

# 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

Fr. Matthew Kujawinski, *Pastor*

Deacon Paul Barko, *Deacon Assistant*

Donna Clark, *Pastoral Minister*

Irene Lucas, *Director of Lifelong Faith Formation*

Katie Stephenson, *Administrative Assistant*

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

**DECEMBER 11, 2022 - THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

## THE WEEK AHEAD

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

Mon. 12/12	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. 12/13	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.	Family Choir Rehearsal
	7:00 p.m.	OLM Book Group
Wed. 12/14	9:00 a.m.	Painting Group
	1:00 p.m.	Legion of Mary
	6:00 p.m.	AGIFT Meeting
	7:00 p.m.	Knights of Columbus
Thur. 12/15	7:00 p.m.	Penance Service
	12:00 p.m.	Midday Prayer
	6:00 p.m.	Prayer Shawl
Fri. 12/16	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
	10:00 a.m.	Sisters of Scripture SCC
Sat. 12/17	4:30 p.m.	Sacrament of Penance
Sun. 12/18	<b>FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b>	
	9:30 a.m.	Religious Ed Gr K-2
	9:30 a.m.	Healing Ministry
	10:00 a.m.	Installation Mass of Fr. Matt Kujawinski
	12:00 p.m.	Gr. 7 & 8 Youth Event
	3:00 p.m.	Penance Service at St. James

**Parish Photo Directory**  
 If you have not yet picked up your photo directory, please stop by the parish office after Mass.  
 Or weekdays from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. To arrange for another time please call the office.

## FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Offertory for the weekend of December 4, 2022

Envelopes sent:	357	
Envelopes returned:	56	\$ 4,700.00
Faith Direct Deposits:	142	\$ 3,534.95
Loose Change:		\$ 83.00
<b>TOTAL OFFERTORY:</b>		<b>\$ 8,317.95</b>

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

Mon. 12/12	Zec 2:14-17	/ Lk 1:26-47
Tue. 12/13	Zep 3:1-2, 9-13	/ Mt 21:28-32
Wed. 12/14	Is 45:6-8, 18, 21-25	/ Lk 7:18-23
Thur. 12/15	Is 54:1-10	/ Lk 7:24-30
Fri. 12/16	Is 56:1-3, 6-8	/ Jn 5:33-36
Sat. 12/17	Gn 49:2, 8-10	/ Mt 1:1-17
Sun. 12/18	Is 7:10-14 / Rom 1:1-7	/ Mt 1:18-24

## 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

## 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 INTENTIONS

Mon. 12/12	8:30 a.m.	<b>No Mass</b>
Tue. 12/13	8:30 a.m.	<b>Don McCurdy</b> (Joe & Gerri Gallagher)
Wed. 12/14	8:30 a.m.	<b>Denny Smith</b> (Janet Smith)
Thur. 12/15	8:30 a.m.	<b>Analida Braeger</b> (Tom Braeger)
Fri. 12/16	8:30 a.m.	<b>For the People of OLM</b>
Sat. 12/17	6:00 p.m.	<b>Richard Wilhelm</b> (Family)
Sun. 12/18	10:00 a.m.	

## THIS SUNDAY'S REFLECTION

### MATTHEW 11:2-11



"When John the Baptist heard in prison..."  
 The tenacity of John the Baptist is amazing. He went to the desert to seek the Lord. He fasted on the merest of foods found in nature. He plunged those who would listen into the waters of the Jordan, hoping to prepare Israel for the Messiah. He preached fearlessly.

It was his preaching that got him thrown into prison. Prison. Not a pleasant place to be, even in our own time, much less his. Yet even from the deprivation of his imprisonment, he kept searching for the Messiah, asking, "Are you the one?"

Prison can be real for many of us, whether we find ourselves in an actual cell or not. Some of us feel trapped by depression, physical disability, a serious illness or chronic pain, a troubled marriage, or a disappointing job.

Oh, that we could have the same fire of John the Baptist! Let us take strength from John and never allow anything, even prison, to keep us from seeking the Lord. Let us burn with the desire to find the Messiah, no matter what! Let us rejoice in the fact that the one we seek indeed has come.

For Reflection: In what surprising places have I recognized the Lord's presence? How does God equip me to follow my desires to seek the Lord?

Gregory C. Wolfe

### Book Group

Join us on Tuesday, December 13 at 7:00, to watch and discuss *Father Stu*. We will gather at the home of Pat Marshall, 516 W. Eaglewood Dr. For anyone who wants to read ahead, our January title will be Elizabeth Is Missing by Emma Healey.



## 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.

### Daytime Grief Support Group

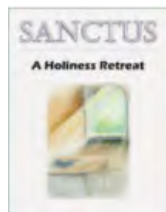


Many people do not care to drive during the winter nights. We will have a daytime grief support group meeting for the winter: Mondays at 1 p.m., Dec 19, Jan 23 and Feb 20. For the December meeting we will consider what to do with Christmas now that

our loved ones are gone. To arrange a one-on-one meeting or if interested in an evening group session please call Donna Clark in the parish office, ext 213.

### 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.

### Join the Family Mass Choir

Just a reminder! The Christmas Family Mass Choir practice is this Tuesday night from 5:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. We had a good rehearsal last week, thanks to all our singers! There will be two more rehearsals after that, on the 13th and the 20th.



### Consider the gift of eGiving



The gifts of the Advent season – Hope, Love, Joy, Peace – help us to build community here and beyond our parish. If you have been thinking about electronic giving this is something that could help the parish and make it simpler for you as families travel

during the holidays. Even if you have to miss a Sunday Mass the give of your recurring donations will help sustain our parish. To sign up visit our website and click on the Faith Direct button. Or call Faith Direct Customer Service at 866-507-8757

### Question of the Week

Question-of-the-Week winner for the week of Nov. 29, was Dean Massella, grade 1, who knew that Advent begins the Church Year.

### 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.



### Room for wandering toddlers

We love to have children at Mass. However, when Toddlers start running or fidgeting and you want a contained space to let their energy flow but don't want to miss Mass then try our Toddler/Nursery room. Located in the classroom area just past the parish parlor (to the right as you come in the front doors.) This room has closed circuit TV of the church. There are rocking chairs for nursing mothers and toys to occupy a little one. Best of all . . . you can close the door.



### Check the Parish Calendar

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



### Operation Assisting Santa

If you took a card to donate to a child of a needy veteran, the unwrapped gift needs to be returned **THIS WEEKEND, December 10th and 11th.**





# Installation Mass of Fr. Matthew Kujawinski

## Sunday, December 18

### at 10:00 a.m.

(This will be the only Mass on Sunday)

Join us for Mass celebrated by  
Bishop Persico with a reception to follow.



## AROUND THE DIOCESE OF ERIE



### 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.

### 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](mailto:melieb4@gmail.com) or Mary Hoffman at [mymary14@gmail.com](mailto:mymary14@gmail.com)

### Holy Hour For Vocations

Please join Deacon Dave Jacquel and the parishioners of St. Mark and Mt. Calvary Parishes for a Holy Hour for Vocations on Saturday, December 17 at 3:15 p.m. at St. Mark Church 695 Smithson Ave Erie. Questions, please call the office at (814)899-3000 of email: [office@smmc.church](mailto:office@smmc.church)

### Advent Reflection

Take a step back from the pressing concerns of the seasons to slow down, and in prayer, silence, song, reflection, and adoration, anticipate and celebrate the coming of the Lord. Join the Legion of Mary at St. Ann's Church 921 East Ave, Erie, PA 16503 on Thursday December 15th at 6 p.m. for an event of reflection.

### Special retreat opportunity for young adults between 19 and 35.

The Diocese of Erie is sponsoring a five-day retreat for college age and young adults under the age of 35 on Jan. 4 to 8. The retreat will take place at the Villa Maria Education and Spirituality Center, 2067 Evergreen Rd, Pulaski, PA. Applications are still being accepted but space is limited. For more information contact either of the retreat organizers, Jillian Zaczyk at [jzaczyk@eriercd.org](mailto:jzaczyk@eriercd.org) or Dave Roncolato at [droncola@allegheny.edu](mailto:droncola@allegheny.edu). The application for the retreat can be found at <https://www.eriercd.org/youth/silentretreat.html>.

## Child Protection and Creating Safe Environments

### The Digital World

The digital world is constantly evolving with new social media platforms, apps, and devices, and children and teens are often the first to use them. Sometimes with negative impacts such as cyberbullying, sexting, or the posting hateful messages or content. Parents need to become aware and stay up-to-date on the latest apps, social media platforms and digital slang used by children and teens. Parents should monitor their child's social media sites, apps and browsing history regularly. Visit [www.eriercd.org/childprotection/](http://www.eriercd.org/childprotection/) to see what the diocese is doing to help maintain safe environments for children and youth.

# The Season of Advent

## 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



# The Season of Christmas 2022-2023

## MASSES FOR CHRISTMAS

**Christmas Eve:** Saturday, December 24

*(Both Christmas Eve Masses will be livestreamed to the  
OLM Facebook and YouTube pages.)*

6:00 p.m. with music by the Family Mass Choir

10:00 p.m. with music by the Festival Choir and instruments

**Christmas Day:** Sunday, December 25

10:00 a.m.



## FEAST OF THE SOLEMNITY OF MARY:

**New Year's Eve:** Saturday, December 31

6:00 p.m.

**New Year's Day:** Sunday, January 1

8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.





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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.