

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.

PARISH STAFF

Fr. Matthew Kujawinski, *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

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 23, 2022 - THE 30TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

THE WEEK AHEAD

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

Mon. 10/24	9:30 a.m.	Steel Magnolias SCC
	1:00 p.m.	Sofia's Circle SCC
	6:30 p.m.	Fireside Chatters SCC
	6:30 p.m.	Roman Candles SCC
Tue. 10/25	1:00 p.m.	Potter's Clay SCC
	2:00 p.m.	Prayer Shawl
	4:00 p.m.	Religious Ed Gr 3-6
	6:00 p.m.	New SCC
Wed. 10/26	9:00 a.m.	Painting Group
	1:00 p.m.	Diamonds in the Rough SCC
	1:00 p.m.	Legion of Mary
	6:30 p.m.	Sister Parish Committee
Thur. 10/27	9:00 a.m.	Angels In Training SCC
	12:00 p.m.	Jesus Today Prayer
	6:00 p.m.	Prayer Shawl
	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Fri. 10/28		
Sat. 10/29	3:00 p.m.	Trunk or Treat
	4:30 p.m.	Sacrament of Penance
Sun. 10/30	9:30 a.m.	Gr.K-2 Family Faith Event
	12:00 p.m.	Gr. 7 & 8 Youth Event

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Mon. 10/24	Eph 4:32-5:8	/ Lk 13:10-17
Tue. 10/25	Eph 5:21-33	/ Lk 13:18-21
Wed. 10/26	Eph 6:1-9	/ Lk 13:22-30
Thur. 10/27	Eph 6:10-20	/ Lk 13:31-35
Fri. 10/28	Eph 2:19-22	/ Lk 6:12-16
Sat. 10/29	Phil 1:18-26	/ Lk 14:1-11
Sun. 10/30	Wis 11:22-12:2	
	1 Thes 1:11-2:2	/ Lk 19:1-10

MASS INTENTION UPDATE

We are unable to schedule new Mass Intentions at this time. We thank you for your patience and understanding.

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon. 10/24	8:30 a.m.	No Mass
Tue. 10/25	8:30 a.m.	Margaret Stoner (Dorothy, Darlene & Cindy)
Wed. 10/26	8:30 a.m.	Analida Braeger (Tom Braeger)
Thur. 10/27	8:30 a.m.	Loren Prichard (Gretchen & Ken Wagner)
Fri. 10/28	8:30 a.m.	Florence Adameck (Joanne Fournier)
Sat. 10/29	6:00 p.m.	Norm & Barb Schlosser (Liana Wathen)
Sun. 10/30	8:30 a.m.	For the People of OLM
	11:00 a.m.	Lucie Kempe (Liana Wathen)

We Remember...

Steve Myers,
father of Nancy Mowrey;
Shirley Vogel,
mother of Denise Lewandoski;
& Sheila Rizzo,
aunt of Nick Rizzo;
who passed away recently.

In Loving Memory

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

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Offertory for the weekend of October 16, 2022

Envelopes sent:	357	
Envelopes returned:	56	\$ 2,139.10
Faith Direct Deposits:	141	\$ 3,673.45
Loose Change:		\$ 148.00
TOTAL OFFERTORY:		\$ 5,960.55

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 18:9-14

"O God, I thank you that I am not like the rest of humanity."

A homilist in my parish recently spoke of humility as knowing the distance between God and ourselves. The Pharisee in the parable apparently missed his lesson on humility. In his mind's eye he has seated himself right at God's hand and looked down scornfully on all others of his own kind!

Thankfully, God's own Son, Jesus, embraced our humanity rather than setting himself above it. The hymn found in the second chapter of Philippians says Jesus "did not regard equality with God something to be grasped" but rather "he humbled himself." It's that great mystery surrounding Christ - that he could be at once fully God and yet fully human.

One of the great mysteries in our lives is that we are beloved of God, made in God's own likeness, and one with God through Jesus. At the same time, we are creatures who cannot begin to grasp the ways of God.

The challenge for us in this Gospel is to know who we are and whose we are. We can come into the divine presence in prayer only because of God's gracious invitation and his promise to meet us there.

For Reflection: Do I recognize my dignity before God and my likeness to others? How do I approach God in prayer?

Cackie Upchurch



For Mercy Sake Deadline

The deadline to submit items for the autumn issue of the parish newsletter is **TODAY Sunday, Oct. 23**. Send items to secretary@ourladyofmercychurch.org.



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 in a picture and/or memento of someone in 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.

Harvest Fest

Let's gather to celebrate the blessings of the season. Join your parish family at **noon on Nov. 6** for some soup sampling and time with friends. Would you be willing to donate a pot of your homemade soup for our celebration? A sign-up list will be in the Gathering Space beginning this weekend.



Book Group

Join us on **November 16** to discuss Have you Seen Luis Velez by Catherine Ryan Hyde.

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.



Mystery Items found in parish closets



We found a few things in the closets when we were cleaning out Fr Ritchie's stuff. If you know anything about these items, please let us know: Silver plated tea pots and tray; a framed poster of the

Ten Commandments in German. If you know anything about these items please see Donna Clark.

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 Oct 11 was **Ellie Stauffer, grade 5**, who knew that the bread and wine become the real Body and Blood of Jesus at Mass.

ALL SAINTS DAY - ALL SOULS DAY

Tuesday, November 1st, is the Feast of All Saints, when we celebrate those who are in the presence of Almighty God. It is a Holy Day of Obligation.

Holy Day Masses are
Tuesday at 8:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.

Thursday is All Souls Day when we remember all our deceased. Mass is at 8:30 a.m.

OUR LADY OF MERCY PRESENTS...

TRUNK OR TREAT

SATURDAY

OCTOBER 29

3 P.M. - 5 P.M.

PLEASE RSVP ON THE FACEBOOK EVENT PAGE, OR TO THE PARISH OFFICE @ 814-899-5342

Eucharistic Revival at Our Lady of Mercy

What Does The Eucharist Mean To Me?

What Does The Eucharist Mean to You? Many Catholics were shocked when a national survey revealed that most Catholics have a limited understanding of the Eucharist and a tenuous connection to this central Mystery of our faith. As the Bishops of the U.S. launch a two year Eucharistic Revival, OLM is taking a moment to reflect on what the Eucharist means to each of us. The most significant way to influence others is by sincerely sharing from the heart. Therefore, each of us is invited to make a short 2 to 3 minute video witnessing to what the Eucharist means to each one of us personally. These videos will be posted on the parish Facebook and webpage in October and November. If anyone needs help making the

recording, just visit the parish office and Katie will record you on her phone. Willing to write but not willing to speak on camera? Submit your reflection in writing and a volunteer will record it for you. Feel free to find a format that feels comfortable to you. Interview your child or grandparent about the meaning of the Eucharist in their life, share a meaningful quote, describe a moment when your connection to the Eucharist got you through a painful time or when the Eucharist finally made some sense to you, tell us what you wish your grandchild or other Catholics could feel about the Eucharist. Your approach is as personal as your connection to the Eucharist. There are sign-up lists and instructions in the Gathering Space. Remember to record your reflection in landscape mode.

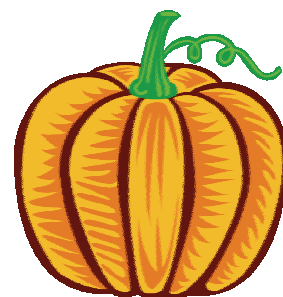


Harvest Fest

Sunday, Nov 6 at Noon

- ~Enjoy the blessings of the season
- ~Sample homemade soups
- ~Spend time with your parish family

If you are willing to donate a crockpot of soup, sign up on the easel in the Gathering Space



Community— *Me, You and Us*

Community is central to good liturgy. Often it is seen as a social rather than a theological issue. But it's really both. God meets us where we are, amidst family, neighbors and strangers. The cross serves as a metaphor both for our relationship with God (the vertical beam) and our relationship with the community (the horizontal beam). Both are needed for liturgy to function well. So, our way of approaching liturgy represents an important choice. Do we see mass from a perspective of *me*, *you* or *us*?

From the *me* perspective, we look for things that we ourselves want. We may evaluate the physical look of the church and want more statues, or fewer; more traditional art, or more contemporary art. What about the style of music we prefer? Do we want more organ, or less; more guitar, or less? Is a 10 minute homily too long? Is five minutes too short? What about the length of mass? Is an hour too long? An African priest once said: "If mass doesn't last two hours, the people feel I haven't done my job very well." All of these expectations raise the question of whether the culture itself supports or hinders good liturgy.

Approaching mass from the *me* place may lead to an "I don't get anything out of it" feeling. On the other hand, the frequent response: "You get out of it what you put into it" can easily create expectations of others. This is a *you* approach. You may want others to be quiet or leave you alone. Or, you may want them to engage you with a cheery "Good morning." Because we have little control over the outcome, the *you* approach, like the *me* approach, often leaves us dissatisfied and disgruntled.

Eucharistic liturgy, often called the Sacrament of Unity, is communal by design. We are to join our prayer with the prayer of the priest, and as the General Instruction of the Roman Missal says, "learn to offer ourselves." Following the

consecration, we pray with the priest that we may all be one in the Body of Christ. Does this mean that we lose our individuality? No. It helps us recognize that we ourselves and the community are included in this family of God. How can we do that if we approach the liturgy from the *me* perspective?

An *us* approach to liturgy can help us find deeper meaning in the ritual. Coming to mass with an openness to what the church asks leads us to pose different questions, such as "How do we pray together?" It helps us to be open to God's presence "where two or three are gathered."

The opening song, whether played on our favorite instrument or not, leads us to reflect on what we celebrate. Joining in song with others helps us recognize our place in the community.

The liturgical environment, whether crowded or sparse, reminds us that God created the world, the flowers and the greenery. We decorate with nature's gifts each season to give thanks and to remember God's presence. A larger view of the environment leads us to be aware of the people around us, God's people — even those who have died.

The readings and the homily, whether long or short, bring us to understand that we are called to be Christ in this world and that our lives are connected to the community. The prayers for unity in the liturgy guide us to grow beyond ourselves and become more aware of the Body of Christ.

Liturgy calls us to be concerned for the other, to be more tolerant, to be more selfless. This ongoing conversion extends from the baptism that welcomed us into God's family, where our journey with Christ began. We still journey, the liturgy reminds us. We are moving toward Christ. We are becoming more like him, more united with him. Good liturgy reminds us that the community walks with us on this journey.

Matthew Clark - Liturgy Director

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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.