

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 11, 2022 - THE 24TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

THE WEEK AHEAD

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

Mon. 09/12	6:30 p.m.	Roman Candles SCC
Tue. 09/13	1:00 p.m.	Potter's Clay SCC
	2:00 p.m.	Prayer Shawl
	4:00 p.m.	Religious Ed Gr 3-6
Wed. 09/14	1:00 p.m.	Diamonds in the Rough SCC
	6:30 p.m.	AGIFT Meeting
	7:00 p.m.	Knights of Columbus
Thur. 09/15	9:00 a.m.	Angels in Training SCC
	12:00 p.m.	Jesus Today Prayer
	6:00 p.m.	Prayer Shawl
Fri. 09/16		
Sat. 09/17	4:30 p.m.	Sacrament of Penance
Sun. 09/18	8:00 a.m.	Pre-Cana
	9:30 a.m.	Religious Ed Gr K-2 & 7-8
	9:30 a.m.	Healing Ministry

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Offertory for the weekend of September 4, 2022

Envelopes sent:	357	
Envelopes returned:	73	\$ 5,680.00
Faith Direct Deposits:	140	\$ 3,813.70
Loose Change:		\$ 75.00
TOTAL OFFERTORY:		\$ 9,568.70

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. 09/12	8:30 a.m.	Ruth Extein (The Extein's)
Tue. 09/13	8:30 a.m.	Mary Ella Eaglen (Elizabeth Morgan Gerlach)
Wed. 09/14	8:30 a.m.	NO MASS - COMMUNION SERVICE
Thur. 09/15	8:30 a.m.	Robert Jones (Barb Jones)
Fri. 09/16	8:30 a.m.	NO MASS - COMMUNION SERVICE
Sat. 09/17	6:00 p.m.	George & Betty Dietrich (Fred & Kay Kaerberlein)
Sun. 09/18	8:30 a.m.	Frank Szklenski (Joe & Lois Heise)
	11:00 a.m.	For the People of OLM



We Remember... *In Loving Memory*

Judith Deist, sister of Jan Brown; and Charles Reinsel Sr. father of Chuck Reinsel; who passed away recently. Please hold them and their families in prayer during this difficult time.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Mon. 09/12	1 Cor 11:17-26, 33	/ Lk 7:1-10
Tue. 09/13	1 Cor 12:12-14, 27-31	/ Lk 7:11-17
Wed. 09/14	Nm 21:4b-9	/ Jn 3:13-17
Thur. 09/15	1 Cor 15:1-11	/ Lk 2:33-35
Fri. 09/16	1 Cor 15:12-20	/ Lk 8:1-3
Sat. 09/17	1 Cor 15:35-37, 42-49	/ Lk 8:4-15
Sun. 09/18	Am 8:4-7 / 1 Tm 2:1-8	/ Lk 16:1-13

THIS SUNDAY'S REFLECTION

LUKE 15:1-32

"Your brother was dead and has come to life again; he was lost and has been found."

When our feelings have been bruised it's awfully hard to focus on what really matters. The perceived hurt blurs our vision and can even envelope us like a mighty wave. The father in the story of the prodigal son tries to pull his elder son back to the surface. He wants him to wipe the jealousy from his eyes and appreciate the depth of what has happened.

A sinner has repented. A son, and a brother, has come home. A new day is beginning, not just for the returning son, but also for the community who welcomes him.

It's like that in the Kingdom of God. Great rejoicing accompanies repentance. Healing takes place in both the individual and in the community. The ripples of reconciliation have far-reaching effects.

The stories Jesus used to teach us about the Kingdom of God call us to take notice of the crucial things that create true community - repentance, forgiveness, compassion, celebration. These are virtues in the Kingdom of God, and they are necessary components for life in families, parishes, and even civic communities.

For Reflection: Do I consider reconciliation and celebration a valuable part of my life as a Christian?

Cackie Upchurch



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.



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

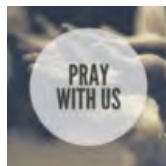


Fr Paul, from Africa joined us last month at Mass and spoke of his community. If you would like to donate to the missions, there will be a basket as you enter church label "Mission Co-op

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.

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.*



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: lpeters001@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

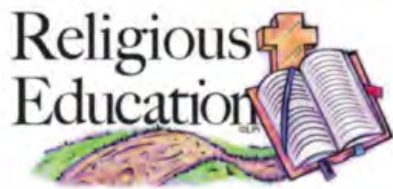
Some days, the world feels as if it is spinning out of control. Natural disasters, international crisis, political discord, economic uncertainty, ecological threat, we often find ourselves grasping for an anchor to steady our lives. God is the one anchor that remains sure and stable, no matter what troubles 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**.



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 has begun a new year. 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.

Gr. K-2 Family Event & Meeting

The year of religious education kicks off with meetings for parents and youth: **Sunday, Sept. 11 @ 9:30** in Sperry Hall Kdg.-Gr. 2 Family Event and Parent Meeting.

Child Protection and Creating Safe Environments



Diocesan Child Protection Policies

The Diocese of Erie, is committed to protecting minors who are entrusted to our care. The Diocese has policies and procedures in place to address the national problem of child abuse, to aid in the prevention of abuse and to maintain safe environments. All those who minister to minors are screened, trained, and agree to a Code of Conduct. To read the Policy that includes the Code of Conduct, go to: Policy effective March 15, 2021. For more information, contact Mrs. Cindy Zemic, in the diocesan Office for the Protection of Children at 814-824-1195.

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 started 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



FEAST OF OUR LADY OF MERCY



September 25,
2022

**A time to celebrate being the faith community of
Our Lady of Mercy.**

**OUR FEAST DAY MASS
is at 10:30 a.m.**

Followed by a pot luck meal
in Sperry Hall.

Please bring a dish to share
for the luncheon according to
your last name:

A-G Salad or Appetizer

H-O Dessert or Snack

P-Z Casserole or Fruit

Gluten-free items are welcome.



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OUR LADY OF MERCY CATHOLIC CHURCH
Membership Form

Name _____

Address _____

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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.