

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 8, 2023 - THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

THE WEEK AHEAD

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

Mon. 01/09	9:30 a.m.	Steel Magnolias SCC
	6:30 p.m.	Fireside Chatters SCC
	6:30 p.m.	Roman Candles SCC
Tue. 01/10	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.	The Mystics SCC
Wed. 01/11	9:00 a.m.	Painting Group
	1:00 p.m.	Legion of Mary
	6:30 p.m.	AGIFT Meeting
	7:00 p.m.	Knights of Columbus
Thur. 01/12	12:00 p.m.	Midday Prayer
	6:00 p.m.	Prayer Shawl
	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Fri. 01/13		
Sat. 01/14	4:30 p.m.	Sacrament of Penance
Sun. 01/15	11:00 a.m.	Gr. 10 & 11
		Confirmation Retreat
	9:45 a.m.	Sunday CAFE
	9:30 a.m.	Religious Ed Gr K-2 & 7-8
	9:30 a.m.	Healing Ministry



FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Offertory for the weekend of January 1, 2023

Envelopes sent:	357	
Envelopes returned:	56	\$ 4,907.00
Faith Direct Deposits:	138	\$ 3,417.20
Loose Change:		\$ 85.00
TOTAL OFFERTORY:		\$ 8,409.20

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



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

SCRIPTURE READINGS

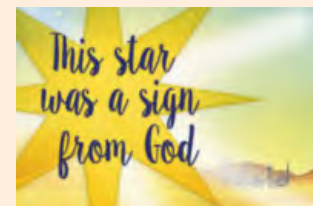
Mon. 01/09	Is 42:1-7 / Acts 10:34-38	/ Mt 3:13-17
Tue. 01/10	Heb 2:5-12	/ Mk 1:21-28
Wed. 01/11	Heb 2:14-18	/ Mk 1:29-39
Thur. 01/12	Heb 3:7-14	/ Mk 1:40-45
Fri. 01/13	Heb 4:1-5, 11	/ Mk 2:1-12
Sat. 01/14	Heb 4:12-16	/ Mk 2:13-17
Sun. 01/15	Is 49:3, 5-6 / 1 Cor 1:1-3	/ Jn 1:29-34

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon. 01/09	8:30 a.m.	
Tue. 01/10	8:30 a.m.	Analida Braeger (Tom Braeger)
Wed. 01/11	8:30 a.m.	
Thur. 01/12	8:30 a.m.	Betty Bliss (Linda Prichard)
Fri. 01/13	8:30 a.m.	
Sat. 01/14	6:00 p.m.	For the People of OLM
Sun. 01/15	8:30 a.m.	Marty Carroll (Jim & Marion Spencer)
	11:00 a.m.	Ken Mottern (Ray & Carol Laughlin)

THIS SUNDAY'S REFLECTION

MATTHEW 2:1-12



"We...have come to do him homage."

These astrologers from Persia had studied the heavens for years. They were educated and wise enough to recognize that there was still much they did not know. For instance, what was the meaning of this star they had been following? What was its purpose? To find the answer they had traveled a great distance posing questions, seeking light.

They did not hesitate to ask others. This was not a secret mission. They wanted truth. What they received from the overly guarded and cautious Herod was an introduction to the Scripture, to the words of the prophet Micah (5:1).

This scripture led them to Bethlehem where they found the child and did him homage. Homage implies humility, in this case the ability to recognize someone greater than oneself. They did this through their veneration and offering of precious gifts.

The Magi received gifts as well. They returned home with new knowledge and understanding. By their openness and humility they had allowed the Prince of Peace to reveal himself to each of them.

Such openness and humility are qualities we need if the Light of Christ is to touch our hearts and minds.

For Reflection: When has a personal search for answers resulted in receiving the gift of humility? Does humility feel like a gift to me?

Susan McCarthy, R.D.C.

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.



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.

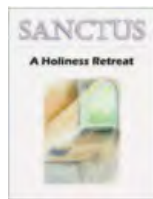


Book Group

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.

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.

For Mercy Sake Deadline

The deadline to submit items for the February issue of For Mercy Sake newsletter is **Sunday, January 22**. Items can be sent to secretary@ourladyofmercychurch.org.



Blood Drive

The next blood drive at Our Lady of Mercy is on **Thursday January 19, 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.** Sign up sheets available on **January 2**. Save a Life!



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.



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.



Check the Parish Calendar

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



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.

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

Holy Hour for Vocations

Please join Deacon Dave Jacquel and the parishioners of St. Mark and Mt. Calvary Parishes for a Holy Hour for Vocations on **Saturday, January 21 at 3:15 pm** at St. Mark Church 695 Smithson Ave Erie. Questions, please call the office at (814)899-3000 or email: office@smmc.church

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.

Microsite highlights the life of Emeritus Pope Benedict XVI

The Diocese of Erie has launched a microsite with highlights of the life of Pope Benedict XVI. It can be accessed through the diocesan homepage or directly at <https://www.eriercd.org/benedict.html>. The site includes a downloadable prayer card that can be printed for use by parishes, schools and individuals. The site also includes the statement Bishop Lawrence Persico issued upon the news of the former pontiff's death. Bishop Persico offered a public Mass for Pope Benedict on Jan. 5 at St. Peter Cathedral.

Help Spread the Faith Collection

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,
From the earliest days of my tenure as bishop of the Diocese of Erie, I have been committed to strong communications. While I am the shepherd of this diocese, all of us are on this journey of faith together.

That's why I continue to take full advantage of every tool at our disposal to keep you informed about what is happening with the Catholic Church worldwide, across the United States and here in northwest Pennsylvania. This is no small effort, given the changing media landscape. We strive to reach you whether you prefer to read *Faith* magazine, receive the weekly *Diocese of Erie News* in your email or find us through social media. This requires interacting on a variety of platforms in order to reach different audiences.

Thanks to your generous support of the annual Help Spread the Faith Communications Collection, all of these options and more remain available to you, free of charge. We have a small but dedicated team of communications professionals not only working to share important information, but also to write and promote stories that inspire. People tell us they pass these stories along or discuss them with family and friends - a great way to begin conversations that open doors and hearts.

Please help me continue this essential outreach by participating in the 2023 Help Spread the Faith Communications Collection scheduled for the weekend of **January 21-22**.

Sincerely in Christ,
†Lawrence T. Persico
The Most Rev. Lawrence T. Persico
Bishop of Erie

Child Protection and Creating Safe Environments 3 Ways for Teens to Reboot

Sending and receiving messages late at night can make it hard to fall asleep or interrupt sleep. Teens want to stay connected to friends, but the lack of sleep or interrupted sleep can affect everything from their mood to their sports performance. Here are 5 tips to follow at night that will help boost energy and focus in the morning. 1.) Log off your messaging apps, social media and email at bedtime. 2.) Turn off your phone when it's time for bed don't just set it to vibrate. 3.) Get in the habit of powering off your devices – especially if they are in your room. Turn off all electronics, like laptops, tablets, TVs, and video game consoles. Blinking lights and glowing screens can make it harder to fall and stay asleep. Sticking to a cut-off curfew each night for your devices will give your brain some much.



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 _____

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.