

# 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](mailto:info@ourladyofmercychurch.org)  
Website: [www.ourladyofmercychurch.org](http://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 23, 2023 - The 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

## THE WEEK AHEAD

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

Mon. 07/24		
Tue. 07/25		
Wed. 07/26	1:00 p.m.	Diamonds in the Rough
Thur. 07/27	7:00 p.m.	KofC Grand Knight Training
Fri. 07/28		
Sat. 07/29	4:30 p.m.	Sacrament of Penance
Sun. 07/30		

## FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Offertory for the weekend of July 16, 2023

Envelopes sent:	357	
Envelopes returned:	55	\$ 1,875.00
Faith Direct Deposits:	134	\$ 3,370.67
Loose Change:		\$ 190.70
<b>TOTAL OFFERTORY:</b>		<b>\$ 5,436.37</b>

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

Mon. 07/24	Ex 14:5-18	/ Mt 12:38-42
Tue. 07/25	2 Cor 4:7-15	/ Mt 20:20-28
Wed. 07/26	Ex 16:1-15	/ Mt 13:1-9
Thur. 07/27	Ex 19:1-2, 9-11, 16-20	/ Mt 13:10-17
Fri. 07/28	Ex 20:1-17	/ Mt 13:18-23
Sat. 07/29	Ex 24:3-8	/ Jn 11:19-27
Sun. 07/30	1 Kgs 3:5-12/Rom 8:28-30/ Mt 13:44-52	

## 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

## 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



## MASS INTENTIONS

Mon. 07/24	8:30 a.m.	- NO MASS -
Tue. 07/25	8:30 a.m.	Fr. Gerald Ritchie
Wed. 07/26	8:30 a.m.	Dr. Loren Prichard (Fred & Linda Koller)
Thur. 07/27	8:30 a.m.	Joseph Abbate (John Abbate)
Fri. 07/28	8:30 a.m.	
Sat. 07/29	6:00 p.m.	For the People of OLM
Sun. 07/30	8:30 a.m.	Justin Raydo (Butch & Gerri Extein)
	11:00 a.m.	

### NEED A SUMMER JOB?

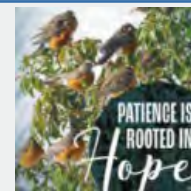
If you are a high school or college student looking for a summer job, Our Lady of Mercy is looking for summer help with maintenance and landscaping. If you are interested, please call the Parish Office at **814-899-5342**.

### 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.

## THIS SUNDAY'S REFLECTION

### 16TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



Patience is rooted in Hope (an image of a bush filled with birds would be great) Life, like the church, is often burdened with evil, smallness, and impurities. The Lord's parables give us a hope-filled perspective on all three.

Evil: in Jesus' parable about the good farmer whose enemy plants weeds at night, Jesus tells us that God is not the cause of evil but permits evil to exist with good out of his patient love. He will finally deal with it, but his love lets things stay messy for a time.

Smallness: It's funny that Jesus says his kingdom looks like ... wait for it ... a bush. What a letdown! Yet this little shrub still somehow has room for all the birds of the sky. The smallness of the Church, and even our own little lives, still provides plenty of room for all whom God sends.

Impurities: divisions and hypocrisies in the Church and our own hearts exasperate us. Recall that Jesus compares his kingdom to a lump of dough with impure leaven eating away at it and therefore making it expand. It's the secret of the Cross. Not how we'd prefer it. But finally, great news.

The field, the bush, the loaf: all three parables invite us to embrace a patience rooted in hope: one day the field will be weeded, the bush filled with birds, and the risen loaf leaven-free.

— Father John Muir  
©LPi



### 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 Belleview 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](mailto: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](mailto: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.



### Religious Education Registration



Registration for the 2023-2024 school year will take place after all Masses the weekend of **August 19-20.** All children intending to participate in the program this year must be registered by the signature of a parent on the appropriate forms. This includes youth who participated in previous years.

### 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.



### Book Group

Join us on **Wednesday, August 16** to discuss The Art of Racing in the Rain by Garth Stein.

## 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.

### For Mercy Sake Deadline

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



### An Invitation to Explore the Catholic Faith

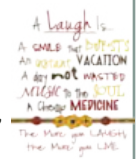
Some days, the world feels as if it is spinning out of control. Natural disasters, international crisis, political discord, economic uncertainty, ecological threat, we often find ourselves grasping for an anchor to steady our lives. God is the one anchor that remains sure and stable, no matter what troubles 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.



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.**

### Comedy Corner

A woman walks into a church and starts praying the Rosary. After a string of Hail Mary's, she hears the voice of Jesus. "Agnes," he said to the woman. "I am here. What is it you want to ask for?" The woman ignores him and continues her rosary and her Hail Marys. "Arise, for I have come to you," Jesus stepped closer and opened his arms. The woman continues to ignore him and pray her rosary. "Agnes, I say to you, I am with you." Finally, Agnes looks up. "Be quiet! I'm talking to your mother!"





<b>LITURGICAL MINISTRY SCHEDULE</b>		<b>*If you can not make your scheduled Mass, please contact another minister to sub for you*</b>	
<p align="center"><b><u>Saturday, July 29th at 6:00 p.m.</u></b></p> <p>Lector.....Bob Cline                      Eucharistic Minister 1.....Thomas Eckendorf                      Eucharistic Minister 2.....Fred Kaeberlein                      Altar Server.....Gabby Peters                      Greeter.....Marilyn Garwig                      Greeter.....Lisa Spelling</p>		<p align="center"><b><u>Saturday, August 5th at 6:00 p.m.</u></b></p> <p>Lector.....Glory Piovarcy                      Eucharistic Minister 1.....Chris Kaschak                      Eucharistic Minister 2.....Gerri Extein                      Altar Server.....Amelia Bernatowicz                      Greeter.....Jane Chase                      Greeter.....Mike Chase</p>	
<p align="center"><b><u>Sunday, July 30th at 8:30 a.m.</u></b></p> <p>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</p>		<p align="center"><b><u>Sunday, August 6th at 8:30 a.m.</u></b></p> <p>Lector.....Rachel Still                      Eucharistic Minister 1.....Teresa Shamburg                      Eucharistic Minister 2.....Candy Henry                      Altar Server.....Kaylyn Still                      Greeter.....Linda Kaleta                      Greeter.....Frank Kaleta                      AV Ministry.....Adam Baker</p>	
<p align="center"><b><u>Sunday, July 30th at 11:00 a.m.</u></b></p> <p>Lector.....Reagan Andrews                      Eucharistic Minister 1.....Darlene Piotrowski                      Eucharistic Minister 2.....Nancy Clark                      Altar Server.....Colton Catrabone                      Greeter.....James Terrill                      Greeter.....Claudette Terrill</p>		<p align="center"><b><u>Sunday, August 6th at 11:00 a.m.</u></b></p> <p>Lector.....Maureen Brainard                      Eucharistic Minister 1.....Judy Iesue                      Eucharistic Minister 2.....Gail Cook                      Altar Server.....Colton Catrabone                      Greeter.....Lisa Spelling                      Greeter.....Christine Stroker</p>	

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

**...UPCOMING EVENT...**

**ALL INVITED!!**

**FAMILY BONFIRE AT**

**OUR LADY OF MERCY**

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 19<sup>TH</sup>**

**AT 7 PM**



**BLESSING OF STUDENTS**

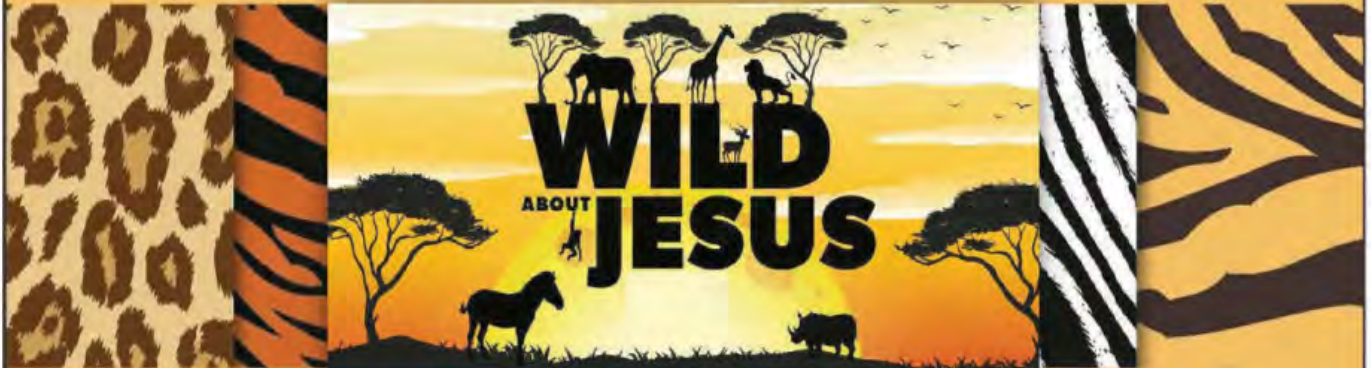
**DURING ALL MASSES**

**WEEKEND OF AUGUST 26, 2023**

A wonderful way to start the school year and a beautiful way to show our students that they are truly a part of our Community at Our Lady of Mercy, and we support them through all of their endeavors.



# 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](mailto: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
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

## 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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**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.