

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*

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



SEPTEMBER 4, 2022 - THE 23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

THE WEEK AHEAD

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

Mon. 09/05	LABOR DAY - PARISH OFFICE CLOSED
Tue. 09/06	1:00 p.m. Potter's Clay SCC 4:00 p.m. Religious Ed Gr 3-6 6:30 p.m. Finance Council 7:00 p.m. Pastoral Council
Wed. 09/07	1:00 p.m. Diamonds in the Rough SCC 6:00 p.m. Gr. 9 Parent/Candidate Meeting
Thur. 09/08	12:00 p.m. Jesus Today Prayer 6:00 p.m. Gr. 10 & 11 Parent/Candidate Meeting 6:00 p.m. Prayer Shawl
Fri. 09/09	
Sat. 09/10	4:30 p.m. Sacrament of Penance
Sun. 09/11	9:30 a.m. Religious Ed Gr K-2 & 7-8

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



We Remember... *In Loving Memory*
David Bloom, uncle of Nancy Mowery & Arlene Kuholski, sister of Carol Rogers; who passed away recently.
Please hold them and their families in prayer during this difficult time.

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. 09/05	8:30 a.m.	NO MASS
Tue. 09/06	8:30 a.m.	Irene Abbate (Ted & Marge Nowak)
Wed. 09/07	8:30 a.m.	NO MASS - COMMUNION SERVICE
Thur. 09/08	8:30 a.m.	Daniel Sweeney (Karen Sweeney)
Fri. 09/09	8:30 a.m.	NO MASS - COMMUNION SERVICE
Sat. 09/10	6:00 p.m.	Gerald Stauffer (Butch & Gerri Extein)
Sun. 09/11	8:30 a.m.	Marsha R zodkiewicz (Ken & Pat Marshall)
	11:00 a.m.	For the People of OLM



FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Offertory for the weekend of August 21, 2022

Envelopes sent:	357	
Envelopes returned:	60	\$ 2,914.00
Faith Direct Deposits:	140	\$ 3,813.70
Loose Change:		\$ 67.00
TOTAL OFFERTORY:		\$ 6,794.70

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Mon. 09/05	1 Cor 5:1-8	/ Lk 6:6-11
Tue. 09/06	1 Cor 6:1-11	/ Lk 6:12-19
Wed. 09/07	1 Cor 7:25-31	/ Lk 6:20-26
Thur. 09/08	Mi 5:1-4 or Rom 8:28-30	/ Mt 1:1-23
Fri. 09/09	1 Cor 9:16-19, 22-27	/ Lk 6:39-42
Sat. 09/10	1 Cor 10:14-22	/ Lk 6:43-49
Sun. 09/11	Ex 32:7-14 / 1 Tm 1:12-17/ Lk 15:1-32	

THIS SUNDAY'S REFLECTION

LUKE 14:25-33

"Anyone of you who does not renounce all his possessions cannot be my disciple."

We all desire happiness. Many seek happiness by obtaining material things like oversized homes, gas-guzzling vehicles, or the latest electronic gadgets. But the only true happiness can come by changing our priorities and focusing on Jesus' way in our life.

Does this mean that we should sell all our possessions? No! Being a disciple of Jesus means looking after those less fortunate than ourselves: feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, visiting the sick and the shut-ins, loving our neighbor; sharing our possessions and, at the same time, recognizing that all we have comes from God.

Jesus cautions those who listen to him to think through the ramifications of becoming a disciple. Following in his footsteps is not going to be easy. Recall that Jesus was tempted, ridiculed, called a lunatic, and tortured; he gave his life for us so that we could have true happiness. As a follower we can expect the same, though most of us will not suffer from martyrdom.

Remember we are not alone in our journey. Jesus, the source of true happiness, is always at our side to help us confront the issues we face in life.

For Reflection: How do my possessions help me to serve others? When do my possessions become an obstacle?

Bob Morris



Book Group

Join us on **September 21** to discuss We Begin At The End by Chris Whitaker. Our October title will be Thicker Than Water by Tyler Schultz.



No New News



We anxiously await the appointment of a new pastor for our community, and it is hard not to speculate who the Priest Personnel Board will choose for us, throwing out a name or a wish as we chat among ourselves. The Personnel

Board asked us to be patient with the process and give them until the end of September to find the best fit for us. There have been no official leaks – if you hear a rumor, please ask the staff. Until then let us continue to be the loving caring community that Fr. Sperry and Fr. Ritchie raised us to be. *Perhaps we could all pray the prayer to the Holy Spirit that the Pastoral Council composed for our visioning process.*

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.



Parent Baptismal Prep Session

It is an awesome responsibility and amazing privilege to bring your child to the waters of Baptism. Parents who wish to schedule the Sacrament of Baptism for their child are asked to prepare for this new life of grace by attending a preparation session. These sessions are held twice a year at OLM. Our next session will take place on **Sunday, Oct. 2 at noon**. Registration prior to the session is required. Register by calling the parish office at **814-899-5342** between 9:00-3:00. Another session will not be held until 2023.



Mission Co-Op Donations

Fr Paul, from Africa joined us last Sunday at Mass and spoke of his community. If you would like to donate to the missions, there will be a basket as you enter church labeled "Mission Co-op Donations" Checks can be made out to Our Lady of Mercy. You can also donate using Faith Direct by signing into your account and choosing a one time donation, marking it for the Mission Coop. If you do not have an account with Faith Direct you can go to: <https://membership.faithdirect.net/givenow/PA647/17960> accessed through our parish web site: <https://www.ourladyofmercychurch.org> Thank you for your generosity.



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.

Grief Support Group

The grief support group meets on **Monday Sept 19 at 7:00** in the parish parlor. If meeting in a group does not work for you but you would like to talk to someone call Donna Clark in the parish office.



Cantors Needed for Music Ministry

Linda Peters, our new music director wants to extend a warm welcome to all current cantors, and invite anyone that has previously considered being a cantor to give it a try this year! We need you! Please don't hesitate – Linda will make sure you're comfortable with what you need to do. She can be contacted at 607-731-5908, or you can email her at: lspecters001@gmail.com.



The Healing Ministry

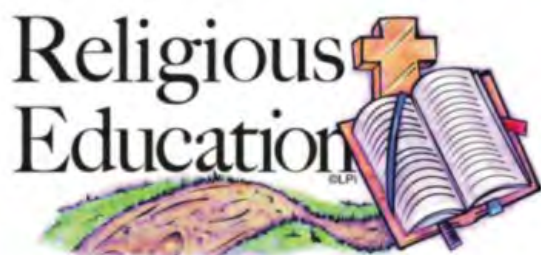
The healing ministry will be available after the 8:30 Mass on the first and third Sundays of the month. For other requests, please call the office.



An Invitation to Explore the Catholic Faith

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 or 814-899-6132.





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 who still needs to register can 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 9 Home Session Leader.

We also need volunteers willing to be on a substitute list. For more information, contact Irene Lucas at

ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org or 814-899-6132.

Religious Education classes begin on Sept. 6

There are several important parent/youth meetings during the first week of religious education.

Gr. 9 Parent and Youth Meeting
@ 6:00 p.m. Sept. 7

Gr. 10 & 11 Parent and Youth Meeting
@ 6:00 p.m. on Sept. 8

K - Gr. 2 Family Event & Parent Meeting
@ 9:30 a.m. on Sept. 11

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

Pastoral Council Starts in September

We wish to thank the Pastoral Council members who are stepping down: Bill Matrogran, serving two terms, Nathan Matusiak, serving two terms, and Ashlee Skarzenski, serving one term.



The Pastoral Council starts its new season on Tuesday Sept 6. We have added three new members: Greg Badach, Candy Henry, Denise Lewandoski. They will join these continuing council members: Todd Beckes, Maureen Brainard, Joanne Fournier, Vickie Gilchrist, MO Rizzo.

We hope this year to continue our visioning process. A vision statement defines where we are going, our mission and our 'why' for everything that we do.

We must seek out the Holy Spirit's guidance during this process and ask all parishioners to pray this prayer that the council wrote last year.

For more information about the council contact Donna Clark





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.