

# 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

October 1, 2023 - The 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

## THE WEEK AHEAD

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

<b>Mon. 10/02</b>	9:00 a.m.	Bible Study
	9:30 a.m.	Steel Magnolias SCC
	6:30 p.m.	Bible Study
<b>Tue. 10/03</b>	1:00 p.m.	Potter's Clay SCC
	2:00 p.m.	Prayer Shawl
	4:00 p.m.	Religious Ed. Gr. 3-6
	6:30 p.m.	Pastoral Council
<b>Wed. 10/04</b>	1:00 p.m.	Diamonds in the Rough
<b>Thur. 10/05</b>	6:00 p.m.	Prayer Shawl
	6:15 p.m.	EDGE Team Meeting
<b>Fri. 10/06</b>	10:00 a.m.	Sisters of Scripture SCC
	6:30 p.m.	Dunkin' Discussion
<b>Sat. 10/07</b>	<b>Grade 9 Rite of Acceptance - All Weekend Masses</b>	
	4:30 p.m.	Sacrament of Penance
<b>Sun. 10/08</b>	<b>Grade 9 Rite of Acceptance - All Weekend Masses</b>	
	9:30 a.m.	Religious Ed. Gr. K-2
	9:45 a.m.	First Penance Parent Mtg

## FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Offertory for the weekend of **September 24, 2023**

Envelopes sent:	357	
Envelopes returned:	29	\$ 1,327.80
Faith Direct Deposits:	134	\$ 3,339.57
Loose Change:		\$ 307.00
<b>TOTAL OFFERTORY:</b>		<b>\$ 4,974.37</b>

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

<b>Mon. 10/02</b>	Zec 8:1-8	/ Mt 18:1-10
<b>Tue. 10/03</b>	Zec 8:20-23	/ Lk 9:51-56
<b>Wed. 10/04</b>	Neh 2:1-8	/ Lk 9:57-62
<b>Thur. 10/05</b>	Neh 8:1-12	/ Lk 10:1-12
<b>Fri. 10/06</b>	Bar 1:15-22	/ Lk 10:13-16
<b>Sat. 10/07</b>	Bar 4:45-13, 27-29	/ Lk 10:17-24
<b>Sun. 10/08</b>	Is 5:1-7 / Phil 4:6-9	/ Mt 21:33-43

## MASS INTENTIONS

<b>Mon. 10/02</b>	8:30 a.m.	<b>- NO MASS -</b>
<b>Tue. 10/03</b>	8:30 a.m.	<b>Analida Braeger</b> (Tom Braeger)
<b>Wed. 10/04</b>	8:30 a.m.	<b>Dr. Loren Prichard</b> (Bill & Jackie Loftus)
<b>Thur. 10/05</b>	8:30 a.m.	<b>Sandy Jordan</b> (Janet Smith)
<b>Fri. 10/06</b>	8:30 a.m.	<b>Sam Mollise</b> (The Mollise Family)
<b>Sat. 10/07</b>	6:00 p.m.	<b>Christopher Kaeberlein</b> (Debbie & Mike Radomile)
<b>Sun. 10/08</b>	8:30 a.m.	<b>For the People of OLM</b>
	11:00 a.m.	<b>Robert Jones</b> (Barb Jones)

## 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.

### 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



### Blood Drive

The next Blood Drive is on  
**Thursday, October 12th**  
from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.



## THIS SUNDAY'S REFLECTION THE 26TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



A life-long Catholic friend of mine recently mumbled to me, "I can't stand all these converts to the faith. They're always rocking the boat." It surprised me because he is dedicated to evangelization, and yet he struggles with openness to new Catholics. It made me realize how easily I close my heart to those whom I perceive to be outsiders who become new members of the Catholic community. Almost unconsciously I reduce the world to the categories of "us" and "them." The result is that meaningful community silently shrinks in my life. Don't we all do that to some degree?

This week Jesus' punchy parable about the two sons blows up that black and white world. One son said he wouldn't get to work, and then did. The other said he would, and then he did not. "Which did the will of his father?" asks the Lord. Like so many of us, in identifying the first as the answer, the religious authorities manifest hidden hypocrisy in refusing to follow Jesus. They — like us — intuit the correct path but simply won't do it. The tax collectors and prostitutes are indeed following Jesus and thereby getting to work in the kingdom of God. Everyone is called to do God's will regardless of the labels we may apply to them.

This week let's reject the convenient but damaging categories of "insiders" and "outsiders." Instead, let's embrace a grateful attitude that Jesus is calling fallen, weak, and broken men and women like you and me. Then we begin to see that the tax collectors and prostitutes aren't them. They are us. And Jesus wants all of us working in his boat, no matter the rocking.

— Father John Mui  
©LPi

## Baptism 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!

## 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.



## 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 not match an existing account, you will have the option to apply the gift to your existing account.

## 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**.



## Parent Meetings for First Reconciliation and First Eucharist

Parent meetings for First Reconciliation will be held on **Oct. 8** and for First Eucharist on **Oct. 15**. Both will be held in Sperry Hall at **9:45**.



## Question of the Week

Question-of-the-Week winner for the week of Sept. 18 was **Alex Bryan, grade 6**, who knew that there are statues of Mary and Joseph in our Worship Space.

## Book Group

Join us on **Oct. 18** to discuss The Great Alone by Kristen Hannah.



## 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 \(eriecursillo.org\)](http://www.eriecursillo.org)

## Day of the Dead Celebration

Once again this year, the Sister Parish Committee will join with the people of Our Lady of the Assumption in Peto in their celebration of The Day of the Dead. We will be creating an altar in the Gathering Space. All are invited to bring in pictures and mementos of loved ones and parish members who have died. The altar will be in place by Oct. 21/22 for everyone to add their items. It will remain in the Gathering Space through All Saints & All Souls Days. You can retrieve your items the weekend of Nov. 4/5 after which the altar will come down.



## 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, 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

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

### Saturday, October 14th at 6:00 p.m.

Lector.....Clara Camillo  
 Bowl 1.....Kay Kaerberlein  
 Bowl 2.....Fred Kaerberlein  
 Cup 1.....Chris Kaschak  
 Cup 2.....Marilyn Rinke  
 Altar Server.....Gabby Peters  
 Greeter.....Jason Rzodkiewicz  
 Greeter.....Joyce Rzodkiewicz

### Sunday, October 15th at 8:30 a.m.

Lector.....Tim Fuhrman  
 Bowl 1.....Sandi Matts  
 Bowl 2.....Gary Smith  
 Cup 1.....Chip Shamburg  
 Cup 2.....Teresa Shamburg  
 Cup 3.....Dave Seyboldt  
 Cup 4.....Donna Schersten  
 Altar Server.....Kaylyn Still  
 Greeter.....Tony Gilmore  
 Greeter.....Linda Kaleta  
 AV Ministry.....Adam Baker

### Sunday, October 15th at 11:00 a.m.

Lector.....Chrissy Saber  
 Bowl 1.....Carole Peters  
 Bowl 2.....Darlene Piotrowski  
 Cup 1.....  
 Cup 2.....Erica Taccone  
 Altar Server.....Madden Inthavong  
 Greeter.....Claudette Terrill  
 Greeter.....Jim Terrill

## Everyday Encounters with Christ



Name: Anonymous

I experienced God's presence in a cheerful smile of a wonderful neighbor. She is very full of the Lord.



**DUNKIN' DISCUSSION**

Join our Parish Impact Coordinator, Nick Heise at Dunkin' Donuts 4007 Buffalo Rd, Erie PA 16510

for a theological discussion on the movie *Captain America: The First Avenger* Friday October 6th 6:30-8:00 p.m.

### What are Dunkin' Discussion Nights?

Dunkin' Discussion Nights are an opportunity for the young people to meet at Dunkin' Donuts and have a guided theological conversation about modern day blockbusters!



## OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Oct. 2 Connor Barber 11  
 Oct. 4 Bryce Skarzenski 13  
 Oct. 7 Emma Skelly 12  
 Oct. 8 Sienna Blood 11



Oct. 8 Gavin Bleil-Tersigni 11  
 Oct. 9 Lily Juhas 6  
 Oct. 12 Eleanor Shamburg 5  
 Oct. 13 Julia Chludzinski 17  
 Oct. 17 Anthony Bly 11  
 Oct. 18 Gabrielle Peters 11  
 Oct. 20 Luca Burick 9  
 Oct. 31 Kevin Juhas 7  
 Oct. 31 Zoe Redford 14



OUR LADY OF MERCY  
PRESENTS...

# TRUNK OR TREAT

SATURDAY OCTOBER 28

3:00 - 4:30 P.M.

PLEASE RSVP ON THE FACEBOOK  
EVENT PAGE, OR TO THE PARISH  
OFFICE @ 814-899-5342

## Feast Day Thank You!

Thank you Linda Bailey, Jan Brown, Kate Crolli, Sharon Kestler, Marlene Meyer and Tish Szczesny for all of your help setting up, working to get things ready on Sunday and for cleaning up. You made the Feast Day lunch such a success. Could not have done it without all of you. Thank you to all of the parishioners who attended the celebration and brought a dish to share. Also a special "thank you" to Kirk for setting up Sperry Hall for the event. - Linda Kaleta

*Our Lady of Mercy would like to send out a great big "thank you" to Linda Kaleta for organizing our Parish Meal! Thank you for all of your time and effort into making this such a wonderful celebration for our parish community!*



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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.