

# 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 27, 2023 - The 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

## THE WEEK AHEAD

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

<b>Mon. 08/28</b>	6:00 p.m.	EDGE Meeting
	6:30 p.m.	Eucharistic Minister Training
	7:00 p.m.	Fruit of the Vine SCC
<b>Tue. 08/29</b>		
<b>Wed. 08/30</b>	1:00 p.m.	Diamonds in the Rough
	6:30 p.m.	Eucharistic Minister Training
<b>Thur. 08/31</b>	6:00 p.m.	Angels in Training SCC
<b>Fri. 09/01</b>	10:00 a.m.	Sisters of Scripture SCC
<b>Sat. 09/02</b>	4:30 p.m.	Sacrament of Penance
<b>Sun. 09/03</b>		<b>Casserole Club Drop Off</b>
	9:30 a.m.	Healing Ministry

**We Remember...** *In Loving Memory*

**Doris Krah & Joseph Nowosielski,**  
brother of Ray Nowosielski;  
who passed away recently.

Please hold them and their families in prayer during this difficult time.

## FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Offertory for the weekend of **August 20, 2023**

Envelopes sent:	357	
Envelopes returned:	56	\$ 3,018.00
Faith Direct Deposits:	134	\$ 3,339.57
Loose Change:		\$ 75.00
<b>TOTAL OFFERTORY:</b>		<b>\$ 6,432.57</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

## 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.

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

<b>Mon. 08/28</b>	1 Thes 1:1-5, 8b-10	/ Mt 23:13-22
<b>Tue. 08/29</b>	1 Thes 2:1-8	/ Mk 6:17-29
<b>Wed. 08/30</b>	1 Thes 2:9-13	/ Mt 23:27-32
<b>Thur. 08/31</b>	1 Thes 3:7-13	/ Mt 24:42-51
<b>Fri. 09/01</b>	1 Thes 4:1-8	/ Mt 25:1-13
<b>Sat. 09/02</b>	1 Thes 4:9-11	/ Mt 25:14-30
<b>Sun. 09/03</b>	Jer 20:7-9 / Rom 12:1-2	/ Mt 16:21-27

## 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.

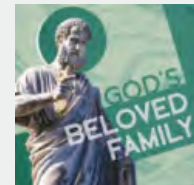
Call **Gerri Extein** at 814-490-9681



## MASS INTENTIONS

<b>Mon. 08/28</b>	8:30 a.m.	<b>- NO MASS -</b>
<b>Tue. 08/29</b>	8:30 a.m.	<b>Mary Duckett</b> (Family)
<b>Wed. 08/30</b>	8:30 a.m.	<b>Dr. Loren Prichard</b> (Paul & Deb Barko)
<b>Thur. 08/31</b>	8:30 a.m.	<b>Willard &amp; Mary Baker</b> (Family)
<b>Fri. 09/01</b>	8:30 a.m.	<b>Robert Jones</b> (Barb Jones)
<b>Sat. 09/02</b>	6:00 p.m.	<b>Special Intention</b> (Chris & Dave Kaschak)
<b>Sun. 09/03</b>	8:30 a.m.	<b>Peggy Fama</b> (John Abbate)
	11:00 a.m.	<b>For the People of OLM</b>

## THIS SUNDAY'S REFLECTION THE 21ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



Isn't it a bit weird that Catholics call the Pope "papa," father? This Sunday provides us with essential Scriptural background on the papacy, the petrine office. Jesus gives Peter the "keys to the kingdom of heaven," after witnessing to the special grace Peter has to know Jesus' true identity. Many have pointed out that the "keys" refer back to the figure of Eliakim, King David's prime minister. True enough. But notice this is not mere authority or power. It's a family relationship. The Lord says to Eliakim, "He shall be a father to the inhabitants of Jerusalem" (Isaiah 22:21). David's prime minister was a spiritual father to the family of Israel. Peter, and his successors, will be spiritual fathers in the family of the Church.

This means we have a serious obligation to not only recognize the Pope's authority, but also to love him with the affection of children for their papa. We should never speak about him with disrespect or rancor. We should listen to him with trusting hearts, and ignore the slander thrown at him in various media. When we show the world we are loving and obedient to our Holy Papa, perhaps they'll see more clearly that the Church is indeed God's beloved family.

— Father John Muir  
©LPi

## Blessing of Students

We invite all families to join us for Mass this weekend, **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.



## Baptismal Prep Session for Parents



Baptism Preparation

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**.



## Eucharist For the Homebound



We are reviving our ministry of bringing communion to those unable to join us on Sunday due to frail health. If you or a parishioner you know would like a Eucharistic

Minister to bring communion, please call Irene Lucas in the parish office at **814-899-6132**. If you would like to serve in this ministry, call Irene in the parish office.

## 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.

## Book Group

Join us on **Wednesday, Sept. 20 @ 7:00 p.m.** at the home of Kay Kaeberlein, 190 Kraus Dr., to discuss *O William* by Elizabeth Strout. Our October title will be *The Great Alone* by Kristen Hannah.



## Children's Liturgy of the Word



It Is Back! COVID forced the suspension of Children's Liturgy of the Word. It is time to bring it back. Beginning **Sept. 10 at the 8:30 Mass**, CLW will resume its weekly ministry to children age 3 to 6 years. Each Sunday morning, trained ministers will lead our young children to Marys Chapel where they will be able to hear the weekly readings proclaimed in suitable language, be invited to reflect on God's Word in their lives and join in intercessory prayer. They will return to their families as the gifts are brought to the altar. If you have a shy child who is reluctant to join the others on their own, parents are welcome to accompany them until they are comfortable.

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

NEWS • NEWS • NEWS • NEWS • NEWS • NEWS • NEWS • NEWS • NEWS • NEWS • NEWS

### Religious Education Registration

If you were unable to be with us for religious education registration last weekend, please stop by the Faith Formation Office during working hours Monday-Friday.

### 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.



## LITURGICAL MINISTRY SCHEDULE

### Saturday, September 2nd at 6:00 p.m.

Lector.....Deb Barko  
 Eucharistic Minister 1.....Todd Beckes  
 Eucharistic Minister 2.....Candy Henry  
 Altar Server.....Nick Mauro  
 Greeter.....Marilyn McDaniel  
 Greeter.....

### Sunday, September 3rd at 8:30 a.m.

Lector.....Maria Carney  
 Eucharistic Minister 1.....Marge LeFaiver  
 Eucharistic Minister 2.....Dave LeFaiver  
 Altar Server.....Madden Inthavong  
 Greeter.....Paul Sacco  
 Greeter.....Patty Sacco  
 AV Ministry.....Adam Baker

### Sunday, September 3rd at 11:00 a.m.

Lector.....Reagan Andrews  
 Eucharistic Minister 1.....Donna Schersten  
 Eucharistic Minister 2.....Nathan Matusiak  
 Altar Server.....Gabby Peters  
 Greeter.....Marilyn Garwig  
 Greeter.....Maureen Rizzo

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

### Saturday, September 9th at 6:00 p.m.

Lector.....Glory Piovarcy  
 Eucharistic Minister 1.....Chris Kaschak  
 Eucharistic Minister 2.....Gerri Extein  
 Altar Server.....Amelia Bernatowicz  
 Greeter.....Kathy Mauro  
 Greeter.....Nick Mauro

### Sunday, September 10th at 8:30 a.m.

Lector.....Nancy Mowery  
 Eucharistic Minister 1.....Ed Meyer  
 Eucharistic Minister 2.....Marlene Meyer  
 Altar Server.....Madden Inthavong  
 Greeter.....Tony Gilmore  
 Greeter.....Marilyn McDaniel  
 AV Ministry.....Lisa Spelling

### Sunday, September 10th at 11:00 a.m.

Lector.....Maureen Brainard  
 Eucharistic Minister 1.....Stacy Heidecker  
 Eucharistic Minister 2.....Nancy Clark  
 Altar Server.....  
 Greeter.....James Terrill  
 Greeter.....Claudette Terrill

### TO ALL MEN OF THE PARISH

The Mens Knight Out Committee and the Knights of Columbus Council #11144 of Our Lady of Mercy, would like to invite you to our next Mens Knight Out Event! It will be held **Wednesday, September 13th** in Sperry Hall 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! Marks 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. You do not need to be a Knight of Columbus to attend, the event is open to ALL men of the Parish and their friends and family! We look forward to sharing an evening of Fun, Food and Fellowship on **September 13th!!!** RSVP to Tim Fuhrman [knoyle@yahoo.com](mailto:knoyle@yahoo.com), or text to **814-873-5632** You may also contact Katie at the Parish Office **814-899-5342**



### 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.

# Everyday Encounters with Christ

Name: David

Standing on top of the mountains observing the sunset while on a family vacation out west.  
 Experiencing the solitude of standing in the middle of the desert.



# September Birthdays

Sept. 2	Reagan Kelly	5
Sept. 7	Kayla Kohut	18
Sept. 8	Georgia Weber	18
Sept. 9	Logan Gerrans	10
Sept. 10	Aiden Ollinger	16



Sept. 11	Riley Whitney	15
Sept. 12	Ryder Daniels	14
Sept. 12	Sadie Lander	15
Sept. 17	Anthony Allegretto	16
Sept. 22	Lily Brigham	3
Sept. 27	Montgomery Varo	17
Sept. 27	Lillian Zielinski	15
Sept. 28	Cole Maloney	6
Sept. 30	Annabelle Cillessen	4

Happy  
Birthday



# MUSIC MINISTRY

The OLM Music Ministry is committed to enhancing, accompanying and encouraging participation in the music for Mass and other liturgical gatherings. We have been blessed to have

many singers and musicians who are willing to share their talents and lead the assembly as we rejoice and worship God.

Music brings joy to the Liturgy and sends our community forth with a song in their heart.

New members of all ages are always welcome!

Please consider "trying out" the choir for our Parish Feast Day: Rehearsals for our Feast Day Mass (September 24) are:

**Thursday, September 7 @ 6 p.m.**

*and*

**Wednesday, September 20 @ 6 p.m.**

Regular Thursday Rehearsals begin on October 5 at 6 p.m.

(more info about forming a Children's Choir coming soon...)

Questions: contact Brandon Vogt at  
[music@ourladyofmercychurch.org](mailto:music@ourladyofmercychurch.org)  
or (814) 899-5342, ext. 211

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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.