  
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 17  
AT THE OLM KoC DANCE  
FEATURING THE GROOVE**

**Suggested Donation:**  
\$1/1 Ticket  
\$5/ 6 Tickets  
\$10/15 Tickets

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

# Dispensation lifted

## Catholics return to Sunday Mass Aug. 15



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

As you have heard, the Catholic bishops of Pennsylvania have issued statements indicating that the dispensation from the obligation to attend Mass, which went into effect in March 2020 — just as the pandemic began significantly impacting all facets of life in the United States — will soon be lifted. I am reinstating the obligation to attend Mass in person on Sundays and holy days in the Diocese of Erie beginning on Sunday, Aug. 15, 2021, the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. As always, the obligation does not apply to those with serious illness or health risks, as well as their caregivers.

For most of us, the thought of a global pandemic impacting nearly every aspect of our lives had never crossed our minds. As I said in my letter to you in March of 2020, given the challenges brought by the COVID-19 pandemic, I made the best decisions I could for the good of the community, especially the most vulnerable among us.

I am deeply grateful to the clergy in our diocese who did everything they could to respond to the challenges. Many used technology to include parishioners in livestreamed Masses, prayer services and events. Others were creative in their efforts to remain in touch, assuring you of their prayers and support. Still others were called upon in these extraordinary circumstances to be present to COVID patients and their families.

I also want to extend my thanks to each of you. People in every stage of life were faced with significant sacrifices — from children attending school remotely and adults navigating unexpected challenges, to young adults rethinking

social interactions and postponing important plans. All the while, our elderly parishioners faced a time of deep isolation. My heart is especially with those of you whose livelihoods were disrupted and those of you who lost loved ones due to the pandemic. I know your pain was increased as a result of the many restrictions we had to endure.

St. Paul tells us we are to rejoice in the Lord always. While I will not minimize the pain and difficulties we have faced — and will continue to face in new ways — I encourage you to reflect on what he says in his letter to the Philippians 4:4-7:

“Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again: rejoice! Your kindness should be known to all. The Lord is near. Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God. Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.”

Many of you have begun returning to Sunday Mass, and I am hearing from pastors that there is a sense of renewal and of deepened appreciation for the Eucharist and for our parish communities. It is my hope and my prayer we all will continue to grow in our faith and live in the peace God promises. Our Lady of Guadalupe, patroness of the Americas, pray for us. St. Patrick, patron of the Diocese of Erie, pray for us.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

*+Lawrence T. Persico*

The Most Reverend Lawrence T. Persico,  
JCL Bishop of Erie

# Dear Church Family, It's time for a New Directory!

Celebrating faith. Connecting families. Sharing hope.



## New Safety Procedures

Universal is committed to the health and safety of your church families & our employees.

We want you to know that we are taking the necessary precautions to reduce the spread of the coronavirus.

- Following 6 ft. Social Distancing rules throughout the photography process
- Germ guard plexiglass between customers & photographers at the viewing station
- All equipment will be disinfected between sittings
- Utilizing larger lobby rooms for safe social distancing
- Staff will be utilizing hand sanitizer between sittings

Join us for this "Family Connections Event" and be part of what God is doing right here at your church!



## Family Connections Event

*Our church directory will not be complete without you. Please join us and help celebrate faith and family with our new church family directory.*

- Schedule your professional photography session when you stop by the sign-up table at the church or simply go online and follow the instructions below.  
If we don't see your name on our list of appointments, you will receive a phone call inviting you to participate.
- Everyone who is photographed by Universal will receive a complimentary 8 x 10 portrait and a directory!
- Universal provides a complete professional portrait studio right here at your church!  
You'll enjoy a variety of poses, backgrounds, portrait sizes, finish and framing options AND have the opportunity to purchase portraits to give to family and friends.

*Directory Committee*

Set your appointment with Universal today!

1-888-742-5823



New Safety Glass at Viewing Station

# Aug. 3 - Aug. 7      Sep. 14 - Sep. 18

### Online Scheduling Available!

To schedule your photography appointment online, simply go to [www.ucdir.com](http://www.ucdir.com), click on schedule your photography session on the right side, enter **pa888** in the Church Code field and enter **photos** in the Church Password field. Follow the prompts to schedule your family's appointment time. If you have 6 or more in your family please use 2 consecutive time slots. The online scheduling option is available Monday through Friday. **Appointments fill up quickly, so schedule as soon as possible to secure your preferred date and time.**



## Welcome New Members!

Please welcome our new members by sending a card or stopping by if you live nearby.

Ms. Amy Garten  
7036 Sandy Trail  
Erie PA 16510-5962

Ms. Beth Sammartino  
641 Troupe RD Apt 105  
Harborcreek PA 16421-1031

Mr. Adam Spelling  
13695 W Washington ST Lot 40  
Corry PA 16407



## Congratulations to

## Deacon Paul Barko & Deacon Dave Jacquel

on their ordination as  
permanent deacons in May 2021.

*May God bless them in  
their service to His people.*



We wish Deacon Dave and his wife, Peggy, the best as he begins his ministry at St. Mark/Mt Calvary and we look forward to having Deacon Paul and his wife, Deb, minister to Our Lady of Mercy.