

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

October 8, 2023 - The 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

THE WEEK AHEAD

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

Mon. 10/09	9:00 a.m.	Bible Study
	9:30 a.m.	Steel Magnolias SCC
	6:30 p.m.	Bible Study
Tue. 10/10	6:30 p.m.	Fireside Chatters SCC
	10:00 a.m.	Angel's In Training SCC
	12:00 p.m.	Lunch with the Lord
	1:00 p.m.	Potter's Clay SCC
	2:00 p.m.	Prayer Shawl
Wed. 10/11	4:00 p.m.	Religious Ed. Gr. 3-6
	6:00 p.m.	Roman Candles SCC
	1:00 p.m.	Diamonds in the Rough
	1:00 p.m.	Hallelujah Girls SCC
	6:00 p.m.	Eucharistic Adoration
	6:30 p.m.	AGIFT Meeting
Thur. 10/12	7:00 p.m.	Knights of Columbus
	4:00 p.m.	Blood Drive
	6:00 p.m.	Prayer Shawl
Fri. 10/13	7:00 p.m.	Discover the Woman
Sat. 10/14		
Sun. 10/15	9:30 a.m.	Religious Ed. Gr. K-2
	9:30 a.m.	Healing Ministry
	9:45 a.m.	First Eucharist
		Parent Mtg
	12:00 p.m.	Baptismal Prep Class
	12:00 p.m.	Gr. 7 & 8 EDGE

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Offertory for the weekend of **October 1, 2023**

Envelopes sent:	357	
Envelopes returned:	69	\$ 3,641.00
Faith Direct Deposits:	134	\$ 3,339.57
Loose Change:		\$ 91.00
TOTAL OFFERTORY:		\$ 7,071.57

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

Mon. 10/19	8:30 a.m.	- NO MASS -
Tue. 10/10	8:30 a.m.	Denny Smith (Janet Smith)
Wed. 10/11	8:30 a.m.	Don McCurdy (Margaret McCurdy)
Thur. 10/12	8:30 a.m.	Joanne Smith (Liana Wathen)
Fri. 10/13	8:30 a.m.	The Staff of OLM (Nick & Sara Heise Family)
Sat. 10/14	6:00 p.m.	Sarah Selleny (Jean & Tammy Black)
Sun. 10/15	8:30 a.m.	Paul DeLuca (Rose Marie DeLuca)
	11:00 a.m.	For the People of OLM

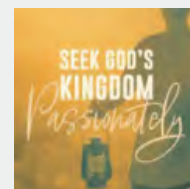
We Invite You To Live Out Our Vision Growing in His Love

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.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Mon. 10/09	Jon 1:2-2:2	/ Lk 10:25-37
Tue. 10/10	Jon 3:1-10	/ Lk 10:38-42
Wed. 10/11	Jon 4:1-11	/ Lk 11:1-4
Thur. 10/12	Mal 3:13-20	/ Lk 11:5-13
Fri. 10/13	Jl 1:13-15; 2:1-2	/ Lk 11:15-26
Sat. 10/14	Jl 4:12-21	/ Lk 11:27-28
Sun. 10/15	Is 25:6-10 / Phil 4:12-20	/ Mt 22:1-14

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



Jesus' parables are much stranger than most people realize. This week is an attention-getting example. He tells the religious leaders a parable about a completely absurd situation. Blood-thirsty and insane tenants violently abuse and kill the servants of their landlord. Inexplicably, the owner keeps sending them more victims of increasing value — up to and including his own son. Weird.

Usually, we hear this parable and assume it's an allegory: Jesus is the murdered son, the servants the prophets, etc. Fair enough. But notice — and here is where the weirdness deepens — Jesus seems to disagree with the Pharisees' interpretation that the landowner should and will punish the inheritance-obsessed murderers. So, is Jesus praising the psychotic and greedy murderers?! You can imagine the furrowed brows and deriding laughter as the scoffing crowd shuffles away.

If we stay with this tough parable, perhaps this truth emerges: God wants us to have an over-the-top obsession with a totally undeserved inheritance. Of course, we are forbidden to use violence. But the parable's violence gets our attention because it highlights the crazy goodness of the landowner. Jesus reveals that God is not merely in the business of rewarding the good and punishing the bad. He is playing a much stranger game — one marked by a kind of over-the-top mercy, a breathtaking giving of what is not deserved. What would our week look like if we embraced this kind of desire for God's kingdom on earth, even if others think we're nuts? This week let's seek God's kingdom with a passionate confidence in God's desire to give the good things we don't deserve.

— Father John Muir

©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 is exploring the Book of Hebrews. Feel free to join even if you were unable to attend the first week. Each session is offered twice, at **9:00 am and 6:30 pm on the Mondays of October**.



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**.



Missing Banner Pieces

Pieces from a family's quilt patch in our worship space have fallen off. We are trying to find the owners of the quilted pieces. Please take a look at the parish quilt and contact the parish office at **814-899-5342** if you believe yours is missing.



The Groove Is Back!

The Knights of Columbus is again sponsoring a dance featuring Erie's most popular band, "The Groove" on **Friday, November 10** in our gym from **7 to 11 p.m.** Tickets will go on sale after Masses starting **October 8th** and will be available in the Parish Office from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Ticket price is still only \$15 per person. The dance has been a sell out in the past, so get your tickets early. Capacity is limited.



For Mercy Sake Deadline

The deadline to submit items for the autumn issue of the parish newsletter is **Sunday, Oct. 22**. Send items to secretary@ourladyofmercychurch.org.



Question of the Week

Question-of-the-Week winner for the week of Sept. 25 was **Logan Schneider, grade 3**, who knew that the 3 Divine Persons of the Trinity are the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

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**.



Book Group

Join us on **Oct. 18** to discuss So Long, Chester Wheeler by Catherine Ryan Hyde. In November we will discuss We Band of Angels by Elizabeth Norman.

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)



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.

Lunch with the Lord

All are invited to come together for a Lunch With the Lord. At table, we will share with each other our journey in faith, our joys and our challenges. A speaker will give witness to her or his experience as a Christian at each lunch, sharing how the Spirit has guided them and how the gift of salvation has influenced them. The gatherings will be ecumenical and open to all. Our first Lunch with the Lord event will be held this Tuesday, October 10th at noon in Sperry Hall. Bring your own lunch. We will provide drinks. Registration encouraged by calling the Parish Office at **814-899-5342**.



LITURGICAL MINISTRY SCHEDULE

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 R zodkiewicz
 Greeter.....Joyce R zodkiewicz

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

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

Saturday, October 21st at 6:00 p.m.

Lector.....Bob Cline
 Bowl 1.....Anne Spring
 Bowl 2.....Carol Stauffer
 Cup 1.....Todd Beckes
 Cup 2.....Gerri Extein
 Altar Server.....Nick Mauro
 Greeter.....Marilyn McDaniel
 Greeter.....Maureen Rizzo

Sunday, October 22nd at 8:30 a.m.

Lector.....Carrie Galbreath
 Bowl 1.....Lorraine Bucklin
 Bowl 2.....Sandy Emling
 Cup 1.....Kathleen Pearson
 Cup 2.....Tom Palisin
 Cup 3.....Greg Morealli
 Cup 4.....Geoff McCreary
 Altar Server.....Madden Inthavong
 Greeter.....Paul Sacco
 Greeter.....Patty Sacco
 AV Ministry.....Lisa Spelling

Sunday, October 22nd at 11:00 a.m.

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

Everyday Encounters with Christ

Name: Anonymous

I experienced God's presence in beautiful sunsets.



Finance Report

Operating Budget for July & August 2023

Income	\$62,288
Expenses	\$65,064
Loss	\$(2,776)
Festival Proceeds (from Jul. & Aug.)	\$24,915
Net Income	\$22,139



This month we observe "World Mission Sunday." In this year's theme, "Hearts on fire, feet on the move;" Pope Francis invites us to kindle the fire of Christ's love in our hearts and to actively share our faith. The annual Mission collection helps missionary dioceses until they can stand on their own feet and become independent. As our nation has benefitted from this support in the past, may we now support those areas of the world where the Catholic faith is blossoming. I invite you to please pray for the work of the missions, and support this work as generously as you can. Bishop Persico

Blood Drive

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



Altar Servers Desperately Needed!

If you or your child(ren), grade 4 and up, are interested in becoming an Altar Server, please sign up at the display in the Gathering Space. If you have any questions, please reach out to Deacon Paul Barko. No prior experience necessary as training will be provided.

Child Protection and Creating Safe Environments



October is Respect Life Month

Our faith calls for us to uphold the value of human life and the dignity of the human person. The protection of children and vulnerable adults is the responsibility of the entire Church, including the faithful. The protection of children, youth and vulnerable adults from abuse and other harm is a respect life issue, and we must all do our part to uphold this ideal. Anyone who suspects or knows of abuse should report it immediately. For information on reporting child abuse visit <https://www.eriecd.org/childprotection/>

Hanal Pixan

The Day of the Dead (el Día de los Muertos), is a Mexican holiday around the Feast of All Saints and All Souls, where families welcome back the souls of their deceased relatives for a brief reunion that includes food, drink and celebration.

In the Yucatan, where our sister parish is located, this celebration has a Mayan influence and is called Hanal Pixan. It is similar to the Día de los Muertos and is a two day holiday that reunites the living and dead. Families create 'ofrendas' (offerings) to honor their departed family members. These altars are decorated with bright yellow marigold flowers, photos of the departed, and the favorite foods and drinks of the one being honored.

The offerings are believed to encourage visits from the land of the dead as the departed souls hear their prayers, smell their foods and join in the celebrations! Families also gather for special dinners.

Our Sister Parish Committee would like to have an 'ofrenda' here at Our Lady of Mercy in the gathering space. If you would like to honor a loved one's memory, please provide a labeled picture and perhaps a memento and place it on the altar in the Gathering Space the weekend of **Oct. 21/22**. Our space is limited, so please do not bring in anything that is large. The altar will remain up through the first weekend of November. Families are asked to claim their pictures and mementos the weekend of November 5/6.



Our Lady of Mercy's Ofrenda

Bring a picture or memento of a deceased loved one on: October 21/22

Pick up your memento on: November 4/5

**Reminder: please do not provide anything that is large or irreplaceable. Space is limited.*

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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
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