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FEAST OF OUR LADY OF MERCY September 25, 2022

A time to celebrate being the faith community of Our Lady of Mercy.

OUR FEAST DAY MASS is at 10:30 a.m.

Followed by a pot luck meal in Sperry Hall.

Please bring a dish to share for the luncheon according to your last name:

A-G Salad or Appetizer

H-O Dessert or Snack

P-Z Casserole or Fruit

Gluten-free items are welcome.



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Parish Festival 2022 Results

REVENUE

Take-out Dinners \$9,764.00 Dinner \$4,213.00 After Dinner Chicken Sales \$677.00 Total Chicken Sales \$14,654.00
Grand Award\$2,020.00 50/50\$810.00
Chinese Auction
Lottery Tree\$1,032.00 Restaurant Tree\$912.00 Wine Basket\$843.00 Quilt / Afghan Raffle\$657.00 TV\$647.00 Craft Beer\$640.00 Total Raffle\$4,731.00
Book Sale. \$1,124.38 Bake Sale. \$711.80 Kiddy land. \$410.00 Instant Bingo \$401.50 Craft Sales \$338.50 Bingo. \$320.00 Refreshments \$272.50 Quilt Crafts. \$215.60 Big 6. \$129.75 Adult Games \$3.00 Misc. donations \$666.00
TOTAL INCOME \$30,418.03

Festival 2019 Results							
Income	\$30,551.81						
Expenses Profit	<u>\$9,614.73</u>						
Profit	\$20,937.08						
Festival 2018 Results							
Income	\$30,138.31						
Expenses							
Profit	\$20,108.80						

EXPENSES

Chicken	
Grand Award \$1,000.00 50/50 \$405.00	
Advertising	
Chinese Auction	
Indirect Expenses \$96.00	
TOTAL EXPENSES \$9,346.33	
TOTAL PROFIT \$21,071.70	



Festival Winners Grand Prize - Darcy Snyder TV—Steve Huling Restaurant Cards - Tricia Thompson Lottery - Kathy Concilla 50/50 - Amy Mlaker Quilt - Ron Grosch Afghan - Sandy Onderko ne Basket - Doris Lewis Maryann Ca

Afghan - Sandy Onderko Wine Basket - Doris Lewis, Maryann Cass, Joe Heise& Linda Bailey Craft Beer Basket - Tim Tyzinski

Congratulations to all of our prize winners!

Our Lady of Mercy Hires A Music & Liturgy Team



Our Lady of Mercy recently hired Linda Peters as music director. Linda auditioned with us last Spring and was well received. Since then she has played for some of our Saturday 6 pm Masses, for our Evening Prayer for Peace in Ukraine and for a recent funeral. She comes to us from St. Luke Parish where she served as the main accompanist. On August 20th, Linda will begin playing for all Masses at OLM and leading our music ministry.

Further, Matt Clark, who has been acting as our interim music and liturgy director, has been asked to collaborate with Linda on a music/liturgy team. Its focus will be to prepare engaging and prayerful liturgies for the parish of Our Lady of Mercy. May we strengthen the song of our assembly through their leadership and develop an ever deeper sense of communal prayer. We hope that this partnership may encourage the sharing of the gifts of the entire community to benefit all of our liturgies.

Linda S. Peters



Linda was the first person to graduate from Mansfield State College, Mansfield, Pennsylvania fulfilling all the requirements of two Bachelor of Music degrees in less than five years (piano performance and music education) She also has a Master's degree from Mansfield University with additional graduate study at

Ithaca College (Ithaca, NY) and with the internationally acclaimed concert pianist, Anthony diBonaventura. Linda is a nationally certified teacher through the Music Teacher's National Association, a special designation given only to music teachers who meet the highest professional standards. She taught piano and was director of music in several churches for many years, in the Finger Lakes region of New York State, and currently is an adjunct on the piano faculty at Mercyhurst University. Previously, she was also Mass accompanist at St. Luke Roman Catholic Church in Erie, Pennsylvania.



Matthew P. Clark

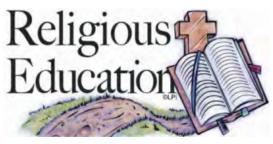


A liturgist and musician, Matt encouraged the best practices in liturgy and music throughout the Diocese of Erie for 22 years through the Office of Worship. During that time, he represented the diocese as a member of the Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions, serving on the board for

four years, two as Vice-Chair. A member of the National Pastoral Musicians (NPM) Association, Matt coordinated the Erie chapter of NPM from 1998-2020. He has served as a pastoral musician and director for parishes in NJ, MN and in the Erie Diocese. He taught in the Master of Pastoral Services program at Gannon University, in the formation institute at Mercyhurst University, and in the Diaconate Formation Program of the Diocese of Erie. Matt holds a Bachelor of Music in Education (BMusEd) from Manhattanville College, Purchase, NY; a Master of Science in Library Service, from Columbia University, NYC, and a Master of Liturgical Studies, from the School of Theology, St. John's University, Collegeville, MN. He is a trained singer and guitarist and is currently working on improving his piano skills.

Another summer has flown by. Soon the warm summer days will give way to cool nights and changing leaves. As the children prepare to start another school year, Our Lady of Mercy is preparing for a new year of religious education.

Registration for the 2022-2023 religious education program will take place after all liturgies the weekend of August 13-14. If you have found that you have missed the general registration weekend, please stop by the Office of Lifelong Faith Formation



during normal working hours. All families with children intending to participate in the 2022-2023 Rel. Ed. program are asked to register at this time. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

Again this year, there will be a \$10 discount on the registration fee for those families who provide the parish with current clearances for at least one parent. If you already submitted clearances and they are less than 3 years old, the discount will apply. As most of you know, all those who volunteer with children must have government issued clearances, both Criminal Background checks and Child Abuse Clearances. This law applies to parents helping with a classroom party, chaperoning a field trip, religious education substitutes and the like. These clearances are free for volunteers. However, they must be on file with the sponsoring organization before any volunteer can assist with any aspect of any program.

Our Lady of Mercy believes that parent participation in the religious education ministry is essential to its success. Whether parents can volunteer on a weekly basis or assist with a one-time project, we value your gifts and time. The only way that we can involve parents is if we have their clearances on file.

Many of you already have obtained these clearances for school, scouting, sports or other programs. If you do not already have these documents, you can apply on-line. All links can be found at the diocesan website http://eriercd.org. If you have any difficulty completing the on-line application for these clearances, call the parish and we will assist you.

In an attempt to encourage parents to provide Our Lady of Mercy with these clearances, we are offering a \$10 registration discount to any family who provides us with both clearances on one parent (clearances must be less than 3 years old).

Program Fees may be paid at the time of registration. Checks should be made payable to Our Lady of Mercy Religious Education. Program fees are:

Program	Without Clearances	With Clearances
Registration—One child	\$40	\$30
Registration—Two children	\$50	\$40
Registration—Three or more children	\$60	\$50
Registration—Per child, non-parishioner	\$55	\$45
Youth Ministry Fee per child grades 7-12	\$10	\$10
Youth Ministry Fee for 3 or more children grades 7—12	\$25	\$25

If we have current clearances on file, a notation will appear on your registration form. If you present clearances at time of registration, the registration fee will be adjusted accordingly.

<u>Kindergarten religious education</u> class is held on Sunday mornings from 9:30-10:45. Participants must be age 5 by September 1 and should be in the same school grade.

<u>Grade One religious education</u> is required prior to participation in the Sacramental Preparation program. First grade religious education students meet on Sunday mornings from 9:30-10:45.

<u>First Reconciliation preparation</u> is conducted on the second grade level. The First Reconciliation program, held 9:30-10:45 Sunday morning, is open to all students in Grade 2 or older who have previously been involved in at least one year of religious instruction and who have been baptized. No child can be registered for the grade 2 RE class who has not attended one year of formal religious education classes at a Catholic parish. In order to qualify as successfully completing 1 year of instruction, the child must have been present for a minimum of 3/4th of the schedule classes or provide a letter of completion from the pastor or director of the parish program they attended stating such. Participation in a 3-hour preparatory retreat is required prior to the celebration of the sacrament. The celebration of First Reconciliation occurs in March. Parental support and involvement is essential during periods of sacramental preparation.



<u>First Eucharist preparation</u> is the curriculum for the third grade program. Individuals must have celebrated the sacraments of Baptism and Reconciliation prior to the celebration of their First Eucharist. First Eucharist is celebrated in May. Students are required to participate in an April retreat day as part of the preparation program. Parental involvement and support is essential during periods of sacramental preparation.

<u>The Intermediate Program encompasses grades 3-6</u>. Students participating in religious education on this level gather for classes on Tuesday afternoons from 4:00-5:30. Our Lady of Mercy arranges for bus transportation from the Harborcreek public elementary schools to the church. Parents are responsible for picking up their children at class end.

Behavior for the Rel. Ed. bus follows the same policies as that enforced by the Harborcreek School District. Failure by any student to behave in an appropriate fashion while riding the bus to religious education classes will result in the suspension of the privilege to receive this transportation for the remainder of the academic year.

Junior High youth meet Sunday mornings from 9:30-10:45 on the first 3 weekends of each month. On the final Sunday of each month, the young people gather from noon to 3:00 for an extended youth ministry session which combines opportunities for community service, retreats, community building and more.

<u>Confirmation Preparation</u> is a two year process. Individuals may enter the program in the ninth grade or later. Those attending a Catholic high school are not required to participate in the first year of this process. This program includes Home Sessions, service projects, retreat days, etc. Those celebrating the sacrament of Confirmation must be in the second semester of tenth grade or older, have been baptized, and have completed all requirements.

<u>Days of Retreat</u> are provided for students in the formal religious education program. All program provided retreat experiences are free to participants. Attendance at these events is required for those preparing for a sacramental celebration (Grade 2 First Reconciliation, Grade 3 First Eucharist and Grade 9-10 Confirmation). All other experiences are encouraged, but not mandatory. These days combine fun with spiritual growth.

<u>Family Faith Days</u> are opportunities for families to share in the faith formation process with their children. Currently, these are scheduled three times during the school year during the Sunday morning program (the first day of class, late autumn, winter). On these specially designated mornings, all children in Kindergarten through gr. 2 are joined by parents, siblings and any extended family members to share in a special morning of prayer and fun.

<u>Parent Meetings</u> enable family members to best support the faith development of their child. Every year we hold a series of parent meetings designed to inform parents of curriculum topics, special projects and other details of interest. All parent meetings are designed to be informative and brief. All parents and guardians are highly encouraged to attend these meetings. Please consult the religious education calendar and the bulletin for specific times and dates.

<u>Absentee Policy:</u> Preparing for a sacramental celebration is a very important process. Extra care and attention is directed to these parts of the program by the R. E. Office, the catechists and the families. To ensure that youth are as well prepared as possible, attendance policies are in place for these years. Children preparing for First Reconciliation and First Eucharist (grades 1, 2 & 3) must be present for a minimum of ³/₄ of scheduled classes. Any child absent for more than a quarter of the scheduled classes will not be approved to celebrate this sacrament. (Any first grade student who has missed more than a quarter of the scheduled classes will not have met the requirement of completing a year of religious ed necessary to enter the First Reconciliation program.) Confirmation candidates (grade 9 & 10) are permitted a maximum of 2 absences per year. Additional absences must be made up with the Director of Lifelong Faith Formation before the candidate can continue in the process. Additionally, these years of preparation include work to be done at home. All homework must be completed and returned before the individual will be approved for the sacramental celebration.

To all returning catechetical ministers, students and families, I look forward to seeing you soon. To all new participants in the religious education program, I welcome you. To all members of this parish community, I encourage your comments, ideas and suggestions.

Religious Education Classes begin on Tuesday, September 6.

Religious Education calendars are available at the time of registration.

May you continue to deepen your love for God and one another. May the remaining weeks of the summer season bring many blessings.

PARENT BAPTISMAL PREPARATION SESSION

The next Baptismal Preparation Session for Parents and Godparents at Our Lady of Mercy will be held Sunday, Oct. 2 from noon to 2:00. Before a family can arrange for the baptism of a child, the parents must attend a preparation session. Families may attend a preparation session at any Catholic parish in the diocese.



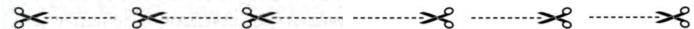
Baptismal Preparation Sessions for Parents & Godparents are held semi-annually at Our Lady of Mercy, in the fall and spring. If you are expecting a child or want to have a child baptized before Easter, you may want to consider registering for this session.

Participants need to register prior to attending so that adequate materials are available. To register, call 814-899-5342 between 9:00-3:00. If you have questions about the baptism of a child, you may want to check out the FAQ on Baptism at the parish website.



Adult Faith Formation Events Survey

The AGIFT Committee (Adults Growing In Faith Together) is asking for your assistance as we plan for the future. Please take 5 minutes to complete this brief survey. Return it by August 28. It can be placed in the collection basket, handed in at the parish office, or emailed to ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org. A copy of this questionnaire can also be found at the parish website. Your feedback is appreciated.



Did you attend any of the following events hosted by the AGIFT Committee the past year? (Please check all that apply)

- □ Sunset Mass
- Sunday Café with Senada Alihodzic from the International Institute of Erie
- Sunday Café with Deacon Paul
- Q&A with Fr. Ritchie
- Sanctus Retreat
- Lenten Pastus with Brittany
- Lenten Pastus with Sister Állison from the Daughters of St Paul
- Lenten Pastus with Dr. McLaughlin from Gannon University
- Pilgrimage Through the Symbols of Holy Week
- Summer Scripture Study
- I did not attend any events

If you did not attend any of the events offered, can you select why?

Event	Day Scheduled	Time Scheduled	No Interest	No Virtual Option	Not Aware of Event	Lack of Childcare	Other:
Sunset Mass	Sunday	Evening					
Sunday Café with Senada Alihodzic	Sunday	Morning					
Sunday Café with Deacon Paul	Sunday	Morning					
Q&A with Fr. Ritchie	Tuesday	Evening	1	1			
Sanctus Retreat	Saturday	All Day					
Lenten Pastus with Brittany	Wednesday	Evening	1				
Lenten Pastus with Sister Allison	Wednesday	Evening	1				
Lenten Pastus with Dr. McLaughlin	Wednesday	Evening	1				
Symbols of Holy Week	Wednesday	Evening	1				
Summer Scripture Study	Thursday	Evening	1	1			

Which of the following resources did you use in the past year? (Please check all that apply)

- formed.org parish subscription
- parish library

- The Word Among Us seasonal (Lent/Advent) issues
 - Lenten Reflections posted on Parish Facebook page
 - Membership with Small Christian Community

What other events, speakers, or suggestions do you recommend for this next year?

GIFT CARD ORDER FORM

Our Lady of Mercy earns cash with every gift card purchased 2.5% to 14% depending on the gift card

The cards listed below are those available in the parish office or visit the RaiseRight mobile application or ShopWithScrip.com to see all 750+ brands and available denominations Three ways to order:

- ^a Stop by the parish office after the weekend Masses or during the week between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m.
- Fill out the form below and drop it off or mail it to OLM, 837 Bartlett Road, Harborcreek PA 16421
- Text (814) 440-4890 or email pmm1955.erie@gmail.com

Vendor	Amount	Quantity	Total Cost		Vendor	Vendor Amount	Vendor Amount Quantity
American	\$25			Old Navy		\$25	\$25
Amazon	\$100			Panera		\$10	\$10
Apple /iTunes	\$25			ranera		\$25	\$25
Applebee's	\$25			Stan's Garden Center	r	r \$25	r \$25
Arby's	\$10			Starbuck's		\$10	\$10
Barnes & Noble	\$10			Starbuck S		\$25	\$25
Bob Evans	\$10			Subway		\$10	\$10
bob Lvans	\$25					\$10	\$10
Burger King	\$10			Target		\$25	\$25
Buffalo Wild Wings	\$10					\$50	\$50
	\$25			Tim Hortons		\$10	\$10
Country Fair	\$25			Walmart		\$25	\$25
	\$50			vv annar t		\$100	\$100
	\$100			Wendy's		\$10	\$10
Dairy Queen	\$10						
Darden Restaurants	\$25			Enter Vendor Name	A	mount	amount Quantity
Giant Eagle	\$25						
Glaint Lagic	\$100						
Home Depot	\$25						
Kohl's	\$25						
	\$25						
Kwik Fill	\$50						
	\$100						
Michael's	\$25						

Please make checks payable to Our Lady of Mercy Church For questions or more information please call Pat Marshall at 814-440-4890

Name ____

Phone _____ Email ____



SCHOLARSHIPS

This year's winners of Ed Cudicio Memorial Scholarships are Aidan Reinsel and Jaden Rocco. Jaden will be attending John Carroll University and Aidan Penn State - Behrend. They are North East and Harborcreek High School graduates respectively with impressive accomplishments. We wish them well in their studies and future careers. Please congratulate them. Our Lady of Mercy Council of the Knights of Columbus awards scholarships annually to high school seniors who attend our parish. This is one of the many ways in which The Knights, and indirectly those of you who support the fundraisers, contribute to the parish and its members.

GOLF & SPORTS RAFFLE

We are relieved and pleased to report that The Golf Raffle was a success! In a nut-shell, sponsorships were up (increase of 15), pre-raffle sales also increased, attendance (in-the-door) was down, spending was up and expenses down. Most noteworthy – profit was up, even though the lingering effect of Covid is still being felt. Thank you ... thank you ... all of you who contributed in any way to the success of the Golf & Sports Raffle – the first in three years. Dean Pepicello, township supervisor, thanked the Knights for putting on an event that is so well received by the people of Harborcreek. It truly has become an annual community event.

UKRAINE DONATIONS

A letter of thanks was received from Knights of Columbus Charities, Inc. thanking us for the \$6,000 donation on behalf of the Knights and parishioners of OLM for the people of Ukraine. The gift will provide shelter, food, medical supplies, clothing, religious goods and other humanitarian needs. Since the initial donation, an additional \$600 has been collected. Thanks to all of you. Please continue to pray for our brothers and sisters in Ukraine. Note: Worldwide the Knights of Columbus has donated \$14 million.

PRO-LIFE

Baby-Bottle Campaign – Phil Legler reports that the response has been overwhelming, with donations far exceeding the goal. The purpose is to purchase a van for a mobile ultrasound

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machine, enabling more facilities and potential clients to be served. The initiative is extensive with nearly all of about 45 parishes contributing. More information to follow. Repeal of Roe vs Wade – the council contributed to a full-size billboard advertisement – 1 of 2 in the Erie area. Look for it just south of the underpass in Harborcreek.

PARISH FESTIVAL

The first dine-in since 2019. Not all expenses have been paid, so financials are incomplete. However, it is known that the festival was a success – we hope The Best Festival Ever. The Knights worked in most areas and the council donated a largescreen TV as one of the main prizes. The festival continues to be a popular event locally and in an even wider circle – something of which we can all be very proud.

COMMUNITY

Gift cards and letters of appreciation were presented to 4 fire-fighters who were injured a while back while fighting the fire at 510 Parkside Drive. They are: Jody Babcock, Jeff Hawryliw, Scott Rose and Bob Williams.

RECENT MEETING HOSTED BY THE COTTRELL FAMILY

The June council meeting was graciously hosted by Dave Cottrell, his wife, son and helpers at their home. They served a multi-course meal and opened their pool for a great time and enjoyable evening. "Fun Time" followed a brief meeting. Thank you, Dave!

PARISH DANCE WITH THE GROOVE

Still in the wind in conjunction with the Parish Feast Day in September. Watch for information.

DEGREES FOR NEW KNIGHTS

Initiation degrees will be held in the near future for those wishing to join the council. If any parishioner wishes to join, please contact an officer or any Knight to obtain the necessary information. Officers are: Dave Lefaiver (Grand Knight), Tom Palisin (Deputy G K), Gus Manna (Treasurer), John Skuce (Secretary) and Dan Szczesny (Financial Secretary).

A Letter from Knights of Columbus Charities...

Thank you for your donation of \$6,000.00 received on 4/26/2022 to the Knights of Columbus Charities Ukraine Solidarity fund. Please know that your generosity and compassion make a profound difference to those suffering this unimaginable atrocity. Your gift will provide shelter, food, medical supplies, clothing, religious goods, and other humanitarian needs to those seeking refuge from the war. On behalf of all those we will serve as part of our humanitarian efforts in Ukraine and Poland, thank you! Through your generosity, we will be able to continue meeting their needs as the situation continues to evolve. Finally, we ask that you continue to pray for our brothers and sisters in Ukraine.

With best wishes, I remain, Fraternally,

Robert F. Schwartz

Treasurer





Pastoral Council & Visionary Process



Our Lady of Mercy's Pastoral Council and Visionary Process

On our Feast Day in September Fr. Ritchie talked about the need for a vision for our parish. He posed the question about our future, where we want to go and who we want to be.

To this end, the Pastoral Council began reading a book by Tim Glemkowski about a parish visioning process. In January the Council discerned that it would be good to hire a coach from L'Alto Catholic to help us along the way.

We have a strong 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.

This statement defines who we are, our present purpose and our identity.

But what one word would you use to describe the community of Our Lady of Mercy?

This one question was asked of us by our coach to help us set the vision for the future. A vision statement defines where we are going, our mission and our 'why' for everything that we do.

As we move forward with this process, we ask the Holy Spirit to guide us in recognizing a vision that will help us as a community to embrace our full potential as the Body of Christ – as a community of disciples, engaged in prayer and in service; and in building a community of peace so we can bring God's healing love to all. With this goal in mind, we ask you to pray the prayer to the Holy Spirit composed by the Council which is below. We will continue to update you on our progress.

Last year the council had eight members: Todd Beckes, Maureen Brainard, Joanne Fournier, Vickie Gilchrist, Bill Matrogran, Nathan Matusiak, Ashlee Skarzenski, MO Rizzo. We thank Ashlee for serving for one term and Bill and Nathan for serving for two terms who are stepping down. For the coming year we add three new members: Greg Badach, Candy Henry, Denise Lewandoski

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



Welcome New Members!

Please welcome our new members by sending a card or stopping by if you live nearby.

Taylor Gushie 5840 Peck Rd Erie, Pa 16510-5751

Steve & Michelle Hullings 1859 Depot St Harborcreek, Pa 16421-1516

William & Jackie Loftus 306 Las Maria North Port, Fl 34287-2561 David & Kristen Seyboldt Brady 4095 Knoyle Rd Erie, Pa 16510-4928

Cynthia Van Slyke 154 Griffin Ave Erie, Pa 16511-1227



