

# 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*

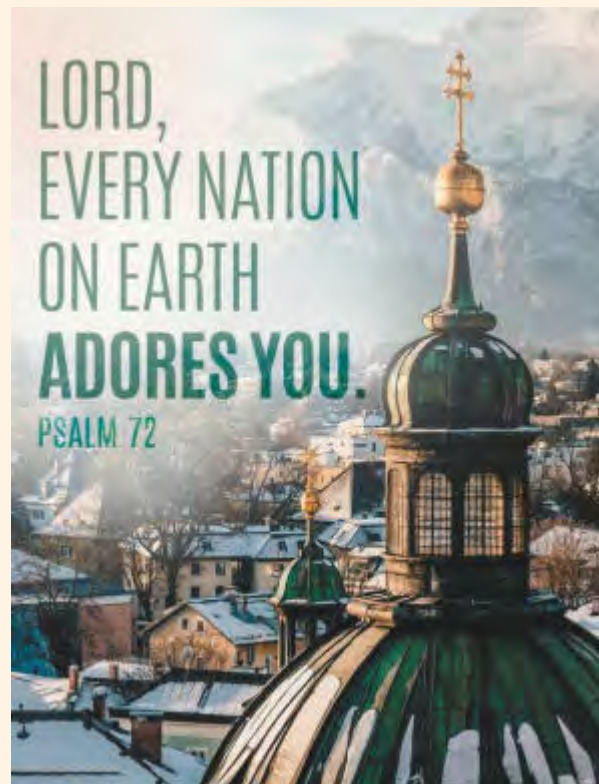
## CONTACT INFORMATION

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)



# JANUARY 2, 2022 - EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

## THE WEEK AHEAD

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

<b>Mon. 01/03</b>	9:00 a.m. Quilters 9:30 a.m. Steel Magnolias SCC 5:30 p.m. Sisters of Scripture SCC
<b>Tue. 01/04</b>	1:00 p.m. Potter's 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. Pastoral Council
<b>Wed. 01/05</b>	1:00 p.m. Diamonds in the Rough
<b>Thur. 01/06</b>	9:00 a.m. Painting Class 9:00 a.m. Angels in Training SCC 12:00 p.m. Mid Day Prayer 1:00 p.m. Legion of Mary 6:00 p.m. Prayer Shawl 6:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal
<b>Fri. 01/07</b>	
<b>Sat. 01/08</b>	4:30 p.m. Sacrament of Penance
<b>Sun. 01/09</b>	9:30 a.m. Gr. K-2&7-8 Religious Ed.

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

<b>Mon. 01/03</b>	1 Jn 3:22-4:6	/ Mt 4:12-17, 23-25
<b>Tue. 01/04</b>	1 Jn 4:7-10	/ Mk 6:34-44
<b>Wed. 01/05</b>	1 Jn 4:11-18	/ Mk 6:45-52
<b>Thur. 01/06</b>	1 Jn 4:19-5:4	/ Lk 4:14-22
<b>Fri. 01/07</b>	1 Jn 5:5-13	/ Lk 5:12-16
<b>Sat. 01/08</b>	1 Jn 5:14-21	/ Jn 3:22-30
<b>Sun. 01/09</b>	Is 40:1-5, 9-11	/ Ti 2:11-14; 3:4-7 / Lk 3:15-16 ,21-22

## FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Offertory for the weekend of December 26, 2021

Envelopes sent:	357
Envelopes returned:	48 \$ 2,885.00
Faith Direct Deposits:	139 \$ 3,511.70
Loose Change:	\$ 30.00
<b>TOTAL OFFERTORY:</b>	<b>\$ 6,426.70</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



## MASS INTENTIONS

<b>Mon. 01/03</b>	8:30 a.m.	<b>Stephen Lion</b>
<b>Tue. 01/04</b>	8:30 a.m.	<b>Sally Furey</b> (Ella Cochran Food Pantry)
<b>Wed. 01/05</b>	8:30 a.m.	<b>Charles Grahm</b> (Janet Smith)
<b>Thur. 01/06</b>	8:30 a.m.	<b>Frank Antalek</b>
<b>Fri. 01/07</b>	8:30 a.m.	
<b>Sat. 01/08</b>	6:00 p.m.	<b>Francis Ritchie</b>
<b>Sun. 01/09</b>	8:30 a.m.	<b>For the People of OLM</b>
	11:00 a.m.	<b>Linda June Kobielski</b> (Mary Ida Eastman)

## We Remember...

Suzanne Wieman,  
 sister of Mike Brown;  
 who passed away recently.  
 Please hold her and her family in  
 prayer during this difficult time.



## THIS SUNDAY'S REFLECTION

### MATTHEW 2:1-12

Magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews?"

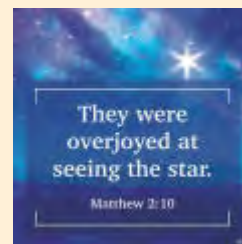
Just who were these Magi? Exactly where did they come from? They came from the east and yet they represent westerners and northerners and southerners as well. Indeed, they were the first of all of us who cannot count Abraham among our physical ancestors to have faith in the infant king of the Jews. They came from people whose prophets, if any, are unnamed in our Scripture. They came because his light led them to his home. They came because they wanted to do him homage.

Most of us have family or friends who seem to have abandoned the Christian faith and gone east or elsewhere in search of meaning. It is a great sadness. These mysterious visitors from the east give me hope, however. They didn't come because a parent nagged them. No shame-laced finger wagged them onto their camels. From their own religious resources, out of their own spiritualities, they recognized a light that led them to Christ. And God made sure they found the truth and kept both the Christ Child and these seekers safe, even when evil plotted to intervene.

The light of Christ summons seekers. It shines as brightly today as then.

For Reflection: Where are you seeking Jesus?

*Clifford Yeary*



### Religious Education Fundraiser

Can you or your group donate a basket for the Feb. 6 religious education spaghetti dinner? Our Spaghetti Dinner will return in 2022 with dining in and dining out options. The gift basket auction raised about \$1,500 last time. If you can donate a gift basket, please bring it to the Faith Formation Office by Jan. 30.



### Book Group



Join us at 7:00 p.m. on Jan. 19 at the home of Donna Huff to discuss The Plot by Jean Hanff Korelitz. We will turn to the classics in February with a discussion of My Antonia by Willa Cather. Unvaccinated members, PLEASE wear masks.

### For Mercy Sake Deadline

The deadline to submit items for the winter issue of the parish newsletter is Sunday, Jan. 16. Send items to [ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org](mailto:ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org)



### Grief Support



Grief is usually an individual experience. Sometimes talking one on one can help with sorting out the many confusing feelings. Call Donna Clark in the parish office for compassionate support.

### Thank you, Music Ministry

I would like to extend a very big "thank you" to all of the children and adults who participated in offering their gifts of Music and Dance to celebrate the birth of Jesus during this Christmas season. I appreciate all of the extra time, effort, talents and dedication contributed by all of you! Your music director, Patti



### Healing Ministry UPDATE



With the increase in COVID cases the Healing Ministry will not be available after the 8:30 Mass until further notice. Individual needs will be met by calling the Parish Office.

Thank you for your understanding.

## 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 Dec. 21 was Sam Camillo, grade 6, who knew that the Angel Gabriel was sent to Mary with the message that she would be the mother of the Savior.

## PICTURE BOOK PHOTOS

If your family was not able to reschedule the photos or you missed the opportunity to have your picture taken, please contact Donna Clark about getting a family photo done or submitting one of your own.

Call the parish office or email:

[dclark@ourladyofmercychurch.org](mailto:dclark@ourladyofmercychurch.org)

### Our Neighbors' Place

Shelter for the homeless during the winter months is supported by the community. The Eastside Catholic Churches support this ministry under the guidance of Erie United Methodist Alliance (EUMA). For the March shelter weeks (Mar 9-22, 2022), there is a need for volunteers willing to pack 35 "heavy snack" bags for the guests. If you can help please contact Mary Ellen Lieb [melieb4@gmail.com](mailto:melieb4@gmail.com), 814-873-1284 to sign up. A snack bag can include a sandwich, fruit or veggies, cheese & crackers, cookies, a drink & napkin. Bags need not be huge, just enough to tide guests over until morning. Monetary donations to EUMA are appreciated.



Our Neighbors' Place



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



In 1988, another joyous celebration involved the rededication of the Mystical Rose Garden in honor of the Blessed Mother at the parish feast day celebration. This project, close to Msgr. Sperry's heart, began in 1978 but really came to its present form some ten years later.



## Social Justice

"Christmas reminds us that it is not enough to bring God into our hearts. When God comes, God never comes alone. Jesus asks us to take in his strange friends, his dispossessed and uprooted children, his unpopular causes and projects."

*Doris Donnelly*

## January 2022 Pro-Life Events



### 44th Annual Pro-Life Breakfast

**Saturday, January 15, 2022** At the Erie Bayfront Convention Center with Special Guest Speaker Rachel Bovard. Reservations should be made by January 10 at the latest. Adults and Teens: \$20 / Ages 3-12: \$12 / Younger kids are free / Complimentary child care will be available after the breakfast meal. Payments can be mailed or hand delivered to People for Life. Credit cards can be used online and over the phone: For more information or to register, visit

[www.peopleforlife.org/january2022](http://www.peopleforlife.org/january2022) Rachel Bovard is the Senior Director of Policy at the Conservative Partnership Institute in Washington, DC. She is also affiliated with the Institute for Faith & Freedom at Grove City College. She is a 2006 graduate of Grove City College. Bishop Lawrence Persico, Congressman Mike Kelly, and state Senator Michele Brooks will each speak briefly. Music will be provided by Brandon Fox of the popular group Brandon Fox Worship.

### 49th Annual Bus Trip to the March for Life in Washington, DC.

Our Anderson Coach & Travel buses will leave Erie at 11 p.m. on January 20 and return at approximately 1:30 a.m. on January 22. The March for Life will officially get underway at noon on January 21 with the traditional Rally on the National Mall. People for Life has chartered buses, as many as five, every year since the first March for Life in 1974. (Last year we had to cancel our buses for the first time, due to COVID-19.) Bus seats are \$60, but sponsorship assistance is available for those who need some help. Payments can be made by cash, check or credit card, in person, over the phone or online at <https://peopleforlife.org/january2022/bustrip2022.html>. On a personal note, I have participated in every one of the People for Life Bus Trips since 1996, and the March is consistently well-organized, completely orderly and peaceful – an uplifting family event.

### Erie March for Life

**Saturday, January 29, 2022** Arrive at the Perry Square Pavilion in downtown Erie by 10:45 a.m. March at 11 a.m. The event concludes by 12:30 p.m. or earlier with a brief program of speakers. Gannon Students for Life will be among the participants, and their President and Vice President will be among the speakers. This is a permitted march with police supervision.

## Youth Ministry Update

Our Lady of Mercy Youth Ministry is alive and on fire. Over the last few months, we have spent time together in prayer, serving our community and building friendships based on our common love for Christ. Though these memories are wonderful to look back on, there is a great big future for OLM Youth Ministry to get excited about. Here's what's going on in our busy winter months!

### January 16th at 6 p.m.

Youth in grades 6-12 across Harborcreek will gather at Faith Lutheran for a movie night. We will be watching the Disney Pixar movie "Soul". Before the movie we will engage in some "ice-breaker" activities and we will have a discussion following the movie.

### January 23rd at 10:30 a.m.

OLM 9th and 10th graders will gather at OLM for their annual retreat. We will begin our day together with Mass. Our time spent with one another will consist of prayer, discussions, games, presentations, activities and a meal. This event is mandatory for all 9th and 10th graders.

### January 30th at 12 p.m.

OLM students in 7th and 8th grade will come together for their monthly Youth Event. Though plans are still being finalized, our youth can expect another fun event that will incorporate prayer, fellowship service...and of course...lunch.

### February 18th from 6 - 8 p.m.

The Youth Ministry Baby Sitter's Club will meet once again, offering parents a few hours of alone time. If you have a child/children, ages 3 and up and would like to take advantage of our free babysitting services, please email Katie at [youthminister@ourladyofmercychurch.org](mailto:youthminister@ourladyofmercychurch.org)

### February 18th from 8 - 9:30 p.m.

After all these service projects, its nice to unwind and have some fun with your friends. So, back by popular demand is Youth Ministry Game Night! It will be held on Friday, February 18th from 8-9:30 p.m. (immediately following Babysitter's Club). This is open to ANYONE in Grade 7-12. The more the merrier. So invite your friends to join us.

### February 20th at 10 a.m.

Our 11th grade Confirmation candidates have their final retreat before celebrating the sacrament. The retreat will be held at Our Lady of Mercy and will include Mass and lunch.

### February 27th at 12 p.m.

OLM Youth in grades 7 & 8 will participate in their annual retreat. Prayer, fellowship, discussion and a meal will all be a part of this fun annual event.

Follow OLM Youth Ministry on to stay up to date on all things Youth Ministry Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/OurLadyOfMercyYouthMinistry>



For the  
Religious  
Education  
Ministry

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 6 12:00 - 3:00**

- Spaghetti & Meatballs
- Refreshments
- Salad
- Italian Bread
- Cookies
- Chinese Auction

Sit down and take-out  
options are available

**\$10 for Adults**  
**\$5 for Children 10 and under**

**WE ARE REQUESTING DONATIONS OF GIFT BASKETS**

**PLEASE DROP OFF BASKETS TO THE FAITH  
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**OUR LADY OF MERCY CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
*Membership Form*

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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.