

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 27, 2022 - THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

THE WEEK AHEAD

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

| | | |
|--------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Mon. 11/28 | 9:30 a.m. | Steel Magnolias SCC |
| | 6:30 p.m. | Roman Candles SCC |
| Tue. 11/29 | 1:00 p.m. | Potter's Clay SCC |
| | 2:00 p.m. | Prayer Shawl |
| | 4:00 p.m. | Religious Ed. Gr. 3-6 |
| | 5:30 p.m. | Youth Open Gym |
| | 6:00 p.m. | New SCC |
| Wed. 11/30 | 9:00 a.m. | Painting Group |
| | 1:00 p.m. | Legion of Mary |
| | 2:00 p.m. | Hallelujah Girls SCC |
| | 6:30 p.m. | Sister Parish Committee |
| Thur. 12/01 | 9:00 a.m. | Angels in Training SCC |
| | 12:00 p.m. | Midday Prayer |
| | 6:00 p.m. | Prayer Shawl |
| | 7:00 p.m. | Choir Rehearsal |
| Fri. 12/02 | 10:00 a.m. | Sisters of Scripture SCC |
| Sat. 12/03 | 4:30 p.m. | Sacrament of Penance |
| Sun. 12/04 | SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT | |
| | Casserole Club Drop Off | |
| | Monthly Food Pantry Collection | |
| | 9:30 a.m. | Religious Ed Gr K-2 & 7-8 |
| | 9:30 a.m. | Healing Ministry |

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Offertory for the weekend of **November 13, 2022**

| | | |
|-------------------------|-----|--------------------|
| Envelopes sent: | 357 | |
| Envelopes returned: | 65 | \$ 3,316.00 |
| Faith Direct Deposits: | 137 | \$ 3,636.95 |
| Loose Change: | | \$ 73.00 |
| TOTAL OFFERTORY: | | \$ 7,025.95 |

SCRIPTURE READINGS

| | | |
|--------------------|-------------------------|----------------|
| Mon. 11/28 | Is 4:2-6 | / Mt 8:5-11 |
| Tue. 11/29 | Is 11:1-10 | / Lk 10:21-24 |
| Wed. 11/30 | Rom 10:9-18 | / Mt 4:18-22 |
| Thur. 12/01 | Is 26:1-6 | / Mt 7:21-27 |
| Fri. 12/02 | Is 29:17-24 | / Mt 9:27-31 |
| Sat. 12/03 | Is 30:19-21, 23-26 | / Mt 9:35-10:8 |
| Sun. 12/04 | Is 11:1-10 / Rom 15:4-9 | / Mt 3:1-12 |

MASS INTENTIONS

| | | |
|--------------------|------------|---|
| Mon. 11/28 | 8:30 a.m. | No Mass |
| Tue. 11/29 | 8:30 a.m. | Rich DiPlacido (Frank & Joanne Cargioli) |
| Wed. 11/30 | 8:30 a.m. | Michael Camera (Steel Magnolias SCC) |
| Thur. 12/01 | 8:30 a.m. | Denny Smith (Janet Smith) |
| Fri. 12/02 | 8:30 a.m. | Analida Braeger (Tom Braeger) |
| Sat. 12/03 | 6:00 p.m. | Bill Spring (Suzanne & Sarah Selleny) |
| Sun. 12/04 | 8:30 a.m. | Dr. Loren Prichard (The Patchwork of Friends) |
| | 11:00 a.m. | For the People of OLM |

We Remember... In Loving Memory

Bob Amon, Brother in law of Marlene Meyer; who passed away recently.

Please hold him and his family in prayer during this difficult time.

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 | ● Kirk.....216 |
| ● Deacon Paul.....233 | ● Linda.....211 |
| ● Katie.....210 | ● Donna.....213 |
| ● Irene.....214 | |

THIS SUNDAY'S REFLECTION

MATTHEW 24:37-44

"Stay awake...you also must be prepared."



If you ever fought to keep your eyes open, even during an event or trip, you've been anticipating, you know it requires more than simple willpower. Body movements, deep breathing, change in temperature - all these techniques may or may not prove successful. The dullness of sleep seems to envelop one's body.

This image of fighting sleep might help us when we consider how Jesus tried to rally his followers. He wasn't concerned about their sleep habits but rather their alertness to the things of God that were unfolding.

In any age the followers of Jesus sometimes have to fight the urge to rest so comfortably that we fail to recognize God's movement among us. It's easy to be lulled into complacency by the constant drumbeat of a world that sometimes holds out creature comforts as "must-haves" and status seeking as a way of life.

Instead, the followers of Jesus are to be vigilant, watchful, and aware that God's kingdom of peace and justice is always in the making. Our preparedness is as much about a change of heart and mind as it is about the actions of discipleship.

For Reflection: This week, where do I notice spiritual complacency or dullness in my life? Where is God offering me new opportunities for insight?

Cackie Upchurch

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!



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.

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.

Mass of Remembrance

The annual Mass of Remembrance is **Saturday, December 10th 2022, at 10 a.m.** The Bereavement Ministry invites all members of Our Lady of Mercy to attend this annual Memorial Mass to support the families of our parish who have lost loved ones during the past year. After the Mass, please join us for a social gathering in Sperry Hall sponsored by the members of the Bereavement Meal Ministry. Due to the COVID 19 pandemic, some of our parishioners may be uncomfortable attending this Mass, although they would dearly want to attend. Our parish will be live streaming the Mass, through YouTube and Facebook.



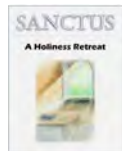
Book Group



Join us on Tuesday, December 13 at the home of Pat Marshall, to 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.



Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser



Back by popular demand, the annual Religious Education Spaghetti Dinner & Gift Auction will be on **Feb. 5**. Tickets will go on sale the weekend of **Jan. 8**. Prices are \$10 adults and \$5 children. We are collecting NEW items for the gift auction. Consider re-gifting any unwanted Christmas gifts to our gift auction.

Question of the Week

Question-of-the-Week winner for the week of Nov. 8 had no winner. No one knew that "Eucharist" means "to give thanks".

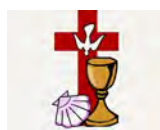
Happy Thanksgiving from the Faith Formation Ministry!

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.



Check the Parish Calendar



Now that winter has arrived, please check the parish calendar on our website for any cancelations.

A Special Thank You

The family of Heather Smicker would like to thank everyone for their thoughts and prayers. Heather is the daughter in law of parishioners Donna and Steve Smicker and has battled stage 4 breast cancer for the last year and a half. She recently received the good news that she is cancer free. Thank you! - Donna and Steve Smicker



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 Moochie 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

Reflect on the Advent Scriptures

Blessed Sacrament Parish in Erie is hosting a reflection on Advent Scriptures with Fr. Michael Kesicki, university chaplain at Gannon University, on **Nov. 29 at 6:30 p.m. and on Dec. 7 at 6:30 p.m.** in the Blessed Sacrament Cafeteria, 1626 West 26th St., Erie.

St. Hedwig's to Celebrate Candlelit Mass in Advent

The Traditional Latin Mass Apostolate at St. Hedwig Church will hold a Rorate Mass by candlelight on **Saturday, December 10 at 6:45am**. All are welcome to come and join in this beautiful Advent tradition in honor of Our Blessed Mother. See LatinMassErie.org for more details.



DIOCESE of ERIE

Sharing the Catholic faith in northwest Pennsylvania



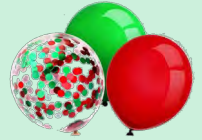
December

BIRTHDAYS

Dec 2 William Drotar 4
 Dec 5 Blake Bleil-Tersigni 8
 Dec 6 Milton Pearson 12
 Dec 7 Gabrielle Licata 16
 Dec 8 Perrin Baker 6



Dec 9 Morgan Wilhelm 17
 Dec 11 Samuel Camillo 13
 Dec 12 Ava Froess 16
 Dec 13 Reagan Andrews 15
 Dec 15 Casey Brigham 4
 Dec 21 Absidy Casillas 17
 Dec 21 Alivia Smith 16
 Dec 23 Angel Gilbert 14
 Dec 27 Joey Bernatowicz 15
 Dec 29 Rosalie Gilchrist 5



The Season of Advent

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception:

Thursday, December 8—Masses 8:30 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.

Mass of Remembrance:

Saturday, December 10—10:00 a.m.



Reconciliation Service

Our Lady of Mercy Church

Wednesday, December 14—7:00 p.m.

837 Bartlett Rd. Harborcreek, PA 16421

St. James

Sunday, December 18 - 3:00 p.m.

2635 Buffalo Rd. Erie, PA 16510

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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.