

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

September 17, 2023 - The 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

THE WEEK AHEAD

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

Mon. 09/18	9:30 a.m.	Steel Magnolias SCC
	6:30 p.m.	Town Hall Meeting
Tue. 09/19	1:00 p.m.	Potter's Clay SCC
	2:00 p.m.	Prayer Shawl
	4:00 p.m.	Religious Ed. Gr. 3-6
	7:00 p.m.	Lifelong Faith Formation
Wed. 09/20	8:30 a.m.	Food Pantry Distribution
	1:00 p.m.	Diamonds in the Rough
	1:00 p.m.	Hallelujah Girls SCC
	6:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Thur. 09/21	6:00 p.m.	Prayer Shawl
Fri. 09/22		
Sat. 09/23	4:30 p.m.	Sacrament of Penance
Sun. 09/24		Parish Feast Day
	10:00 a.m.	Feast day Mass

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon. 09/18	8:30 a.m.	- NO MASS -
Tue. 09/19	8:30 a.m.	Leona Stankiewicz (Karen Sweeney)
Wed. 09/20	8:30 a.m.	Sam Mollise (The Mollise Family)
Thur. 09/21	8:30 a.m.	Dr. Loren Prichard (Linda Prichard & Family)
Fri. 09/22	8:30 a.m.	
Sat. 09/23		
Sun. 09/24	10:00 a.m.	For the People of OLM

**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.

THIS SUNDAY'S REFLECTION

THE 24TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



When I was in second grade, my prized possession was a metal Star Wars-themed lunch box. After school one day, another student ripped it from my hands. I helplessly watched in horror as my classmate threw it to the ground and violently stomped it into an unrecognizable heap of junk. I came home covered in tears of shame and rage. After a few months, I never thought about it again ... until I was almost thirty years old and on a retreat to prepare for ordination to the priesthood.

That childhood memory — and the attendant outrage — came back afresh. My spiritual director helped me in the process of acknowledging that I was angry because that kid owed me my lunch box. Then she helped me, through the grace of Jesus, to forgive the debt. Almost immediately I felt a new peace. I was amazed that I hadn't forgotten what I had lost, even from years before. Aren't we human beings simply amazing at remembering what people owe us?

We see this week in Jesus' parable a servant who is forgiven much but then commands another servant: "Pay back what you owe!" He can't forget or let go of how he was wronged. He remembers — and he becomes a monster because of it. If only he had remembered not only the debts owed to him, but also his greater debt owed to — and forgiven by — his master. It's natural for us to remember what others owe us. But when we contextualize those offenses in Jesus' mercy toward us and them, we're free to be merciful like the Master and less like a monster who never forgets.

— Father John Muir
©LPI

We Remember...


Matt Hawryliw,
son of Mike & Dee Hawryliw;
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



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
- Deacon Paul.....233
- Katie.....210
- Irene.....214
- Kirk.....216
- Donna.....213
- Brandon.....211
- Nick.....220

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Mon. 09/18	1 Tm 2:1-8	/ Lk 7:1-10
Tue. 09/19	1 Tm 3:1-13	/ Lk 7:11-17
Wed. 09/20	1 Tm 3:14-16	/ Lk 7:31-35
Thur. 09/21	Eph 4:1-7, 11-13	/ Mt 9:9-13
Fri. 09/22	1 Tm 6:2-12	/ Lk 8:1-3
Sat. 09/23	1 Tm 6:13-16	/ Lk 8:4-15
Sun. 09/24	Is 55:6-9 / Phil 1:20-27	/ Mt 20:1-16

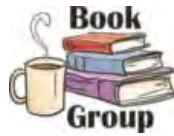
FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Offertory for the weekend of **September 10, 2023**

Envelopes sent:	357	
Envelopes returned:	60	\$ 4,466.00
Faith Direct Deposits:	134	\$ 3,339.57
Loose Change:		\$ 172.00
TOTAL OFFERTORY:		\$ 7,977.57

Book Group

Join us on **Sept. 27 at 7:00** at the home of Kay Kaeberlein, 190 Kraus Dr., to discuss O William by Elizabeth Strout. In October we will discuss The Great Alone by Kristen Hannah.



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.

Baptismal Prep Session for Parents



The next session for parents and godparents who are preparing a child for baptism will be held on **Sunday, Oct. 15 at noon**. The Diocese of Erie asks that all parents prepare for the baptism of their child by attending a preparation session. These events are held twice a year at OLM, in October and March. Please call the parish office to register by **Thursday, Oct. 12** so that we can prepare the materials. If unable to attend this session, parents are free to attend a baptismal prep session at another Catholic parish. A reminder: godparents must be practicing Catholics who have been confirmed and who are registered in a Catholic parish.

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!



Your Feedback Needed for the Pastoral Planning

We strongly encourage you to submit feedback using this link: <https://www.eriecnd.org/planning-feedback.html> Paper copies of the form can be found on the bulletin tables. Bishop Persico and the planning team take seriously the feedback that is genuine and sincere. Please take the time to pray about Our Lady of Mercy and the surrounding parishes and listen to your heart in offering feedback that will make sense for the Catholic community in East Erie County.



Bible Study on the Book of Hebrews

Our fall Bible Study will explore the Book of Hebrews. This text is one of the most theologically and literarily sophisticated book of the New Testament. It weaves Old Testament images into a nuanced understanding of Christ which at times can confuse the contemporary reader and which has challenged those of us in every age. The study will run the **Mondays of October: Oct. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30**. Each session will be held twice (as long as there is interest) at 9:00 a.m. and at 6:30 p.m. There is no need to register. Our only book will be the Bible.



Question of the Week
Question-of-the-Week winner for the week of Sept. 4 was **Claire Stauffer, Kdg**, who knew that God made light on the first day of creation.

2023 K of C BABY BOTTLE FUNDRAISER UPDATE

Congratulations Our Lady of Mercy! Our parish donated \$4,614 toward the Knights of Columbus 2nd Annual Baby Bottle Fundraiser. A grand total of \$75,411 was given by 37 churches and 4 Catholic schools in Erie and Crawford Counties. These donations not only helped pay for a new ultrasound machine for one of the Women's Care Center's locations, but also will provide a subsidy for the operating expenses of the ultrasound van purchased from the 2022 fundraiser. Also, additional funds will be provided by the K of C Supreme as a result of this years success. Thank you to all who contributed! May God Bless you for your kindness and support in helping to save the lives of the unborn.



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.



<p>LITURGICAL MINISTRY SCHEDULE</p>	<p>*If you can not make your scheduled Mass, please contact another minister to sub for you*</p>
<p>FEAST DAY</p> <p>Sunday, September 24th at 10:00 a.m.</p> <p>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.!</p>	<p>Saturday, September 30th at 6:00 p.m.</p> <p>Lector.....Clara Camillo Eucharistic Minister 1.....Kathy Mauro Eucharistic Minister 2.....Anne Spring Altar Server.....Nick Mauro Greeter.....Marilyn McDaniel Greeter.....Maureen Rizzo</p> <p>Sunday, September 17th at 8:30 a.m.</p> <p>Lector.....Sue Haynes Eucharistic Minister 1.....Mary Beth Smith Eucharistic Minister 2.....Gary Smith Altar Server.....Madden Inthavong Greeter.....Paul Sacco Greeter.....Patty Sacco AV Ministry.....Lisa Spelling</p> <p>Sunday, September 17th at 11:00 a.m.</p> <p>Lector.....Carrie Galbreath Eucharistic Minister 1.....Pat Kosobucki Eucharistic Minister 2.....Erica Taccone Altar Server.....Colton Catrabone Greeter.....Claudette Terrill Greeter.....Jim Terrill</p>

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.



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 or (814) 899-5342, ext. 211



Everyday Encounters with Christ

Name: Anonymous

I experienced God's presence driving home one evening with storms behind me and blue sky in front knowing God was leading me safely.



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 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.