

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

FEBRUARY 19, 2023 - THE SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

THE WEEK AHEAD

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

Mon. 02/20	9:30 a.m.	Steel Magnolias SCC
	1:00 p.m.	Grief Support Group
	7:00 p.m.	Grief Support Group
Tue. 02/21	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.	Finance Council
	6:00 p.m.	The Mystics SCC
	7:00 p.m.	Lifelong Faith Formation
Wed. 02/22		Ash Wednesday
	8:30 a.m.	Mass with Distribution of Ashes
	9:00 a.m.	Painting Group
	1:00 p.m.	Legion of Mary
	7:00 p.m.	Mass with Distribution of Ashes
Thur. 02/23	6:00 p.m.	Prayer Shawl
	6:30 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Fri. 02/24	7:00 p.m.	Stations of the Cross
Sat. 02/25	8:30 a.m.	Sanctus Retreat
	4:30 p.m.	Sacrament of Penance
Sun. 02/26	9:30 a.m.	Religious Ed Gr K-1
	9:30 a.m.	First Reconciliation
		Retreat
	12:00 p.m.	Gr. 7 & 8 Youth Event
	4:00 p.m.	Confirmation Practice

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Mon. 02/20	Sir 1:1-10	/ Mk 9:14-29
Tue. 02/21	Sir 2:1-11	/ Mk 9:30-37
Wed. 02/22	Jl 2:12-18/ 2 Cor 5:20-6:2	/ Mt 6:1-18
Thur. 02/23	Dt 30:15-20	/ Lk 9:22-25
Fri. 02/24	Is 58:1-9a	/ Mt 9:14-15
Sat. 02/25	Is 58:9b-14	/ Lk 5:27-32
Sun. 02/26	Gn 2:7-9; 3:1-7	
	Rom 5:12-19	/ Mt 4:1-11



MASS INTENTIONS

Mon. 02/20	8:30 a.m.	NO MASS
Tue. 02/21	8:30 a.m.	
Wed. 02/22	8:30 a.m.	Deceased Members of the Legion of Mary
	7:00 p.m.	
Thur. 02/23	8:30 a.m.	Peggy Fama (John Abbate)
Fri. 02/24	8:30 a.m.	Justin Raydo (Morning Mass Group)
Sat. 02/25	6:00 p.m.	
Sun. 02/26	8:30 a.m.	For the People of OLM
	11:00 a.m.	Leo Ignasiak (Suzie Szymeccki & Family)

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
- Deacon Paul.....233
- Katie.....210
- Irene.....214
- Kirk.....216
- Linda.....211
- Donna.....213

THIS SUNDAY'S REFLECTION

MATTHEW 5:38-48



Of all the things Jesus says which seem totally bat-crazy, this one might take the cake: "But I say to you, love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you." An enemy is someone who desires the destruction of you, your projects, or those you care about. To love and pray for them is to want their health, strength, and flourishing. But if they thrive, they are more likely to hurt you and others. So, aren't you indirectly willing your own destruction, or that of your friends? If you doubt that this problem is embedded in this teaching, when was the last time you actually prayed honestly for the people you really hate?

How can we solve this riddle so we might actually live this command? Recall that enemy-love is the surest sign that you love someone with God's love, and not with indirect egotism. After all, if my love for my enemy ends up hurting me or my loved ones, it can't be for me. Enemy-love costs more because there are no tit-for-tats. No reciprocity — just loved poured out, and often pain in return. That's why it is so precious and rare. "What is unusual about that?" asks the Lord about love for our friends. Jesus wants us to experience the unusual love which only comes from him.

When Jesus was being killed on the cross, he was loving his executioners. In fact, he was holding them in being as they nailed him to the cross. He loved those who were spiritually piercing his Mother's heart, while they were doing it. And when he rose from the dead, he showed us that this kind of love is always worth it. It's stronger than death. Real love is unusual.

— Father John Muir
©LPi

Grief Support

The daytime meeting is **Monday, Feb 20** at 1 p.m.; the evening meeting is **Feb 20** at 7 p.m.. Riding the roller coaster of the grief journey is challenging. Having a partner or two on the ride makes it less bumpy. Join either group on Monday Feb 20 to be comforted by hearing stories from others who have similar experiences. For more information or for a one on one session contact Donna in the parish office, ext. 213.



Confirmation Prayer Pals

The Sacrament of Confirmation will be celebrated on **Monday, Feb. 27**. Please remember to pray for your Prayer Pal during these weeks leading to the celebration of this sacrament. A note during this period would be appreciated. Sign your name to any card or letter you mail.



Home Help Needed

A parishioner is in need of a part-time house keeper. If you are interested in this paid position, please contact Katie in the Parish Office at 814-899-5342.



Women's Cursillo Weekend

Looking for something to renew your spirit this Lent? Desiring to deepen your friendship with Christ? Searching for a powerful faith experience?

Applications are now being taken for the Women's Cursillo Weekend on **March 17-19** to be held at Our Lady of Mercy. For more information or to get an application, go to Erie Diocesan Cursillo Movement | Erie, PA (eriecursillo.org) or talk with Tim and Norma Lynch or Irene Lucas or call the parish at 814-899-6132.



Book Group

Join us on **March 15 @ 7:00** Our March title will be The Life and Times of the Thunderbolt Kid by Bill Bryson.



Lenten Pastus Series

Lent begins this Wednesday. Once again, we will gather on **Wednesday evenings** to be nourished in spirit, body and mind. Let us gather around the Eucharistic Table at 5:30, for a simple soup supper at 6:10 and for a presentation at 7:00. You do not need to attend all three pieces; attend whatever fits your schedule. Our first Pastus will be **March 1**. The presentation will be given by members of our own parish family: Candy Henry, Andrea Maille and Rose Galeza. Each has participated in the ministry of bringing the Eucharist to the sick and shut-in. They will reflect on various aspects of this experience, serving those hospitalized, elderly or home bound and the experience of being served by this ministry.



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.

"Formed.org is a great resource for families with young children! There are educational videos and Bible story cartoons for younger kids. So many resources for everyone to learn something! I also enjoyed the series during Lent last year with daily videos to watch." - Vickie Gilchrist

Question of the Week

Question of the week winner for Feb. 7 was **Zach Henry, grade 5**, who knew that we hear 3 different readings from the Bible at Sunday Mass.

Soup Supper Help Needed

Ann & Greg Badach are coordinating the Lenten Soup Suppers and are looking for help. If you can help by donating a pot of soup or helping in the kitchen on the evenings of the suppers, **March 1, 8 & 22**, please contact Ann & Greg or reach out to the Parish Office. Thank you for your help.



Pastoral Council Discernment

The pastoral Council will be accepting nominations starting in March. Take this time to discern if you are called to help the parish grow in its response to God's love. A candidate should be a person of prayer

One who sees the value of private prayer for personal growth in Christ and the value of communal prayer for growth in Christ's community of faith and love. Attending Mass regularly, participating in other parish events as you are able. A candidate should have a desire to learn what it means to be church today (shared responsibility) To be church means that all of God's people share the life of God through and in Christ and are guarded and guided by the Holy Spirit. It means speaking and listening to one another to discern what the Spirit is saying as necessary to meet the needs of our times. If you have any questions contact Donna in the parish office ext. 213.



Personal Supplies Collection

The food pantry is collecting soap, toothpaste, and toothbrushes during February. Place them at the display in the gathering space. Thank you.



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.



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.

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.



St. Patrick Lenten Series

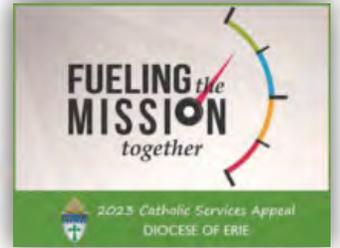


St. Patrick Parish in Erie is hosting a Lenten series that will connect the dots of the Old Testament and show how God's plan of salvation was worked out and revealed over thousands of years from Abraham to Jesus. The series will take place every Wednesday in Lent – March 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29 – from 10 to 11:15 a.m. and from 6 to 7:15 p.m. at St. Patrick Church, 130 East 4th St., Erie.

GECAC Foster Grandparent Program

GECAC is looking for low-income adults over 55 who are willing to be part of the Foster Grandparent program for which they will receive a federal stipend. For a list of qualifications visit gecac.org or call 814-459-4581. Through AmeriCorps Seniors older adults help children love learning. Connect with at-risk students by sharing your experiences, tutoring, and offering encouragement. For more information contact landerson@gecac.org; 814-459-4581 ext.462.

CSA 2023



February 18/19 Commitment Sunday

Today is Commitment Sunday for the 2023 CSA. We have asked for a \$500 pledge from each family. All money that is raised over our assessment amount of \$70,634 is kept here in the parish to pay for our capital expenses and repairs.

All parishes working together can make it possible for parishes, Catholic schools, Catholic Charities, clergy and the Catholic faithful to live and share Christ's teaching. Our diocese has work to do on behalf of the Lord and we are all asked to share our gifts to help advance the mission of the church.

Our bishop assures us that donations to the CSA are placed in a designated account and used solely to support the programs and ministries of the diocese and cannot be used for any other purpose

Your gift is so important. Thank you for giving.

HOLY HOUR

for Vocations

At St. Mark the Evangelist Church - 695 Smithson Ave

February 25th, 2023 at 3:15pm

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT
 SCRIPTURE READINGS
 REFLECTION
 TIME FOR PERSONAL PRAYER
 BENEDICTION

Comedy Corner

A Catholic Guide to Ashes, Extended Edition

©BillDonaghy

THE SEASON OF LENT



ASH WEDNESDAY

Wednesday, February 22
8:30 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.
Mass with Distribution of Ashes

LENTEN PASTUS

Wednesdays of Lent
March 1, 8, 22
5:30 p.m. - Mass
6:10 p.m. - Simple Soup Supper
7:00 p.m. - Presentation

PARISH MISSION

March 12
4:00 p.m. - Part 1
6:00 p.m. - Part 2

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Fridays of Lent
7:00 p.m.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK

March 18 & 19
All Masses

LENTEN PENANCE SERVICE

March 21
6:30 p.m. - St. Gregory,
North East
March 26
2:00 p.m. - St. Mark,
Lawrence Park

Faith Direct Text-to-Give



Parishioners can give via credit card to designated appeals by texting the amount of their gift to a phone number connected to our faith direct account.

- Our Lady of Mercy's unique 10-digit phone number is **814-892-0055**
- Parishioners will complete a one-time TTG (Text to Give) registration page to either:
 - Create a new Faith Direct account attached to the parishioner's mobile phone number, or
 - Add the parishioner's mobile phone number to an existing Faith Direct account.

TTG Donation Process

1. Text your desired gift amount to our parish's assigned 10-digit number.
814-892-0055
2. You receive an automated text message reply that contains the URL for the parish's one-time TTG registration page.
3. Open the registration page in your mobile device's browser.
 - a. Fill in the required fields Credit/Debit Card Number, Expiration Date, Email Address, First Name, Last Name, and Billing Address.
4. Complete and submit the one-time TTG registration form.
 - a. If the email address entered does not match an existing Faith Direct account, a new account is created.
 - b. If the email address entered does match an existing account, the parishioner will have the option to apply the gift to their existing account.
5. An automated confirmation text is sent, and a receipt of the gift is emailed to the email addressed entered on the registration form.
6. After the one-time TTG registration page has been completed, the parishioner can make future gifts by simply texting an amount to the TTG number.
7. Gifts made via TTG will be categorized as Live gifts and will appear on the disbursement report alongside other Recurring and Live gifts. Live gifts will be designated by (L) next to the parishioner's name.

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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.