

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*

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

DECEMBER 18, 2022 - THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

THE WEEK AHEAD

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

Mon. 12/19	9:30 a.m.	Steel Magnolias SCC
	1:00 p.m.	Grief Support Group
	6:30 p.m.	Fireside Chatters SCC
Tue. 12/20	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
	5:30 p.m.	Youth Open Gym
	6:00 p.m.	New SCC
Wed. 12/21	9:00 a.m.	Painting Group
	1:00 p.m.	Legion of Mary
Thur. 12/22	12:00 p.m.	Midday Prayer
	6:00 p.m.	Prayer Shawl
	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Fri. 12/23		
Sat. 12/24	6:00 p.m.	Christmas Eve Mass
	10:00 p.m.	Christmas Eve Mass
Sun. 12/25		CHRISTMAS DAY
	10:00 a.m.	Christmas Day Mass

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Mon. 12/19	Jags 13:2-7, 24-25a	/ Lk 1:5-25
Tue. 12/20	Is 7:10-14	/ Lk 1:26-38
Wed. 12/21	Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18	/ Lk 1:39-45
Thur. 12/22	1 Sm 1:24-28	/ Lk 1:46-56
Fri. 12/23	Mal 3:1-4, 23-24	/ Lk 1:57-66
Sat. 12/24	2 Sm 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16	/ Lk 1:67-79
Sun. 12/25	Is 9:1-6 / Ti 2:11-14	/ Lk 2:1-14

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. 12/19	8:30 a.m.	No Mass
Tue. 12/20	8:30 a.m.	Jack Case (Family)
Wed. 12/21	8:30 a.m.	
Thur. 12/22	8:30 a.m.	Peter Jacquell (Deacon Paul & Deb Barko)
Fri. 12/23	8:30 a.m.	Betty Jane Maille (Sally Urban)
Sat. 12/24	6:00 p.m.	For the People of OLM
	10:00 p.m.	For the People of OLM
Sun. 12/25	10:00 a.m.	For the People of OLM



We Remember...

In *Loving Memory*
Dorothy Rydelski &
Justin Redford,
son of Michael & Pat Redford;
who passed away recently.

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

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 1:18-24

When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took his wife into his home.

We often hear of Mary's "yes" to God's plan for her. This Sunday we're reminded that Joseph had to say "yes," too.

He could just as easily have said "no." His rights had been violated and his ego damaged. He could have saved his own pride by humiliating Mary before the whole town.

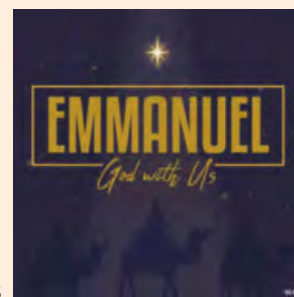
Joseph stands in contrast to our culture's obsession with protecting our rights (or is it our pride?). Society tells us that if we don't stand up for our rights, people will make victims of us. We can't let ourselves become doormats, after all. But Joseph's example challenges us to take that risk.

"God's ways are not our ways," says Isaiah (55:8). Joseph knew that Scripture better than we do. A true servant of the Lord like Mary, he said "yes," and accepted Mary into his home and heart.

As Christmas approaches, I am very grateful for those people in my life who have accepted me into their hearts. I'm grateful to people who respond with kindness to me when I have been intolerant of them. I'm especially grateful to people who have given me a second chance when I have clearly wronged them.

For Reflection: In what ways is God asking me to take a risk? Who could benefit from this risk and how?

Judy Hoelzeman



Book Group

Our January title will be Elizabeth Is Missing by Emma Healey.



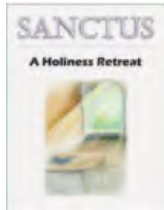
Daytime Grief Support Group



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 one more rehearsal, on 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**

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 Dec. 4, was **Anthony Bly, grade 4,** who knew that we celebrate the Immaculate Conception of Mary on December 8.

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.



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.

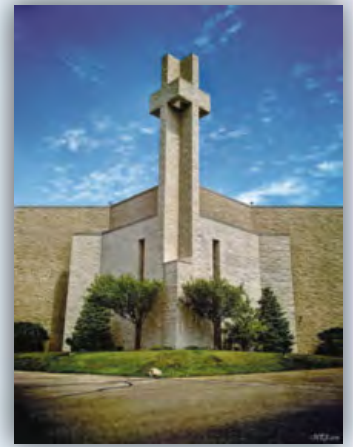


Check the Parish Calendar

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



Installation Mass of Fr. Matthew Kujawinski



Sunday,
December 18
at 10:00 a.m.

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

AROUND THE DIOCESE OF ERIE



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

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 or Dave Roncolato at droncola@allegheny.edu. The application for the retreat can be found at <https://www.eriercd.org/youth/silentretreat.html>.

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.