

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 26, 2023 - THE FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

THE WEEK AHEAD

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

Mon. 02/27	9:30 a.m.	Steel Magnolias SCC
	7:00 p.m.	Confirmation
Tue. 02/28	10:00 a.m.	Angels in Training SCC
	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
	6:30 p.m.	Roman Candles SCC
Wed. 03/01	9:00 a.m.	Painting Group
	1:00 p.m.	Legion of Mary
	5:00 p.m.	Mass
	6:10 p.m.	Soup Supper
	7:00 p.m.	Pastus Presentation
Thur. 03/02	6:00 p.m.	Prayer Shawl
	6:00 p.m.	Sister Parish Committee
	6:30 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Fri. 03/03	10:00 a.m.	Sisters of Scripture SCC
	5:00 p.m.	First Reconciliation Practice
	7:00 p.m.	Stations of the Cross
Sat. 03/04	1:00 p.m.	First Reconciliation
	4:30 p.m.	Sacrament of Penance
Sun. 03/05		Casserole Club Drop Off
		Monthly Food Pantry Collection
	9:30 a.m.	Religious Ed Gr K-2 & 7-8
	9:30 a.m.	Healing Ministry
	12:00 p.m.	Gr. 9 Retreat

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



SCRIPTURE READINGS

Mon. 02/27	Lv 19:1-2, 11-18	/ Mt 25:31-46
Tue. 02/28	Is 55:10-11	/ Mt 6:7-15
Wed. 03/01	Jon 3:1-10	/ Lk 11:29-32
Thur. 03/02	Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25	/ Mt 7:7-12
Fri. 03/03	Ez 18:21-28	/ Mt 5:20-26
Sat. 03/04	Dt 26:16-19	/ Mt 5:43-48
Sun. 03/05	Gn 12:1-4a / 1 Tm 1:8-10	/ Mt 17:1-9

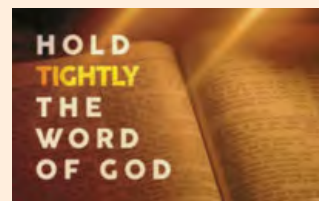
STAFF EXTENSION NUMBERS

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 4:1-11



The Spirit leads Jesus into the desert to be tempted by the devil, and we hear this: "He fasted for forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was hungry." Seems like a questionable battle preparation plan. When I fast, I usually feel grouchy at best, and at worst, like I might pass out from longing for a hamburger. Isn't it better to be well-fed and fully hydrated, especially to face spiritual struggles? Why fast?

This might help. The origin of the word "fast" means to "hold firmly." We still use it that way when we say, "I held fast to my original decision." We human beings are a bundle of desires which vie for our attention: food, drink, comfort, safety, sex, laughter, beauty, and so on. If we can't manage to have firm grip on them, in short order they'll have a firm grip on us. By fasting from our lower desires, we learn to firmly grip on to what is greater. Fasting leads to us to a firmer hold on our body and mind.

Jesus fasts for us. He's showing us that his grace can help us regain this firm hold of our lives, which makes it more difficult for the devil to tempt us. But take it one more step. Fasting also teaches us to finally hold fast to Jesus, the Word of God in flesh. "Man does not live by bread alone," he says, "But by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God." Jesus' fasting reveals his fast hold to the Father in everything. May our fasting help us to grasp ourselves more firmly, and then to hold fast to Jesus alone.

— Father John Muir
 ©LPi

We Remember...

Ross Peters;
 who passed away recently.
 Please hold him and his family in prayer during this difficult time.

In Loving Memory

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon. 02/27	8:30 a.m.	NO MASS
Tue. 02/28	8:30 a.m.	
Wed. 03/01	8:30 a.m.	
	5:00 p.m.	
Thur. 03/02	8:30 a.m.	
Fri. 03/03	8:30 a.m.	
Sat. 03/04	6:00 p.m.	Christopher Kaeberlein (Jim & Carol Perrotto)
Sun. 03/05	8:30 a.m.	For the People of OLM
	11:00 a.m.	Kristopher Rodland (Pat & Roger Urmann)

Confirmation Prayer Pals

The Sacrament of Confirmation will be celebrated on **Monday, Feb. 27**. Please remember to pray for your Prayer Pal as they celebrate of this sacrament. A note at this time would be appreciated. Sign your name to any card or letter you mail.



Book Group

Join us on March 15 @ 7:00 at the home of Pat Marshall, 516 W. Eaglewood, to discuss The Life and Times of the Thunderbolt Kid by Bill Bryson. In April we will read Mad Honey by Jodi Picoult.



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.



Parish Mission



Epiphany to Ascension: Jesus, Eucharist and Great Coffee presented by Fr. Chris Singer. In the midst of our national Eucharistic Revival, this mission will explore Emmanuel – how “God is with us” through the themes of the Christmas, Lent and Easter seasons. God came into the world, and He stayed. He has stayed with us. So pour a great cup of coffee as together we refocus our eyes on Jesus in the Eucharist, who is “God with us.” This year’s Parish Mission will be held on **Sunday, March 12**. **Session #1 will be at 4:00 and Session #2 at 6:00.** Between the sessions, we will break for a simple supper in Sperry Hall. All are invited; there is no cost. Fr. Chris Singer is originally from Oil City. He (and his classmate Fr. Matt Kujawinski) was ordained to the priesthood in June 2003. Fr. Chris currently serves as Chancellor and Master of Ceremonies for the Diocese of Erie, and as confessor/spiritual director for St. Mark Seminary in Erie. His favorite hobbies are amateur astronomy, hiking and drinking coffee.

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 is a wonderful resource if you love to learn and want to deepen your faith. Currently my SCC group is watching The Chosen together. I’m using the commentaries on FORMED to answer questions and add the Catholic perspective to our conversation about each episode. I highly recommend you check it out.” -Kerry Raydo

Question of the Week

Question-of-the-Week winner for the week of Feb. 21, was, grade , who knew that Lent begins on Ash Wednesday.

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 Seeking New Members

Every spring the Pastoral Council seeks out parishioners who can help us envision the future of this community. The Pastoral Council engages in the process of pastoral planning and helps to set the direction of the parish community in prayer, leadership, service and pastoral action in consultation with the Pastor and Staff.

A nominee must be a parishioner who:

- Has been baptized or received into the Roman Catholic Church.
- By his or her free and consistent choice is a registered member of Our Lady of Mercy Parish. Contributes to the betterment of the parish community.

We ask your prayerful consideration in nominating either yourself or another member of the parish community. Look for more information in March.

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**.





MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Mar. 02	Sage Skarzenski	3
Mar. 05	Thomas Pohl	16
Mar. 06	Bailey Haislip	12
Mar. 07	Claire Stauffer	5



Mar. 09	Lynzey Reinsel	17
Mar. 09	Mila Pearson	14
Mar. 12	Mila Burick	10
Mar. 15	Zachary Pinetti	13
Mar. 16	Oliver Beckman	9
Mar. 16	Will Lunger	14
Mar. 17	Leah Corey	17
Mar. 19	Lydia Peters	8
Mar. 23	Haley Stadler	16
Mar. 24	Tyler Bryan	7
Mar. 25	Alaina Duda	2



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**

Baptismal Preparation Session

The next Baptismal Preparation Session for Parents and Godparents at OLM will take place



Sunday, March 19 at noon. The Diocese of Erie asks that all parents attend this session before scheduling the baptism of their child. To register, call the parish office at 814-899-5342. There will not be another session at OLM until the fall.

Text-To-Give from Faith Direct

To securely make a gift to CSA 2023, text a dollar amount to 814-892-0055. You will be asked to complete a one-time registration page with your billing and contact information. After this registration, you can give any time by texting a dollar amount to this OLM phone number. For Existing accounts: If the email address entered does match an existing account, you will have the option to apply the gift to your existing account.



Ross Peters Celebration of Life

The family of Ross Peters invites members of Our Lady of Mercy to celebrate his life on **Saturday March 18 from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.** at the Harborcreek Fire Hall. They also would like members of Our Lady of Mercy to **donate desserts** for the celebration. RSVP helpful but not required to Donna Clark. Deliver desserts at **12:30 p.m. Saturday March 18** to the Fire Hall. Gert and Ross Peters were part of the backbone of many of the festive celebrations at Our Lady of Mercy. Perhaps you remember and savored their food.

CSA 2023



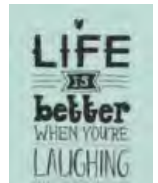
A sincere thank you to all who made a pledge and/or gift to the Catholic Services Appeal last week. You can still pledge by filling out a form at the table in the gathering space or downloading a form from our website. Please take the time to read the finance council talk given at Mass on Feb 11/12; it explains the current financial situation for Our lady of Mercy. We are really counting on families to give \$500 this year if possible. As always any pledge will help us reach our goal of raising extra money for major repairs of our 23 year old building.

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**.

Comedy Corner

Why didn't they play cards on the Ark?
Because Noah was standing on the deck.



THE SEASON OF LENT



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

Hospitality Bag Collection for Refugee Families in Erie

Our Lady of Mercy will be taking up a collection during the Lenten season to provide Hospitality Bags to refugee families in Erie. See the list below for items that we are collecting.

- †4-pack toilet paper
- †Box of Kleenex
- †Dish soap
- †Dish sponge
- †Windex
- †Multi-purpose cleaner
(Lysol; Pine Sol)
- †Band-aids
- †Body Wash (or bars of soap)
- †Shampoo
- †Toothpaste
- †Toothbrushes
- †Deodorant (men and women)
- †Sanitary supplies (women)
- †Laundry detergent (small)
- †kitchen dishtowels
- †Box Tea Bags



Our goal is to provide Catholic Charities with 20, 30 or even 50 of these bags... ready to share with our newest neighbors from overseas.

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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.