

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 15, 2023 - THE SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

THE WEEK AHEAD

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

Mon. 01/16	Parish Office Closed	
	9:30 a.m.	Steel Magnolias SCC
	1:00 p.m.	Sofia's Circle SCC
Tue. 01/17	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
	7:00 p.m.	Lifelong Faith Formation
Wed. 01/18	8:30 a.m.	Food Pantry Distribution
	9:00 a.m.	Painting Group
	1:00 p.m.	Legion of Mary
	7:00 p.m.	OLM Book Group
Thur. 01/19	9:00 a.m.	Angel's In Training SCC
	12:00 p.m.	Midday Prayer
	4:00 p.m.	Blood Drive
	6:00 p.m.	Prayer Shawl
	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Fri. 01/20	10:00 a.m.	Sisters of Scripture SCC
Sat. 01/21	4:30 p.m.	Sacrament of Penance
Sun. 01/22	9:30 a.m.	Religious Ed Gr K-2 & 7-8
	9:45 a.m.	First Reconciliation
		Parent Meeting

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. 01/16	Heb 5:1-10	/ Mk 2:18-22
Tue. 01/17	Heb 6:10-20	/ Mk 2:23-28
Wed. 01/18	Heb 7:1-3, 15-17	/ Mk 3:1-6
Thur. 01/19	Heb 7:25-8:6	/ Mk 3:7-12
Fri. 01/20	Heb 8:6-13	/ Mk 3:13-19
Sat. 01/21	Heb 9:2-3, 11-14	/ Mk 3:20-21
Sun. 01/22	Is 8:23-9:3/ 1 Cor 1:10-17	/ Mt 4:12-23

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon. 01/16	8:30 a.m.	NO MASS
Tue. 01/17	8:30 a.m.	
Wed. 01/18	8:30 a.m.	Dr. Loren Prichard (Sandra Jordan)
Thur. 01/19	8:30 a.m.	Betty Bliss (Sharron Garwig)
Fri. 01/20	8:30 a.m.	Marty Carroll (Mike & Tina Yacobozi)
Sat. 01/21	6:00 p.m.	Christopher Kaeberlein (Joe & Lois Heise)
Sun. 01/22	8:30 a.m.	For the People of OLM
	11:00 a.m.	Chet Szymecki (Suzie & Family)

We Remember...

Mary Apa;
who passed away recently.

Please hold her and her family in prayer during this difficult time.

In Loving Memory

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Offertory for the weekend of January 8, 2023

Envelopes sent:	357	
Envelopes returned:	58	\$ 2,679.00
Faith Direct Deposits:	138	\$ 3,417.20
Loose Change:		\$ 54.00
TOTAL OFFERTORY:		\$ 6,150.20

PRAYER LINE

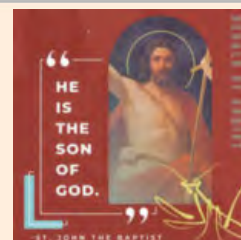
9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
Call Donna Smicker at 814-899-9108
4:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.
Call Gerri Extein at 814-490-9681



THIS SUNDAY'S REFLECTION

JOHN 1:29-34

"A man is coming after me who ranks ahead of me because he existed before me."



These words of John the Baptist seem like a riddle. Jesus was born after John but is older and ranks ahead of John. In human experience this doesn't make sense. We live by birth order. The older child or the oldest person comes first.

What seems like a simple riddle in reality announces a radical reordering of human existence. Jesus is clearly human and known to John's audience to have been born after John, so John's words mean that Jesus existed before Jesus was born. How is this possible? Jesus is both human and divine. John is revealing that Jesus is the Son of God.

John is also hinting at the radical message that Jesus brings to human existence. The disruption of birth order implied when John says that Jesus "ranks ahead of me..." can be understood on two levels. We willingly rank Jesus ahead of ourselves as the Son of God. On another level Jesus' ministry will make clear that it is not priority of birth that matters but a new understanding of equality and service. We are all created equal in God's image and we are called to serve one another as equals.

For Reflection: In Ordinary Time, we contemplate things that are far from ordinary - things like the existence of God, the person of Jesus, and being made in God's image. Who in my life has witnessed to the greatness of God.

Peter Dwyer

Grief Support

During the Winter we will meet during the day. **Monday Jan 23 at 1 p.m.** and **Monday Feb 20 at 1 p.m.** Grief is a challenging emotion because it is so unpredictable. Sometimes sharing your experience and learning how others find hope can be helpful. 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.

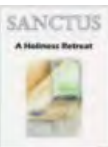


Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser

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 20 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

Join your parish family on Saturday, Feb. 25 from 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. 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.



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.



Bereavement Ministry

Our Bereavement Ministry is in desperate need of help. Please contact the parish office at 814-899-5342 for more information.



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.

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.

Listen to what our parish members have to say about their formed.org experience. "There is a wide variety of movies, podcasts, articles, etc. on Formed.org, on many different topics. I especially like the Formed Daily feature, where you get a 4 or 5 minute reflection sent to your email every morning on that day's scripture readings. Dr. Timothy Gray always has insightful and thought-provoking comments. It has become part of my daily prayer routine." Rose Galeza

Question of the Week

Question-of-the-Week winner for the week of Jan. 8, was **Emily Schneider**, grade K, who knew that a star led the 3 wise men to the Christ Child.

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 are available on January 2. Save a Life! In case you miss this event, the next blood drive will be April 27. Mark your calendar



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.





To support the
Summer 2023 Youth Mission Trip
SATURDAY MARCH 11 12-4 P.M.

St. James Place - 2622 Buffalo Rd.

For tickets call Maggie 814-490-4275
 \$20 donation

- 15 Games ● Games of Chance ● Food & Drinks ●
- If you would like to leave a donation without purchasing a ticket, please drop them off in the Parish office. Thank you!*

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

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.eriecd.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.

Cash bingo at Polish Falcons Club

Holy Trinity Church in Erie is hosting a cash bingo on Feb. 5 at the Polish Falcons Club, 431 East 3rd St., Erie. Doors open at 12 p.m. with bingo beginning at 1 p.m. Admission is \$25 which includes one pack. Additional packs cost \$5. Call 814.456.5300 to reserve a seat. Walk-ins are welcome. See flier for details.

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.

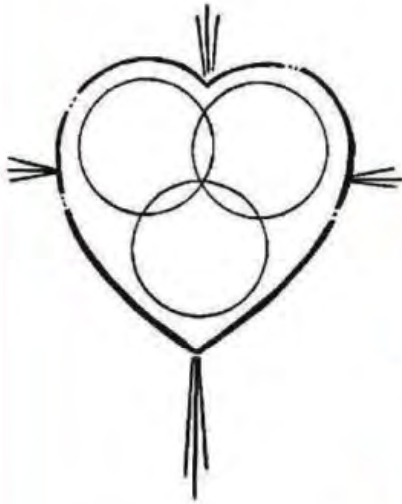
Thanks to your generous support of the annual Help Spread the Faith Communications Collection, all of these options and more remain available to you, free of charge. We have a small but dedicated team of communications professionals not only working to share important information, but also to write and 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

SANCTUS

February 25, 2023



Retreat! Step back from the hectic pace of life to spend a day with God. Give yourself the gift of time to hear afresh the story of God's great love, to renew your faith and deepen your walk with Christ.

Join us for prayer, reflection, sharing and renewal.

🔔 Meals are provided 🔔 There is no cost 🔔

To register, complete the bottom portion of this flier and return it to the RE Office or in the collection basket by Feb. 12.

Questions? Call Irene @ 814-899-6132
or email ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org

Space is limited

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Do you have any special needs? _____

Check All That Apply

Female Male

Married registering w/ Spouse Married registering alone

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Catholic Non-Catholic

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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.