

# 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

November 19, 2023 - The 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

## THE WEEK AHEAD

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

<b>Mon. 11/20</b>	9:30 a.m.	Steel Magnolias SCC
	9:30 a.m.	Food Pantry Turkey Distribution
<b>Tue. 11/21</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.	Gr. 3-6 Religious Ed.
<b>Wed. 11/22</b>	1:00 p.m.	Hallelujah Girls SCC
<b>Thur. 11/23</b>	<b>Thanksgiving Day - Parish Office Closed</b>	
	9:00 a.m.	Thanksgiving Day Mass
<b>Fri. 11/24</b>	<b>Parish Office Closed</b>	
<b>Sat. 11/25</b>	4:30 p.m.	Sacrament of Penance
<b>Sun. 11/26</b>		

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

<b>Mon. 11/20</b>	1 Mc 1:10-15, 41-43, 54-57, 62-63	/ Lk 18:35-43
<b>Tue. 11/21</b>	2 Mc 6:18-31	/ Lk 19:1-10
<b>Wed. 11/22</b>	2 Mc 6:18-31	/ Lk 19:11-28
<b>Thur. 11/23</b>	1 Mc 2:15-29	/ Lk 19:41-44
<b>Fri. 11/24</b>	1 Mc 4:36-37, 52-59	/ Lk 19:45-48
<b>Sat. 11/25</b>	1 Mc 6:1-13	/ Lk 20:27-40
<b>Sun. 11/26</b>	Ez 34:11-17	
	1 Cor 15:20-28	/ Mt 25:31-46

## FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Offertory for the weekend of **November 12, 2023**

Envelopes sent:	357	
Envelopes returned:	65	\$ 3,841.00
Faith Direct Deposits:	134	\$ 3,339.57
Loose Change:		\$ 128.00
<b>TOTAL OFFERTORY:</b>		<b>\$ 7,308.57</b>

## 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

<b>Mon. 11/20</b>	8:30 a.m.	<b>- NO MASS -</b>
<b>Tue. 11/21</b>	8:30 a.m.	<b>Helen Hollister</b> (Andrea Maille)
<b>Wed. 11/22</b>	8:30 a.m.	<b>George Stadtmueller</b> (Cam Stadtmueller)
<b>Thur. 11/23</b>	9:00 a.m.	
<b>Fri. 11/24</b>	8:30 a.m.	<b>Kimberly Wykoff</b> (John Abbate)
<b>Sat. 11/25</b>	6:00 p.m.	<b>For the People of OLM</b>
<b>Sun. 11/26</b>	8:30 a.m.	<b>Justin Raydo</b> (Sarah & Stan Kendzior)
	11:00 a.m.	<b>The Talerico Sisters</b> (Family of Sandy Jordan)

## 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.

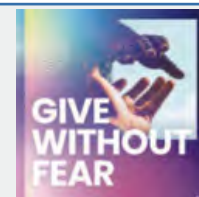
## Save the Date

I Give Catholic is  
**Nov 27.**

It coincides with  
**Giving Tuesday.**



## THIS SUNDAY'S REFLECTION 33RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



When I was a kid, I hated playing Monopoly because my siblings and friends always seemed to win. But worse was how it happened. Scared to risk my fake money on buying properties, I'd hold on to it. My opponents hungrily bought up the various real estate squares on the board. Then, inevitably, my poor, low-equity self would land on their spots, pay them rent, and my money would drain to zero. It seemed so unfair. The rich get richer, and the poor get poorer. I had to learn that monopoly money is meant to be spent. I was scared to lose some of it. So, I lost all of it.

How do we see what we possess? Jesus' parable about the talents is not really about economics but about the investability of everything he entrusts to us. How marvelous that everyone in the fable who places talents in the open market doubles their investment. The only one who doesn't is the man who fearfully buries his one talent. Jesus' success strategy for us seems to be, whatever we have, get it out of our possession. Risk it as quickly and as fully as we can.

You and I have precious gifts. We have valuable things to invest — time, talents, treasure. The Lord invites us to be brave and even somewhat reckless, to give as much away as possible. If we give it away in the direction of love and truth, it will grow. If we hold on to it in fear, the little we have will be taken away. Let me challenge you this week: find something in your life you're holding on to, and risk it by giving it away. It won't double if you hold on to it.

— Father John Muir  
©LPi

### 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**.



### 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.eriercd.org/youth/silentretreat.html> or contact Donna Clark in the parish office.

### Religious Ed Reminder

There will be no religious education class on **Sunday, Nov. 26** due to the Thanksgiving holiday.



### Youth Open Gym



All young people are invited to an hour of open gym with Deacon Barko from **5:30-6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 28**.

### Mark Your Calendars

The Sister Parish invite all to experience a popular Advent tradition in Mexico. Las Posadas a joyous way to prepare for the Christ Child by joining Mary and Joseph as they search for lodging in Bethlehem. Gather with us on **Sunday, Dec. 17 between the Masses** as we unite with our sister parish and the Holy Family.



### 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](mailto:ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org) or **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 Nov. 6 was, **Kara Taccone, grade 2**, who knew that the Bible is God's special book.

### Book Group

Join us! In December we will watch a movie together based on a book, The Art of Racing in the Rain.



### Everyday Encounters with Christ

**Name: Anonymous**  
I encountered Christ when I saw a beautiful rainbow after a summer storm.



## LITURGICAL MINISTRY SCHEDULE

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

### Saturday, November 25th at 6:00 p.m.

Lector.....Marilyn Rinke  
 Bowl 1.....Bonnie Eckendorf  
 Bowl 2.....Tom Eckendorf  
 Cup 1.....Chris Kaschak  
 Cup 2.....Kathy Mauro  
 Altar Server.....Nick Mauro  
 Greeter.....Marilyn McDaniel  
 Greeter.....Lisa Spelling

### Sunday, November 26th at 8:30 a.m.

Lector.....Rachel Still  
 Bowl 1.....Candy Henry  
 Bowl 2.....Amy Garten  
 Cup 1.....Ginny Fuhrman  
 Cup 2.....Tish Szczesny  
 Cup 3.....Sandra Emling  
 Cup 4.....Rochelle Edwards  
 Altar Server.....Kaylyn Still  
 Greeter.....Tony Gilmore  
 Greeter.....Linda Kaleta  
 AV Ministry.....Lisa Spelling

### Sunday, November 26th at 11:00 a.m.

Lector.....Maureen Brainard  
 Bowl 1.....Nathan Matusiak  
 Bowl 2.....Judy Iesue  
 Cup 1.....Carole Peters  
 Cup 2.....Darlene Piotrowski  
 Altar Server.....Colton Catrabone  
 Greeter.....Claudette Terrill  
 Greeter.....Jim Terrill

### Saturday, December 2nd at 6:00 p.m.

Lector.....Deb Barko  
 Bowl 1.....Bonnie Eckendorf  
 Bowl 2.....Tom Eckendorf  
 Cup 1.....Fred Kaerberlein  
 Cup 2.....Kay Kaerberlein  
 Altar Server.....Gabby Peters  
 Greeter.....Joyce Rzodkiewicz  
 Greeter.....Jason Rzodkiewicz

### Sunday, December 3rd at 8:30 a.m.

Lector.....Chris Morealli  
 Bowl 1.....Lorraine Bucklin  
 Bowl 2.....Sandy Emling  
 Cup 1.....Ginny Fuhrman  
 Cup 2.....Amy Garten  
 Cup 3.....Candy Henry  
 Cup 4.....Tim Lynch  
 Altar Server.....Kaylyn Still  
 Greeter.....Tony Gilmore  
 Greeter.....Marilyn Garwig  
 AV Ministry.....Ken Marshall

### Sunday, December 3rd at 11:00 a.m.

Lector.....Carrie Galbreath  
 Bowl 1.....Maureen Brainard  
 Bowl 2.....Nancy Clark  
 Cup 1.....Judy Iesue  
 Cup 2.....Carole Peters  
 Altar Server.....Colton Catrabone  
 Greeter.....Maureen Rizzo  
 Greeter.....Christine Stroker

## HELP CLOSE THE BUDGET GAP!

#iGiveCatholic (*Giving Tuesday Nov 28*) is an opportunity for you to give an extra gift to the Community of Our Lady of Mercy. The finance council presented the state of the parish on **Nov 4 & 5**. Chip Shamburg explained that although our offertory income has remained steady our expenses continue to rise.



### PLEASE CONSIDER MAKING A DONATION TO OUR LADY OF MERCY DURING THIS CAMPAIGN.

#iGIVECATHOLIC

How:

- Use the iGiveCatholic envelopes that are in the church and on the bulletin tables.
- Use Text to Give from Faith Direct: Text a dollar amount to 814-892-0055 Follow the instructions to register (new and existing accounts).
- Go to the #iGiveCatholic website starting Nov 13 to make your donation. Search for Our Lady of Mercy Harborcreek: <https://erie.igivecatholic.org/>
- Go to your Faith Direct Account; search for iGiveCatholic Appeal and add it to your next donation day.

All money donated to Our Lady of Mercy through I Give Catholic stays here in our Parish.

Our Lady of Mercy can win extra money from this incentive. \$500 to a randomly selected parish, that has received donations during the advanced giving period from **November 13 through November 27**

To find a summary of the Finance Council Report check the **Nov 5** bulletin or the November Newsletter – both can be found on our parish website.



JOIN THE  
CHRISTMAS  
CHOIR

**OLM CHRISTMAS CHILDREN'S CHOIR!**

We hope to form a Children's Choir for the 6:00 p.m. Mass on Christmas Eve. The Choir is open to all students grades 2-8. Rehearsals will be Tuesdays, December 5, 12, and 19 from 5:30 – 6:15p.m. (after Religious Education).

Brandon has visited the Religious Education students and handed out permission forms. If your child is interested in joining this exciting opportunity, please fill out the form and return it your religious education teacher, to Brandon Vogt, or drop it in the collection basket ASAP! If you need a form or just want to sign up... just see Brandon after any of the weekend Masses.

**CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL CHOIR**

Do you enjoy singing but can't make a regular commitment to the music ministry? Then consider joining us for our Christmas Festival Choir. Each year the Music Ministry works very hard to make a joyful noise on Christmas, and we'd love to have your voice add to the celebration! Rehearsals for Christmas take place on Thursdays, December 7, 14, and 21 at 6:00 p.m. The Festival Choir sings at the 10:00 p.m. Mass on Christmas Eve, with Prelude Music beforehand. Please let Brandon know ASAP if you'd like to join us.

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Josh Skarzenski – 3rd Generation Owner & Parishioner

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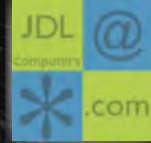


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# OUR LADY OF MERCY CATHOLIC CHURCH

## 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.

