

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 25, 2022 - THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

THE WEEK AHEAD

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

Mon. 12/26	Parish Office Closed
Tue. 12/27	Parish Office Closed
Wed. 12/28	
Thur. 12/29	
Fri. 12/30	
Sat. 12/31	4:30 p.m. Sacrament of Penance
Sun. 01/01	Casserole Club Drop Off Monthly Food Pantry Collection

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Mon. 12/26	Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59	/ Lk 1:5-25
Tue. 12/27	1 Jn 1:1-4	/ Jn 20:1-8
Wed. 12/28	1 Jn 1:5 - 2:2	/ Mt 2:13-18
Thur. 12/29	1 Jn 2:3-11	/ Lk 2:22-35
Fri. 12/30	Col 3:12-17	/ Mt 2:13-23
Sat. 12/31	1 Jn 2:18-21	/ Jn 1:1-18
Sun. 01/01	Nm 6:22-27 / Gal 4:4-7	/ Lk 2:16-21

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

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon. 12/26	8:30 a.m.	No Mass
Tue. 12/27	8:30 a.m.	Doris Extein (The Extein Family)
Wed. 12/28	8:30 a.m.	Dr. Loren Prichard (Linda & Family)
Thur. 12/29	8:30 a.m.	Andrew Cerula (Rose Galeza)
Fri. 12/30	8:30 a.m.	
Sat. 12/31	6:00 p.m.	
Sun. 01/01	8:30 a.m.	For the People of OLM
	11:00 a.m.	Linda Kobielski (Barb Jones)



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 2:15-20

Joseph went up from Galilee from the town of Nazareth to Judea, to the city of David that is called Bethlehem, because he

was of the house and family of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child.

It is hard to imagine there was once a time when one man could order a census of the "whole world." No doubt there was grumbling and resistance, and not a few folds who hid from the census obligation, but many obeyed - including Joseph and Mary.

Can you imagine what it was like, leaving home to return to your ancestral town, packing food for the long journey, providing for family and animals left behind, shuttering the doors of your business, seeing to the many needs of your traveling family...just for a census?

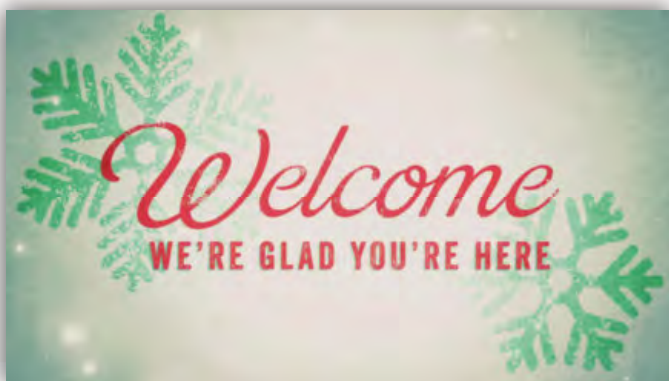
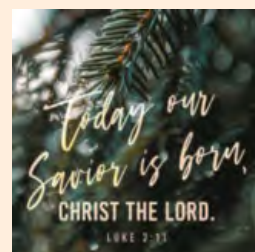
Can you imagine making a trip if you were pregnant, or your wife was pregnant? What anxieties would have flooded your mind? Physical discomforts? Resentments? Who does Caesar Augustus think he is, issuing such a ridiculous, high-handed decree?

It is sobering to ponder how Mary and Joseph made their rough journey in wonder and worry, how no one had room for them, how their Jesus was born in a stable among the animals, and how they finally drifted off to fitful sleep on beds of hay, their Son and Savior between them.

It is wondrous to ponder that they endured all this for us.

For Reflection: What images enter my mind as I contemplate the birth of Jesus? How do these images help to shape my appreciation for the gift of the Incarnation?

Bishop J. Peter Sartain



Sunday Morning *C*A*F*E*

The first Sunday Morning CAFÉ of 2023 will be **January 15 from 9:45-10:45**. An Eastside Planning Process is underway. For a year, the pastors of the Catholic churches on the eastside of Erie County have been meeting to discuss current needs, address changing demographics and dream for the future. Join Father Kujawinski and Deacon Barko as they share the progress of this process and what it might mean for Our Lady of Mercy.



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., Jan 23 and Feb 20. 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.

Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser

Back by popular demand, the annual Religious Education Spaghetti Dinner & Gift Auction on Feb. 5. Tickets will go on sale the weekend of Jan. 8. Prices are \$10 adults and \$5 children. Two quarts of sauce and 30 meatballs are \$30. We are collecting NEW items for the gift auction. Consider re-gifting any unwanted Christmas gifts to our gift auction. Consider grabbing those great deals after the holidays to make a basket to donate to the gift basket auction. We also need baskets, colored tissue and clear cellophane to wrap the baskets.



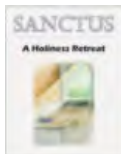
Book Group



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.



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

Choir Reminder

Just a reminder- no choir rehearsal on Thursday, December 29, 2022! Enjoy the well deserved week off.



Question of the Week

Question-of-the-Week winner for the week of Dec. 12, was **Levi Gilchrist, grade 2**, who knew that our new pastor is Fr. Matthew Kujawinski.

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.



Get the Bulletin by Email

Never miss a bulletin, even when you are traveling. You can get a reminder notice in your e mail each week when the bulletin is published. Sign up at <https://parishesonline.com/> Find Our Lady of Mercy Harborcreek and subscribe.



E-BULLETIN

“CHRISTMAS PRAYER”

On this day, the angels herald the greatest joy on the earth;
for this is our majestic King’s birth.

His name is Jesus and even
the shepherds stop in awe;
of this little baby laying in the straw.

And so, we can all be singing;
of all the graces this child is bringing.
So, try not to be distracted by
the tinsel on the tree;
rather look in the manger
for a tiny glimpse of eternity.

Then raise up your hands in prayer;
to our Savior, who is laying there.

Surely, Love was born on Christmas and I pray;
that you’ll keep the Christ child in your heart each and every day.



MERRY CHRISTMAS

By: Mary Ann

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>.



Thank you for being a part of this Christmas celebration! We hope you have experienced the love of Christ in our midst. We especially welcome any visitors and guests.

Are you looking for a safe, welcoming and nurturing place to call your spiritual home? You are always welcome here! On behalf of the entire parish community, we invite you to join us and hope you will choose to worship here!

May the light of Christ enlighten you, enliven you, and bless you this Christmas and always.

**Merry
Christmas!**

The Season of Christmas

FEAST OF THE SOLEMNITY OF MARY:

New Year's Eve: Saturday, December 31

6:00 p.m. Mass

New Year's Day: Sunday, January 1

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



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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.