

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

November 5, 2023 - The 31st Sunday in Ordinary Time

THE WEEK AHEAD

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

Mon. 11/06	9:00 a.m.	Newsletter Mailing Party
	9:30 a.m.	Steel Magnolias SCC
	6:30 p.m.	Fireside Chatters SCC
Tue. 11/07	10:00 a.m.	Angels In Training SCC
	1:00 p.m.	Hallelujah Girls SCC
	1:00 p.m.	Potter's Clay SCC
	2:00 p.m.	Prayer Shawl
	4:00 p.m.	Gr. 3-6 Religious Ed.
	6:30 p.m.	Pastoral Council
Wed. 11/08	11:00 a.m.	Contemplative Prayer
	6:00 p.m.	Eucharistic Adoration
	6:30 p.m.	Pastoral Facilitator Mtg.
	7:00 p.m.	Knights of Columbus
Thur. 11/09	6:00 p.m.	Prayer Shawl
	6:00 p.m.	Sister Parish Committee
	6:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Fri. 11/10	10:00 a.m.	Sisters of Scripture SCC
	7:00 p.m.	KofC Dance with The Groove
Sat. 11/11	10:00 a.m.	Mass of Remembrance
	4:30 p.m.	Sacrament of Penance
Sun. 11/12	9:30 a.m.	Gr. K-2 & 9 Religious Ed.
	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



SCRIPTURE READINGS

Mon. 11/06	Rom 11:29-36	/ Lk 14:12-14
Tue. 11/07	Rom 12:5-16b	/ Lk 14:15-24
Wed. 11/08	Rom 13:8-10	/ Lk:14:25-33
Thur. 11/09	Ez 47:1-12/ 1 Cor 3:9-17	/ Jn 2:13-22
Fri. 11/10	Rom 15:14-21	/ Lk 16:1-8
Sat. 11/11	Rom 16:3-9, 16, 22-27	/ Lk 16:9-15
Sun. 11/12	Wis 6:12-16	
	1 Thes 4:13-18	/ Mt 25:1-13

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon. 11/06	8:30 a.m.	- NO MASS -
Tue. 11/07	8:30 a.m.	Leo Ignasiak (Suzie Szymeci & Family)
Wed. 11/08	8:30 a.m.	Analida Braeger (Tom Braeger)
Thur. 11/09	8:30 a.m.	Denny Smith (Janet Smith)
Fri. 11/10	8:30 a.m.	Joe Figurski (John Abbate)
Sat. 11/11	6:00 p.m.	The Morris & Baker Families (Family)
Sun. 11/12	8:30 a.m.	Irene & Louis Kobielski (Don & Jane Mallin)
	11:00 a.m.	For the People of OLM

We Invite You To Live Out Our Vision Serving in His Name

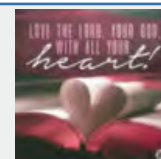
We encourage you to share your experiences with God, letting God's love permeate everything you do so that others can encounter him. Sent by the Spirit to be the hands and voice of Christ, we seek opportunities to serve those in need.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Offertory for the weekend of **October 29, 2023**

Envelopes sent:	357	
Envelopes returned:	55	\$ 2,344.80
Faith Direct Deposits:	134	\$ 3,339.57
Loose Change:		\$ 54.00
TOTAL OFFERTORY:		\$ 5,738.37

THIS SUNDAY'S REFLECTION 27 WORDS THAT MATTER



One of the quickest things you learn as a parent is how dangerous it is to explain too much, especially when your kid is teetering on the brink of a rebellion. The fewer words you use, the more power they have. A kid who is about to be carried away by their feelings needs to be brought back to earth with a tether made of short, succinct directions.

There are a lot of similarities between the Pharisees of Scripture and a toddler on the edge of a meltdown. Stay with me — this will make sense, I promise. Think about it: both toddlers and Pharisees have lots of feelings and lots of opinions. Both toddlers and Pharisees think you're out to get them. Both toddlers and Pharisees keep trying to trick you to get what they think they want.

A thorough Google search informs me that there are about 80,000 words in the Torah. Eighty-thousand words, and Jesus can boil it all down to 27: "You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind" and "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

It doesn't make the excess words untrue; it doesn't even make them unnecessary. Sometimes I need the long explanation, the full and complete picture.

Because sometimes, as much as I hate to admit it, I act like both a toddler and a Pharisee. I am carried away by my feelings. I don't trust God. I am about to bolt.

When that happens, I need to be told in short and simple terms what my salvation means. I need a tether made of short, succinct directions.

"The whole law and the prophets depend on these two commandments." — Matthew 22:40

For Mercy Sake Mailing Party

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



The Groove Is Back!



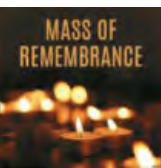
The Knights of Columbus is again sponsoring a dance featuring Erie's most popular band, "The Groove" on **Friday, November 10** in our gym from **7 to 11 p.m.** Tickets are on sale after Mass and will be available in the Parish Office from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Ticket price is still only \$15 per person.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

Day of the Dead Altar

If you brought in a picture or memento for our altar in the Gathering Space, please pick it up today. The altar will be dismantled on **Nov. 6.**



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.

Discover the Woman Within

Please join us for an evening of Discovering the Woman Within, as speaker, Pattie Stempka inspires us with stories of Holy Moments from her life. Date: **Wednesday, November 15, 2023** Time: **7:00 p.m.** Location: Our Lady of Mercy 837 Bartlett Rd Harborcreek, PA Light Refreshments will be served following the program.



Book Group



Join us on **Nov. 16** at the home of Kay Kaeberlein, 190 Kraus Drive at **7:00** to discuss We Band of Angels by Elizabeth Norman. In December we will watch a movie together based on a book, The Art

of Racing in the Rain.

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. 23 was **Sam Massello, grade 2**, who knew that we celebrate All Saints Day on Nov. 1.

Young Adult Silent Retreat

Looking for a quiet few days to bring your questions to Jesus and follow his Voice? Plan to attend the 5 day retreat at Villa Maria Spirituality Center **January 3 to 7, 2024.** For more information go to: <https://www.eriecnd.org/youth/silentretreat.html> or contact Donna Clark in the parish office.



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.**

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.



Save the date

I Give Catholic is **Nov 27.** It coincides with Giving Tuesday.



New Carpets for the Church

The money we raise though this campaign stays in the parish. We hope to start our fund for replacing the carpets in the church and gathering space.



LITURGICAL MINISTRY SCHEDULE

Saturday, November 11th at 6:00 p.m.

Lector.....Nancy Mowery
 Bowl 1.....Anne Spring
 Bowl 2.....Bonnie Eckendorf
 Cup 1.....Todd Beckes
 Cup 2.....Tom Eckendorf
 Altar Server.....Gabby Peters
 Greeter.....Kathy Mauro
 Greeter.....Nick Mauro

Sunday, November 12th at 8:30 a.m.

Lector.....Sue McCreary
 Bowl 1.....Candy Henry
 Bowl 2.....Amy Garten
 Cup 1.....Ginny Fuhrman
 Cup 2.....Geoff McCreary
 Cup 3.....Sandra Emling
 Cup 4.....Rochelle Edwards
 Altar Server.....Colton Catrabone
 Greeter.....Tony Gilmore
 Greeter.....Linda Kaleta
 AV Ministry.....Lisa Spelling

Sunday, November 12th at 11:00 a.m.

Lector.....Maureen Brainard
 Bowl 1.....Judy Iesue
 Bowl 2.....Stacey Heidecker
 Cup 1.....Carole Peters
 Cup 2.....Darlene Piotrowski
 Altar Server.....Madden Inthavong
 Greeter.....Maureen Rizzo
 Greeter.....Christine Stroker

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

Saturday, November 18th at 6:00 p.m.

Lector.....Glory Piovarcy
 Bowl 1.....Nick Mauro
 Bowl 2.....Kathy Mauro
 Cup 1.....Fred Kaerberlein
 Cup 2.....Kay Kaerberlein
 Altar Server.....Gabby Peters
 Greeter.....Jason Rzodkiewicz
 Greeter.....Joyce Rzodkiewicz

Sunday, November 19th at 8:30 a.m.

Lector.....Chris Morealli
 Bowl 1.....Lorraine Bucklin
 Bowl 2.....Erica Taccone
 Cup 1.....Tish Szczesny
 Cup 2.....Dan Szczesny
 Cup 3.....Karen Sweeney
 Cup 4.....Rachel Still
 Altar Server.....Kaylyn Still
 Greeter.....Paul Sacco
 Greeter.....Patty Sacco
 AV Ministry.....Ken Marshall

Sunday, November 19th at 11:00 a.m.

Lector.....Carrie Galbreath
 Bowl 1.....Donna Schersten
 Bowl 2.....Claudette Terrill
 Cup 1.....Maureen Brainard
 Cup 2.....Nancy Clark
 Altar Server.....Madden Inthavong
 Greeter.....Jill Henry
 Greeter.....Nathan Matusiak

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

Everyday Encounters with Christ

Name: Anonymous

In my job as a nurse, I often feel called to provide care and comfort to those who are hurting. Yet strange as it seems, the hurting people I serve are often the ones who lift me up, who make me smile, who give me hope. It is then that I know I have seen the face of God.



The Harborcreek Ministerium presents

Lunch with the Lord

Tuesday, Nov. 14 12-1:00 p.m.

Faith Lutheran Church

5414 E. Lake Rd.

Speaker: Brian Gray



All are invited to this monthly ecumenical event for fellowship and sharing our faith journeys. Bring a bag lunch. The host church will provide beverages and a simple dessert.

This month's speaker will be Brian Gray, Director of Music at Faith Lutheran, who will share some of his faith story; music may be involved.



Our Lady of Mercy - State of the Parish Report

Below is a summary of the annual report which includes the income and expenses for the daily operation of the church and the longer-term capital expenses for building & grounds maintenance.

The 2023 annual report, included separately in this bulletin, shows an offertory income of \$427,000 (numbers rounded) and expenses for operating the parish of \$481,000. The operating loss of \$54,000 was offset by the Parish Festival profits of \$21,000 giving only a net loss of \$33,000 for the year. This also demonstrates how important the Parish Festival is to the overall health of the church.

Our Capital Income of \$125,000 did cover the major repairs for this year. Our capital expenses totaled \$113,000. (See the report for details.)

Considering everything going on with pastoral planning with the diocese, we thought it would be timely to also share the trends we have been seeing over the past five years. The first chart is our Profit & Loss Statement and the second is an Offertory Recap.

From the P&L Statement we see the offertory numbers have been relatively flat. Unfortunately, during the same period, largely due to a substantial rise in inflation, our expenses continued to rise. In Total Over 5 years, we show a \$55K loss. We had to dip into our savings account for capital repairs to cover this loss. We need to find a way to reverse this trend. Rest assured, as a finance council, we are very watchful of our expenses. We are always reviewing costs, looking for savings.

Our Lady of Mercy 5-Year Trend					
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Offertory	\$ 421,891	\$ 445,388	\$ 440,145	\$ 408,025	\$ 427,099
Expenses	(453,705)	(464,774)	(446,863)	(443,665)	(480,744)
Net Operating Loss	\$ (31,814)	\$ (19,386)	\$ (6,718)	\$ (35,640)	\$ (53,645)
Festival	\$ 20,109	\$ 20,937	\$ 15,010	\$ 15,450	\$ 21,072
Net Income	\$ (11,705)	\$ 1,551	\$ 8,292	\$ (20,190)	\$ (32,573)

The second chart shows the giving profile of the parish. These figures are also alarming: our parish membership is down by about 9%. While this is a concern, it is also a real complement to our parish family since our offertory has remained relatively flat. However, the number of families who have been unable to donate has grown dramatically. We certainly understand that some of our families are simply unable to donate based on things they have going on in their lives.

We would ask all of you to take some time and consider the value Our Lady of Mercy brings to you and your families. Is there anything further you can do to help insure the financial future of our Parish?



If there are reasons that weekly or monthly giving simply won't work for you, perhaps you could consider donating to Our Lady of Mercy through the #iGiveCatholic campaign which is on November 27, 2023 (Giving Tuesday). Unlike the annual CSA appeal, all money donated to Our Lady of Mercy through the #iGiveCatholic stays right here in our Parish. You will see more information on this topic as the date gets closer.

Number of Families Giving to the Parish per year					
Level of Annual Giving	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
\$0	178	207	216	210	220
Less than \$500	113	99	70	80	69
\$500 - \$999	154	136	130	117	111
\$1,000 +	146	148	163	153	139
Total Contributors	413	383	363	350	319
Total Parish Families	591	590	579	560	539

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Something **GROWING** On!

Josh Skarzenski – 3rd Generation Owner & Parishioner

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West
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Erie, PA 16505
835.6960

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65 South Lake St. • North East

725-4511

Timothy P. Elkin, F.D.

William D. Elkin, F.D.

Pre-Arrangements Available

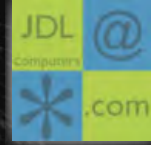


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CONTACT ME Timothy Weir

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.

