

# 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.

## 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)

## 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.*

## 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

**OCTOBER 2, 2022 - THE 27TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

## THE WEEK AHEAD

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

|             |            |                            |
|-------------|------------|----------------------------|
| Mon. 10/03  | 9:30 a.m.  | Steel Magnolias SCC        |
| Tue. 10/04  | 1:00 p.m.  | Potter's Clay SCC          |
|             | 2:00 p.m.  | Prayer Shawl               |
|             | 4:00 p.m.  | Religious Ed Gr 3-6        |
|             | 7:00 p.m.  | Pastoral Council           |
| Wed. 10/05  | 9:00 a.m.  | Painting Group             |
|             | 1:00 p.m.  | Diamonds in the Rough SCC  |
| Thur. 10/06 | 12:00 p.m. | Jesus Today Prayer         |
|             | 6:00 p.m.  | Prayer Shawl               |
|             | 7:00 p.m.  | Choir Rehearsal            |
| Fri. 10/07  | 10:00 a.m. | Sisters of Scripture SCC   |
| Sat. 10/08  | 4:30 p.m.  | Sacrament of Penance       |
| Sun. 10/09  | 9:30 a.m.  | Religious Ed Gr. K-2 & 7-8 |
|             | 12:15 p.m. | Gr. 10 & 11 Interviews     |

## 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



## SCRIPTURE READINGS

|             |                 |               |
|-------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Mon. 10/03  | Gal 1:6-12      | / Lk 10:25-37 |
| Tue. 10/04  | Gal 1:13-24     | / Lk 10:38-42 |
| Wed. 10/05  | Gal 2:1-2, 7-14 | / Lk 11:1-4   |
| Thur. 10/06 | Gal 3:1-5       | / Lk 11:5-13  |
| Fri. 10/07  | Gal 3:7-14      | / Lk 11:15-26 |
| Sat. 10/08  | Gal 3:22-29     | / Lk 11:27-28 |
| Sun. 10/09  | 2 Kgs 5:14-17   |               |
|             | 2 Tm 2:8-13     | / Lk 17:11-19 |

## 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. 10/03  | 8:30 a.m.  | Wanda Pius<br>(The Morris Family)     |
| Tue. 10/04  | 8:30 a.m.  | Donald McCurdy<br>(Margaret McCurdy)  |
| Wed. 10/05  | 8:30 a.m.  | <b>NO MASS</b><br>- COMMUNION SERVICE |
| Thur. 10/06 | 8:30 a.m.  | Irene Abbate<br>(Ted & Marge Nowak)   |
| Fri. 10/07  | 8:30 a.m.  | <b>NO MASS</b><br>- COMMUNION SERVICE |
| Sat. 10/08  | 6:00 p.m.  | Robert Jones<br>(Barb Jones)          |
| Sun. 10/09  | 8:30 a.m.  | For the People of OLM                 |
|             | 11:00 a.m. | Lewis Peters<br>(Family)              |

## Presentation of the Gifts of Bread and Wine

We will be processing the gifts of bread and wine again at all Masses. You can sign up in advance for this ministry at the kiosk in the gathering space. The procession of bread and wine symbolizes all that we give of ourselves to God and our support to those who are in need. If you have not had the honor of bringing up the gifts at a weekend Mass please do sign up or tell an usher before Mass that you are willing.

## FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Offertory for the weekend of September 25, 2022

|                         |     |                    |
|-------------------------|-----|--------------------|
| Envelopes sent:         | 357 |                    |
| Envelopes returned:     | 35  | \$ 2,110.00        |
| Faith Direct Deposits:  | 140 | \$ 3,813.70        |
| Loose Change:           |     | \$ 247.00          |
| <b>TOTAL OFFERTORY:</b> |     | <b>\$ 6,270.70</b> |

## We Remember...

Lorie Renault,  
daughter of Ed Jackson;  
who passed away recently.  
Please hold her and her family in  
prayer during this difficult time.



## THIS SUNDAY'S REFLECTION

### LUKE 17:5-10

"We have done what we were obliged to do."



How many times does Jesus surprise us with his answers? Here we have the apostles asking him to increase their faith and Jesus telling them that even the little they have would be enough to do marvelous things. And immediately Jesus calls them and us to be generous in his service. He implies that faith must lead us to generosity.

James tells us in his epistle that "faith without deeds is totally dead" (2:17). Many of us complain that we are not lucky; we never win either a raffle or a lottery. Yet, we also need to ask God for the graces we need, but at the same time we must do our part to respond to those graces.

Recently, a friend told me she had asked an employee to do something else besides the usual chores. To her surprise, the employee said, "You need to pay me extra for that." Jesus invites us to be generous and not merely to do "what we are obliged to do." Are we ready to go "the extra mile" without counting the cost and without asking for "extra pay"?

For Reflection: How freely am I willing to do what God asks of me?

Rosa Maria Icaza, C.C.V.I.

## What Does The Eucharist Mean To Me?

Would you be willing to share what the Eucharist means to you? As the U.S. Bishops launch a multi-year period of Eucharistic renewal, Our Lady of Mercy is taking a moment to think about what the Eucharist means to each of us.



Would you take a moment to witness to the power of the gift of the Eucharist in your life? The Holy Spirit can use each of us to bring another person to a renewed appreciation of the Eucharist in their life. We are asking people to create short 2 to 3 minute reflections on the Eucharist for us to post on our parish website and FB page. If your heart is moving you to share but you don't know how to make a video on your phone, you can come in to the parish and Katie will record you. If you have thoughts that you would like to share but do not relish the idea of speaking on camera, you can submit your thoughts in writing and someone else will read it on camera for you. There is a sign-up sheet in the Gathering Space along with instructions and prompts to get you started. Many people are not in church to hear a homily or attend a speaker, but they will listen to another parishioner's sincere thoughts on a post. Through each of us, God will touch many hearts.

## Grief Support Monthly Group

Monday, Oct 17 is the next grief support group meeting.



## Book Group



Join us on **October 19 at 7:00** at the home of Kay Kaerberlein 109 Kraus Dr., to discuss Thicker Than Water by Tyler Schultz and The Story of Arthur Truluv by Elizabeth Berg. In November we will discuss Have you Seen Luis Velez by Catherine Ryan Hyde.

## Celebrating The Day of the Dead

Let's share in solidarity with our sister parish this **Nov. 1**. The Sister Parish Committee will be setting up an altar in the Gathering Space the weekend of **Oct. 22-Nov. 6** to remember and honor the loved ones of our community. All are invited to bring a picture and/or memento of a deceased member of your family to be placed on the altar. (Please nothing large or irreplaceable.) Watch for the flier in next week's bulletin for more details.



Don't Miss the **DEADLINE!** **For Mercy Sake Deadline**  
The deadline to submit items for the autumn issue of the parish newsletter is **Sunday, Oct. 23**. Send items to [secretary@ourladyofmercychurch.org](mailto:secretary@ourladyofmercychurch.org).

## Going to Canada

Need some money? The parish has some Canadian change from the weekly offertory that we would like to exchange. Please see Donna Clark.



## FORMED.ORG

FORMED

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

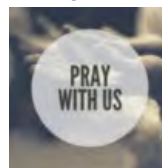
Question-of-the-Week winner for the week of September 20 was **Colton Catrabone, grade 6**, who could name 2 of the archangels: Gabriel and Michael.

## Join Our Choir

Choir practice will be every Thursday night from now on, starting at 7:00 p.m. All are welcome! Please contact Linda Peters, choir director, with any questions at 607-731-5908, or you can email her at: [lspecters001@gmail.com](mailto:lspecters001@gmail.com).



## Prayer to the Holy Spirit



A vision statement defines where we are going, our 'why' for everything that we do. Last year the Parish Council started working on a vision for the parish. As we move forward with this process, we ask the Holy Spirit to guide us in recognizing a vision that will help us as a community to embrace our full potential as the Body of Christ. And now that there may be a delay in the appoint of a new pastor for this community perhaps this prayer that the council wrote takes on a larger meaning of guiding the best pastoral leader to our community. We ask everyone in our community to pray this prayer each day. Prayer cards are available in baskets in the worship space. It is also available online.

## 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.





# Happenings Around the Diocese

## Our Lady of Mount Carmel Fundraiser

Our Lady of Mount Carmel invites you to mark your calendars for **Sunday, October 9th**, as Betsy Annunziata of Nunzi's fame prepares a spaghetti dinner! The dinner is an excellent way to support a neighboring parish and ENJOY one of Erie's favorite pasta meals! The dinner cost is \$12.00 and will be held from **12 noon until 5:00 p.m.** in Scheffner Hall. Dine-in or Carry out will be available.

## Erie Diocesan Rosary March planned for Oct. 9

The 28th annual Erie Diocesan Rosary March will be held **Oct. 9 at 2 p.m.** in the parking lot of St. Jude the Apostle Church, 2801 W. 6th St., Erie. The rosary also will be prayed inside the church at the same time for those who are unable to march. Following the rosary, there will be a special prayer service inside the church with exposition and Benediction. Father David Renne, vice rector of St. Mark Seminary, Erie, and a member of the faculty of Gannon University, Erie, will be the guest homilist. This event is sponsored by the World Apostolate of Fatima. For more information, contact John Walsh at **814-868-1100**.

## Diocesan middle school retreats scheduled this fall

Registration is now open for diocesan middle school NET retreats scheduled this fall. Sponsored by the Office of Faith Formation and the Catholic Schools Office, middle school NET retreats for sixth- through eighth-graders will be hosted on the following date/site: •**Oct. 29** — Our Lady of Peace School/Our Lady of Peace Parish, 2401 W. 38th St., Erie. The NET Retreat theme for 2022 is "Love One Another: Authentic Friendship." Our relationships are meant to reflect our relationship with God and bring us closer to him. To register and to read more information, go to <https://www.eriecnd.org/youth/net.html>.

## Bingo to benefit Erie Night to Shine

Our Lady of Peace Parish in Erie is sponsoring a bingo night **Oct. 9** at JPT Bingo Hall, 2319 W. 38th St., Erie, to benefit Erie Night to Shine, a prom-style experience for people with special needs. **Doors open at 12:30 p.m., with bingo starting at 2 p.m.** Tickets are \$30 each in advance or \$35 at the door. Tickets can be purchased at Our Lady of Peace Church office, 2401 W. 38th St., or Ambridge Rose Salon, 3344 W. 26th St., Erie. BYOB and snacks. There also will be a basket auction and 50/50. Erie Night to Shine is sponsored by the parish.

## St. Luke Parish invites everyone to St. Luke Sunday Discussions

St. Luke Parish in Erie is hosting its new St. Luke Sunday Discussions, a series of sessions on various topics, including aging, hospice care, estate planning and funeral planning. The first session on aging is **Oct. 23 at 11:30 a.m.** at the church, located at 421 E. 38<sup>th</sup> St., Erie. Light refreshments will be available. See attached flier for details or contact Karen Hund at 814-450-3711.

## Chiavetta's drive-thru chicken BBQ

The Sacred Heart Knights of Columbus in Erie is sponsoring a Chiavetta's drive-thru chicken BBQ on **Oct. 9 from 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.** at Sacred Heart Church, 816 W. 26<sup>th</sup> St., Erie. Dinners cost \$15 each, and include a half BBQ chicken, baked beans, potato salad, mini-croissant, bottled water and a cookie. Cash, credit and debit are accepted.

**BINGO!**  
 Sunday, October 16, 2022  
 St. James Place 2622 Buffalo Rd,  
 Erie, PA 16510

BINGO GAMES! BASKET RAFFLE!

Doors Open: Noon  
 Early Bird: 12:30pm  
 Bingo Starts: 1:00pm

**Cash Prizes**  
Pre-sale ONLY  
**\$25 per ticket (1 pk. included)**  
 Only 300 available  
 PURCHASED TICKET STUBS ARE ENTERED INTO A \$250 GIVEAWAY!

FOOD AVAILABLE!

Hosted by St. Mark the Evangelist, Mt. Calvary, and St. James Faith Formation Children and Youth Programs and Knights of Columbus Council #13826

FOR TICKETS: FRANK AT (814)823-2528 OR ST. MARK PARISH OFFICE AT (814)899-3000

CHECK OUT OUR FB EVENT PAGE!

**SAINT JUDE the APOSTLE**

Pasta Dinner featuring "Ginny's Sauce"  
 Sunday, October 23rd 11am-6pm

\$12 Pasta Dinner (2 Meatballs)  
 \$15 Chicken Parm Dinner

Special Early Bird Takeout Option  
 Saturday, Oct 22nd 4-7pm

Live Music with Dean Martin!  
 Basket Drawings, Winavette Tickets, and More!

606 Lowell Ave St. Jude School Gym

**OUR LADY OF MERCY**

**PRESENTS...**

**TRUNK or TREAT**

**SATURDAY OCTOBER 29**

**@ 3:00 P.M.**

**PLEASE RSVP ON THE FACEBOOK EVENT  
PAGE, OR TO THE PARISH OFFICE**

**@ 899-5342**



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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.