

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

JANUARY 1, 2023 - SOLEMNITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

THE WEEK AHEAD

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

Mon. 01/02	9:30 a.m.	Steel Magnolias SCC
Tue. 01/03	1:00 p.m.	Potter's Clay SCC
	2:00 p.m.	Prayer Shawl
	4:00 p.m.	Religious Ed. Gr. 3-6
	6:00 p.m.	New SCC
	7:00 p.m.	Pastoral Council
Wed. 01/04	9:00 a.m.	Painting Group
	1:00 p.m.	Legion of Mary
Thur. 01/05	9:00 a.m.	Angels in Training SCC
	12:00 p.m.	Midday Prayer
	6:00 p.m.	Prayer Shawl
	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Fri. 01/06	10:00 a.m.	Sisters of Scripture SCC
Sat. 01/07	4:30 p.m.	Sacrament of Penance
Sun. 01/08	9:30 a.m.	Religious Ed Gr K-2 & 7-8

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Mon. 01/02	1 Jn 2:22-28	/ Jn 1:19-28
Tue. 01/03	1 Jn 2:29-3:6	/ Jn 1:29-34
Wed. 01/04	1 Jn 3:7-10	/ Jn 1:35-42
Thur. 01/05	1 Jn 3:11-21	/ Jn 1:43-51
Fri. 01/06	1 Jn 5:5-13	/ Mk 1:7-11
Sat. 01/07	1 Jn 5:14-21	/ Jn 2:1-11
Sun. 01/08	Is 60:1-6 / Eph 3:2-6	/ Mt 2:1-12



THE PARISH PICTURE BOOKS ARE HERE
Please stop by the parish office to pick up your Parish Photo Directory. We also wish to thank the community for their patience in waiting for these books.

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon. 01/02	8:30 a.m.	No Mass
Tue. 01/03	8:30 a.m.	Capt. Norman Schlosser (Morning Mass Group)
Wed. 01/04	8:30 a.m.	Marty Carroll Mike & Karen Woods
Thur. 01/05	8:30 a.m.	Betty Bliss (Sue & Steve Konzal)
Fri. 01/06	8:30 a.m.	
Sat. 01/07	6:00 p.m.	For the People of OLM
Sun. 01/08	8:30 a.m.	Dick Wilhelm (Margaret McCurdy)
	11:00 a.m.	Mary Ella Eaglen (Elizabeth Morgan Gerlach)

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	

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

Today's reading is a continuation from the Gospel proclaimed at the Christmas Mass at midnight. In it the shepherds act upon the message they receive from the angel and go to find Jesus in the manger in Bethlehem. In their visit to the manger, the shepherds find things just as the angel had said. The shepherds' visit, therefore, is a moment of fulfillment, manifestation, and the beginning of the salvation we receive through Christ.

In the context of today's Solemnity, this reading also helps us focus on Mary as the Mother of God. The reading tells us at least three things about Mary as a mother. First, Mary is described as a reflective person, keeping the reports of the shepherds in her heart. Second, we are reminded of how obedient Mary was to God when she named the baby Jesus as the angel Gabriel had directed. Third, this reading shows Mary and Joseph faithfully observing their Jewish tradition by having Jesus circumcised.

Mary's faithfulness to God is evident in all three of these things. Her reflection upon the events in her life indicates that she was a person of prayer. This prayer made possible her obedience to God and God's will, even if the outcome was not clear. Finally, her faithfulness to a community of faith grounded her relationship with God and enabled her to participate in God's plan of salvation.

Because of Mary's faithfulness to God, she was able to receive the gift of God's Son and accept her role in God's plan for salvation. By doing so, she models for us the path of discipleship and is also called Mother of the Church.

Our call to discipleship also includes these three aspects. First, discipleship means prayer and reflection on the events of our lives that we might see God's presence and work in our lives. Second, discipleship means obedience to God and God's will. Third, discipleship includes fidelity to a community of faith.

Loyola Press

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.

Question of the Week

Question-of-the-Week winner for the week of Dec. 20, was **Bailey Haislip, grade 6**, who knew that Jesus was born in Bethlehem.

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.



A Special "Thank You"

A special thank you to the Family Mass Choir, and the musicians and singers and guests who made wonderful music for our Christmas Eve Masses! Linda Peters Director of Music



Get the Bulletin by Email



E-BULLETIN

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.

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.

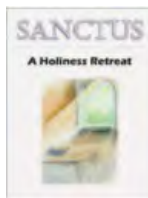


Book Group

Join us at the home of Cheri Longua, 4512 North Woods Dr, at **7:00 p.m. on Jan. 18** to discuss 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



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 miss a Sunday Mass the gift 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.



Check the Parish Calendar

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





Thank you to the OLM Community who helped make my Installation Mass something wonderful, especially to the Music Ministry & Kay Kaerberlein and all of the reception helpers. The giving of your time and talents is a gift that will be cherished for a lifetime. Thank you!
- Fr. Matt



Jan. 02	Hayley D'Angelo	15
Jan. 05	Ellie Stauffer	11
Jan. 08	Grace Galbreath	15
Jan. 08	Brodynn Smith	11



Jan. 11	Makenna Pearson	12
Jan. 20	Avery Ollinger	18
Jan. 25	Ryan Stauffer	10
Jan. 26	Kenslie Inthavong	6
Jan. 27	Madison Rizzo	13
Jan. 28	Lila Bly	14
Jan 28	Macy Neil	1



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>.

45th Annual Pro-Life Breakfast

People for Life's 45th Annual Pro-Life Breakfast will be held on Jan. 14 at the Erie Bayfront Convention Center. The main speaker will be Patricia Sandoval. She will tell her story of finding forgiveness and restoration after three abortions and three years as a homeless drug addict. Tickets are \$22 for ages over 12 and \$14 for ages 3 to 12. Children under three are welcome to attend at no cost. Payments can be mailed to People for Life, P.O. Box 1126, Erie, PA 16512. For more information or to pay by credit card, call 814.882.1333 or go online to www.peopleforlife.org/january2023.

March for Life bus trip

Attend the 50th Annual March for Life in Washington, D.C., on Jan. 20. Buses chartered by People for Life will leave Erie on the evening of Jan. 19 at 11 p.m. and return at approximately 1:30 a.m. on Jan. 21. Students and families on tight budgets are encouraged to inquire about sponsorships arranged by People for Life. Reservations should be made as soon as possible. Send \$65 per seat to People for Life, P.O. Box 1126, Erie, PA 16512. Pay by December 19 and get a \$5 early bird credit (send \$60 per seat). For more information or to use a credit card, call 814.882.1333 or go online to www.peopleforlife.org/january2023.



Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser

For the Religious Education Ministry

SUNDAY

FEBRUARY 5, 2023

12:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Sit down and take-out options are available

\$10 for Adults

\$5 for Children 10 and under

- Spaghetti & Meatballs
- Refreshments
- Salad
- Italian Bread
- Cookies
- Chinese Auction

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OUR LADY OF MERCY CATHOLIC CHURCH
Membership Form

Name _____

Address _____

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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.