

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
Jane Mallin, Lifelong Faith Formation Secretary
Brandon Vogt, Director of Music and Liturgy
Nick Heise, Youth Minister

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

July 16, 2023 - The 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

THE WEEK AHEAD

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

Mon. 07/17		
Tue. 07/18	5:30 p.m.	VBS Planning Meeting
	7:00 p.m.	Lifelong Faith Formation
Wed. 07/19	8:30 a.m.	Food Pantry Distribution
	1:00 p.m.	Diamonds in the Rough
	7:00 p.m.	OLM Book Group
Thur. 07/20	6:00 p.m.	Angels In Training SCC
	7:00 p.m.	Women's Summer Scripture Study
Fri. 07/21	10:00 a.m.	Sisters of Scripture SCC
Sat. 07/22	4:30 p.m.	Sacrament of Penance
Sun. 07/23		Newsletter Deadline

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Offertory for the weekend of July 9, 2023

Envelopes sent:	357	
Envelopes returned:	50	\$ 2,287.00
Faith Direct Deposits:	134	\$ 3,370.67
Loose Change:		\$ 77.00
TOTAL OFFERTORY:		\$ 6,879.67

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	• Donna.....213
• Katie.....210	• Brandon.....211
• Irene.....214	• Nick.....220

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Mon. 07/17	Ex 1:8-14; 22	/ Mt 10:34-11:1
Tue. 07/18	Ex 2:1-15a	/ Mt 11:20-24
Wed. 07/19	Ex 3:1-6, 9-12	/ Mt 11:25-27
Thur. 07/20	Ex 3:13-20	/ Mt 11:28-30
Fri. 07/21	Ex 11:10-12:14	/ Mt 12:1-8
Sat. 07/22	Sg 3:1-4 or 2 Cor 5:14-17	
		/ Jn 20:1-2, 11-18
Sun. 07/23	Wis 12:13, 16-19	
	Rom 8:26-27	/ Mt 13:24-43

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon. 07/17	8:30 a.m.	- NO MASS -
Tue. 07/18	8:30 a.m.	
Wed. 07/19	8:30 a.m.	
Thur. 07/20	8:30 a.m.	Joseph Abbate (John Abbate)
Fri. 07/21	8:30 a.m.	
Sat. 07/22	6:00 p.m.	Christopher Kaeberlein (Barb Lye)
Sun. 07/23	8:30 a.m.	Sam Garwig (John Abbate)
	11:00 a.m.	For the People of OLM

We Remember...

Scott Pohl,
who passed away recently.
Please hold him and his family in prayer during this difficult time.

In Loving Memory

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

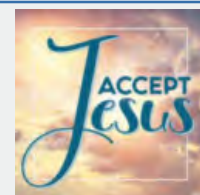


NEED A SUMMER JOB?

If you are a high school or college student looking for a summer job, Our Lady of Mercy is looking for summer help with maintenance and landscaping. If you are interested, please call the Parish Office at **814-899-5342.**

THIS SUNDAY'S REFLECTION

15TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



It's not uncommon to hear people complain that we Catholics often fail in communicating our faith. Fair enough. We can and should improve there. But it's interesting to notice that Jesus himself was implicitly accused by his disciples of a similar failure. This week in Matthew's gospel they are perplexed that he speaks to the crowds in ambiguous parables. The Lord's riddles leave many people more confused than before. He responds by pointing out that his parables have an intentional dual purpose: to hide (for some) and to reveal (for others) his Gospel: "Because knowledge of the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven has been granted to you, but to them it has not been granted" (Matthew 13:11). Is Jesus being unnecessarily difficult, obscurantist, or, worse, elitist?

No. We have to remember that all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge lie hidden in him (c.f., Col. 2:3). He is the word of God from heaven to be planted in the earth of our humanity to bear great fruit. However, like a lover delicately pursuing his beloved, we're dealing with a relationship, not new data. When we aren't willing to personally accept Jesus into our lives, the "info" of the Gospel will simply not make sense to us. It'll seem bizarre, esoteric, or like incoherent religious-speak. But when we are willing to accept Jesus into our lives, everything else starts to make sense. When others don't understand the Church or the Lord, let's be patient. Love is patient. Sometimes it has to hide before it is revealed.

— Father John Muir
©LPi



Book Group

Join us on **Wednesday, July 19** at the home of Kay Kaeberlein, 190 Kraus Dr., to discuss The Secret River by Kate Grenville.

Our August title will be The Art of Racing in the Rain by Garth Stein.

Pilgrimage to Our Lady of Champion and two other shrines in the US

September 12 to 14, 2023. Departing from Our Lady of Mercy on Tuesday Sept 12 for three days and two nights.



- Day 1:** Sorrowful Mother in Bellevue Ohio
- Day 2:** The National Shrine of Our Lady of Champion in New Franken, Wisconsin (This is the only Marian Apparition site in the United States approved by the Church.)
- Day 3:** The Shrine of Christ's Passion in St. John, Indiana.

Organized by parishioner - David Kaschak.
Ph: **814-897-7716** email: dkaschak21@gmail.com The cost is \$450 per person. **The deadline for the \$250 deposit is July 30th.** Information sheets available in the Gathering Space.



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**. We are in particular need of someone to coordinate the kitchen for the snack and a few adults to shepherd groups of children through the activity areas. All adult volunteers need clearances.



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. At our final session, we will look at two Gospel women.



For Mercy Sake Deadline

The deadline to submit articles for the August issue of For Mercy Sake is **Sunday, July 23rd**. Send submissions to secretary@ourladyofmercychurch.org.



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**.



The Ella Cochran Food Pantry is Collecting Back to School Supplies

Please help us send these students back to school prepared for a successful year! Needed are **BACK PACKS**, other basic supplies such as pens, pencils, crayons, markers, file folders, notebooks, paper and erasers would be appreciated. Please place items in the boxes marked in the Gathering Space.



Comedy Corner

God is talking to one of his angels and says, "Do you know what I have just done? I have just created a 24-hour period of alternating light and darkness on Earth. Isn't that good?" The angel says, "Yes, but what will you do now?"

God says, "I think I'll call it a day."

*A Laugh Is...
A SMILE that DURESTS
AN INSTANT VACATION
A day not WASTED
MUSIC to the SOUL
A Cheap MEDICINE
The More you LAUGH,
The More you LIVE*

We Invite You To Live Out Our Vision 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.

LITURGICAL MINISTRY SCHEDULE

If you can not make your scheduled Mass, please contact another minister to sub for you

Saturday, July 22nd at 6:00 p.m.

Lector.....Deb Barko
 Eucharistic Minister 1.....Anne Spring
 Eucharistic Minister 2.....Todd Beckes
 Altar Server.....Amelia Bernatowicz
 Greeter.....Marilyn McDaniel
 Greeter.....Lisa Spelling

Sunday, July 23rd at 8:30 a.m.

Lector.....Tim Fuhrman
 Eucharistic Minister 1.....Karen Meyer
 Eucharistic Minister 2.....Brian Meyer
 Altar Server.....Kaylyn Still
 Greeter.....Gary Smith
 Greeter.....Mary Beth Smith
 AV Ministry.....Adam Baker

Sunday, July 23rd at 11:00 a.m.

Lector.....Nathan Henry
 Eucharistic Minister 1.....Erica Taccone
 Eucharistic Minister 2.....Carole Peters
 Altar Server.....Colton Catrabone
 Greeter.....Jill Henry
 Greeter.....Nathan Henry

Saturday, July 29th at 6:00 p.m.

Lector.....Bob Cline
 Eucharistic Minister 1.....Thomas Eckendorf
 Eucharistic Minister 2.....Fred Kaerberlein
 Altar Server.....Gabby Peters
 Greeter.....Marilyn Garwig
 Greeter.....Lisa Spelling

Sunday, July 30th at 8:30 a.m.

Lector.....Sue McCreary
 Eucharistic Minister 1.....Geoff McCreary
 Eucharistic Minister 2.....Tom Palisin
 Altar Server.....Kaylyn Still
 Greeter.....Joyce Rzodkiewicz
 Greeter.....Jason Rzodkiewicz
 AV Ministry.....Ken Marshall

Sunday, July 30th at 11:00 a.m.

Lector.....Reagan Andrews
 Eucharistic Minister 1.....Darlene Piotrowski
 Eucharistic Minister 2.....Nancy Clark
 Altar Server.....Colton Catrabone
 Greeter.....James Terrill
 Greeter.....Claudette Terrill

A STEWARDSHIP PRAYER for July

Dear Lord,

Thank You for teaching me
 to be generous
 as You have been generous with me.

Thank You for showing me that all
 I am and have are gifts from You and
 that these gifts from you, Lord,
 are meant to be shared.

Show me the joys of generosity.

Help me to understand that others,
 perhaps unknown to me,
 depend on me for help.

Remind me that my world,
 my parish, needs "Good Samaritans"
 to heal the wounds of our times.

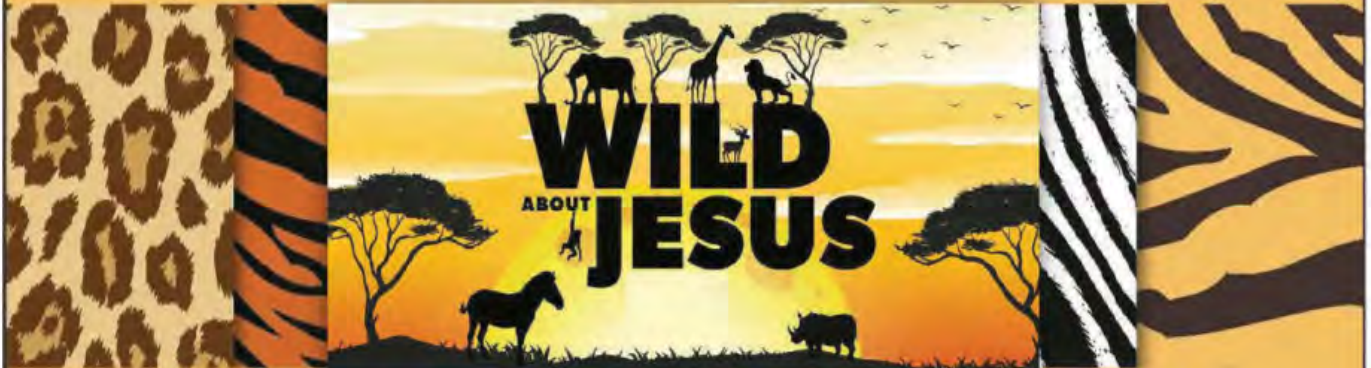
Make me a gift to others
 in Your name.

Amen.



Thank you to all the
 Good Samaritans who
 worked the festival.
 So far revenue for the
 festival is the
highest ever.
 Waiting on expenses –
 but lets hope this is the
best festival ever.

OUR LADY OF MERCY PRESENTS... VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2023



JULY 31-AUGUST 4, 2023

9:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.

All Wild Ones - age 4 thru entering 6th grade

For more information call:

Irene Lucas 814-899-6132 or the Parish Office 814-899-5342

Or email ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org

Registration Deadline is July 23rd

Family Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____ Parish: _____

Phone #: _____ Emergency #: _____

Email Address: _____

Child's Name	Age	Grade 2023/2024	Special/Dietary Needs
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_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Adult & Teen Volunteers

(Teens must be entering 9th Grade or above - Adults MUST provide current clearances)

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

Please indicate which area you would like to help out:

Teacher: _____ Story Time: _____ Craft: _____ Games: _____ Music: _____

Aide: _____ Kitchen: _____ Set-Up: _____ Other: _____

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Stan's
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Josh Skarzenski – 3rd Generation Owner & Parishioner

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West 5341 West Lake Road Erie, PA 16505 **835.6960**

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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.