

# 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 24, 2023 - The Feast of Our Lady of Mercy

## THE WEEK AHEAD

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

<b>Mon. 09/25</b>	9:30 a.m.	Steel Magnolias SCC
	6:00 p.m.	Fireside Chatters SCC
<b>Tue. 09/26</b>	1:00 p.m.	Potter's Clay SCC
	2:00 p.m.	Prayer Shawl
	4:00 p.m.	Religious Ed. Gr. 3-6
	5:30 p.m.	Youth Open Gym
	6:00 p.m.	Roman Candles SCC
<b>Wed. 09/27</b>	1:00 p.m.	Diamonds in the Rough
	7:00 p.m.	OLM Book Group
<b>Thur. 09/28</b>	6:00 p.m.	Prayer Shawl
<b>Fri. 09/29</b>		
<b>Sat. 09/30</b>	4:30 p.m.	Sacrament of Penance
<b>Sun. 10/01</b>		<b>Casserole Club Drop Off</b>
	9:30 a.m.	Healing Ministry
	9:30 a.m.	Religious Ed. Gr. K-2
	12:00 p.m.	Gr. 7 & 8 EDGE

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

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

<b>Mon. 09/25</b>	Ezr 1:1-6	/ Lk 8:16-18
<b>Tue. 09/26</b>	Ezr 6:7-20	/ Lk 8:19-21
<b>Wed. 09/27</b>	Ezr 9:5-9	/ Lk 9:1-6
<b>Thur. 09/28</b>	Hg 1:1-8	/ Lk 9:7-9
<b>Fri. 09/29</b>	Dn 7:9-14 or Rv 12:7-13	/ Jn 1:47-51
<b>Sat. 09/30</b>	Zec 2:5-9, 14-15a	/ Lk 9:43-45
<b>Sun. 10/01</b>	EZ 18:25-28/Phil 2:1-11	/ Mt 21:28-32

## MASS INTENTIONS

<b>Mon. 09/25</b>	8:30 a.m.	<b>- NO MASS -</b>
<b>Tue. 09/26</b>	8:30 a.m.	<b>Denny Smith</b> (Janet Smith)
<b>Wed. 09/27</b>	8:30 a.m.	<b>Kathleen Jean Pino</b> (The Kujawinski Family)
<b>Thur. 09/28</b>	8:30 a.m.	
<b>Fri. 09/29</b>	8:30 a.m.	
<b>Sat. 09/30</b>	6:00 p.m.	<b>Peter Jacquel</b> (The Jacquel Family)
<b>Sun. 10/01</b>	8:30 a.m.	<b>Anthony Massaro</b> (Marilyn & Tony Massaro)

## FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Offertory for the weekend of **September 17, 2023**

Envelopes sent:	357	
Envelopes returned:	54	\$ 2,877.00
Faith Direct Deposits:	134	\$ 3,339.57
Loose Change:		\$ 79.00
<b>TOTAL OFFERTORY:</b>		<b>\$ 6,295.57</b>

## As a Parish Community, 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.

### 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.

### 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 THE FEAST OF OUR LADY OF MERCY

The title of "Our Lady of Mercy" is almost 900 years old. Tradition holds that around the year 1218 AD, both St. Peter Nolasco and King James I of Aragon and Catalonia experienced separate apparitions of the Blessed Virgin Mary requesting them to establish a religious order entrusted with the responsibility of rescuing the many Christians who were being held captive by the Moorish armies who invaded the Iberian peninsula.

In 1235 AD, the Order of Our Lady of Mercy received papal approval by Pope Gregory IX, and succeeded in liberating thousands of Christian prisoners from captivity. The Order was later able to shift its mission toward education and social work.

Today, the Virgin Mother is honored under the title of "Our Lady of Mercy" throughout the world by countless parishes, schools and hospitals who embrace her as their Patroness.



## Book Group

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



## 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 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.eriecd.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 may be 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 can always challenge us in every age to growth in holiness. 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



## Lets Have Some Fun!

Are you interested in playing and learning new simple board and card games such as parchesi, Uno, shut the box, dominoes, and others? Would you like to gather with an adult group for fun and games, afternoons, at Our Lady of Mercy? We will go forward with this if there is enough interest. So call Irene (**814-899-6132**) and give your input.



## 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.

## Question of the Week

Question-of-the-Week winner for the week of Sept. 11 was **Zachary Henry, grade 6**, who knew that the Church uses green during the season of Ordinary Time.

## 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.



## Youth Open Gym

Deacon Barko is once again holding open gym for youth after religious education on the **4th Tuesday of the month**. Any youth interested, are invited to play in the gym from **5:30 to 6:30** this **Tuesday, Sept. 26**.



## Ministry to Homebound Parishioners

If you are or if you know of a parishioner who is unable to be present for the Sunday Mass due to frail health or limited mobility and who would like the Eucharist brought to their house, please call Irene in the parish office at **814-899-6132**.



## Hunger and Food Insecurity.

This may seem like the same but it means different things. Hunger is the feeling someone has when they don't have food. Food Insecurity is the consistent lack of food to have a healthy life because of economic circumstances. The Ella Cochran Food Pantry serves more than 140 families facing food insecurity every month. The Pantry needs your help. Our ecumenical ministry relies on volunteers to serve our neighbors and government grants or community donations to purchase food and household necessities. In recent years the government grants at both the state & federal level have diminished. There has been a decrease in local support too. We are now operating at a deficit. Would you consider supporting your neighbors with food Insecurity? Donations can be made to Ella Cochran Food Pantry through the parish office or online through Faith Direct. <https://membership.faithdirect.net/PA647> We appreciate your support and prayers.



## LITURGICAL MINISTRY SCHEDULE

### Saturday, September 30th at 6:00 p.m.

Lector.....Clara Camillo  
 Eucharistic Minister 1.....Kathy Mauro  
 Eucharistic Minister 2.....Anne Spring  
 Altar Server.....Nick Mauro  
 Greeter.....Marilyn McDaniel  
 Greeter.....Maureen Rizzo

### Sunday, October 1st at 8:30 a.m.

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

### Sunday, October 1st at 11:00 a.m.

Lector.....Carrie Galbreath  
 Eucharistic Minister 1.....Pat Kosobucki  
 Eucharistic Minister 2.....Erica Taccone  
 Altar Server.....Colton Catrabone  
 Greeter.....Claudette Terrill  
 Greeter.....Jim Terrill



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

### Saturday, October 7th at 6:00 p.m.

Lector.....Deb Barko  
 Bowl 1.....Todd Beckes  
 Bowl 2.....Bonnie Eckendorf  
 Cup 1.....Tom Eckendorf  
 Cup 2.....Gerri Extein  
 Altar Server.....Gabby Peters  
 Greeter.....Kathy Mauro  
 Greeter.....Nick Mauro

### Sunday, October 8th at 8:30 a.m.

Lector.....Maria Carney  
 Bowl 1.....Erica Taccone  
 Bowl 2.....Tish Szczesny  
 Cup 1.....Dan Szczesny  
 Cup 2.....Karen Sweeney  
 Cup 3.....Rachel Still  
 Cup 4.....John Skuce  
 Altar Server.....Kaylyn Still  
 Greeter.....Rochelle Edwards  
 Greeter.....Marilyn Garwig  
 AV Ministry.....Ken Marshall

### Sunday, October 8th at 11:00 a.m.

Lector.....Reagan Andrews  
 Bowl 1.....Claudette Terrill  
 Bowl 2.....Nancy Clark  
 Cup 1.....Judy Iesue  
 Cup 2.....Nathan Matusiak  
 Altar Server.....Colton Catrabone  
 Greeter.....Jane Chase  
 Greeter.....Mike Chase

### 40 Days for Life

From September 27th to November 5th, you are invited to join other Christians for 40 Days for Life-40 days of prayer and fasting for an end to abortion. You're also invited to peacefully pray during a 40 day vigil being held in the public right of way outside the Rite-Aid on 916 State Street, Erie, Pa. Rite-Aid is trying to dispense the abortion pill. Please spread the word about this important community outreach. If you'd like more information, and especially if you'd like to volunteer to help, please contact Joe Preston at (814) 392-7964 or [studentsforlife@gannon.edu](mailto:studentsforlife@gannon.edu). You are encouraged to sign up for vigil hours at [40daysforlife.com/erie](http://40daysforlife.com/erie). Thank you for your support!



### Men's Cursillo Weekend

Are you seeking a deeper encounter with Christ? Could your spiritual life use a boost? Is there a hole in your life that you want to fill? Make a Cursillo weekend and experience God's presence in a way you never have before. The next Cursillo weekend for men will be **Oct. 20-22** at Our Lady of Mercy. Applications can be found at the parish office or the Cursillo website. Make a Cursillo | Erie Diocesan Cursillo Movement | Erie, PA ([ericcursillo.org](http://ericcursillo.org))



## Everyday Encounters with Christ

Name: John Sarvis

I experienced God's presence in the beauty of sunrise or sunsets over our lake, the beauty of a cold winter day with blue sky and fresh snow, I feel close to God. Blessed with family and friends every day! God is here always!



# The Book of Hebrews

## A BIBLE STUDY

**Monday, Oct. 2 thru Oct. 30**

**9:00-10:00 AM**

**And**

**7:00-8:00 PM**

**In the Ritchie Room**

*{Either session could be cancelled  
if there is no interest in that time.}*



The New Testament Book of Hebrews can be in turns perplexing, inspiring, intimidating. It weaves together a sophisticated theology of Christ with a challenging exhortation to a Christian life. This study will unpack some of the images and their Old Testament roots to come to a deeper understanding of Christ as our hope.

*All are welcome. No registration required.*

*The Bible will be our only text.*

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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.