

# 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*

Katie Stephenson, *Administrative Assistant  
& Youth Minister*

Linda Peters, *Director of Music*

Matthew Clark, *Director of Liturgy*

Kirk Mientkiewicz, *Maintenance Coordinator*

Andrea Maille, *Lifelong Faith Formation Secretary*

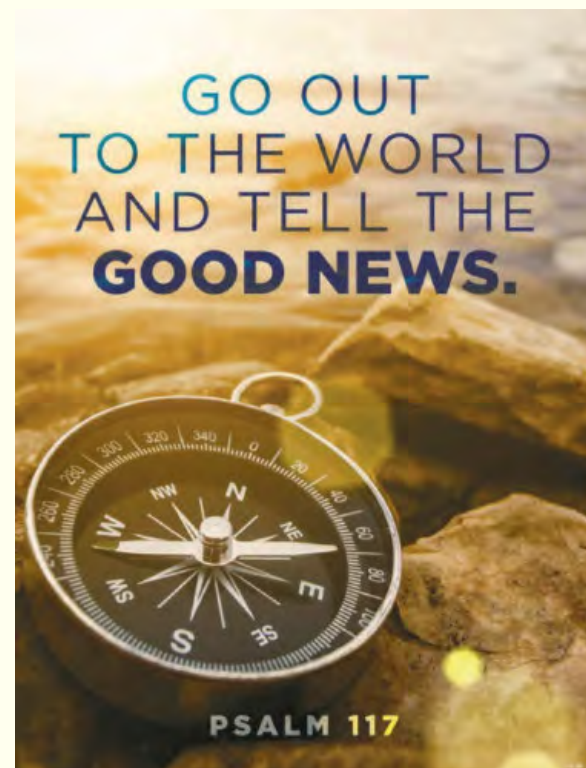
## CONTACT INFORMATION

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)



**AUGUST 21, 2022 - THE 21ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

## THE WEEK AHEAD

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

Mon. 08/22		
Tue. 08/23	7:00 p.m.	Lifelong Faith Formation
Wed. 08/24	1:00 p.m.	Diamonds in the Rough SCC
Thur. 08/25	12:00 p.m.	Jesus Today Prayer
	6:00 p.m.	Sister Parish Committee
Fri. 08/26		
Sat. 08/27	Mission Co-Op Weekend	
	4:30 p.m.	Sacrament of Penance
Sun. 08/28	Mission Co-Op Weekend	

## FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Offertory for the weekend of August 7, 2022

Envelopes sent:	357	
Envelopes returned:	57	\$ 2,959.10
Faith Direct Deposits:	141	\$ 3,766.20
Loose Change:		\$ 104.00
<b>TOTAL OFFERTORY:</b>		<b>\$ 6,829.30</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 INTENTION UPDATE

We are unable to schedule new Mass Intentions at this time. Due to the limited weekday Mass schedule, the rescheduling of missed Mass Intentions will take top priority. We thank you for your patience and understanding.

## MASS INTENTIONS

Mon. 08/22	8:30 a.m.	Michael Camera (Mary Katherine & Sue)
Tue. 08/23	8:30 a.m.	Jack Case (Family)
Wed. 08/24	8:30 a.m.	<b>NO MASS</b> <b>- COMMUNION SERVICE</b>
Thur. 08/25	8:30 a.m.	Gerald Stauffer (Terry Miller)
Fri. 08/26	8:30 a.m.	<b>NO MASS</b> <b>- COMMUNION SERVICE</b>
Sat. 08/27	6:00 p.m.	Larry Rogers (Carol Rogers)
Sun. 08/28	8:30 a.m.	James Boris (The Exteins)
	11:00 a.m.	For the People of OLM



“Teach only Love,  
for that is what  
you are.”

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

Mon. 08/22	2 Thes 1:1-5, 11-12	/ Mt 23:13-22
Tue. 08/23	2 Thes 2:1-3a, 14-17	/ Mt 23:23-26
Wed. 08/24	Rv 21:9b-14	/ Jn 1:45-51
Thur. 08/25	1 Cor 1:1-9	/ Mt 24:42-51
Fri. 08/26	1 Cor 1:17-25	/ Mt 25:1-13
Sat. 08/27	1 Cor 1:26-30	/ Mt 25:14-30
Sun. 08/28	Sir 3:17-29 / Heb 12:18-24/ Lk 14:1-14	

## THIS SUNDAY'S REFLECTION

### LUKE 13:22-30

“Lord, will only a few people be saved?”

What feeling came over you when you read today's Gospel? Did you feel scared - or smug?

I thought of a short story by Catholic author Flannery O'Connor called “Revelations.” In it, we meet Mrs. Turpin, a farm wife who thanks God that she is the way she is and smugly places her neighbors into classes before falling asleep at night.

The story describes a long day at the doctor's office, where Mrs. Turpin encounters someone from almost every one of her “classes.” It's too much for her. When she finally gets home, she experiences a powerful vision while standing by her (very clean) hog pen. She sees a vast swinging bridge carrying a procession of souls “rumbling toward heaven.” At the front, dressed in white and shouting hallelujah? All the “classes” Mrs. Turpin has railed against all her life. And at the rear, with shocked faces? “Her people” - those who, like herself,...”had always had a little of everything and the God-given wit to use it right.”

Thank you, Flannery O'Connor, for Mrs. Turpin, and for explaining the words of Jesus. Until we see ourselves clearly, we aren't ready to recline at the table in the Kingdom of God.

For Reflection: What experiences are helping me to see myself and others as God does?

Judy Hoelzeman





### Book Group

Join us on **September 21** to discuss We Begin At The End by Chris Whitaker.



### Technician needed



We are looking for one or two people willing to learn how our livestream and sound systems work. At the minimum learn how to set up the computer and start the livestream. Complete step by step instructions provided. See Donna Clark.

### The Groove Is Back!

The Knights of Columbus is again sponsoring a dance featuring Erie's most popular band, "The Groove" on **Friday, September 16** in our gym from **7 to 11 p.m.** Tickets will go on sale after Masses starting **August 21** and will be available in the Parish Office from **9 a.m. to 3 p.m.** Ticket price is still only \$15 per person. The dance has been a sell out in the past, so get your tickets early. Capacity is limited.



### Parish Quilt



New parish families are encouraged to decorate a quilt square for our parish quilt that hangs on the back wall of the worship space. You may find a square in the basket on the table next to classroom #1. After you

decorate your family square please return it to the parish office.

### Get an Electronic Bulletin

To get our bulletin online sign up at <https://parishesonline.com>



Search for Harborcreek, PA and select Our Lady of Mercy. You can select the option to receive an e mail notice when there is a new publication.

### K OF C BABY BOTTLE FUNDRAISER



Congratulations Our Lady of Mercy! Our parish donated \$4,578.00 toward the Knights of Columbus Baby Bottle Fundraiser, to benefit the Women's Care Center of Erie's goal to purchase an ultrasound van. The grand total of all donations from Erie and Crawford

County Catholic churches and Seton Grade School, plus additional monies remaining from last year's Ultrasound Machine Fund Drive is over \$119,000.00. A job well done!

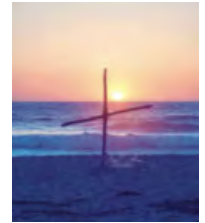
## FORMED.ORG



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.

### Sunset Mass

As we bring another summer season to a close, we gather to give thanks to the God who created the beauty of the world we live in. We will celebrate our annual Sunset Mass **TODAY, Sunday, Aug. 21 at 7:00 p.m.** on the grounds of Faith Lutheran Church. This is the Mass of the day. There are benches at the site, but you may want to bring additional chairs. And, don't forget the bug spray.



### The Healing Ministry



The healing ministry will be available after the **8:30 Mass on the first and third Sundays** of the month, starting **August 21<sup>st</sup>**. For other requests please call the office.

### An Invitation to Explore the Catholic Faith

Some days, the world feels as if it is spinning out of control. Natural disasters, international crisis, political discord, economic uncertainty, ecological threat, we often find ourselves grasping for an anchor to steady our lives. God is the one anchor that remains sure and stable, no matter what troubles shake the ground under our feet. A relationship with God, our Creator, our Savior, our Advocate lived in the supportive arms of the Church family and nourished by the grace of the sacraments can help us live with peace and joy no matter what life throws at us. Would you like to learn more about the Catholic faith? Have you toyed with the idea of being baptized? Would you like to explore your questions about what life as a Catholic Christian would mean? If you would like to start a conversation or learn more about the process of preparing to join the Catholic faith, contact Irene Lucas at [ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org](mailto:ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org) or 814-899-6132.



### Ink Jet Fundraiser



Please donate used black or color ink jet cartridges to the Religious Education ministry. Previously refilled and remanufactured cartridges can

not be redeemed, nor can laser toner cartridges.





### Religious Education Registration

Religious education begins on September 6. Any child who will be involved in religious education this school year must have a parent signature on the appropriate forms before attending class. Any family unable to register this past weekend should stop by the Faith Formation Office during normal working hours.

### Catechist Needed

The ministry of the catechist is one of the oldest and most revered ministries in the history of the Church. It is a privilege and an honor to be able to pass along the gift of our faith to a new generation of believers. We are looking for a few faith-filled people to share in this ministry. Training will be provided. In particular, we are looking for

- Grade 2 Sunday morning
- Grade 6 Tuesday afternoon
- Grade 7/8 Sunday Morning
- Grade 9 Home Session Leader.

For more information, contact Irene Lucas at [ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org](mailto:ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org) or 814-899-6132.

## Prayer to the Holy Spirit

Holy Spirit, Breath of the Creator,  
as advocate whom the Father sent,  
fall afresh with the sparks of faith  
on this community.

Ignite our hearts  
to give bold witness of your love;  
creating a culture of belonging.

Open our eyes to the present,  
enable us to see your vision  
for our future;  
showing us the way to go.

Give us the wisdom to wait for you  
as we trust you  
to teach us and guide us.

May we be filled with passion and desire  
to intentionally and eagerly  
journey the path you have  
laid out for us.

Amen



## back2school prayer

"Dear Lord, use my eyes to *see* new friends.  
Open my ears to *hear* my teacher.  
Open my mind to *learn* new things.  
Let my heart *remember* YOU are near  
when I'm afraid.  
Help me to *love* others like you do.  
I want to *shine* your light so bright in my school."

©Courtney DeFoa

Amen

## A PRAYER FOR OUR TEACHERS

DEAR GOD,  
THANK YOU FOR THE AMAZING TEACHERS  
WHO HAVE GIVEN THEIR LIVES  
TO SERVE OUR CHILDREN.  
AS THEY PREPARE FOR THE NEW YEAR,  
FILL THEM WITH STRENGTH TO LEAD,  
GRACE TO GUIDE AND HOPE TO THRIVE  
IN THEIR CLASSROOM.  
BLESS THEM BEYOND MEASURE  
FOR THEIR WILLINGNESS  
TO POUR INTO THE NEXT  
GENERATION THROUGH EDUCATION. AMEN





# KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL 11144



## **OLM KofC dance featuring The Groove**



**Fri. September 16, 2022  
7 - 11 p.m.**

**Our Lady of Mercy Church Gym  
837 Bartlett Road, Harborcreek**

**Cost is \$15/person and tickets are available to  
purchase after Mass beginning August 21  
and in the Parish Office Monday-Friday from  
9 a.m. - 3 p.m. & will be sold at the door the night  
of the dance.**

## **50-50 RAFFLE**

to be held at the dance.

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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.