

# 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)



**FEBRUARY 6, 2022 - THE 5TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

## THE WEEK AHEAD

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

Mon. 02/07	9:00 a.m.	Quilters
	9:30 a.m.	Steel Magnolias SCC
	5:30 p.m.	Sisters of Scripture SCC
	6:30 p.m.	Fireside Chatters SCC
Tue. 02/08	1:00 p.m.	Potter's Clay SCC
	2:00 p.m.	Prayer Shawl
	4:00 p.m.	Gr. 3-6 Religious Ed.
	7:00 p.m.	Finance Council
Wed. 02/09	1:00 p.m.	Diamonds in the Rough
	6:30 p.m.	AGIFT
	7:00 p.m.	Knights of Columbus
Thur. 02/10	<b>CURSILLO WEEKEND</b>	
	9:00 a.m.	Painting Class
	1:00 p.m.	Legion of Mary
	6:00 p.m.	Prayer Shawl
Fri. 02/11	<b>CURSILLO WEEKEND</b>	
Sat. 02/12	<b>SCC SIGN-UP WEEKEND</b>	
	<b>CURSILLO WEEKEND</b>	
	4:30 p.m.	Sacrament of Penance
Sun. 02/13	<b>SCC SIGN-UP WEEKEND</b>	
	<b>CURSILLO WEEKEND</b>	
	9:30 a.m.	Gr. K-2&7-8 Religious Ed.
	9:30 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

Mon. 01/07	1 Kgs 8:1-7, 9-13	/ Mk 6:53-56
Tue. 02/08	1 Kgs 8:22-23, 27-30	/ Mk 7:1-13
Wed. 02/09	1 Kgs 10:1-10	/ Mk 7:14-23
Thur. 02/10	1 Kgs 11:4-13	/ Mk 7:24-30
Fri. 02/11	1 Kgs 11:29-32; 12:19	/ Mk 7:31-37
Sat. 02/12	1 Kgs 12:26-32; 13:33-34	/ Mk 8:1-10
Sun. 02/13	Jer 17:5-8 / 1 Cor 15:12-20 / Lk 6:17-26	

## 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. 01/07	8:30 a.m.	Irene Abbate (Pat Kosobucki)
Tue. 02/08	8:30 a.m.	Lois Liebel (The Liebel Family)
Wed. 02/09	8:30 a.m.	Mary Ella Eaglen (Linda Prichard)
Thur. 02/10	8:30 a.m.	Helen Brooks
Fri. 02/11	8:30 a.m.	
Sat. 02/12	6:00 p.m.	Carrie Bongiorno (Todd Beckes)
Sun. 02/13	8:30 a.m.	Marsha R zodkiewicz (Rochelle Edwards)
	11:00 a.m.	For the People of OLM

## We Remember...

Michael Camera, Audrey Natcher,  
 & Rita Malinowski;  
 who passed away recently.  
 Please hold them and their  
 families in prayer during this  
 difficult time.



## FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Offertory for the weekend of January 30, 2022

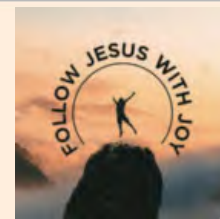
Envelopes sent:	357	
Envelopes returned:	59	\$ 3,645.00
Faith Direct Deposits:	142	\$ 3,634.70
Loose Change:		\$ 78.00
<b>TOTAL OFFERTORY:</b>		<b>\$ 7,357.70</b>



## THIS SUNDAY'S REFLECTION

### LUKE 5:1-11

Jesus said to Simon,  
 "Do not be afraid."



In today's Gospel, the disciples are caught up with the ordinary circumstances of their trade. As the old saying goes, the fishing has been good, but the catching not so. After laboring throughout the darkness of the night, they find their nets empty and themselves disappointed and frustrated.

Jesus, interested in a different catch, calls to Simon and tells him to cast out the nets into the deep. Simon is reluctant. Does he now doubt his own abilities? Or does he feel that Jesus does not understand his struggles? Simon's apparent failure does not keep Jesus from going deeper. Nor does it keep Simon from taking a chance and doing as Jesus commands.

Miraculously the nets are full. God makes something great out of nothing. Simon is filled with awe at the sight of the power of God. Jesus' words to him are very important, "do not be afraid." Now Simon knows deep in his heart that where the Lord leads him, he has to follow.

Can what the world calls "weakness" be where God works wonders in our lives? Mediate on the phrase, "the Almighty has done great things for me..."

For Reflection: Does my apparent inadequacy or fear of failure keep me from following the Lord?

Tom Stehlik, C.M.

### For Mercy Sake Mailing Party

We will be preparing the newsletter for the mail at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, Feb. 7. If you can lend a hand, contact Irene at [ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org](mailto:ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org) or call 814-899-6132. Please wear a mask.



### Book Group



Join us at 7:00 p.m. on Feb. 16 at the home of Marilyn Garwig to discuss My Antonia by Willa Cather. Want to read ahead? Our March title will be The Lincoln Highway by Amor Towles.

Unvaccinated members, PLEASE wear masks.

### Small Christian Communities Refresh and renew your faith this Lent by joining a Small Christian Community



We are celebrating over 30 years of Small Christian Communities here at Our Lady of Mercy! Our annual sign-up weekend will be February 12 and 13. Faith sharing groups pray, read scripture, learn and celebrate their faith together. Small Christian Communities discuss how they can put the gospel message to work in their daily lives. Shari Bronson, ministry coordinator, will be available after Masses on February 12 and 13 to share with you on how you may take advantage of this spiritual opportunity to grow in your relationship with God by joining a Small Christian Community.

### Grief Support



In grief, God can seem far away. Perhaps you experience anger with God because your loved one has died. Advice from Ken Haugk (Journeying Through Grief Series) can help: It is OK to be yourself with God, even angry. Tell God what you truly feel; feeling abandoned by God and being abandoned by God are different. (God does not abandon us); Imagine that God grieves and suffers with you. Eventually the relationship with God is felt as real again. For more information on this or other grief issues contact Donna Clark in the Parish Office.

### Cursillo

Men's Cursillo 251 is February 11-13th at Our Lady of Mercy. Applications can be obtained at [ericursillo.org](http://ericursillo.org). Make time for yourself and God. He is waiting for you!



## 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 Jan. 30 was Lucy Vahey, Grade 3 who knew that we bless throats on the feast day of St. Blaise, Feb. 3.

## HELP FOR PARISHIONERS ED AND JUDY JACKSON

Most of you have heard on the news that Ed Jackson and his wife Judy suffered a total loss of everything they had in their house fire Jan 27th.

Their house was not insured.

Many of you know Ed Jackson, he lead the music here for many many years.

When Fr. Sperry began saying Mass at Ball Pavilion Ed led the music there for many more years.

The Red Cross put them up at the Cobblestone Hotel till February 11th.

Ed has bad dementia and his family is trying to find an Assisted Living place for them.

They are a part of our community and as their faith family we will be taking a collection up for them this week and next. You will find a basket in the Gathering Space with their name on it.

Please, keep Ed and Judy and their family in your prayers.



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

The first project of the Pastoral Council was the writing of the parish mission statement designed to clearly state who the parish community of Our Lady of Mercy is and what its purpose is.





# SYNOD KEY TERM

## What is the Synod on Synodality?

Pope Francis has asked the entire world to participate in a synod on the topic "For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, Mission." The central question he asks of everyone is:

A synodal Church, in announcing the Gospel, "journeys together." How is this "journeying together" happening today in our diocese? What steps does the Spirit invite us to take in order to grow in our "journeying together"?

You may be invited to participate in listening sessions at your local parish, or you may wish to give your input online. Participation in a synod should always involve prayer, listening, discussion, and above all, discerning the way that the Holy Spirit is guiding us. Hopefully these questions and answers can help you as you prepare your input.

# youth

# GAME

# NIGHT

Grades 7-12

**Invite a  
Friend!**

**Friday, February 18**

**8:00-9:30 p.m.**

**Sperry Hall**

### Our Neighbors' Place Update

Our churches worked together to make the lives of our people who are homeless safe and warm from Jan. 12th to Jan. 26th at the Mental Health Assoc. Volunteers from our churches came every night to help run the shelter, people donated money that allowed us to purchase needed supplies, people made meals for 40 guests each night, everyone prayed for the safety and health of our guests & volunteers.....all of this made for a beautiful ministry. We are gearing up to return to MHA Mar 9th – March 23rd. Our volunteers have signed up, meals have been assigned.....we thank you all! Please don't hesitate to donate to this ministry. Checks can be made out to St. John the Baptist Outreach and sent to St. John the Baptist Church, 2701 East Ave, 16504. If you want to contact us, email Mary Hoffman, [mymary14@gmail.com](mailto:mymary14@gmail.com) or Mary Ellen Lieb, [melieb4@gmail.com](mailto:melieb4@gmail.com). Continued prayers are needed and welcomed!



Our Neighbors' Place

# THE BABYSITTERS CLUB®

Parents...

What would you do if you had 2 hours of kid-free time?  
Take a nap? Go to dinner? Grocery shop? The possibilities are  
endless...and All of that is POSSIBLE!

All you have to do is take advantage of OLM Youth Ministries  
FREE Babysitting services!

The next Babysitters Club night is

Friday, February 18th  
from 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.  
in Sperry Hall



At this event, your child will enjoy games, a snack and a movie  
on the big screen!

To enroll your child (age 3+), please email Katie Stephenson at  
[youthminister@ourladyofmercychurch.org](mailto:youthminister@ourladyofmercychurch.org) with your  
child's name and age.

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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.