



For Mercy's Sake

A quarterly newsletter of the parish of Our Lady of Mercy Roman Catholic Church

837 Bartlett Road Harborcreek, PA 16421 • 814-899-5342 • www.ourladyofmercychurch.org



The Feast of Pentecost

~June 5, 2022~

*Pentecost, the coming of the Holy Spirit,
calls up the image of wind that rushes,
flames that leap,
and disciples inspired to go out from
the upper room fearlessly.*



Scripture tells us that this is the moment that gave birth to the Church.

Pentecost brings the Easter season to a grand and fiery close.

The Holy Spirit lavishes us with gifts which empower us as followers of Jesus to take up his mission and make it ours.

Wisdom, Understanding, Counsel, Fortitude,

Knowledge, Piety and Fear of the Lord

are gifts which help us to continue Jesus' work in our world.

Pentecost is our Birthday.

As part of the Universal Church, the Community of Our Lady of Mercy will celebrate being Church.

To acknowledge our oneness in the Spirit

all parishioners are asked to wear 'red' on the Feast of Pentecost.

As included in our Mission Statement, may we be "empowered by the Holy Spirit to live the values of Jesus in a prayerful, welcoming, and nurturing environment."

May 2022

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CONGRATULATIONS

To all of our young people who celebrated First Eucharist!

Natalie Bish
Anthony Bly
Johnathan Catrabone
Lily Czerwinski

Ryder Daniels
Makayla Inthavong
David Parente
Maceio Pearson
Gabrielle Peters

Ryan Stauffer
Landon Stephenson
Logan Taccone
Lucy Vahey

And to our newly Confirmed!

Boden (*Francis*) Gushie
Cole (*Francis*) Marshall
Connor (*Bede*) Marshall

Morgan (*Dymphna*) Habursky
Brennan (*Andrew*) Murphy
Abigail (*Teresa*) Nguyen

Avery (*Elizabeth*) Ollinger
Samuel (*Luigi*) Parente
Eva (*Margaret*) Reilly

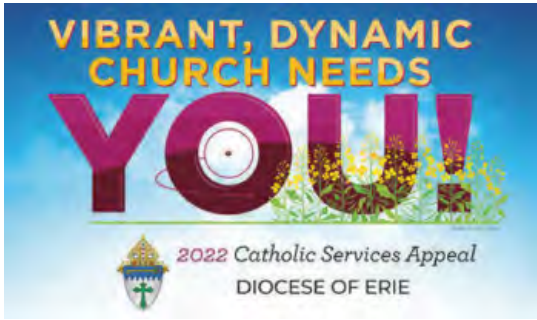
The Sacraments are the manifestation of the Father's
tenderness and love towards each of us.

--Pope Francis



MANY THANKS

With Gratitude: The parish is extremely grateful to the dedicated religious education teachers who made this past year such a success. Your prayer, witness and love of your students has had a profound impact on the youth of this parish. You will never know the effect of your ministry on the youth you taught, but God will nurture the seed you planted and produce fruit 30, 60 and 100 fold. Thank you for responding so generously to the invitation of God and to the need of this parish community. All of us are richer because of your presence.



CSA - 2022 Report

Thank you for your generous support of the 2022 Catholic Services Appeal. As of April 17, 2022, we have received 168 pledges in the amount of \$76,146

This will allow us to meet our parish assessment of \$69,159 and allow our parish to meet many needed extraordinary costs as well as start saving for future capital improvements.

If you have not yet made a pledge, it is not too late to do so. Forms may be found in the parish office. There is no gift too small.

An Invitation to Join the Catholic Family



God loved us so much that God sent His only Son so that we might have eternal life and everlasting joy. This eternal life and everlasting joy begins today, in the extraordinary reality of grace, in the gift of faith lived in the Christian community. Come and be a part of this legacy, The Body of Christ making God's love and mercy visible in a world of pain and alienation.

Would you like to learn more about the Catholic faith? Are you attracted to the life of Jesus Christ and the thought of being one of his disciples? Would you like to be baptized into the Christian family?

The Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA) would like to invite you to consider the richly challenging and profoundly rewarding life of Catholic Christianity. The RCIA is a year-long (or longer) process of prayer and study, of community ritual and personal reflection, of parish life and scriptural study designed to enable individuals to hear, understand and respond to the internal promptings drawing them to Christ and the Catholic Church.

If you would like more information about the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, for yourself or for someone you know, you may call Irene Lucas at 814-899-6132 or email ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org to schedule an individual meeting.

Come and journey with us. Our destination is out of this world! Asking your questions, starting the conversation, stepping onto the path does not obligate you. So, come and learn more.

PENTECOST PARTY

Cake & pop after all Masses
in Sperry Hall
Pentecost weekend – June 4/5

CELEBRATE



It's the Birthday of the Church And we're the one who has been given the gift. The Holy Spirit has been sent to us!



Activities

Recently our council has donated locally to parishioners Ed and Judy Jackson who lost their home and possessions in a fire and internationally to Ukrainians impacted by the Russian invasion.

The *OLM Knights of Columbus Degree Team* continues to present degrees for new members prior to the beginning of council meetings. Applications must be submitted ahead of time. Contact any Knight. Dick Miller and Ben Luniewski are the most recent to have joined our council. Please congratulate them.

Council meetings are well-attended and you are invited to come join us if you haven't been at one in a while. We will begin with *The Rosary* about 20 minutes before the meeting. We are in the final planning stage of the golf raffle and would like everyone's involvement.

On Friday, May 13, we will once again hold our *Golf & Sports Raffle Casino Night* after a two-year hiatus due to Covid. As in the past, the entire community is expected to come out for this fun-filled social event and have a chance to win some great prizes - twenty in all as listed on the ticket. There will be various games of chance and other raffles throughout the evening. Tickets are \$10 each (three for \$25) which includes a chance to win the large prizes, along with food and refreshments for the entire night. We hope you will not only buy tickets yourself, but sell some to your friends.

Phil Legler is involved with a *Baby Bottle Fundraiser* to enable the purchase of a new van to transport a mobile ultrasound machine. Both will be purchased for the *Women's Care Center of Erie* and play a

substantial role in their Pro-Life outreach. Keep your eyes and ears open for more information.

Considering the possible *repeal of Roe v Wade*, local councils have been asked to contribute to billboards supporting its repeal. A \$100 donation was made.

Scholarship applications are now being accepted.

Each year a portion of the golf raffle proceeds are earmarked for college-bound high school seniors who, along with their parents, are members of the parish. Since 1993 scholarships have been awarded even during the two years when *The Golf and Sports Raffle* was cancelled due to Covid. Thankfully the golf raffle is returning in May and we thank you in advance for your generous support. Please see the OLM Website or contact the church office for a scholarship application. A brief essay must be included and a certified, most-recently available transcript from the applicant's school. *Application deadline is May 15.* Please spread the word and watch the website and bulletin.

Parish dance with the Groove

We are going to try again and once have secured the GROOVE BAND, the most popular band in Erie, for a dance in conjunction with the Parish Feast Day. It will be in September at OLM's Sperry Hall. Watch for information.

Knights led one of the evenings for *The Stations of the Cross* at our church

I Don't Want to be Martha Anymore *Luke 10:38-42*

By Lois Heise

Raise your hand if you're a Martha. My mother used to say "Lois, will you please sit down." I rarely did then and I don't now as there's always something needing done. Sure, everyone has relationships, careers and daily responsibilities. But, I'm tired of always being busy.

I've always made sure the house was clean, the family was fed, emails were answered, and bills were paid. I also volunteered. I will always be a Martha to some extent and I am proud of that. She was after all a strong, disciplined and very faithful disciple of our Lord. God used this ordinary woman to demonstrate a strong faith declaring her belief that Jesus was the Messiah (John 11:25-27). I too, am a homemaker and caretaker by nature. But, sometimes I forget to take care of myself and my faith.

Mary's freedom of life is a good example. She threw caution to the wind and spent expensive perfume and didn't help with chores in order to spend her time showing love and gratitude to Jesus. My expensive perfume is my time. I may not be able to literally sit at Jesus' feet, but I can spend my time with him praying and reading the Bible or devotionals. I can enjoy being outside, not busy gardening or working like Martha would. But, more like Mary who would probably just sit and be still to soak in his sunlight and the beauty he made. I could use the time to meditate on my prayers and daily readings. Resting quietly means I might hear his voice like Mary did.

Could it be I need rest from the world's busyness? I could stop every day to rest in his arms or sit at his feet by being quiet and still. I could use his strength, wisdom and love to help me through my days. Maybe then I truly can be the disciple he wants me to be. Maybe I



can create a sense of balance between both Martha and Mary.

God's the one who strengthens me to endure my chores and helps me when life gets tough. I share my joys and gratitude in life with him as well. Like any friend I have, I must make the effort to grow our relationship.

This will take practice. I can start by not people pleasing and having self-pity for all I do. I can stop feeling my tasks are too important to relax. I'm not lazy if I'm not busy. I forget God wants me close to him. He wants me to seek his guidance. He wants me to be happy and enjoy the daily blessings he gives me. I can't express my gratitude to God if I'm busy crossing off items on my 'to do' list. That busyness sometimes puts him at the end of my list instead of first. So, I'm going to practice being free like Mary and spend my time where it really counts, pleasing God. I look forward to resting in his presence.

OUR LADY OF MERCY PRESENTS... VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2022



JULY 25-29, 2022
9:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.

All travelers - age 4 thru entering 6th grade

For more information call:

Irene Lucas 814-899-6132 or the Parish Office 814-899-5342

Or email ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org

Registration Deadline is July 17th

Family Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____ Parish: _____

Phone #: _____ Emergency #: _____

Email Address: _____

Child's Name	Age	Grade 2022/2023	Special/Dietary Needs
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Adult & Teen Volunteers

(Teens must be entering 9th Grade or above - Adults MUST provide current clearances)

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

Please indicate which area you would like to help out:

Teacher: ___ Story Time: ___ Craft: ___ Games: ___ Music: ___

Aide: ___ Kitchen: ___ Set-Up: ___ Other: ___



Thursday Evenings
7:00 PM
June 23 to July 28

Short Stories By Jesus

Enigmatic Parables of a Controversial Rabbi

By Amy-Jill Levine

We have listened to the parables of Jesus since childhood. But have we really heard them, heard them the way the 1st century Palestinian disciples would have heard them? In this Bible study, noted scholar Dr. Amy-Jill Levine will help us to understand these parables as they would have been understood by those who first followed Jesus. Each evening, we will look at a different parable, examine its Jewish context and hear its message afresh. Listening to these stories with an ancient perspective, we will find new meaning for our contemporary era.

Participant guides for "Short Stories by Jesus" by Amy-Jill Levine can be ordered at Amazon or contact Irene Lucas by June 10 and she will order your copy for \$10.

Summer Scripture Study

Home of
Irene Lucas
1019 Bartlett Rd.

Patio if weather permits
(extra lawn chairs appreciated)
Inside if weather is bad

All Welcome...

**No Need to Register or
Attend Every Evening**



Enjoy a cold drink, a casual summer evening and time with friends as we explore a few fascinating parables of Jesus.



Our Lady of Mercy's

Famous

BBQ CHICKEN DINNER & Summer Festival



SUNDAY JULY 10TH
Dinner Starts at 12 p.m.



Dine in

our air conditioned Sperry Hall or

Carry Out

from the air conditioned Gathering Space

\$15 for adults, \$7 ages 6-12, 5 and under free

**Chinese Auction - Bake Sale - Bingo
- Children's Area - Pony Rides -
Raffles: \$1000 Grand Prize, Quilt,
50/50, Restaurant Gift Cards,
Wine Basket & Craft Beer Basket!**