

# 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 13, 2022 - THE 6TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

## THE WEEK AHEAD

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

Mon. 02/14	9:00 a.m. 9:30 a.m.	Quilters Steel Magnolias SCC
Tue. 02/15	1:00 p.m. 2:00 p.m. 2:00 p.m. 4:00 p.m. 6:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Potter's Clay SCC Hallelujah Girls SCC Prayer Shawl Gr. 3-6 Religious Ed. Roman Candles SCC Lifelong Faith Formation
Wed. 02/16	8:30 a.m. 1:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Food Pantry Distribution Diamonds in the Rough OLM Book Group
Thur. 02/17	9:00 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 1:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Painting Class Angels In Training SCC Legion of Mary Prayer Shawl Synod Meeting
Fri. 02/18	6:00 p.m. 8:00 p.m.	YM Babysitters Club YM Game Night
Sat. 02/19	<b><u>SANCTUS RETREAT</u></b>	
Sun. 02/20	4:30 p.m. 9:30 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	Sacrament of Penance Gr. K-2&7-8 Religious Ed. Choir Rehearsal Gr. 11 Retreat Gr. 5 Class Mass

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

Mon. 02/14	Jas 1:1-11	/ Mk 8:11-13
Tue. 02/15	Jas 1:12-18	/ Mk 8:14-21
Wed. 02/16	Jas 1:19-27	/ Mk 8:22-26
Thur. 02/17	Jas 2:1-9	/ Mk 8:27-33
Fri. 02/18	Jas 2:14-24, 26	/ Mk 8:34-9:1
Sat. 02/19	Jas 3:1-10	/ Mk 9:2-13
Sun. 02/20	1 Sm 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23	
	1 Cor 15:45-49	/ Lk 6:27-38

## 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. 02/14	8:30 a.m.	<b>Denny Smith</b> (Janet Smith)
Tue. 02/15	8:30 a.m.	<b>Steve Kline</b> (Marty Morris)
Wed. 02/16	8:30 a.m.	<b>Betty Bliss</b> (The Perrotto's)
Thur. 02/17	8:30 a.m.	<b>Barbara Abbate</b> (John Abbate Family)
Fri. 02/18	8:30 a.m.	<b>Nellie Ryan</b>
Sat. 02/19	6:00 p.m.	<b>Deborah Cleer</b> (Richard Mueller)
Sun. 02/20	8:30 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	<b>For the People of OLM</b> <b>Robert Jones</b> (Barb Jones)

## *We Remember...*

Gerry Stauffer, Dorothy Reese  
& Stacy Breter,  
niece of Steve Brainard;  
who passed away recently.  
Please hold them and their  
families in prayer during this  
difficult time.

*In  
Loving  
Memory*

## FINANCIAL SUPPORT

*Offertory for the weekend of February 6, 2022*

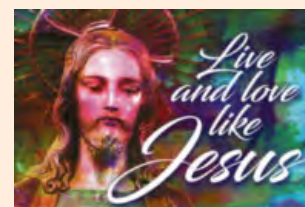
Envelopes sent:	357
Envelopes returned:	65 \$ 5,160.00
Faith Direct Deposits:	142 \$ 3,634.70
Loose Change:	\$ 40.00
<b>TOTAL OFFERTORY:</b>	<b>\$ 8,834.70</b>



## THIS SUNDAY'S REFLECTION

### **LUKE 6:17, 20-26**

"Blessed are you who are poor, for the kingdom of God is yours...But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation."



The Gospels of Luke and Matthew both contain beatitudes, a list of blessings. Only Luke adds the "woes." In Matthew, Jesus says, "Blessed are they . . ." In Luke, it is "you." The woes and the use of "you" emphasizes that Jesus is talking to us; and it's serious.

So are we rich or are we poor? All the things we might say we "have" - cars, houses, jobs, money, health, even friends or family - all of these are not really "ours." We could just as easily not have them.

To be in God's kingdom, it would seem that you must recognize your poverty. When you are truly poor, you know you are in need. You understand that just to eat, to exist, you are relying on someone else. You need help from someone, not some thing.

The Greek word used in Luke for the "consolation" experienced by the rich includes the idea of an aid or help that one leans on in order to stand. The rich think they have their consolation. Luke challenges us to lean only on the Son of Man and share what is "ours" with others.

**For Reflection: Am I rich or am I poor? On whom do I lean?**

*Gregory C. Wolfe*

### 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.



### Memorial Made for New Parish Laptop



Jane & Don Mallin and Mandy & Bobby Neil made a donation in honor of a beloved nephew and godfather: Thomas E Piskorski. Their donation allowed us to purchase a new laptop for the parish. Our thanks and prayers go to the Mallin and Neil families.

### Have you been working on organizing your paperwork?

If you are in the process of “decluttering” – why not streamline your offertory and simplify your support for Our Lady of Mercy. Perhaps you are already moving away from paper checks and envelopes to pay your bills. – It is easy to set up a recurring donation or make a one-time gift through Faith Direct. Sign up today by visiting [faith.direct/PA647](http://faith.direct/PA647) or call Faith Direct customer service at 866-507-8757. Thank you for your continued support of our parish family.



### Prayer Service for those who are Grieving.



On March 21 at 7 p.m. the Grief ministry will host a prayer service with an opportunity for people to share their experience and receive support during the grieving process. The journey is easier when walking with others who understand. For questions contact Donna Clark in the parish office.

### 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.



## 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 Feb. 6 was, **Alex Bryan, grade 4**, who knew that Jesus said that the greatest commandment was to love God with all your heart, mind and strength and to love your neighbor as yourself.

## 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. 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.

## Spaghetti Dinner Thank You!

A great big “thank you” to: the Knights of Columbus who cooked a delicious spaghetti dinner, to those who donated to our basket auction, to Jane Mallin who put the auction together, to the bakers who provided the cookies, to those who volunteers at the event, and to those of you who supported this event. None of this would have been possible without Deacon Paul Barko who initiated and coordinated this event. The Faith Formation community is grateful to all of you.

## Congratulations!

Congratulations to our Basket Auction Winners! A complete list of our winners is displayed in the Gathering Space.



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

The “Hands of Mercy,” an organization based on the diocesan care and concern model of service in which parishioners volunteer to help meet some of the social welfare needs of the parish community, was developed in Fr. Ritchie’s first term.





# SYNOD KEY TERM

## What is a synod?

"Synod" comes from ancient Greek. It can be translated as "journeying together." Its literal meaning reminds us of Jesus as the Way, the Truth and the Life (John 14:6) and of Christians as followers of the Way (Acts 9:2). In Christianity it became the proper term for an assembly specifically called to discern, in accordance with the Holy Spirit, answers to important questions for the Church. One of the earliest examples is the Council of Jerusalem, described in Acts 15. Synods have been used at all levels of the Church, from local diocesan synods all the way up to the Synod of Bishops for the universal Church. They generally deal with how we can best live out our faith in practice.

A synod can be thought of as a type of family meeting. By this analogy, the bishops are like the head of a household, with responsibility for the Church and authority to make decisions for her. In order to make the best possible decisions, they check in with the rest of the family and ask for our experiences and input. Then, taking everything into consideration, they make the decision. Bishop Persico, for example, is using this method for Pastoral Planning in our diocese. A synod is not democratic, and it is not majority rule. It is a means of discussing and discerning God's will, the God who is drawn always to the poor and little ones.

## Child Protection and Creating Safe Environments

Digital Dating Abuse can be defined as "a pattern of behaviors that control, pressure, or threaten a dating partner using a cell phone or the internet." One quarter of youth (12-17) who have been in a romantic relationship during the previous year report that they'd been the victim of digital dating abuse. So, what are some of the best ways for a parent to open up communication with their child about a delicate topic like online dating? First and foremost, ask your child what they are doing online and then really *listen* to why they like or don't like what's going on there. Parents must be diligent about staying on top of the latest trends. Great online dating tips can be found at [www.cyberwise.org](http://www.cyberwise.org). To see what the diocese is doing to help maintain safe environments for children and youth visit [www.eriecd.org/childprotection/](http://www.eriecd.org/childprotection/)



## PAULIST FR. JAMES DILUZIO

@ Our Lady of Mercy  
For LENT

A dramatic proclamation of the Gospel of Luke with preaching & sacred and secular songs as meditations.



Fr. James will share his insights from over 15 years of proclaiming Luke's Gospel throughout the USA

- Sunday through Tuesday March 13 through 15; 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the church.
- Morning Sessions after the 8:30 Mass from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. Monday through Wednesday March 14th to 16th.



# Youth Ministry News



## OLM Baby-Sitters Club Services

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.

## Youth Ministry Game Night!

Those in grades 7-12 are invited to Game Night on Friday, February 18th from 8 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. for game night! This is a "bring-a-friend" event and is open to all youth in grades 7-12! Join us for a fun and intense...yet friendly game of "Gotcha".

## Grade 11 Confirmation Retreat

The 11th graders from Our Lady of Mercy will gather together for their annual retreat on Sunday, February 20th from 10:30 a.m. - 6:30 p.m. This retreat is mandatory for all of those in 11th grade preparing to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation. Please hold our youth and retreat volunteers in your prayers as this special day is drawing near.

## World Youth Day - Lisbon, Portugal July 29-August 7, 2023

There's simply nothing like World Youth Day. WYD is a chance to enliven your faith, but it goes beyond being just a spiritual experience - from meeting new people, to shows, music, food and so much more! There is even a night when you are invited to sleep out under the stars. It will catapult you into the larger story of God and what He's doing all over the world as you celebrate your faith alongside millions of other Catholic young people representing nearly 150 countries. You have the chance to journey to the beautiful coastal city of Lisbon, Portugal with the Diocese of Erie for World Youth Day 2023! For itinerary, pricing, and registration details, visit: [versoministries.com/erie](http://versoministries.com/erie)

Our Lady of Mercy will hold 3 in-person information sessions:

Saturday, February 26th @ 7 p.m. in the Conference Room; Sunday, February 27th @ 9:30 a.m. in the Conference Room; Sunday, February 27th @ 12:00 p.m. in Sperry Hall. There is also the chance to meet via Zoom on: Wednesday, February 23rd @ 6:00 p.m. Please email [youthminister@ourladyofmercychurch.org](mailto:youthminister@ourladyofmercychurch.org) for the meeting link.

## Grade 7 & 8 Retreat

The annual 7th and 8th grade retreat will be held on Sunday, February 27th from noon 3:00 p.m. in Sperry Hall. Lunch will be provided. Please hold our 7th and 8th graders and our retreat volunteers in your prayers as their retreat day approaches.

**Mission trip**  
**Gift basket**

March 19th  
12-4

Doors open 11

Tickets 20.00

Fun

Laughter

Food

St. James Place  
2622 Buffalo Rd.

Contact Maggie Santiago  
814-490-4275

Games of Chance

Drinks

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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.