

# 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

September 10, 2023 - The 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

## THE WEEK AHEAD

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

<b>Mon. 09/11</b>	9:30 a.m.	Steel Magnolias SCC
	4:30 p.m.	Food Pantry Board
	6:00 p.m.	PF Kickoff Picnic
<b>Tue. 09/12</b>	2:00 p.m.	Prayer Shawl
	4:00 p.m.	Religious Ed. Gr. 3-6
	6:00 p.m.	Sister Parish Committee
<b>Wed. 09/13</b>	6:00 p.m.	Men's Night Out
	6:30 p.m.	AGIFT Meeting
<b>Thur. 09/14</b>	6:00 p.m.	Prayer Shawl
<b>Fri. 09/15</b>	10:00 a.m.	Sisters of Scripture SCC
<b>Sat. 09/16</b>	4:30 p.m.	Sacrament of Penance
<b>Sun. 09/17</b>	9:30 a.m.	Healing Ministry
	9:30 a.m.	Religious Ed. Gr. K-2
	12:00 p.m.	Gr. 7 & 8 EDGE

## FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Offertory for the weekend of **September 3, 2023**

Envelopes sent:	357	
Envelopes returned:	63	\$ 5,853.00
Faith Direct Deposits:	134	\$ 3,339.57
Loose Change:		\$ 108.00
<b>TOTAL OFFERTORY:</b>		<b>\$ 9,300.57</b>

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

<b>Mon. 09/11</b>	Col 1:24-2:3	/ Lk 6:6-11
<b>Tue. 09/12</b>	Col 2:6-15	/ Lk 6:12-19
<b>Wed. 09/13</b>	Col 3:1-11	/ Lk 6:20-26
<b>Thur. 09/14</b>	Nm 21:4-9/ Phil 2:6-11	/ Jn 3:13-17
<b>Fri. 09/15</b>	1 Tm 1:1-2, 12-14	/ Lk 2:33-35
<b>Sat. 09/16</b>	1 Tm 1:15-17	/ Lk 6:43-49
<b>Sun. 09/17</b>	Sir 27:30-28:7	
	Rom 14:7-9	/ Mt 18:21-35

## 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. 09/11</b>	8:30 a.m.	<b>- NO MASS -</b>
<b>Tue. 09/12</b>	8:30 a.m.	<b>Christopher Kaeberlein</b> (Carole Peters)
<b>Wed. 09/13</b>	8:30 a.m.	<b>Justin Raydo</b> (Linda Sanner)
<b>Thur. 09/14</b>	8:30 a.m.	<b>Denny Smith</b> (Janet Smith)
<b>Fri. 09/15</b>	8:30 a.m.	<b>Fr. Matthew Kujawinski</b> (Nick & Sara Heise Family)
<b>Sat. 09/16</b>	6:00 p.m.	<b>Rosemary Shaffer</b> (Demaris Edwards)
<b>Sun. 09/17</b>	8:30 a.m.	<b>For the People of OLM</b>
	11:00 a.m.	<b>Sarah Selleny</b> (The Weise Family)

## 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:

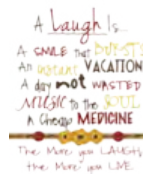
● Fr Matt.....226	● Kirk.....216
● Deacon Paul.....233	● Donna.....213
● Katie.....210	● Brandon.....211
● Irene.....214	● Nick.....220

## We Invite You To Live Out Our Vision Encountering Christ

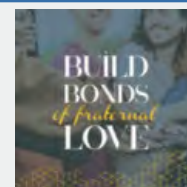
We strive to build an environment for you to recognize and experience God, feeling his profound presence so that you want more. At Our Lady of Mercy, all people are provided with opportunities to continually meet Christ in a real, personal, and intimate way.

## Comedy Corner

Have you heard about the first baseball game in the Bible? In the big inning. Eve stole first, Adam stole second. Cain struck out Abel. The Giants and the Angels were rained out.



## THIS SUNDAY'S REFLECTION THE 23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



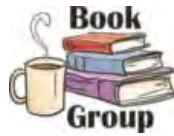
What are you supposed to do about the bad behavior of the people around you? You know who I'm talking about. That family member, friend, coworker, or acquaintance who is quite immoral. On this front there are two lively options in our culture: bash the person to others (probably online) or pretend everything's fine. The former damages the person. The latter ignores reality. What to do?

Jesus' strategy in the Gospel of Matthew is as wise as it is difficult: go directly to the person, and then gradually expand the circle of intervention. Simple, often effective, and hard. But what we often miss is the context of the Lord's strategy, "If your brother sins against you..." Notice the italicized words. Is the person in a Christian familial bond with you? And was the action in question against you? If so, proceed with the plan. Fine. But how often we fret over the sins of those who either aren't our spiritual siblings or have done nothing directly to us. This is not an invitation to ignore injustice in the world. Rather, we should build bonds of fraternal love, and carefully discern when and how others' sins are indeed our concern. Sometimes they are. Other times — frequently, perhaps — they simply are not.

— Father John Muir  
©LPi

## Book Group

Join us on **Wednesday, Sept. 27 @ 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



## Baptismal Prep Session for Parents

Welcoming a child into a family is a source of great joy. Welcoming that child into the family of faith is a cause for celebration. If you are planning for the Baptism of a child in the coming months, the Diocese of Erie invites you to attend a parent preparation session prior to scheduling the baptism. The next preparation session at OLM will be held on **Sunday, Oct. 15 at noon**. If you are unable to attend this session, you can attend one at another Catholic parish. Parents are asked to register for the session by **Oct. 12**. As a reminder, *at least one of the godparents needs to be a Confirmed practicing Catholic who is at least 16 years old.*

## Discover the Woman Within

Ladies, mark your calendars for Discover the Woman Within on **Thursday, October 12th at 7:00**. Our speaker will be Helen Schneider. Join us and bring a friend!



## 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.



## Catholic Education Collection

In September we have the Catholic Education Collection. This collection supports faith formation at Our Lady of Mercy and also supports lifelong education and faith formation opportunities for everyone throughout our entire diocese by providing funds for ministry and leadership training, technology support, creative projects in faith formation, as well as tuition assistance for families attending Catholic schools. Please support this collection by using your envelopes, adjusting your Faith Direct Account or using our Text to Give System by texting an amount to **814-892-0055**.



## Text-To-Give from Faith Direct

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.



## 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.

## Children's Liturgy of the Word

Beginning this weekend, the ministry of Children's Liturgy of the Word will be offered at the 8:30 Mass. All children age 3 to 6 years are invited to hear and reflect on the Sunday readings in a way that is accessible to them. There is no special registration to participate. Fr. Kujawinski will invite the children forward after the opening prayer to receive a blessing. They will be led to Marys Chapel with a trained CLW leader and will return to their families as the gifts are brought to the altar.



## Fall Bible Study on the Book of Hebrews

The New Testament book of Hebrews is a piece of literary and theological sophistication. Join us on the **Mondays of October** as we explore its message and hear its challenge. The study will be offered twice, at **9:30 a.m. and at 6:00 p.m.** in the Conference Room. All are welcome. No registration required. The Bible is our only text.



## Join the 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: **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





## LITURGICAL MINISTRY SCHEDULE

### Saturday, September 16th at 6:00 p.m.

Lector.....Bob Cline  
 Eucharistic Minister 1.....Kay Kaerberlein  
 Eucharistic Minister 2.....Fred Kaerberlein  
 Altar Server.....Gabby Peters  
 Greeter.....Joyce R zodkiewicz  
 Greeter.....Jason R zodkiewicz

### Sunday, September 17th at 8:30 a.m.

Lector.....Denise Lewandoski  
 Eucharistic Minister 1.....Linda Kaleta  
 Eucharistic Minister 2.....Frank Kaleta  
 Altar Server.....Kaylyn Still  
 Greeter.....Marilyn Garwig  
 Greeter.....Christine Stroker  
 AV Ministry.....Ken Marshall

### Sunday, September 17th at 11:00 a.m.

Lector.....Chrissy Saber  
 Eucharistic Minister 1.....Gail Cook  
 Eucharistic Minister 2.....Judy Iesue  
 Altar Server.....Madden Inthavong  
 Greeter.....Jane Chase  
 Greeter.....Mike Chase

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

# FEAST DAY

## Sunday, September 24th at 10:00 a.m.

Please ignore the schedule that was posted through Ministry Scheduler Pro at the beginning of summer.

Feast Day ministers will be contacted directly by the Parish Office.

See everyone on the 24th at 10:00 a.m.!

### 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**

## Child Protection and Creating Safe Environments



### Diocesan Child Protection Policies

The Diocese of Erie, is committed to protecting minors who are entrusted to our care. The Diocese has policies and procedures in place to address the national problem of child abuse, to aid in the prevention of abuse and to develop and maintain safe environments. All those who minister to minors are screened, trained, and agree to a Code of Conduct. To read the Policy that includes the Code of Conduct, go to: <https://www.eriercd.org/childprotection/policies-1.html> For more information, contact the diocesan Office for the Protection of Children and Youth at **814-824-1195**.

# Everyday Encounters with Christ

Name: Anonymous

I experienced God's presence in the calm and confident eyes of a surgeon as I was heading into surgery.



# FEAST OF OUR LADY OF MERCY

## September 24, 2023

A time to celebrate being the faith community of  
Our Lady of Mercy.

OUR FEAST DAY MASS  
is at 10:00 a.m.

Followed by a pot luck meal  
in Sperry Hall.

Please bring a dish to share  
for the luncheon according to  
your last name:

A-G Casserole or Fruit

H-O Salad or Appetizer

P-Z Dessert or Snack

*Gluten-free items are welcome.*



## Our Lady of Mercy Town Meeting for Pastoral Planning

We are having a town meeting on **Monday Sept 18 at 6:30 p.m.** for all parishioners to share hopes, dreams, and concerns for the proposed preliminary pastoral plan. The Diocesan planning Team is accepting feedback from parishes and individuals submitted by **Sept 29th**. Last week the bulletin contained the Bishop's Letter and the proposed plan. (find this insert on the bulletin tables if you missed it.) or go to [www.eriescd.org/planning](http://www.eriescd.org/planning) for all of the information including an individual survey form. All parishioners are encouraged to give their feedback to the plan. Over the winter the team will adjust the plan and a final plan will be presented in April 2024.

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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.