

OUR LADY OF MERCY CHURCH



VISION STATEMENT

Encountering Christ,
Growing in His love,
Serving in His name.

Discipleship Pathway

Listening to our hearts, we respond to the Lord's invitation to journey together on the path of discipleship.

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
Kirk Mientkiewicz, Maintenance Coordinator
Andrea Maille, Lifelong Faith Formation Secretary

Contact Information

Address: 837 Bartlett Rd. Harborcreek, PA 16421
Parish Office: 814-899-5342
Office of Lifelong Faith Formation: 814-899-6132
Fax: 814-898-3306
Email: info@ourladyofmercychurch.org
Website: www.ourladyofmercychurch.org

Mass Schedule

Saturday Vigil: 6:00 p.m.
Sunday: 8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.
Tuesday-Friday: 8:30 a.m.

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 30, 2023 - The Fourth Sunday of Easter

THE WEEK AHEAD

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

Mon. 05/01	9:30 a.m.	Steel Magnolias
	6:30 p.m.	Fireside Chatters SCC
Tue. 05/02	1:00 p.m.	Potter's Clay SCC
	2:00 p.m.	Prayer Shawl
	4:00 p.m.	Religious Ed Gr. 3-6
Wed. 05/03	12:00 p.m.	Diamonds in the Rough
Thur. 05/04	9:00 a.m.	Painting Group
	6:00 p.m.	Prayer Shawl
Fri. 05/05	10:00 a.m.	Sisters of Scripture SCC
	7:00 p.m.	Ultreya
Sat. 05/06	4:30 p.m.	Sacrament of Penance
Sun. 05/07		Casserole Club Drop Off
		Monthly Food Pantry Collection
	9:30 a.m.	Healing Ministry

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Mon. 05/01	Acts 11:1-18	/ Jn 10:11-18
Tue. 05/02	Acts 11:19-26	/ Jn 10:22-30
Wed. 05/03	1 Cor 15:1-8	/ Jn 14:6-14
Thur. 05/04	Acts 13:13-25	/ Jn 13:16-20
Fri. 05/05	Acts 13:26-33	/ Jn 14:1-6
Sat. 05/06	Acts 13:44-52	/ Jn 14:7-14
Sun. 05/07	Acts 6:1-7 / 1 Pt 2:4-9	/ Jn 14:1-12

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.

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	• Irene.....214
• Deacon Paul.....233	• Kirk.....216
• Katie.....210	• Donna.....213

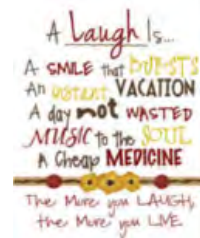
MASS INTENTIONS

Mon. 05/01	8:30 a.m.	- NO MASS -
Tue. 05/02	8:30 a.m.	Richard Wilhelm (Family)
Wed. 05/03	8:30 a.m.	
Thur. 05/04	8:30 a.m.	
Fri. 05/05	8:30 a.m.	Sally & Francis Talerico (Sandy Jordan)
Sat. 05/06	6:00 p.m.	Don Wilde (Prayer Shawl Ministry)
Sun. 05/07	8:30 a.m.	Dr. Loren Prichard (Bill & Jackie Loftus)
	11:00 a.m.	For the People of OLM

Comedy Corner

PETER: Don't write it. Don't you dare write it!

JOHN: "So they both ran together, and the other disciple outran Peter and came to the tomb first." - John 20:4



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
TOTAL OFFERTORY:		\$ 5,800.57

PRAYER LINE

9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Call Donna Smicker at 814-899-9108

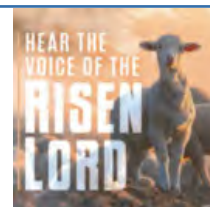
4:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.

Call Gerri Extein at 814-490-9681



THIS SUNDAY'S REFLECTION

THE 4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER



I recently rescued a dog. She's a terrier and rather adorable. And she's crazy about me. She could spend all day with me. But I'm a pastor at a parish and sometimes I leave her at the front desk of the church office. She constantly amazes me by her ability to distinguish between my voice and that of everyone else. If I say one word, even if I'm hidden around a corner, she'll sprint toward me and jump up into my arms.

This week the readings focus our attention to the voice of the risen Jesus Christ. Comparing his disciples to sheep and himself to a shepherd, he says, "They recognize his voice." He speaks to us and wants us to respond. When we hear his voice, we follow. Throughout this coming week, we will experience many interior promptings to receive God's love, and to love Him in return. That's his voice. Follow it into the safe and tender arms of Christ.

By contrast, some voices we will hear do not convey God's concern and love for us, but rather produce fear, despair, and other harmful mischief. Jesus calls these voices those of robbers. Does an idea or thought make it harder for you to love God? If so, run away. Let it go. It is most likely not the voice of the Risen Lord. Keep waiting for him to speak. You will recognize his voice. Then run to him as fast as you can.

— Father John Muir
 ©LPi

For Mercy Sake Mailing Party

Can you give an hour to prepare the newsletter for the mail? Join us at 9:00 a.m. in Sperry Hall on May 8 to fold and to stuff envelopes. Your help is appreciated.

**WE NEED
YOUR HELP**

Question & Answer W/T Pastor



Come for a cold drink, a light snack and great conversation about the faith questions on your mind or heart. Join us at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, May 15 in the Conference Room. Bring your questions or a friend with questions. Feel free to bring a snack to share, but no obligation.

Book Group

Join us on Wednesday, May 17 at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Irene Lucas, 1019 Bartlett Rd., to discuss Hello Beautiful by Ann Napolitano. Our June title will be Rainwater by Sandra Brown.



Blood Drive

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



As a Parish Community, We Invite You To Live Out Our Vision



Encountering Christ

We strive to build an environment for you to recognize and experience God, feeling his profound presence so that you want more. At Our Lady of Mercy, all people are provided with opportunities to continually meet Christ in a real, personal, and intimate way.

Growing in His Love

We at Our Lady of Mercy work to gradually become more faithful followers of Christ with lives transformed by the Gospel and guided by the Holy Spirit. We provide pathways to nurture your desire to respond in love and come to know what God's desire is for your life.

Serving in His Name

We encourage you to share your experiences with God, letting God's love permeate everything you do so that others can encounter him. Sent by the Spirit to be the hands and voice of Christ, we seek opportunities to serve those in need.

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 17, was **Colette Landfree, grade 4**, who knew that we are sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit in the Sacrament of Confirmation.

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.



We're Hiring: Director of Music and Liturgy



Our Lady of Mercy Parish in Harborcreek is seeking a director of music and liturgy. The full-time director is actively engaged in the worship life of the parish and leads a music ministry program that includes a mix of cantors, a choir and various instrumentalists to support three liturgies a weekend, as well as Holy Day liturgies. Applicants should send a cover letter and resume with salary requirements and three references to

info@ourladyofmercychurch.org



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

COLLEGE KNIGHTS: LEADERS FOR LIFE.

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.

Knights Of Columbus Scholarship Applications

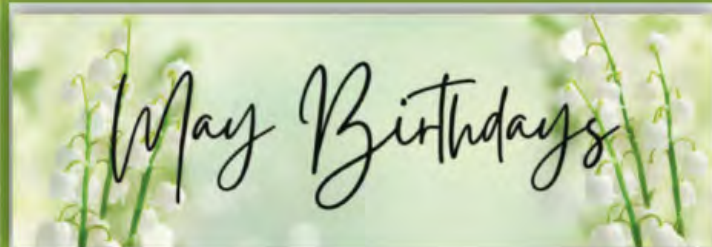
Scholarship applications from graduating high school seniors are being accepted by the Our Lady of Mercy Knights of Columbus Council. The scholarship program began almost 30 years ago with the purpose of awarding a portion of the annual Golf and Sports Raffle proceeds to college-bound students, who along 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.

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- 2023 Baby Bottle Fundraiser

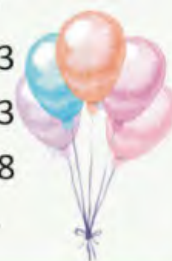
Our Knights Council has joined together with 23 other Knights Councils in Erie and Crawford Counties to conduct our annual Baby Bottle Fundraiser. It will benefit the Women's Care Center of Erie's goal of purchasing a new, state of the art Ultrasound Machine to replace and older unit at one of their other locations. Your donations will also be used to offset the operating costs of the ultrasound van that was purchased from the 2022 fundraiser. Last year through your contributions, \$119,000 was collected toward the cost of the ultrasound van. The Knights of Columbus Supreme based in Connecticut donated an additional \$59,000 to cover the entire cost of the ultrasound machine for the van. We will be distributing baby bottles and optional donation envelopes as you leave church Mother's Day weekend, May 13-14. Bottles and envelopes will still be available in the Gathering Space following that weekend. We ask that you fill the bottles with your coins, cash, or checks and return them Father's Day weekend, June 17-18. Paper currency or checks may be put in the envelopes that can be placed in the collection baskets or dropped off at the Parish office. Please make all checks payable to the Knights of Columbus. Thank you for your time and we pray that you will join us in our continuing efforts in saving the lives of the unborn.



May 1	Josie Hicks	17
May 3	Boden Gushie	18
May 4	Colton Wuerstle	14
May 6	Liam Marshall	14
May 7	Elizabeth Gunther	17
May 7	Madden Inthavong	12
May 9	Logan Taccone	10



May 11	Dakota Pohl	14
May 14	Gavin Galbreath	13
May 16	Aubrey Shamburg	7
May 17	Johnathan Catrabone	11
May 19	Levi Gilchrist	9
May 21	Jordan Pohl	13
May 23	Landon Ford	15
May 23	Leo Martin	4
May 25	Eoin Eighmy	13
May 26	Nora Weiss	13
May 28	Sam Parente	18
May 30	Joseph Skelly	4



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.

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.

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.



We take this opportunity to Thank Tom Eckendorf who has been involved in the Bereavement Ministry since 2012. For the last number of years Tom was our bereavement ministry coordinator. He stepped down in February.

From Tom Eckendorf:

I was asked to share about the Bereavement Ministry of which I was the coordinator for many years. A lot of people have a misconception about this ministry and most shy away from it, I think, because of the finality of a funeral.

Consider the family of the deceased. They have a lot on their minds because of the loss of their loved one. They are grief stricken! Calling family, meeting with a funeral home and arranging a funeral mass.

This is what our ministry does to make this part of their process easier. We have a funeral booklet. The family can take this home with them and it helps the family figure out how they can participate in the funeral mass. It contains readings and music selections to choose from and there is a page to put the names of the family members who will participate in the mass. Yes, we fully encourage the family to participate by placing the cross, Pall, bring up the gifts of bread and wine and read the scripture.

And that's where our ministry helps; some families don't have family members to do

these important things. We arrange Eucharistic Ministers for the distribution of the Eucharist. We have Lectors available when family member are too distraught to read at the last minute. Our Lector stands in to take their place. Most times the Lector never reads but just available in case someone backs out.

It doesn't take a lot of time. It's like showing up for a regular mass. There is a calling tree list we go through. You may get a call to see if you are available for a mass, say, Wednesday. If you're busy, we call the next person. There aren't a lot of funerals either. You may only get a call once or twice! And if you can't make it, and that's fine too. It's pretty easy and the families truly appreciate how smoothly the mass goes, more than you know!

Five parishioners recently joined the Bereavement ministry. We need Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors and Altar Servers and greeters. Our ministry helps by showing support for our parish family in their greatest time of need and the families truly appreciate it.

Thank You!

If you feel called to this ministry, please call the office. We will pass you names along to the new Bereavement Ministry Coordinators: Sue McCreary and Nick Mauro.

HARBORCREEK
AUTO
Gallery LLC

www.harborcreekautogallery.com
6850 Buffalo Rd. 85 West Main
814-315-4051 814-347-9090
Harborcreek, PA Northeast, PA

• Sales • PA Inspections
• Notary • Detailing



*Where There's Always
Something GROWING On!*

Stan's
GARDEN CENTER

Josh Skarzenski – 3rd Generation Owner & Parishioner

East 5001 Buffalo Road
Erie, PA 16510
899.5424

West 5341 West Lake Road
Erie, PA 16505
835.6960

**William D. Elkin
Funeral Home**

65 South Lake St. • North East
725-4511

Timothy P. Elkin, F.D.
William D. Elkin, F.D.
Pre-Arrangements Available

**SUPPORT OUR
ADVERTISERS!**


**Brevillier
Village**

5416 East Lake Road
Erie, PA 16511
814-899-8600
www.brevillier.org

Ball Pavilion
Short Term Rehab
Long Term Nursing
Care

Barnabas Court
Licensed Personal
Care, Residency &
Independent Living.

Conrad House
Independent Living

*"Your Computer
Professional"*


JDL
Computers

**NEW SYSTEMS
USED • REPAIRS**

"We SERVICE ALL BRANDS"
898-8300
Jerry & Dee Law - Parishioners

JDLCOMPUTERS.COM

**OLLINGER
PLUMBING, HEATING
& AIR CONDITIONING**



Residential • Commercial
Quality Installations & Service
899-2809


FIDDLE INN
HARBORCREEK, PA
"Home of the EVERYTHINGS"


6615 Buffalo Road
814-899-9005
www.diningverse.com/fiddleinn

**Place Your Ad Here and
Support our Parish!**

Instantly create and purchase
an ad with

**AD
CREATOR
STUDIO**





4lpi.com/adcreator


DUSCKAS - TAYLOR

Funeral Home & Cremation Services

Robert D. Taylor
Supervisor

5151 BUFFALO ROAD
ERIE • PENNSYLVANIA 16510
814-315-0911
dusckas-taylorfuneralhome.com

LET'S GROW YOUR BUSINESS

Place Your Ad Here and Support
Our Parish!

CONTACT ME Timothy Weir

tweir@4LPi.com • (800) 477-4574 x6568

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.