

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

May 21, 2023 - The Seventh Sunday of Easter

THE WEEK AHEAD

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

Mon. 05/22	9:30 a.m.	Steel Magnolias
	4:30 p.m.	Food Pantry Board
	6:30 p.m.	Roman Candles SCC
Tue. 05/23	10:00 a.m.	Angels in Training SCC
	1:00 p.m.	Potter's Clay SCC
	2:00 p.m.	Prayer Shawl
	6:00 p.m.	Edge Team Meeting
Wed. 05/24	1:00 p.m.	Diamonds in the Rough
Thur. 05/25	9:00 a.m.	Painting Group
	6:00 p.m.	Prayer Shawl
Fri. 05/26		
Sat. 05/27	4:30 p.m.	Sacrament of Penance
Sun. 05/28		PENTECOST SUNDAY

We Remember...

Maxine Fromknecht, mother of Marge Lefaiver; who passed away recently.

In Loving Memory

Please hold her and her family in prayer during this difficult time.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Offertory for the weekend of May 14, 2023

Envelopes sent:	357	
Envelopes returned:	65	\$ 3,409.00
Faith Direct Deposits:	136	\$ 3,325.57
Loose Change:		\$ 176.00
TOTAL OFFERTORY:		\$ 7,557.57

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

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

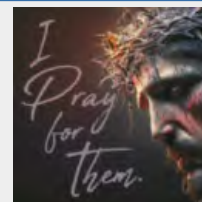
Mon. 05/22	Acts 19:1-8	/ Jn 16:29-33
Tue. 05/23	Acts 20:17-27	/ Jn 17:1-11
Wed. 05/24	Acts 20:28-38	/ Jn 17:11-19
Thur. 05/25	Acts 22:30; 23:6-11	/ Jn 17:20-26
Fri. 05/26	Acts 25:13-21	/ Jn 17:20-26
Sat. 05/27	Acts 28:16-31	/ Jn 21:20-25
Sun. 05/28	Acts 2:1-11/1 Cor 12:3-13/ Jn 20:19-23	

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon. 05/22	8:30 a.m.	- NO MASS -
Tue. 05/23	8:30 a.m.	Elaine Thomas (Candy Henry)
Wed. 05/24	8:30 a.m.	
Thur. 05/25	8:30 a.m.	
Fri. 05/26	8:30 a.m.	
Sat. 05/27	6:00 p.m.	Barbara Slomski (The Spring Family)
Sun. 05/28	8:30 a.m.	
	11:00 a.m.	For the People of OLM

THIS SUNDAY'S REFLECTION

THE 7TH SUNDAY OF EASTER



Traditionally, the four writers of the Gospels are symbolized by four creatures that make their way into Church art and architecture: Matthew, an angel; Mark, a lion; Luke, an ox; and John, an eagle. These images can be found in churches across the world, a nod to those who recorded the stories of Jesus for us, thousands of years ago.

Today's Gospel was written by John. There are a few reasons why John is symbolized by an eagle, but my favorite explanation is that his writings soar like an eagle into the sky with their beautiful, poetic language. The prayer we hear today is no different — Jesus invokes God in a long discourse that might seem mystifying at times, the same way that a poem can be perplexing to understand when we are unfamiliar with the pacing or format.

Consider holding onto the shortest sentence in this prayer: "I pray for them."

Jesus prays for us. For me. For you.

Let that sink deep into your being.

Jesus is on your side. He is aware of what you are holding at this moment. He is aware of your pain, your faith, your mission. And He's rooting for you. This prayer was recorded thousands of years ago, far before you were born. Since before you were born, you were held in prayer. With that certainty, we live.

— Father John Muir
©LPi

Comedy Corner

Why are there so many old people at church?
They're cramming for the final.



Book Group

Join us on Wednesday, June 21 @ 7:00 to discuss Rainwater by Sandra Brown.



Wild About Jesus!



Mark your calendar for July 31-Aug. 4 for a week of Vacation Bible School fun. Registration forms are available on the bulletin tables and at the parish website. All children age 4 years through 6th grade are welcome. The event is free.

VBS Needs You!

Vacation Bible School succeeds because of the many adults willing to give a week of their summer to create a fun and inviting experience for the children. We need adults and teens who can work with the children. If you can help July 31 to Aug. 4 from 9:00-noon, contact Irene at ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org or call 814-899-6132.

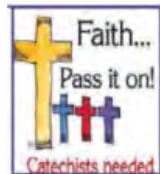


Vacation Bible School Planning

There will be a VBS planning meeting this Tuesday, May 23 at 5:30. All creative people are invited. We are looking for volunteers to help with VBS July 31-Aug. 4. In particular, we need adults who will shepherd groups of children through the various activities. All adult volunteers need to provide the mandated clearances. For more information, contact Irene at ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org or 814-899-6132.

Can you help with religious education next school year?

We are looking for a 5th and 6th grade catechist Tuesday afternoons, Confirmation catechist Sundays and volunteers to work with the new Jr. High ministry. If you would like more information, contact Irene at ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org or call 814-899-6132.



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

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.

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.



Do you have an old chair with arms?

One of our older parishioners is looking for a chair with arms that she needs so she can stand up. Like a dining room captain's chair. If you have one you are willing to part with please call Katie or Donna in the parish office.



Women's Summer Scripture Study

All women, parishioners and friends, are invited to a casual Scripture Study on Thursday, July 6, 13 & 20. We will meet on the patio of Irene Lucas 1019 Bartlett Rd at 7:00. Sacred Strangers by Nancy Haught will guide our conversation. The book is \$8.40 if ordered in bulk. If you would like Irene to order you a copy, contact her by June 20.



CAFE June 11 - CPR and Defibrillator Training

You have all heard the story of Damar Hamlin the Buffalo Bills football player who suffered sudden cardiac arrest and whose life was saved by timely CPR and Defibrillation. Our church has a Defibrillator located in the hallway leading to Sperry Hall and we had a training class on how to use the machine a number of years ago. It's time to refresh ourselves on its use and we will also have a class on CPR training. The class will be conducted by Chris Morealli, who is a certified EMT with the Fairfield Hose Co, on Sunday June 11 at 9:45 in Sperry Hall.

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.

ULTRASOUND VAN VISIT TO OLM

The Ultrasound Van and Ultrasound Machine which your generous donations helped pay for will be on display in our church parking lot immediately following 8:30 Mass on Sunday June 4th. Please come out and tour this exciting new addition to the Women's Care Center of Erie.

SUMMER FESTIVAL

The BEST FESTIVAL EVER is back in full swing!

July 9, 2023 * 12 to 5 p.m.

In addition to our WORLD FAMOUS BBQ Chicken Dinner, the Festival will also offer...
 Chinese Auction – Bake Sale – Bingo
 Children's Area – Book Sale – Craft Sale – Funnel Cakes

Raffles: \$1000 Grand Prize, Quilt, 50/50, 4 Hr. Party Bus Rental for 20 Guests, Restaurant Gift Cards, Lottery Tree, Wine Basket & Craft Beer Basket!

The Book Sale is BACK! July 6th - 9th

We need donations of books, cd's, dvd's and puzzles, no reader digest, magazine

Calling all Bakers: We will need cookies to be used as desserts this year! Please place your delicious cookies, 2 per baggie and drop them off in the Sperry Hall Kitchen the week of the festival. Thank you for your help!

WANTED: Crafters, Gardeners, Sewers, Painters, Woodworkers, Metal workers, and any other Hand Crafted Items that you can donate to Summer Festival 2023 for sale at the Craft Table Sales!

Now Accepting Auction Items!

Auction items can be dropped off in the Parish Office Monday-Friday from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Thank you for your generosity!

Blood Drive

Thank you to all who donated blood at our May 10th Blood Drive. The Blood Bank was able to collect 14 pints of blood from 17 donors. Your donation is truly life saving! The next Blood Drive will be in July 2023. Please keep an eye on the bulletin for more info.



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.

Finance Report

Our fiscal year started July 2022. Although we have had some unexpected expenses our year-to-date operating expenses still fall within our budget. The net loss of \$18,000 as of April 2023 includes expenses that happed to fall in this last month. These expenses will be offset by the income from May and June.

Although we have pledges that will cover our CSA assessment, we have already spent the \$30,000 we had hoped to raise over our goal. The \$43,000 spent since July was mostly for roof repairs.

Operating Budget	As of April 2023
Income	400,870.10
Expenses	419,370.30
Net loss	(18,500.20)
CSA	
Pledges	\$ 81,160.00
CSA assessment	-70,600.00
extraordinary expenses	-43,071.39
Money from Savings	(32,511.39)

Don't miss the relics visiting the Diocese of Erie

"Jesus, come right in! Make yourself at home!" These are the words of Blessed Carlo Acutis, who passed away at the age of 15 in 2006. His work has been appreciated around the world through the website and posters he created about Eucharistic miracles. The only touring relic of Blessed Carlo, as well as a relic of St. Manuel González García — known as the Bishop of the Abandoned Tabernacle — will be available for public veneration at several locations around the Diocese of Erie beginning May 23. Please visit www.eriecd.org/relics.html to find the schedule as well as information about both men and insight into venerating relics. The relics will be making a stop at our neighbors, St. Mark the Evangelist Church at 695 Smithson Ave. Erie, PA 16511 on Wednesday, May 24 from 4 pm to 8 pm. Mass will be celebrated at 6 pm.

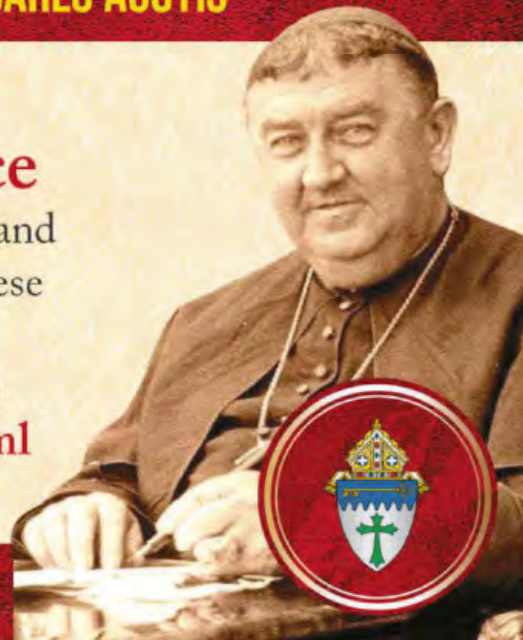


The Diocese of Erie is one of
39 American dioceses with the
privilege of hosting the relics of
Blessed Carlo Acutis
the first millennial to be beatified
and **St. Manuel González García**
the Bishop of the Abandoned Tabernacle

BLESSED CARLO ACUTIS

A Moment of Grace

Visit our site for May tour dates and
locations of the relics in the diocese
and more information about
Blessed Carlo and St. Manuel.
www.ErieRCD.org/relics.html



ST. MANUEL GONZÁLEZ GARCÍA

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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.