

# 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 22, 2023 - The 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time

## THE WEEK AHEAD

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

<b>Mon. 10/23</b>	9:00 a.m.	Bible Study
	9:30 a.m.	Steel Magnolias SCC
	1:00 p.m.	Sofia's Circle SCC
	6:30 p.m.	Bible Study
	6:30 p.m.	Festival Meeting
	6:30 p.m.	Fireside Chatters SCC
<b>Tue. 10/24</b>	10:00 a.m.	Angels In Training SCC
	1:00 p.m.	Potter's Clay SCC
	2:00 p.m.	Prayer Shawl
	4:00 p.m.	Religious Ed. Gr. 3
	4:00 p.m.	Gr. 5-6 Retreat
	6:00 p.m.	Roman Candles SCC
<b>Wed. 10/25</b>	1:00 p.m.	Hallelujah Girls SCC
<b>Thur. 10/26</b>	6:00 p.m.	Prayer Shawl
<b>Fri. 10/27</b>		
<b>Sat. 10/28</b>	3:00 p.m.	Trunk or Treat
	4:30 p.m.	Sacrament of Penance
<b>Sun. 10/29</b>	9:30 a.m.	Religious Ed. Gr. K-2
	9:45 a.m.	Sunday CAFÉ
	12:00 p.m.	Gr. 7 & 8 EDGE

## FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Offertory for the weekend of **October 15, 2023**

Envelopes sent:	357	
Envelopes returned:	51	\$ 2,378.00
Faith Direct Deposits:	134	\$ 3,339.57
Loose Change:		\$ 108.00
<b>TOTAL OFFERTORY:</b>		<b>\$ 5,825.57</b>

## We Remember...

**Patty Tomczak**, the grandmother  
of Jacob Francis;  
who passed away recently.

*In Loving Memory*

Please hold her and her family in  
prayer during this difficult time.

## MASS INTENTIONS

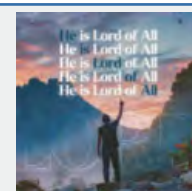
<b>Mon. 10/23</b>	8:30 a.m.	- NO MASS -
<b>Tue. 10/24</b>	8:30 a.m.	<b>Michael Baker</b> (The Morris Family)
<b>Wed. 10/25</b>	8:30 a.m.	<b>Dr. Loren Prichard</b> (Deacon Paul & Deb Barko)
<b>Thur. 10/26</b>	8:30 a.m.	<b>Theresa Millard</b> (John Abbate)
<b>Fri. 10/27</b>	8:30 a.m.	<b>Michael Camera</b> (Marge Camera)
<b>Sat. 10/28</b>	6:00 p.m.	<b>The Piovarcy Family</b> (Glory Piovarcy)
<b>Sun. 10/29</b>	8:30 a.m.	<b>For the People of OLM</b>
	11:00 a.m.	<b>Theresa Igniasiak</b> (Suzie Szymeccki & Family)

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

<b>Mon. 10/23</b>	Rom 4:20-25	/ Lk 12:13-21
<b>Tue. 10/24</b>	Rom 5:12-21	/ Lk 12:35-38
<b>Wed. 10/25</b>	Rom 6:12-18	/ Lk 12:39-48
<b>Thur. 10/26</b>	Rom 6:19-23	/ Lk 12:49-53
<b>Fri. 10/27</b>	Rom 7:18-25a	/ Lk 12:54-59
<b>Sat. 10/28</b>	Eph 2:19-22	/ Lk 6:12-16
<b>Sun. 10/29</b>	Ex 22:20-26/1Thes 1:5-10/ Mt 22:34-40	

## THIS SUNDAY'S REFLECTION

### THE 29TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



With little more than a year until the United States' national elections, I find myself feeling, like many Catholics, both dread and energized. Dread, because our democratic republic can be a messy endeavor and campaigns a long, nasty, and unedifying slog; energized, because hope for positive societal change can be enticing and engaging. As a pastor, I see similar conflicting attitudes in those whom I serve. How can Catholics best engage our political arena in a way which is truly helpful and worthwhile?

This week's gospel reading offers wisdom in this regard. Jesus says, "Render therefore to Caesar the things are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's." This riddle forces us to answer for ourselves a hidden question: what is the relationship between political and divine authority? Two common but false answers lead to mischief. If we answer that the two are equivalent, politics becomes our absolute authority. This happens whenever religion is slave to the state, as in the travesty of the pro-Nazi German Christian movement in the 1930s and 40s. It also usually occurs when there is an official state religion. If we answer that the two are totally unrelated, we end up with an unchecked aggressive secularist state as we often experience now. Thus, religion becomes a weak and private pastime.

What's a better alternative? At our best, Christians hold that political authority does indeed have its own legitimate autonomy but is nested within God's all-encompassing authority. Think, for example, of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s respect for politics while also being able to criticize unjust human laws because he recognized a higher heavenly law. In other words, Caesar owns politics — and God owns Caesar. So, we should allow Jesus' words to lead us to have a deep respect and willingness to peacefully engage in politics without making that engagement our religion. We bring our faith to bear on our politics knowing confidently that Caesar isn't God — but he is indeed God's.

— Father John Muir  
©LPi



### Contemplative Prayer

Each **Wednesday at 11 a.m.** a small group will gather in Mary's Chapel for contemplative prayer. All are welcome. Instruction will be provided to learn this technique of quiet listening and inviting God's presence and action in our lives. We will work up to spending 20 minutes in quiet prayer. Questions contact Donna Clark.



### Sunday Morning \*C\*A\*F\*E\*

Our first CAFÉ of the season will be at **9:45 a.m. Oct. 29**. Sharon Kestler will help us understand what it means to share in the healing ministry of Christ. Sharon developed a Healing Ministry at OLM in 2010. Whether through the Sunday morning opportunity for healing prayer or the annual December healing service, whether in offering the gift of healing to someone in need or by training other parishioners to share in this ministry, Sharon has brought a deeply Christian charism to life in our community. Join us for some fresh brewed coffee, homemade treats and an inspiring talk.



### For Mercy Sake Mailing Party

Can you give an hour to prepare the newsletter for the mail? Join us at **9:00 a.m.** in Sperry Hall **Monday, November 6** to fold and to stuff envelopes. Your help is appreciated.



### 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 are on sale after Mass 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.

### Book Group

Join us on **Nov. 15** to discuss We Band of Angels by Elizabeth Norman.



### Extra Vision T-shirts available for Sale

Contact the parish office to purchase a vision T shirt. \$6.50 each or \$8.00 for XXL. Sizes available: M, L, XL.

### 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**.



## 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

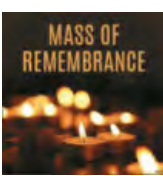
Question-of-the-Week winner for the week of Oct. 9 was **Ava Still, grade 1**, who knew that the Hail Mary is a prayer that honors the Blessed Mother.

### 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.



### Mass of Remembrance



The annual Mass of Remembrance is **Saturday, November 11th at 10 a.m.** The Bereavement Ministry invites all members of Our Lady of Mercy to attend this annual Memorial Mass to support the families of our parish who have lost loved ones during the past year. Please join us for this special celebration.

### Mercy Center for Women

Selling fresh pine wreaths for \$30 and all payments are cashless. Please visit the Mercy Center website for the link to purchase or contact Andrea Maille at **814-898-0755** for more information. Orders need to be in by **November 1st**.



**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

## LITURGICAL MINISTRY SCHEDULE

### Saturday, October 28th at 6:00 p.m.

Lector.....Tom Eckendorf  
 Bowl 1.....Kay Kaeberlein  
 Bowl 2.....Fred Kaeberlein  
 Cup 1.....Nick Mauro  
 Cup 2.....Kathy Mauro  
 Altar Server.....Bill Matrogran  
 Greeter.....Lisa Spelling  
 Greeter.....Christine Stroker

### Sunday, October 29th at 8:30 a.m.

Lector.....Sue Haynes  
 Bowl 1.....Marlene Meyer  
 Bowl 2.....Karen Meyer  
 Cup 1.....Ed Meyer  
 Cup 2.....Brian Meyer  
 Cup 3.....Dave Lefaiver  
 Cup 4.....Marge Lefaiver  
 Altar Server.....Kaylyn Still  
 Greeter.....Gary Smith  
 Greeter.....Mary Beth Smith  
 AV Ministry.....Ken Marshall

### Sunday, October 29th at 11:00 a.m.

Lector.....Nathan Henry  
 Bowl 1.....Carole Peters  
 Bowl 2.....Darlene Piotrowski  
 Cup 1.....Donna Schersten  
 Cup 2.....Claudette Terrill  
 Altar Server.....Gabby Peters  
 Greeter.....Jill Henry  
 Greeter.....Nathan Matusiak

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

### Saturday, November 4th at 6:00 p.m.

Lector.....Fred Kaeberlein  
 Bowl 1.....Bonnie Eckendorf  
 Bowl 2.....Tom Eckendorf  
 Cup 1.....Chris Kaschak  
 Cup 2.....Marilyn Rinke  
 Altar Server.....Nick Mauro  
 Greeter.....Jane Chase  
 Greeter.....Mike Chase

### Sunday, November 5th at 8:30 a.m.

Lector.....Denise Lewandoski  
 Bowl 1.....Sandi Matts  
 Bowl 2.....Ken Marshall  
 Cup 1.....Pat Marshall  
 Cup 2.....Tim Lynch  
 Cup 3.....Frank Kaleta  
 Cup 4.....Linda Kaleta  
 Altar Server.....Kaylyn Still  
 Greeter.....Rochelle Edwards  
 Greeter.....Marilyn Garwig  
 AV Ministry.....Adam Baker

### Sunday, November 5th at 11:00 a.m.

Lector.....Reagan Andrews  
 Bowl 1.....Nathan Matusiak  
 Bowl 2.....Erica Taccone  
 Cup 1.....Donna Schersten  
 Cup 2.....Nancy Clark  
 Altar Server.....Colton Catrabone  
 Greeter.....Claudette Terrill  
 Greeter.....Jim Terrill

### Finance Report Operating Budget for July - September 2023

Income	\$62,288	Budget: \$144,521
Expenses	\$65,064	Budget: \$130,577
Net Loss	\$(4,222)	
Includes Festival Proceeds of:		\$24,915

### CSA Reminder

Please continue to make your regular CSA payments.  
 We still do not have the ability to send out individual monthly reminders.  
 For a balance please call the parish office.

### World Mission Sunday Collection

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

## 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

## 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



### Everyday Encounters with Christ

Name: **Tim Fuhrman**

One time on a retreat, I was at the top of a mountain in Warren County. It was very still and foggy. The fog suddenly opened up to a full sun. At that moment I was stilled, and felt the presence of God.



**Join us**  
**Sunday, Oct. 29**  
**9:45-10:45**  
**@ the OLM CAFE**

**Continuing Adult Faith Enrichment**



***Healing Ministry:***

***Jesus Through the Hands of Others***

**Sharon Kestler has been coordinating a healing ministry at OLM since 2010. As she explores the history of the Christian ministry of healing, she will inspire each of us to be the healing presence of Christ to those in need.**

SUPPORT OUR  
ADVERTISERS!



Where There's Always  
Something **GROWING** On!

Josh Skarzenski – 3rd Generation Owner & Parishioner

*East*  
5001 Buffalo Road  
Erie, PA 16510  
**899.5424**

*West*  
5341 West Lake Road  
Erie, PA 16505  
**835.6960**

### William D. Elkin Funeral Home

65 South Lake St. • North East

**725-4511**

*Timothy P. Elkin, F.D.*

*William D. Elkin, F.D.*

Pre-Arrangements Available

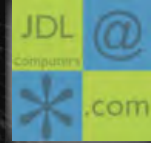


5416 East Lake Road  
Erie, PA 16511  
814-899-8600  
www.brevillier.org

Ball Pavilion  
Short Term Rehab  
Long Term Nursing  
Care

Barnabas Court  
Licensed Personal  
Care, Residency &  
Independent Living.

Conrad House  
Independent Living



"Your Computer  
Professional"

**NEW SYSTEMS  
USED • REPAIRS**

"WE SERVICE ALL BRANDS"

**898-8300**

*Jerry & Dee Law - Parishioners*

**JDLCOMPUTERS.COM**

### OLLINGER PLUMBING, HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING



Residential • Commercial  
Quality Installations & Service

**899-2809**



**LIBERTY ROOFING PROS**  
*Your Local Roofing Pros!*

libertyroofingpros.com

**724-605-4024**

### Place Your Ad Here and Support our Parish!

Instantly create and purchase  
an ad with



4lpi.com/adcreator

### DUSCKAS - TAYLOR



*Funeral Home & Cremation Services*

*Robert D. Taylor*  
Supervisor

5151 BUFFALO ROAD  
ERIE • PENNSYLVANIA 16510  
814-315-0911

dusckas-taylorfuneralhome.com

### LET'S GROW YOUR BUSINESS

Place Your Ad Here and Support  
Our Parish!

**CONTACT ME Timothy Weir**

tweir@4LPi.com • (800) 477-4574 x6568

# 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.

