

# OUR LADY OF MERCY CHURCH

837 Bartlett Road • Harborcreek, PA 16421 • [www.ourladyofmercychurch.org](http://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*

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](mailto: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

**APRIL 23, 2023 - THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER**

## THE WEEK AHEAD

For a complete calendar of events, please visit [ourladyofmercychurch.org/calendar](http://ourladyofmercychurch.org/calendar)

Mon. 04/24	9:30 a.m.	Steel Magnolias
	6:30 p.m.	Roman Candles SCC
Tue. 04/25	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
	5:30 p.m.	VBS Planning Meeting
	6:00 p.m.	The Mystics SCC
	7:00 p.m.	Lifelong Faith Formation
Wed. 04/26	12:00 p.m.	Diamonds in the Rough
	1:00 p.m.	Hallelujah Girls SCC
Thur. 04/27	9:00 a.m.	Painting Group
	6:00 p.m.	Prayer Shawl
Fri. 04/28	6:00 p.m.	Double Dedication
Sat. 04/29	4:30 p.m.	Sacrament of Penance
Sun. 04/30	9:30 a.m.	Religious Ed Gr K-2 & 7-8
	12:00 p.m.	Sundae Sunday

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

Mon. 04/24	Acts 6:8-15	/ Jn 6:22-29
Tue. 04/25	1 Pt 5:5b-14	/ Mk 16:15-20
Wed. 04/26	Acts 8:1b-8	/ Jn 6:35-40
Thur. 04/27	Acts 8:26-40	/ Jn 6:44-51
Fri. 04/28	Acts 9:1-20	/ Jn 6:52-59
Sat. 04/29	Acts 9:31-42	/ Jn 6:60-69
Sun. 04/30	Acts 2:36-41	
	1 Pt 2:20-25	/ Jn 10:1-10



Some old-fashioned things like fresh air and sunshine are hard to beat.

—Laura Ingalls Wilde

## MASS INTENTIONS

Mon. 04/24	8:30 a.m.	- NO MASS -
Tue. 04/25	8:30 a.m.	Beula Kestler (Candy Henry)
Wed. 04/26	8:30 a.m.	Charles Braeger (Tom Braeger)
Thur. 04/27	8:30 a.m.	Dr. Loren Prichard (Janet Smith)
Fri. 04/28	8:30 a.m.	
Sat. 04/29	6:00 p.m.	Fr. Gerald Ritchie
Sun. 04/30	8:30 a.m.	Terry Swanson (Donna & Steve Smicker)
	11:00 a.m.	For the People of OLM

## 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
- Donna.....213

## FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Offertory for the weekend of April 16, 2023

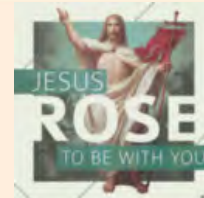
Envelopes sent:	357	
Envelopes returned:	67	\$ 2,224.00
Faith Direct Deposits:	136	\$ 3,325.57
Loose Change:		\$ 251.00
<b>TOTAL OFFERTORY:</b>		<b>\$ 5,800.57</b>

## 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 THE 3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER



I always feel a little sad when someone begins to speak to me with the words, "Father, I know you're so busy, but ..." It happens a lot. And I get it. He or she is trying to be respectful of my time. But it saddens me because a priest makes Jesus present to people in a special way, and Jesus always has time for us. Don't we all feel at times that God just doesn't have time for us?

Nonsense. Just look at the stunning "Road to Emmaus" story we hear this week. It's the day Jesus rose from the dead. And the Risen One appears in disguise to two disciples. He walks with them, chats with them, and eventually eats with them. It could have been hours he spends with them — two unnamed persons — in the middle of nowhere. On the day he rose from the dead!

My friends, please take this to heart: The Risen Jesus is not too busy to spend time with you! He doesn't have "better things to do." You and I are members of this crucified and risen Body. He therefore has all the time in the world to be with us. So, I challenge you this week to approach him confidently in prayer and conversation. After all, being with you and me is the reason he rose from the dead.

— Father John Muir  
©LPi

### Parent Baptismal Preparation Session



If you were unable to attend the Baptismal Prep Session in March, another class has been scheduled for 1:30 on April 30. Please call the parish office at 814-899-5342 by April 27 to register for the session.

### Sundae Sunday

Birds are nesting. Bulbs are blooming. Trees are budding. It must be time for Sundae Sunday. Mark your calendar and join us for an ice cream sundae bar and cake walk at noon on April 30. Can you donate a cake for the cake walk? A sign up list will be in the Gathering Space after Easter. Let's get together and celebrate all the goodness of the season!



### For Mercy Sake Deadline

The deadline to submit articles for the spring issue of For Mercy Sake is TODAY, Sunday, April 23. Send submissions to [secretary@ourladyofmercychurch.org](mailto:secretary@ourladyofmercychurch.org).

### Book Group

Our May title will be Hello Beautiful by Ann Napolitano.



### OLM PASTUS Thank-You

We'd like to thank all who participated in this year's Lenten Pastus Series and Parish Mission. Being first-time kitchen coordinators, we were joyfully overwhelmed by the participation, in and outside the kitchen! Here are a few details we thought you might enjoy: ● A total of 124 people were fed at 3 soup suppers; and 78 people were fed at the Parish Mission. ● We enjoyed 13 different soups prepared by 11 soup-makers across the 4 events. ● 6 people provided a variety of bread and rolls; and our OLM baking ministers provided delicious, sweet treats at the Parish Mission. Additionally, a total of 16 people assisted in the kitchen with set-up and clean-up throughout the 4 events. ● A donation dish was available which allowed OLM to provide a gift of \$300 to the Refugee Resettlement Ministry led by Catholic Charities. We are so very grateful to be a part of this wonderful OLM tradition. Thank you!! ~Greg and Ann Badach

### And, speaking of Refugee Resettlement Ministry...

We were (again) joyfully overwhelmed (but not surprised) at the generosity of the OLM community during the Lenten Season! At the invitation of Fr. Matt, parishioners donated household and hygiene items for incoming refugee families that filled 38 large grocery bags (plus leftovers) ! Many thanks to EVERYONE who donated these items during Lent. The staff of Catholic Charities' refugee resettlement ministry were tearful when we arrived in 3 vehicles FILLED to capacity with the "hospitality bags". We felt so proud and grateful to be a part of such a loving community. THANK YOU for your kindness. ~Greg and Ann Badach

### 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.

### Question of the Week

Question-of-the-Week winner for the week of April 10, was Eoin Eighmy, grade 6, who knew that the Easter season is 50 days long.

### 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](mailto:ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org) or 814-899-6132.

### Child Protection & Creating Safe Environments



#### Child Abuse Prevention Month

Throughout the Gospel, Christ calls upon His followers to care for the most vulnerable among us, especially children. Mandated Reporters in the Diocese of Erie are people who hold positions of trust in our schools, parishes, agencies, and institutions and are mandated by Pennsylvania law and the diocesan Policy for the Protection of Children to report suspected abuse of a minor. All employees and volunteers working/serving for the Diocese of Erie, in our parishes, schools or agencies are mandated reporters both legally and morally obligated to report any reasonable suspected or known child abuse to ChildLine, the local police, or other appropriate agency. Visit [www.eriecd.org/childprotection/](http://www.eriecd.org/childprotection/) to learn the specific reporting procedures required by the diocese.



### Knights of Columbus Golf Raffle

The 28th Golf & Sports 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 April 16, 23, 30 and May 7. Tickets will also be on sale in the Parish Office during the week from 9 till 3. Tickets are \$10 each or 3 for \$25. 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.



### Chinese Auction Baskets & Items Needed!

The Knights of Columbus are collecting auction baskets and items for the upcoming Golf and Sports Raffle. Please bring all auction baskets and items to the Parish Office Monday-Friday from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. This event continues to be successful because of your generous donations. Thank you!

### Knights of Columbus 2022 Baby Bottle Fundraiser Update

Bishop Persico will be blessing the Ultrasound Van and Ultrasound Machine that was made possible through generous donations from the 2022 Knights of Columbus fundraiser. This event will be held on April 22nd at 10 a.m. in front of the St. Mark Catholic Center, 429 East Grandview Blvd. All Knights and parishioners with their families are cordially invited to attend this event. There is ample parking behind the St. Mark Catholic Center to which you will be directed from the West entrance. There will be no parking available in the front of the building. Please plan on arriving by 9:45 a.m.

### Knights Of Columbus Scholarship Applications

Scholarship applications from graduating high school seniors are being accepted by the Our Lady of Mercy Knights of Columbus Council. The scholarship program began almost 30 years ago with the purpose of awarding a portion of the annual Golf and Sports Raffle proceeds to college-bound students, who along with their parents are members of the parish. An application form, brief essay and certified and sealed transcript from the applicant's school are required. The deadline for application is Sunday, May 14. It is understood that the transcript will only include grades through the most recent grading period. Please remind others who may be interested. Watch the bulletin for reminders.

### Blood Drive

The next Blood Drive is on Wednesday May 10th from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.



## SUNDAE SUNDAY



Sunday, April 30 12:00 Noon in Sperry Hall

Celebrate the Easter Season Make-Your-Own Sundae Bar & a Cake Walk

Please tell us if you can bake & donate a cake for the Cake Walk. You can email [ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org](mailto:ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org) or add your name to the list in the Gathering Space.

### CSA Report 2023

We have 142 pledges for \$76,560. We celebrate your generosity! Our goal for this drive is to raise \$100,000. We have \$42,000 of scheduled repairs to our 23-year-old building. Any money we raise over the assessment amount of \$70,600 will be used to replace the skylight in the atrium, the east gym storage room roof, and the garage/food pantry roof. Please make a pledge if you have not done so already.

### Text-To- Give from Faith Direct

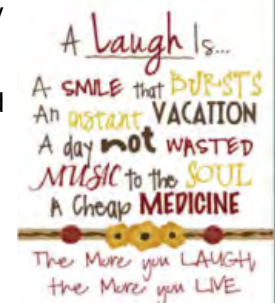
To securely make a gift to CSA 2023, text a dollar amount to 814-892-0055. You will be asked to complete a one-time registration page with your billing and contact information. After this registration, you can give any time by texting a dollar amount to this OLM phone number. For Existing accounts: If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

### Pledge Payment Reminders

There has been a delay with the Pledge Payment Reminders this year. If You would like a current Pledge Statement, please contact the Parish Office.

## Comedy Corner

The children were lined up in the cafeteria of a Catholic elementary school for lunch. At the head of the table was a large pile of apples. The nun made a note, and posted on the apple tray, "Take only one. God is watching." Moving further along the lunch line, at the other end of the table was a large pile of chocolate chip cookies. One child whispered to another, "Take all you want. God is watching the apples."



# Ritchie Room Dedication: Continuing the Journey of Community April 28, 2023 @ 6 p.m.

The Anniversary of the Dedication  
of Our Lady of Mercy & the Dedication of  
the Ritchie Room & Gathering Space  
to honor the late Msgr. Gerald Ritchie.

**Bring an appetizer or dessert to share!**

28th Annual Knights of Columbus  
*Our Lady of Mercy Council 11144*

## **GOLF & SPORTS RAFFLE Casino Night**

*Benefitting Youth Activities at Our Lady of Mercy Parish*

**Friday, May 12, 2023**

**Our Lady of Mercy Church, Sperry Hall**

Bartlett and Dutton Roads, Harborcreek / Doors Open 6-11 pm

**FREE FOOD AND REFRESHMENTS**

**ALL TICKETS ELIGIBLE FOR ALL DRAWINGS  
NEED NOT BE PRESENT TO WIN**

**CASH PRIZES AWARDED  
FOR THOSE IN ATTENDANCE**

All prizes must be claimed by August 31, 2023

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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.