

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

MARCH 19, 2023 - THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

THE WEEK AHEAD

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

Mon. 03/20	9:30 a.m.	Steel Magnolias SCC
	11:30 a.m.	Food Pantry Volunteer Luncheon
	1:00 p.m.	Grief Support Group
	6:30 p.m.	Sanctus Meeting
Tue. 03/21	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.	The Mystics SCC
	6:30 p.m.	Lenten Penance Service at St. Greg
Wed. 03/22	7:00 p.m.	Lifelong Faith Formation
	9:00 a.m.	Painting Group
	5:30 p.m.	Mass
	6:10 p.m.	Soup Supper
	7:00 p.m.	Pastus Presentation
Thur. 03/23	6:00 p.m.	Prayer Shawl
	6:00 p.m.	Sister Parish Committee
	6:30 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Fri. 03/24	7:00 p.m.	Stations of the Cross
Sat. 03/25	4:30 p.m.	Sacrament of Penance
Sun. 03/26		Easter Food Collection
	9:30 a.m.	Religious Ed Gr K-2
	11:00 a.m.	Gr. 4 Class Mass
	12:00 p.m.	Gr. 7 & 8 Youth Event
	2:00 p.m.	Lenten Penance Service at St. Mark

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Mon. 03/20	2 Sm 7:4-16/Rom 4:13-22/ Mt 1:16-24
Tue. 03/21	Ez 47:1-9, 12 / Jn 5:1-16
Wed. 03/22	Is 49:8-15 / Jn 5:17-30
Thur. 03/23	Ex 32:7-14 / Jn 5:31-47
Fri. 03/24	Wis 2:1a, 12-22 / Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30
Sat. 03/25	Is 7:10-14; 8:10 / Heb 10:4-10 / Lk 1:26-38
Sun. 03/26	Ez 37: 12-14/ Rom 8:8-11 / Jn 11:1-45

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon. 03/20	8:30 a.m.	Justin Raydo (Donna & Steve Smicker)
Tue. 03/21	8:30 a.m.	Marty Carroll (Mike & Karen Woods)
Wed. 03/22	8:30 a.m. 5:30 p.m.	
Thur. 03/23	8:30 a.m.	Betty Bliss (Sharon Garwig)
Fri. 03/24	8:30 a.m.	
Sat. 03/25	6:00 p.m.	Bea Martin (Katie & Bailey)
Sun. 03/26	8:30 a.m.	Girolema Abbate (John Abbate)
	11:00 a.m.	For the People of OLM

FOURTH WEEK OF LENT

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Offertory for the weekend of March 12, 2023

Envelopes sent:	357	
Envelopes returned:	57	\$ 2,347.00
Faith Direct Deposits:	136	\$ 3,422.00
Loose Change:		\$ 36.00
TOTAL OFFERTORY:		\$ 5,805.20

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	

THIS SUNDAY'S REFLECTION

JN 9:1-41



God asks a rhetorical and slightly sarcastic question to Samuel, the prophet: "How long will you grieve for Saul, whom I have rejected as king of Israel?" Like us, Samuel is depressed that the old king failed. It's painful to admit that the old regime is done. But God won't let us wallow in our pity-party forever. "I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem," announces the Lord, "for I have chosen my king from among his sons." Samuel finally goes and anoints the young David as the new king. And his kingdom is glorious; it's the golden age of Israel's earthly history.

How discouraging to see that my own selfish ego is no longer in charge! How long will I grieve that money, power, pleasure, and reputation have been rejected as the ruler of my life? How wonderful that God has a new future in store for you and me. He is sending us to Bethlehem to anoint the new David as our king. His kingdom won't fail us. He'll slay our goliaths, unite our dispersed energies, and build a Temple where God himself will dwell.

So how long will you grieve? How long?

— Father John Muir
©LPi

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.



Raffle Tickets on Sale This Weekend



St. Mark's Seminary Card Party will be held on **April 20th at 6:00 p.m.** Raffle tickets are available after Mass on **THIS WEEKEND**. Thank you for supporting our

Seminarians. Card Party admission tickets are only available thru contacting Betsy at 814-504-2720.

Lenten Pastus Series

Our final Wednesday evening Pastus is this **Wednesday, March 22**. Join us at 5:30 around the Eucharistic Table, for a simple soup supper at 6:10 and for an evening of music and reflection at 7:00. In "Christ For Others: Expressing the Eucharist Through Song", Brandon Vogt will lead us in a time to reflect on the meaning of the Eucharist in our lives. Brandon Vogt is well known to this community having served here as Director of Music and Liturgy from 2015-2021. He currently serves as the Director of Worship for the Sisters of St. Joseph of NW PA.



Stations of The Cross

This Friday evening, the parish Stations of the Cross will be led by the youth. Please join us at 7:00 p.m. and support our young people.



Book Group

Join us on **April 19** to discuss Mad Honey by Jodi Picoult.



Knights of Columbus Golf Raffle



The 28th Raffle will be held on **Friday May 12 in the Gym and Sperry Hall from 6 to 11 p.m.** Tickets will be on sale in the Gathering space after Mass on **March 26**, break for Palm Sunday & Easter and then resume on **April 16, 23, 30 and May 7**. Tickets will also be on sale in the

Parish Office during the week from 9 till 3. The grand prize this year is \$ 1,000! Our Golf & Sports Raffle has become the largest in the Erie area thanks to the support of our Parish and our many ticket sellers. Proceeds from the raffle are used to support youth programs in the parish, provide scholarships for parish high school seniors, and fund capital projects. Please help the Knights help the Parish.

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.

"I enjoy the Formed site. It is a great resource for learning more about the catholic faith. I really commonly visit the site during the holidays and Lent. I use it to supplement what I read during Lent or to gain a new perspective on what I read or hear at Mass. It is easy to use, the search function is intuitive and the various topics are well presented. If you haven't given the site a try, I believe you will enjoy the experience."

-Bill Matrogran

Question of the Week

Question-of-the-Week winner for the week of March 12, was **Patrick Cillessen, grade K**, who knew that St. Patrick used a shamrock to teach people about the Trinity; there is one God in three Divine Persons.

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.



Nominations will start Next weekend. You can nominate yourself – as the spirit moves – or nominate someone else.

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.

Eucharistic minister for parishioner in North East.

If you live in North East and could bring communion to one of our parishioners once a month please contact Donna Clark in the parish office.



Homebound ministry

Would you be willing to mail a bulletin to one of our homebound parishioners? Contact Donna Clark.



Ella Cochran Food Pantry - Bags of Hope

Please fill a shopping bag with these ingredients for an Easter dinner. The Ella Cochran Food Pantry is providing the ham. These food items are:

- † Sweet potatoes (cans)
- † Canned fruit (2 cans)
- † Boxed scalloped potatoes
- † Drink mix
- † Cans of vegetables (2 cans)
- † Boxed dessert
- † Easter candy

Please return these items to Our Lady of Mercy by Sunday March 26, 2023.

If you don't shop, please consider a monetary donation. As always we cannot thank you enough for your donation and continued support.

HOLY HOUR

for Vocations

AT ST MARK CHURCH 695 SMITHSON AVE

April 1st, 2023 at 3:15pm

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

SCRIPTURE READINGS

REFLECTION

TIME FOR PERSONAL PRAYER

BENEDICTION



Comedy Corner

Q: What do you call it when Batman leaves church early?
A: Christian Bale



CSA 2023

A sincere thank you to all who made a pledge and/or gift to the Catholic Services Appeal in February. We currently have \$63,100 from 122 pledges. We are still 10,000 short of our CSA goal. Plus we would like to raise funds above our assessment so we can put it toward repair of our 23 year old building. Pledge forms are in the gathering space or on our website. We are counting on families to give \$500 this year if possible. But as always, any pledge will help us.



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 not match an existing account, you will have the option to apply the gift to your existing account.

THE SEASON OF LENT

LENTEN PASTUS

Wednesdays of Lent

March 22

5:30 p.m. - Mass

6:10 p.m. - Simple Soup Supper

7:00 p.m. - Presentation

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. The list of items we are collecting can be found in the Gathering Space. 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.

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.



PASTORAL COUNCIL FAQ's

WHAT

The primary purpose of the Pastoral Council is the spiritual growth of the parish 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.



WHO

A person of prayer, committed to our faith community and willing to share thoughts, ideas and observations in order to build a vibrant parish family. The Council fosters a climate of teamwork and operates using a consensus model.

Who is eligible to become a council member?

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



WHAT DO I NEED TO KNOW?

If you bring with you a desire to learn, everything you need to know in order to create a vision and goals is provided. The council studies together any important documents or areas of church life as needed to form policy. There is an orientation session for new members.



AM I RIGHT FOR THE JOB?

All nominees are led through a discernment process to determine if they are being called to serve on the council at this time. There is an informational meeting at which Nominees are invited into a period of discernment.



COMMITMENT

As representatives of the people of the parish – you are the eyes and ears of the parish. Members are encouraged to speak with a variety of parishioners about issues to gain a sense of where the parish community is. Pastoral Council Homework – read material necessary to be informed to enable good decision making for the parish. You will receive minutes from other committees and groups on a regular basis to keep informed about what other groups are doing. The Council may study a church document in order to make a good pastoral decision regarding an issue for goal planning. Time commitment: approximately 2-4 hours per month including the council meeting.



WHEN

The First Tuesday of Each Month:

- o 15 minutes in prayer.
- o 30 minutes in study & Discussion.
- o 30–40 minutes for other business.
- o 10 minutes to review upcoming events.

Meetings last about 90 minutes



How

Decision making by Consensus – Means all members of the council need to voice their views and opinions. Everyone has to speak. No dumb ideas. Every thing adds to the discussion. Decisions are made with prayerful discernment, a merging of insights and consensus. These decisions have to do with long term planning and the spiritual direction of the parish. Most decisions are made as part of a process rather than a hard vote. This process usually takes a number of meetings.



CURRENT COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Greg Badach	Vickie Gilchrist
Todd Beckes	Candy Henry
Maureen Brainard	Denise Lewandoski
Joanne Fournier	MO Rizzo

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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.