

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 26, 2023 - Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

THE WEEK AHEAD

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

Mon. 11/27	9:30 a.m.	Steel Magnolias SCC
Tue. 11/28	1:00 p.m.	Potter's Clay SCC
	2:00 p.m.	Prayer Shawl
	4:00 p.m.	Gr. 3-6 Religious Ed.
	5:30 p.m.	Youth Open Gym
	6:00 p.m.	Roman Candles SCC
Wed. 11/29	11:00 a.m.	Contemplative Prayer
Thur. 11/30	6:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
	6:00 p.m.	Prayer Shawl
Fri. 12/01	10:00 a.m.	Sisters of Scripture SCC
Sat. 12/02	4:30 p.m.	Sacrament of Penance
Sun. 12/03	THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT	
	Casserole Club Drop-Off	
	9:30 a.m.	Healing Ministry
	9:30 a.m.	Gr. K-2 & 9 Religious Ed.
	11:00 a.m.	The Search Begins
	12:00 p.m.	Gr. 7 & 8 EDGE
	2:00 p.m.	Cursillo 60th Anniversary Celebration

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.

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



Finance Report Operating Budget through October 2023

Income	\$159,371	Budget: \$182,300
Expenses	\$176,041	Budget: \$171,573
Net Loss	\$(16,670)	
Investments	\$ -13,587	

We Remember...

In Loving Memory

Beryl Nelson, sister of Charlene DeDionisio;
Mary Karpinski, sister of Thomas & Ken Bleil;
& **Stanley Kobielski**, brother of Jane Mallin;
who passed away recently.
Please hold them and their families in prayer during this difficult time.

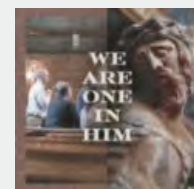
SCRIPTURE READINGS

Mon. 11/27	Dn 1:1-6, 8-20	/ Lk 21:1-4
Tue. 11/28	Dn 2:31-45	/ Lk 21:5-11
Wed. 11/29	Dn 5:1-6, 13-17, 23-28	/ Lk 21:12-19
Thur. 11/30	Rom 10:9-18	/ Mt 4:18-22
Fri. 12/01	Dn 7:2-14	/ Lk 21:29-33
Sat. 12/02	Dn 7:15-27	/ Lk 21:34-36
Sun. 12/03	Is 63:16-19; 64:2-7	
	1 Cor 1:3-9	/ Mk 13:33-37

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon. 11/27	8:30 a.m.	- NO MASS -
Tue. 11/28	8:30 a.m.	Maxine Fromknecht (Patty Bartone)
Wed. 11/29	8:30 a.m.	Mr. Rick (Edward Rick) (John Abbate)
Thur. 11/30	9:00 a.m.	Annie Bool (Tim & Sue Wolbert)
Fri. 12/01	8:30 a.m.	Geri Gallagher (The Hallelujah Girls SCC)
Sat. 12/02	6:00 p.m.	Eugene Bojarski Sr. (Ben Markiewicz)
Sun. 12/03	8:30 a.m.	Paul DeLuca (Rose Marie DeLuca)
	11:00 a.m.	For the People of OLM

THIS SUNDAY'S REFLECTION JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE



In May 2023, for the first time in almost three quarters of a century, a monarch was crowned in England. A few days later a friend of mine scoffed, "What a waste of time and energy! What is the point of a king?"

I'm a proud American who wants neither theocracy nor monarchical restoration. I like our democratic republic. But the coronation of King Charles reminded me of something needed in every person and community: confidence in the future. The king's most basic role is to symbolize the unity of the nation. In England, the parliament members handle many of the practical duties of governance. But the king or queen can do what they cannot: embody in a single person the reality and future of a whole nation. To say, "this is our king" is to say, "we exist as a community, and we have a future." Kingship isn't primarily about the power of one person or family. It's about the enduring identity and unity of the whole.

To say Christ is our King is to say we exist as a people. We are one in him. We are, and we will be as long as he is. And since he will be our risen king forever, together we have a future filled with hope. Even the best countries will finally fall. But Christ and his Church will endure forever. What good news! It's not a waste of time to crown a king. We do it all the time. Let's be sure to crown the right one — the one whose kingdom never ends.

— Father John Muir
©LPi

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.



Church Clean Up Day

Please join us on **Saturday December 9th at 9 a.m.** for a Parish Community Clean-Up Day! We will use this time to do some much needed cleaning throughout our church building. Bring the whole family to volunteer; there's a job for everyone! RSVP in the Gathering Space or by calling the Parish Office at **814-899-5342**. Please reach out to Deacon Barko with any questions.



Book Group

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



Dunkin' Discussion

Join our Parish Impact Coordinator, Nick Heise at Our Lady of Mercy 837 Bartlett Rd. Harborcreek, PA 16421 on **Friday December 1 from 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.** for a theological discussion on the movie *The Shepherd: A Story of the First Christmas*. Dunkin' Discussion Nights are an opportunity for the young people to gather together and have a guided theological conversation about modern day blockbusters! Please note the change in location for Decembers event. Nick will bring the coffee right to OLM.



Parish Quilt

New parish families are encouraged to decorate a quilt square for our parish quilt that hangs on the back wall of the worship space. You may find a square at the display in the Gathering Space. After you decorate your family square please return it to the parish office.



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 Nov. 13 was **Maceio Pearson, grade 5**, who knew that "Eucharist" means to give thanks.

Spaghetti Dinner & Gift Basket Auction Fundraiser for Religious Education

Plan to join us for our delicious spaghetti dinner in support of religious education on Feb. 4. Tickets will go on sale in January. We are collecting new items and baskets for our gift basket auction the same weekend. As you come across great deals during the holiday season, remember our fundraiser. Unwanted Christmas gifts? Re-gift to this event. Items can be brought into the faith formation office at any time.



Operation Assisting Santa
It is that time of year again. Time for "Operation Assisting Santa" for Christmas presents for the children of needy veterans. Names for the children of needy veterans will be available in the Gathering Space for the weekends of **November 25/26 and December 2/3**. Please take a card and buy a gift for the child on the card and return it **UNWRAPPED with the CARD ATTACHED to it by December 10 before the 11:00 mass**. All names for gifts are from the Veterans Hospital. Thank you very much for your help!

The Season of Advent
Reconciliation Service
St. Gregory's
Wednesday, December 6
7:00 p.m.
50 S Pearl St, North East, PA 16428

St. James
Sunday, December 17
3:00 p.m.
2635 Buffalo Rd. Erie, PA 16510

LITURGICAL MINISTRY SCHEDULE

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

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

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

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.

Everyday Encounters with Christ

Name: Anonymous

I experienced Christ when a friends dad came out of hospice as their health improved.



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.

A Time To Heal

Offered by OLM Healing Ministry

DECEMBER 04, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

In what areas of your life do you need healing? Physical, mental, emotional, or spiritual? In your daily life? In the world around you? Perhaps there have been prayers of your heart.

Everyone seems to need healing at so many different levels and areas of their lives. Please join us for an evening of prayer, music, laying of hands and quiet reflection. Come for yourself and bring someone who needs healing.



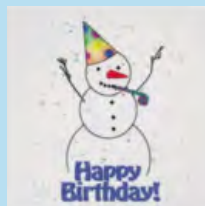
Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church - 837 Bartlett Rd Harborcreek

LOOKING FOR WAYS TO LOWER YOUR TAXABLE INCOME?

If you need to take a required minimum distribution (RMD) from your tax deferred retirement account, please consider making a "Qualified Charitable Distribution" (QCD). A QCD is a direct transfer of funds from an IRA custodian, payable to a qualified charity. (OLM qualifies). Contributions are excluded from your taxable income, thus reducing your tax bill. This donation counts toward the amount for the required minimum distribution. A contribution to OLM can be used to satisfy your CSA pledge or your weekly contribution (either as a lump sum or several donations through the year. All that you need to do is contact your custodian and tell them what you would like to do. They will send a form to complete. Its very easy. For further information or questions call Tom Palisin at 899-9268 or 572-5437.

December BIRTHDAYS

Dec. 2	William Drotar	5
Dec. 5	Blake Bleil-Tersigni	8
Dec. 6	Milton Pearson	13
Dec. 7	Gabby Licata	17
Dec. 8	Perrin Baker	7



Dec. 9	Morgan Wilhelm	18
Dec. 11	Samuel Camillo	14
Dec. 12	Ava Froess	17
Dec. 13	Reagan Andrews	16
Dec. 15	Casey Brigham	5
Dec. 21	Alivia Smith	17
Dec. 23	Angel Gilbert	15
Dec. 27	Joey Bernatowicz	16
Dec. 29	Rosalie Gilchrist	6



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Josh Skarzenski – 3rd Generation Owner & Parishioner

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Pre-Arrangements Available

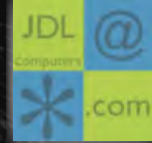


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OUR LADY OF MERCY CATHOLIC CHURCH

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.

