

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



JANUARY 9, 2022 - THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

THE WEEK AHEAD

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

Mon. 01/10	9:00 a.m. Quilters 9:30 a.m. Steel Magnolias SCC 6:30 p.m. Fireside Chatters SCC
Tue. 01/11	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. Stewardship Meeting 7:00 p.m. Jacquiel Continuum Team
Wed. 01/12	1:00 p.m. Diamonds in the Rough 6:30 p.m. AGIFT Meeting 7:00 p.m. Knights of Columbus
Thur. 01/13	9:00 a.m. Painting Class 9:15 a.m. CORE Team Meeting 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
Fri. 01/14	
Sat. 01/15	4:30 p.m. Sacrament of Penance
Sun. 01/16	9:30 a.m. Gr. K-2&7-8 Religious Ed. 5:00 p.m. Candidate/Sponsor Evening of Reflection 6:00 p.m. HC Youth Ministry Event at Faith Lutheran

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Offertory for the weekend of January 2, 2022

Envelopes sent:	357	
Envelopes returned:	51	\$ 3,950.00
Faith Direct Deposits:	139	\$ 3,511.70
Loose Change:		\$ 20.00
TOTAL OFFERTORY:		\$ 6,481.70

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. 01/10	8:30 a.m. Msgr. Carlton Ritchie
Tue. 01/11	8:30 a.m. Irene Abbate (Jerry & MaryAnn Aniszkievicz)
Wed. 01/12	8:30 a.m. Leo Kosobucki (Candy Henry)
Thur. 01/13	8:30 a.m. Denny Smith (Janet Smith)
Fri. 01/14	8:30 a.m. Anne & Vinnie Ciotti (John Abbate)
Sat. 01/15	6:00 p.m. For the People of OLM
Sun. 01/16	8:30 a.m. Madelyn Tomasura (Rick Mueller) 11:00 a.m. Carol Henry (Cheryl & Russ Henry)

We Remember...

Bea Peters,
 sister-in-law of Carole Peters &
 Marlies Finch,
 mother of Liana Wathen;
 who passed away recently.



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

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Mon. 01/10	1 Sm 1:1-8	/ Mk 1:14-20
Tue. 01/11	1 Sm 1:9-20	/ Mk 1:21-28
Wed. 01/12	1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20	/ Mk 1:29-39
Thur. 01/13	1 Sm 4:1-11	/ Mk 1:40-45
Fri. 01/14	1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a	/ Mk 2:1-12
Sat. 01/15	1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19, 10:1	/ Mk 2:13-17
Sun. 01/16	Is 62:1-5 / 1 Cor 12:4-11	/ Jn 2:1-11



THIS SUNDAY'S REFLECTION

GOD CLAIMS US AS HIS OWN

LUKE 3:15-16, 21-22

Jesus also had been baptized and was praying. Why did Jesus need to pray? Sometimes the idea that Jesus prayed jars us. When it does, it is usually because of our concept of Jesus or our concept of prayer.

First, our concept of Jesus: If Jesus is God, why did he have to pray? It is hard to keep in balance the truths that Jesus is both divine and human. This is a conviction of faith which defies logic, so we can easily err on one side. If we have trouble with Jesus praying, it might mean that we don't think he was as human as we are.

Then, our concept of prayer: Why did Jesus have to ask for anything? This implies that prayer is equated with asking. Petition is a type of prayer, and it is a very good prayer. Jesus himself encouraged it: "Ask and you shall receive." But prayer is also adoration, praise, and thanksgiving, in which the primary goal is not receiving something, but giving oneself to union with God.

Jesus could have prayed, like us, for any of these reasons. In this case it seems he was resting in union with his Father at a significant moment in his life.

For Reflection: When has my own prayer gone beyond requesting and answer to simply resting with God and enjoying God's presence?

Abbot Jerome Kodell, O.S.B.

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



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.

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.



A Special "Thank You"

Words cannot express my gratitude for this community and your recent support as I underwent surgery treatment for one of my two rare diseases. Seeing firsthand the power of prayer, I ask if you would extend yours to those with rare diseases and for the success of Mass General's Rare Initiative.



† Joanne Fournier

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

The Question-of-the-Week Winner for the week of Jan. 2 was Eoin Eighmy, grade 5, who knew that the only story in the Bible about Jesus as a child is the time he got lost and was found teaching the scholars in the temple.

PICTURE BOOK PHOTOS

If your family was not able to reschedule the photos or you missed the opportunity to have your picture taken, OLM's very own, Paul Sacco has volunteered to take pictures for the photo directory on

**Sunday, January 16th
from 9:30 -11:00 a.m.**

Please contact Donna Clark in the Parish Office, or email

dclark@ourladyofmercychurch.org with any questions or to schedule your appointment.

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, 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 75th Anniversary of Our Lady of Mercy Parish

On June 17, 1990 one more parish celebration would occur with Msgr.

Sperry - one mixing joy and sadness - that would also bring with it a major change in the life of the parish community. On that day, the parish would celebrate the retirement of Msgr. Sperry as pastor of Our Lady of Mercy.



Harborcreek Youth Movie Night
“Soul”
Sunday, January 16, 2022, 6:00 p.m.
at Faith Lutheran Church,
5414 East Lake Road



We're getting together with youth and families from three other Harborcreek churches for a movie night with snacks and fun activities. We'll be watching “Soul”, the critically acclaimed 2020 Disney/Pixar film. All are welcome!

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

Child Protection and Creating Safe Environments



Online Gaming

72% of teens, both male and female (ages 13-17) play video games. More than half of those teens said they have made new friends online. The National Center for Missing & Exploited Children analysis of Cyber Tipline reports has found that gaming platforms are more often used in the online enticement of young boys than any other group of children. It is important for parents to talk to their child about safety in online gaming. Some important questions to ask are: Have you ever been cyberbullied while gaming? Do you know what information is OK to share about yourself while gaming? Has anyone talked about sex while you were gaming or asked you to send pictures of yourself? If your child answers yes, report the matter to law enforcement. Visit www.eriegcd.org/childprotection/ for additional resources.

Special Collection Help Spread the Faith



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I am grateful every day for the resources we have to help spread the Gospel message. Imagine how different our experience of the pandemic would be if we did not have the ability to Zoom or to livestream. It is changing the way we approach so many aspects of our lives.

At the heart of all that communicating is strong content. That's why the Diocese of Erie continues to invest in a team dedicated to providing you with thoughtful publications, social media posts, web resources and more, all designed to help me in my role as shepherd of the Diocese of Erie. Some of it comes right to your mailbox in the form of Faith, an engaging magazine filled with the stories and testimonies of Catholics striving to grow closer to Christ in northwest Pennsylvania. Despite the challenges of the pandemic, we have not missed a beat with this important resource, and in fact, have used it to provide much-needed encouragement and updates.

When I emphasize the need for strong communications, I am thinking first and foremost of you. My work is done in service to Christ and to you. I strive to take full advantage of every tool at our disposal to keep you informed about what is happening within the Catholic Church worldwide, across the United States, and here in northwest Pennsylvania. Do you know why the upcoming Synod on Synodality at the Vatican is important? Are you aware that the US bishops are collaborating on an effort to help American Catholics understand and embrace the church's teaching on the Eucharist over the next three years? And what's the latest on pastoral planning in our diocese?

This year we've reported on all this and more in Faith, in the weekly Diocese of ERiE-news, at www.ErieRCD.org and on our social media platforms. Thanks to your generous support, all of it remains available free of charge.

Please consider participating in the 2022 Help Spread the Faith collection scheduled for the weekend of **January 22 & 23**. It's one important way to fulfill Jesus' command to go forth and make disciples of all nations.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Lawrence T. Persico

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





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
FORMATION OFFICE NO LATER THAN JANUARY 30.**

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IN THE PARISH OFFICE**

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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.