

# 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

August 20, 2023 - The 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

## THE WEEK AHEAD

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

|             |   |                       |
|-------------|---|-----------------------|
| Mon. 08/21  |   |                       |
| Tue. 08/22  |   |                       |
| Wed. 08/23  | 1:00 p.m.                                 | Diamonds in the Rough |
| Thur. 08/24 | 6:00 p.m.                                 | Finance Council       |
| Fri. 08/25  |   |                       |
| Sat. 08/26  | <b>Blessing of Students at all Masses</b> |                       |
|             | 4:30 p.m.                                 | Sacrament of Penance  |
| Sun. 08/27  | <b>Blessing of Students at all Masses</b> |                       |

## 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. 08/21  | Jgs 2:11-19                           | / Mt 19:16-22 |
| Tue. 08/22  | Jgs 6:11-24a                          | / Mt 19:23-30 |
| Wed. 08/23  | Jgs 9:6-15                            | / Mt 20:1-16  |
| Thur. 08/24 | Rv 21:9b-14                           | / Jn 1:45-51  |
| Fri. 08/25  | Ru 1:1-6, 14-16, 22                   | / Mt 22:34-40 |
| Sat. 08/26  | Ru 2:1-3, 8-11, 4:13-17               | / Mt 23:1-12  |
| Sun. 08/27  | Is 22:19-23/Rom 11:33-36/ Mt 16:13-20 |               |

## 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



### Prayer Line Day Shift

Donna Smicker will be unavailable for calls from **August 13th through August 21st**. Please call Joanne Cargioli at **814-898-1068** during this time. You can leave her a message if necessary. Thank you very much!

## MASS INTENTIONS

|             |            |  |
|-------------|------------|--|
| Mon. 08/21  | 8:30 a.m.  | - <b>NO MASS</b> -                               |
| Tue. 08/22  | 8:30 a.m.  | <b>Justin Raydo</b><br>(Carol Stauffer)          |
| Wed. 08/23  | 8:30 a.m.  | <b>Sally Talerico</b><br>(Sandy Jordan & Family) |
| Thur. 08/24 | 8:30 a.m.  |  |
| Fri. 08/25  | 8:30 a.m.  |  |
| Sat. 08/26  | 6:00 p.m.  | <b>Larry Rogers</b><br>(Family)                  |
| Sun. 08/27  | 8:30 a.m.  | <b>For the People of OLM</b>                     |
|             | 11:00 a.m. | <b>John &amp; Sophie Morris</b><br>(Family)      |

## FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Offertory for the weekend of **August 13, 2023**

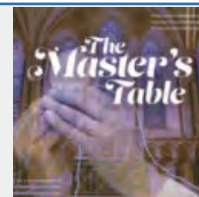
|                         |     |                    |
|-------------------------|-----|--------------------|
| Envelopes sent:         | 357 |                    |
| Envelopes returned:     | 60  | \$ 2,592.00        |
| Faith Direct Deposits:  | 134 | \$ 3,339.57        |
| Loose Change:           |     | \$ 50.00           |
| <b>TOTAL OFFERTORY:</b> |     | <b>\$ 5,981.57</b> |

## 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.

## THIS SUNDAY'S REFLECTION

### THE 20TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



The suffering of a child symbolizes uniquely terrible evil as well as despair about the future. This week's Gospel gives a "limit" case in which Jesus encounters this evil in the form of a mother with a suffering daughter. What he does is stunning and massively helpful for us if we bravely ponder the details.

The Canaanite woman comes to Jesus and begs his mercy. "My daughter is tormented by a demon," she declares to him. Shockingly, he responds first with silence, then with a dismissive comment, and only then finally accedes to her third request. Is this simply a lesson in perseverance in our petitions to God, who is like a genie in a bottle? Does that justify the humiliation and pain this woman suffers? Is the Lord cruel?

I don't think so. Notice how the encounter ends. She compares herself to a dog at the table of a master. Jesus responds by praising her great faith and fulfills her deep desire. Somehow this non-Israelite woman intuits that this harrowing situation is not dumb suffering. She senses that the door of God's family is, in Jesus, being opened to her and her loved ones. She trusts she is at the Lord's table, and her desires will be fulfilled and that all her sufferings — and her daughter's, too — will lead a great banquet. In our sufferings this week, the Lord wants us to treat him less like a genie in a bottle and more like the Master who has taken us — lost little dogs that we are — into his home forever. Trust that and keep praying in the face of evil.

— Father John Muir  
©LPi

### Blessing of Students

We invite all families to join us for Mass the weekend of **Aug 26-27**, just before the first day of school, when we will bless our youth as they begin the new year. We are inviting all our youth to take part in the ministries of Mass that weekend. If your child would like to bring up the gifts, altar serve, etc., contact Deacon Barko.



### Book Group

In September we will discuss O William by Elizabeth Strout.



### Baptismal Prep Session for Parents

Are you welcoming a new child into your family? Would you like to celebrate the Sacrament of Baptism with your child? The next Baptismal Preparation Session for Parents and Godparents will be held at OLM on **Oct. 15 @ noon**. The Diocese of Erie requires that parents attend a preparation session prior to scheduling a child's baptism. To register for this session, please call the parish office between **8:00-3:00** Monday through Friday. The deadline to register is **Oct. 12**. If you are unable to attend this session, you may attend a preparation session at another Catholic parish. These events are held semi-annually at OLM. There will not be another baptismal prep session until March at OLM.



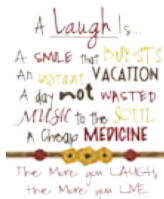
### An Invitation to Explore the Catholic Faith

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**.



### Comedy Corner

Chemistry teacher: Did you know protons have mass?  
Student: I didn't even know protons were Catholic.



### 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.

### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

#### Religious Education Registration

Registration for the 2023-2024 school year will take place after all Masses this weekend, 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.

#### Religious Education Parent Meetings

Parent meetings for various grade levels begin the year of faith formation.

- Gr. 9 & 10 Parent and Candidate Meeting on **Sept. 6 @ 6:00 p.m.**
  - Gr. 7 & 8 Parent Meeting on **Sept. 10 @ 12:00**
  - Gr. K-2 Family Gathering on **Sept. 10 @ 9:30**
- (Parents and children in kindergarten -grade 2 will begin the year with a family gathering at 9:30 on Sept. 10 in the large classroom. At 10:15, children will meet their teachers and go to their class while parents remain for a parent meeting.)

#### Religious Education Begins

The 2023-2024 year of religious education will begin on **Tuesday, September 5** for grade 3-6 and **Sunday, Sept. 10** for other grades.

### TO ALL MEN OF THE PARISH

After a long hiatus prompted by Covid-19, the Knights of Columbus are pleased to announce that we are planning another "Men's Knight Out" event! It will be held **Wednesday, September 13th, with dinner and beverages at 6:00 p.m. followed at 7:00 p.m.** with a talk by our very own Mark Krahe. Mark is our former District Justice and a Fellow Knight of Columbus! Mark's talk will focus on his many years of service to the Communities of Wesleyville, Lawrence Park and Harborcreek, as well as his passion for the Lord and the Law. This series of events has always been a smashing success and an informal way for ALL the men of Our Lady of Mercy and their friends, to get together over a meal and hear a talk that is uplifting, informative and insightful! Further information will be available in the bulletin in the coming weeks. The Knights of Columbus and the Men's Knight Out committee, look forward to sharing with you, a night of Food, Fun, and Fellowship on **Wednesday September 13th at 6:00 p.m.!** RSVP to Tim Fuhrman at [knoye@yahoo.com](mailto:knoye@yahoo.com), or text me at **814-873-5632**.




|  |   |  |  |
|--|---|--|--|
| <b>LITURGICAL MINISTRY SCHEDULE</b>              |   | <b>*If you can not make your scheduled Mass, please contact another minister to sub for you*</b> |  |
| <b><u>Saturday, August 26th at 6:00 p.m.</u></b> |   | <b><u>Saturday, September 2nd at 6:00 p.m.</u></b>   |  |
| Lector.....Fred Kaeberlein                       | Eucharistic Minister 1.....Kay Kaeberlein | Lector.....Deb Barko   | Eucharistic Minister 1.....Todd Beckes     |
| Eucharistic Minister 2.....Anne Spring           | Altar Server.....Nick Mauro               | Eucharistic Minister 2.....Candy Henry   | Altar Server.....Nick Mauro                |
| Greeter.....Marilyn Garwig                       | Greeter.....Marilyn McDaniel              | Greeter.....   | Greeter.....                               |
| <b><u>Sunday, August 27th at 8:30 a.m.</u></b>   |   | <b><u>Sunday, September 3rd at 8:30 a.m.</u></b>   |  |
| Lector.....Tim Fuhrman                           | Eucharistic Minister 1.....Ginny Fuhrman  | Lector.....Maria Carney  | Eucharistic Minister 1.....Marge LeFaiver  |
| Eucharistic Minister 2.....Tim Lynch             | Altar Server.....Kaylyn Still             | Eucharistic Minister 2.....Dave LeFaiver   | Altar Server.....                          |
| Greeter.....Linda Kaleta                         | Greeter.....Frank Kaleta                  | Greeter.....Paul Sacco   | Greeter.....Patty Sacco                    |
| AV Ministry.....Lisa Spelling                    |   | AV Ministry.....Adam Baker   |  |
| <b><u>Sunday, August 27th at 11:00 a.m.</u></b>  |   | <b><u>Sunday, August 27th at 11:00 a.m.</u></b>  |  |
| Lector.....Adriana Grosch                        | Eucharistic Minister 1.....Erica Taccone  | Lector.....Reagan Andrews  | Eucharistic Minister 1.....Donna Schersten |
| Eucharistic Minister 2.....Gail Cook             | Altar Server.....Colton Catrabone         | Eucharistic Minister 2.....Nathan Matusiak   | Altar Server.....Gabby Peters              |
| Greeter.....James Terrill                        | Greeter.....Claudette Terrill             | Greeter.....Marilyn Garwig   | Greeter.....Maureen Rizzo                  |

## BLESSING OF STUDENTS DURING ALL MASSES

### WEEKEND OF AUGUST 26/27, 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.



# Everyday Encounters with Christ

**Name: Anonymous**

God came to me as I was sitting on the couch in my parents home as I reflected on how my life had just changed by the passing of both. I felt an overwhelming warmth or sense of well being while hearing the giggles and laughter of years gone by.



# Eucharistic Minister Training

for all new and veteran Eucharistic Ministers

Please choose one of the following training session to attend:

- Monday August 28th at 6:30 p.m.
- Wednesday August 30th at 6:30 p.m.

*(both training sessions will take place in the Worship Space)*

If you are considering joining this ministry, we invite you to attend one of these training sessions with “no strings attached”.

If you can not attend one of these sessions, please contact the Parish Office at 814-899-5342 or [secretary@ourladyofmercychurch.org](mailto:secretary@ourladyofmercychurch.org)

If you have any questions about becoming a Eucharistic Minister, please reach out to Fr. Matt or Deacon Paul for more information.

## Eucharistic Ministry to the Housebound

We are reviving our ministry of bringing the Eucharist to those unable to join us each Sunday due to frail health. If you are a parishioner or know of a parishioner who are homebound and would like the Eucharist brought to you, please call Irene in the parish office at 814-899-6132. If you would like to be part of this ministry, please call Irene in the parish office.

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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.