

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

NOVEMBER 20, 2022 - CHRIST, THE KING OF THE UNIVERSE

THE WEEK AHEAD

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

Mon. 11/21	9:30 a.m.	Steel Magnolias SCC
	7:00 p.m.	Grief Support Group
Tue. 11/22	1:00 p.m.	Potter's Clay SCC
	2:00 p.m.	Prayer Shawl
	6:00 p.m.	New SCC
Wed. 11/23	9:00 a.m.	Painting Group
	1:00 p.m.	Diamonds in the Rough SCC
	1:00 p.m.	Legion of Mary
Thur. 11/24		THANKSGIVING DAY Parish Office Closed
	9:00 a.m.	Thanksgiving Mass
Fri. 11/25		Parish Office Closed
Sat. 11/26	4:30 p.m.	Sacrament of Penance
Sun. 11/27		FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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



STAFF EXTENSION NUMBERS

Our new phone system allows someone to dial the staff extension directly if you get our recorded message. Here is the staff directory:

- Fr Matt.....226
- Deacon Paul.....233
- Katie.....210
- Irene.....214
- Kirk.....216
- Linda.....211
- Donna.....213

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Offertory for the weekend of November 6, 2022

Envelopes sent:	357	
Envelopes returned:	77	\$ 3,970.00
Faith Direct Deposits:	137	\$ 3,636.95
Loose Change:		\$ 166.00
TOTAL OFFERTORY:		\$ 7,867.00



SCRIPTURE READINGS

Mon. 11/21	Rv 14:1-5	/ Lk 21:1-4
Tue. 11/22	Rv 14:14-19	/ Lk 21:5-11
Wed. 11/23	Rv 15:1-4	/ Lk 21:12-19
Thur. 11/24	Rv 18:1-2, 21-23; 19:1-9	/ Lk 21:20-28
Fri. 11/25	Rv 20:1-4, 11 - 21:2	/ Lk 21:29-33
Sat. 11/26	Rv 22:1-7	/ Lk 21:34-36
Sun. 11/27	Is 2:1-5 / Rom 13:11-14	/ Mt 24:37-44

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. 11/21	8:30 a.m.	No Mass
Tue. 11/22	8:30 a.m.	Richard Wilhelm (The Natcher's)
Wed. 11/23	8:30 a.m.	Christopher Kaeberlein (Prayer Shawl Ministry)
Thur. 11/24	9:00 a.m.	
Fri. 11/25	8:30 a.m.	Thomas Liebel (The Liebel Family)
Sat. 11/26	6:00 p.m.	For the People of OLM
Sun. 11/27	8:30 a.m.	Peter Jacquell (Butch and Geri Extein)
	11:00 a.m.	Jack Case (Family)

THIS SUNDAY'S REFLECTION

LUKE 23:35-43

"Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom."

We proclaim that this man is king and Lord, this man who was last seen by the world hanging dead from a cross. He was executed as a common criminal by those who actually had power in the world. Far more than mere king, we say Jesus is the Lord of all. Honestly, though, he still doesn't appear to exercise much authority, does he?

It is an exercise of our faith to say that he will, someday. But right now, Jesus has no more authority on earth than you or I - those who believe in him - are willing to give him. Those who choose to ignore him are not only free to do so; a happy, rewarding life may be the result. At least as far as can be seen with eyes of flesh.

What kind of king depends entirely on the voluntary allegiance of his subjects to advance his will? A very good one. What does he think he can accomplish, if he refuses to use force? He probably expects the whole world. He expects the whole world from you and me, but only one day, one free offer of ourselves at a time.

For Reflection: Is Jesus my king, my Lord?

Clifford Yeary



Community Thanksgiving Service

TODAY Sunday, November 20,
7:00 p.m. at Grace Harborcreek,
2420 Cumberland Road, with Rev.
Tim Hoover (South Harborcreek
UMC) preaching and Linda Peters
(Director of Music at Our Lady of Mercy) leading
music. The offering and a special collection of canned
goods will support the Ella Cochran Food Pantry.
Sponsored by the Harborcreek Ministerium.



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.



Getting through the Holidays after Losing a Loved One

Holidays pose a challenge when we
are grieving the lose of someone we
love. The hole the loss creates is
bigger than the joy of celebration. On **Monday Nov. 21**
the Grief Support Group will offer some helpful tools
for getting through these times. We meet at 7pm in
the parish parlor. For other grief related support
contact Donna Clark.

Join the Christmas Choir!

Linda Peters, our music director,
would like to invite you to sing at
our Family Mass on Christmas Eve
at 6:00 p.m. This will be multi-generational! All ages
are welcome. Only 4 rehearsals on 11/29, 12/6,
12/13, and 12/20, Tuesdays from 5:30-6:00 p.m., in the
church. Come and enjoy making music with us! Email
Linda at: [ispeters001@gmail](mailto:ispeters001@gmail.com), or call 607-731-5908 and
let her know you'll be there!



Card makers needed

If you enjoy making cards, we would love
to have you help make Valentines cards
for our homebound parishioners. Please
contact Donna Clark.



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.

Parents of Toddlers – Children Welcome

At Our Lady of Mercy, our ideal is that
families come to Mass together, with
their children of all ages. If they are just
learning how loud their voices are, don't
be embarrassed, we consider it praise of
God. If you have a runner – there are
speakers in the gathering space so you
can listen as you chase. If you need a contained room,
try the nursery (the second room down the hall from
the Bartlett St door) which also has closed circuit TV of
the worship space. If you are sitting next to a family
with children, smile a lot.

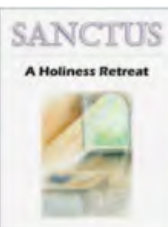


Healing Service

Mark your calendars the
Healing Service will be held
on **December 5, 2022** at
7:00. In what areas of your
life do you need healing? Physical, mental, emotional,
or spiritual? In your daily life? In the world around
you? Perhaps there have been prayers on your heart.
Everyone seems to need healing at so many different
levels and areas of their lives. Please join us for an
evening of prayer, music, laying of hands and quiet
reflection. Come and bring a friend it is a wonderful
experience, and all are welcome.

Book Group

In December, we will take a break from
reading and will watch and discuss
Father Stu. For anyone who wants to
read ahead, our January title will be
Elizabeth Is Missing by Emma Healey.



Sanctus Retreat

Mark your calendar for **Saturday,**
Feb. 25. Begin the Season of Lent with a
day of prayer and reflection. Sign up for
the Sanctus Retreat. It is free and open
to all adults. For more information, see
the recent issue of *For Mercy Sake* or
contact Irene Lucas.



Synod News

The national synthesis, a culmination of ten months of intentional listening throughout the church in the U.S., is now available on the diocesan website at: www.eriercd.org/synodregionIII.html.
For the results from Our Lady of Mercy and the Erie Diocese check on our parish website: www.ourladyofmercychurch.org



Synod
2021
2023

For a synodal Church
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WAYS TO GIVE THIS SEASON

Ella Cochran Food Pantry Caring Tree

The Ella Cochran Food Pantry's "Christmas Caring Tree" will be in the Gathering Space this weekend, Nov. 12-13. If you would like to brighten a child's or senior's Christmas, please take a name from the tree and return a wrapped gift by December 3 and 4. If you have any questions, contact Aimee McKinney at 814-899-1361 or 814-460-9660.



Operation Assisting Santa

If you would like to help the children of needy veterans, the children's gift cards will be available the weekend of November 26th and 27th. Unwrapped gifts need to be returned by December 11th. If you cannot come in person to pick up a card please contact Janet Smith at 814-899-5495 or refereesmith@roadrunner.com Or Mochie Zielewski at 814-823-6505 or mzielewski999@hotmail.com



AROUND THE DIOCESE OF ERIE



Clothing Distribution Party

Saturday Dec 3, 2022 at St. Paul Center, 453 West 16th St. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Free clothing available for men women and children. Free children's toys, free snacks and refreshments. More information: TimNow.CommOutrchGrp@gmail.com

Christmas garage sale at Our Lady of Peace

The Boy Scouts, sponsored by Our Lady of Peace in Erie, is hosting a Christmas garage sale on Dec. 3 from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. and Dec. 4 from 4 to 7 p.m. at Our Lady of Peace School cafeteria, 2401 W. 38th St., Erie. Donations of Christmas decorations can be dropped off on Nov. 21 and Nov. 28 from 6 to 8 p.m. Proceeds from the sale will benefit OLP Troop 59's activities. Please call Alyson Dana at 814-490-3493 or alysondana81@gmail.com with questions.

Comfort & Joy concert

Our Lady of Peace Parish in Erie is hosting a Christmas concert on Dec.9 at 7 p.m. featuring Steve Angrisano and Sarah Hart. Tickets are available at www.olp.org or by calling 814-833-7701, ext. 202.

Annual Christmas market

The Holy Trinity Parish education program is hosting its annual Christmas market on Dec. 16 from 4 to 7 p.m. and Dec. 17 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Holy Trinity Social Center, 650 E. 23rd St., Erie. Orders will be taken from Nov. 5 to Dec. 5.

It's Back Live!!!

The Christmas Show, "Follow the Star" is back this year after a 2 year break. Get information and tickets by going online and searching "Tennessee Backporch, Follow the Star Tickets". Only 4 performances: December 4, 5, 6 & 7. Come celebrate the spirit of Christmas!

Our Neighbors' Place

We need your help with Season 11 of Our Neighbors' Place, a seasonal overflow shelter for adults who are homeless. This year the shelter is moving back to St. John the Baptist Church. It will be located in Pastors' Hall which is in the basement of the church. Our first session will be 1/11/23 – 1/24/23 and the second will be 3/22/23 -4 /4/23. We are in need of volunteers to work 4 hour shifts, provide bagged meals, and provide donations. For more information, ask your church for a copy of our flier or contact Mary Ellen Lieb at melieb4@gmail.com or Mary Hoffman at mymary14@gmail.com



DIOCESE of ERIE

Sharing the Catholic faith in northwest Pennsylvania



HARBORCREEK COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING SERVICE

Sunday, November 20th 7:00 p.m.

Grace Church in Harborcreek
2420 Cumberland Rd, Erie, PA 16510

On Kneeling at Mass

Beginning on the 2nd Sunday of Advent, we as an assembly, are asked to kneel during the *Eucharistic Prayer* and then again later, during *the Lamb of God*. Of course this request is accompanied by the time-worn phrase, as you are able. Those who are unable to kneel may sit during these times.

There are several reasons we are asked to make this change now. First, we are past the most dangerous part of the pandemic and it is relatively safe to return to normal and to regular practices. At the height of the Covid experience, Fr. Ritchie asked us not to kneel to eliminate the need to sanitize the kneelers after every Mass. Second, about a year ago, in the fall of 2021, Bishop Persico asked all parishes to kneel during the Lamb of God so that we may be in communion with the rest of the dioceses that make up the province of the archdiocese of Philadelphia, that is, all the dioceses of Pennsylvania. Again, because of the pandemic, Fr. Ritchie, asked us not to kneel.

Some may say that this is a step backward, toward past practices. And in one sense, they would be correct. These were the standard postures for Mass before the Second Vatican Council and the introduction of the document on the Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy. However, it is more complicated than that. As the new order for liturgy was prepared for introduction following Vatican II, the Bishops of the United States petitioned Rome to “stay kneeling” during the Eucharistic Prayer so as to avoid a disruption in the celebration of the Mass. Their reasoning, they said, was that the American people are a penitential people and kneeling is the posture of penance. So, an exception was made for the U.S. in the liturgical documents. Since that time, many who study liturgy and liturgical practices around the world began to teach about the ancient practice of standing during the Eucharistic Prayer. They cited the understanding of the early church that standing during prayer is respectful and engages the individual in the prayer.

As a result, a combination of postures existed, depending on the pastor, through the end of the 20th century. In 2000, Pope John Paul II announced that the Missal would be updated for the new millennium. That update took ten years, plus the time to translate the new

texts for English speakers. In the meantime, the instruction for the Missal was prepared for publication. Again the U.S. bishops’ requested to maintain kneeling during the Eucharistic Prayer and that request was granted. So, today, the universal posture is standing through the Eucharistic Prayer while the posture in the U.S. remains kneeling.

Kneeling during the Lamb of God has a different history. When the Vatican II liturgy was introduced, the instruction recognized that in the U.S. some bishops might wish to stand for the Communion Rite, which extends from the Lord’s Prayer through the Prayer After Communion. This, they felt, would help create a united movement of parishioners in the communion procession, living out exactly the unity prayed for in the Eucharistic Prayer. Therefore, each bishop was allowed to choose the posture for the Lamb of God in their diocese. At the time, Bishop Trautman opted for standing during this prayer. Unfortunately, some arguments broke out across diocesan borders with parishioners on one side claiming that “you don’t celebrate the Mass properly!” (Read that to mean “you don’t celebrate the way we do.”) And this brings us to Bishop Persico’s decision to kneel during the Lamb of God for the sake of communion with the rest of the diocese and the other dioceses of Pennsylvania.

As we continue to talk about kneeling, I would like to introduce you to “Aunt Mabel.” Aunt Mabel insists on bringing the stuffing to our Thanksgiving dinner. By most accounts it is dry and unappealing. (Some do love it covered in gravy.) But we all love her, so we eat a bit of it, smile, and thank her for being there and bringing her stuffing. The heart of our faith is built on relationships. The very nature of God, Father, Son and Spirit, is, by definition, relational. Perhaps, Aunt Mabel’s example could help us look beyond our preferences, wishes and certainties and focus first on our relationships. From Mabel, might we learn to extend this relational wisdom to our communal practices at Mass?



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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.