

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



FEBRUARY 20, 2022 - THE 7TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

THE WEEK AHEAD

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

Mon. 02/21	9:00 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 5:30 p.m. 6:30 p.m.	Quilters Steel Magnolias SCC Sisters of Scripture SCC Fireside Chatters SCC
Tue. 02/22	1:00 p.m. 2:00 p.m. 2:00 p.m. 4:00 p.m. 5:30 p.m.	Potter's Clay SCC Hallelujah Girls SCC Prayer Shawl Gr. 3-6 Religious Ed. Youth Open Gym
Wed. 02/23	1:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m.	Diamonds in the Rough World Youth Day Info Session - Zoom
Thur. 02/24	9:00 a.m. 1:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Painting Class Legion of Mary Prayer Shawl Synod Meeting
Fri. 02/25		
Sat. 02/26	4:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Sacrament of Penance World Youth Day Info Session
Sun. 02/27	9:30 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 12:00 p.m.	Gr. K-2 Family Faith Event Choir Rehearsal World Youth Day Info Session Jr. High Retreat

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Offertory for the weekend of February 13, 2022

Envelopes sent:	357	
Envelopes returned:	47	\$ 2,500.00
Faith Direct Deposits:	146	\$ 3,657.83
Loose Change:		\$ 80.00
TOTAL OFFERTORY:		\$ 6,237.83

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Mon. 02/21	Jas 3:13-18	/ Mk 9:14-29
Tue. 02/22	1 Pt 5:1-4	/ Mt 16:13-19
Wed. 02/23	Jas 4:13-17	/ Mk 9:38-40
Thur. 02/24	Jas 5:1-6	/ Mk 9:41-50
Fri. 02/25	Jas 5:9-12	/ Mk 10:1-12
Sat. 02/26	Jas 5:13-20	/ Mk 10:13-16
Sun. 02/27	Sir 27:4-7/ 1 Cor 15:54-58/ Lk 6:39-45	

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon. 02/21	8:30 a.m.	Fr. Tom Kelley
Tue. 02/22	8:30 a.m.	Jack Ryan
Wed. 02/23	8:30 a.m.	Charles Graham (Janet Smith)
Thur. 02/24	8:30 a.m.	Wayne Morschhauser
Fri. 02/25	8:30 a.m.	Dennis Kapp
Sat. 02/26	6:00 p.m.	Raymond & Mary Kozik (John Abbate Family)
Sun. 02/27	8:30 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	For the People of OLM Francis Ritchie

We Remember...

Wayne Morschhauser, son of
DonnaLee Morschhauser &
Joe Sell, the former OLM
Maintenance Man;
who passed away recently.

*In
Loving
Memory*

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

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



THIS SUNDAY'S REFLECTION



LUKE 6:27-38

"For the measure with which you measure will in return be measured out to you."

It is not possible to outdo God in generosity. Wouldn't it be wonderful if the same could be said of us?

My own life experience has taught me that God does not measure out love, or mercy, or justice, or forgiveness - God gives it all in abundance without keeping an account of what went where and to whom. We cannot earn or deserve such generosity.

It is this extravagance that Jesus invites us to practice when he says to disciples in every age, "love your enemies, do good to those who hate you...Give to everyone who asks of you...lend expecting nothing back." In the life and ministry of Jesus these were not mere words or romanticized musings. This is the way Jesus actually lived in a world that had its share of greed and hatred and violence.

I am convinced that if we love our enemies and even do good to them we may just help to change the world. It may not be possible to outdo God's generosity, but it is possible, even crucial, that we ask for the grace to imitate Jesus.

For Reflection: In what situations or relationships am I being called to be generous in love and mercy, even when it may be most difficult?

Cackie Upchurch

Book Group

Join us at 7:00 p.m. on March 16 to discuss The Lincoln Highway by Amor Towles. Unvaccinated members, PLEASE wear masks.



Lenten Video Reflections



Once again this year, we are inviting parish members to make a short video reflection on one of the week-day Mass readings during Lent. Each of us has been gifted with the Holy Spirit. It is our privilege and our call to share the insights born of the Spirit's promptings with our faith family. Together we can all grow in our understanding of the Word of God. Readings and instructions are on a table in the Gathering Space. Sign your name on the list beside the date of the reading you take. Together let us make this a holy Lent for one another.

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.



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 Our Lady of Mercy will hold 2 in-person information sessions: **Saturday, February 26th @ 7 p.m. in the Conference Room;** **Sunday, February 27th @ 9:30 a.m. in the Parlor.** There is also the chance to meet via Zoom on: **Wednesday, February 23rd @ 6:00 p.m.** Please email youthminister@ourladyofmercychurch.org for the meeting link.

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. 13 was **Logan Schneider, grade 1**, who knew that we have a guardian angel who watches over us.

Register Today for 1:38 Women, a Catholic Women's Conference!

Enjoy a dynamic experience with women from around the Diocese of Erie and beyond! The 7th annual 1:38 Women's Conference will be held on **Saturday, March 12, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.** and you may attend as follows: ●Live in-person at St. Jude's Parish; ●Virtually at satellite parishes via Zoom at participating parishes to be announced on the website at www.138women.com; ●Virtually via Zoom at your own home. Don't miss this opportunity to grow in your relationship with the Lord through inspiring national speakers and opportunities for prayer, and reconciliation as well as Mass with Bishop Lawrence Persico. All you need to have is an open heart! The event is just \$20. For more information and to register visit www.138women.com or call 814-455-7364.



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 or call Faith Direct customer service at 866-507-8757. Thank you for your continued support of our parish family.

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.



Celebrating the 75th Anniversary of Our Lady of Mercy Parish

Staff changes brought Irene Lucas on board as the Director of Religious Education in 1995 with Sister Rosemary becoming the Pastoral Minister that same year. Sister Mary Daniel Meahl, OSB also joined the parish staff as Director of Music.





SYNOD KEY TERM

The infallible belief of the faithful: What is the *sensus fidei fidelium*?

One of the reasons that Pope Francis has been emphasizing synodality is that he wishes to better recognize and utilize all the gifts of all the people in the Church. Most of us know that the Magisterium of the Church (the teaching office of the Church exercised by the Pope and the bishops), under certain conditions, can teach infallibly. But the faithful members of Christ's Church also have a corresponding gift. We can believe infallibly. Ideally these two gifts should inform and reinforce each other.

This gift of the Holy Spirit is called the *sensus fidei fidelium*: The understanding of the Faith by the Faithful. Everyone who is baptized is anointed with the Holy Spirit, and this anointing is strengthened by the Sacrament of Confirmation. By the grace of the Spirit, the People of God as a whole does not err in faith, even when it cannot adequately explain the faith. The more faithful a Christian is – participating in the Sacraments, building their relationship with God, feeling with the heart of the Church – the better of an instinct they will have for the True Faith. When we are open to Him, God gives us an intuition about divine realities. And when the entire People of God manifests a belief of faith or morals, that belief cannot be wrong, because the Holy Spirit would not allow the entire Church to go into error.

The *sensus fidei* cannot be determined by majority vote. History shows that individuals and groups in the Church, whether members of the faithful or bishops, can very easily fall into error and sin. The more separated a person is from God and His Church, the less likely they will be to instinctively recognize the truths of the Faith — and we have all sinned and fallen short (Romans 3:23). However, if the faithful stubbornly cling to some belief or obstinately refuse to accept another, for a long time and in many places, even in the face of opposition and persecution, that should be a sign to the Magisterium of the *sensus fidei* at work.

March 19th **12-4** **Mission trip** **Gift basket** **Doors open 11**

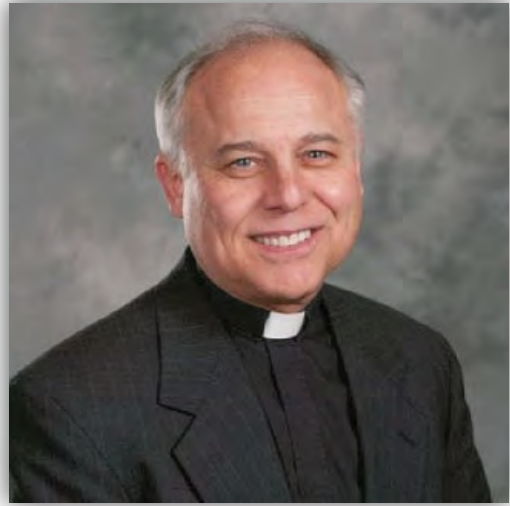
Fun **Tickets 20.00**

BINGO

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Contact Maggie Santiago **Drinks**
814-490-4275

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Sunday - Tuesday

March 13th through 15th

7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the church.

Monday - Wednesday

March 14th through 16th.

Morning Sessions from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m.

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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.