

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

December 3, 2023 - The First Sunday of Advent

THE WEEK AHEAD

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

Mon. 12/04	9:30 a.m.	Steel Magnolias SCC
	6:00 p.m.	Fireside Chatters SCC
	7:00 p.m.	Advent Healing Service
Tue. 12/05	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.
	5:30 p.m.	Sister Parish Committee
	6:30 p.m.	Pastoral Council
Wed. 12/06	11:00 a.m.	Contemplative Prayer
	6:30 p.m.	AGIFT Meeting
Thur. 12/07	6:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
	6:00 p.m.	Prayer Shawl
Fri. 12/08	The Immaculate Conception	
	8:30 a.m.	Holy Day Mass
	6:00 p.m.	Holy Day Mass
Sat. 12/09	9:00 a.m.	Parish Clean Up
	4:30 p.m.	Sacrament of Penance
Sun. 12/10	THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT	
	9:30 a.m.	Gr. K-2 Religious Ed.
	11:00 a.m.	The Search Begins
	12:00 p.m.	Gr. 9 & 10 Candidate Sponsor Make Up Meeting
	2:00 p.m.	Legion of Mary Reunion

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Mon. 12/04	Is 2:1-5	/ Mt 8:5-11
Tue. 12/05	Is 11:1-10	/ Lk 10:21-24
Wed. 12/06	Is 25:6-10a	/ Mt 15:29-37
Thur. 12/07	Is 26:1-6	/ Mt 7:21-27
Fri. 12/08	Gn 3:9-20/ Eph 1:3-12	/ Lk 1:26-38
Sat. 12/09	Is 30:19-26	/ Mt 9:35-10:8
Sun. 12/10	Is 40:1-11/ 2 Pt 3:8-14	/ Mk 1:1-8

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. 12/04	8:30 a.m.	- NO MASS -
Tue. 12/05	8:30 a.m.	
Wed. 12/06	8:30 a.m.	Timothy Eisert (Marty Eisert)
Thur. 12/07	8:30 a.m.	William Heintz (John Abbate)
Fri. 12/08	8:30 a.m.	Jim Bucklin (Lorraine Bucklin)
	6:00 p.m.	
Sat. 12/09	6:00 p.m.	Lou Ann Nowosielski (Family)
Sun. 12/10	8:30 a.m.	Dr. Loren Prichard (Linda Prichard)
	11:00 a.m.	For the People of OLM

The Season of Advent Reconciliation Service

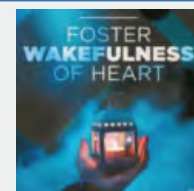
St. Gregory's
Wednesday, December 6
7:00 p.m.
 50 S Pearl St, North East, PA 16428

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

Finance Report Operating Budget through October 2023

Income	\$159,371	Budget: \$182,300
Expenses	\$176,041	Budget: \$171,572
Net Loss	\$(16,670)	
Investments	\$ -13,587	

THIS SUNDAY'S REFLECTION THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Lately I've been listening to a science-based podcast on healthy daily living. The host frequently discusses the wide range of health benefits of sleep. So, each night I'm trying to get more, and better, slumber, and it's helping me feel energized. So, why in the world should we follow Christ's advice this week? "Watch therefore, for you do not know when the master of the house will come ... lest he find you asleep." Isn't sleep, especially at midnight and cockcrow, a good thing?

Of course, it is. But the wakefulness the Lord calls us to is a deep, personal orientation to Him. A nightly vigil is therefore a metaphor for this, but it's not just that. We should give up real sleep in order to pray, too. This difficult practice is a time-tested way to foster wakefulness of heart. When we give up sleep to pray, it focuses us. We learn that life is not an endless series of days. You and I belong to the Lord — awake or asleep, in life and in death. Sooner or later, even our need for our physical sleep will pass away. And our attentiveness to God — that is, whether we are awaiting Him to meet us — will be all that matters.

May I challenge us this week and this Advent to intentionally give up at least one hour of sleep each week for prayer? Stay up later, wake up in the middle of the night, or an hour earlier, and pray. Will we be a bit more tired the next day? Yes. But we'll be amazed at the spiritual wakefulness that results, too.

— Father John Muir
 ©LPi

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.



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!

Book Group

Join us! On **Dec. 12 @ 7:00 p.m.** at the home of Pat Marshall, 516 W. Eaglewood Dr., to watch a movie based on a book, The Art of Racing in the Rain. For those who want to read ahead, our January title will be The Measure by Nikki Erlick.



Las Posadas

You are invited to share a special Advent tradition with our sister parish in Peto. Las Posadas is a time to share with the Holy Family in their journey to Bethlehem. We will gather between the two Masses on **Sunday, Dec. 17** for this cultural event, for cookies and Advent crafts for the kids. Old and young, families and singles, all are invited to enter the final week of Advent with prayer and celebration.

#iGiveCatholic

It is not too late to contribute to Our Lady of Mercy's #iGiveCatholic campaign. You can make a one-time donation through Faith Direct or use one of the envelopes on the bulletin tables. Faith Direct also manages our Text-to-Give (814-892-0055), Using Text-to-Give for #iGiveCatholic stays in the parish. So far, our total for #iGiveCatholic donations is: \$7,910.00



Retirement for Religious Collection

You can help. "Religious are blessed to serve," says Dominican Father Bertrand Ebben, age 90. Please donate to the Retirement fund for Religious next week. Your gift will provide essential care for nearly 25,000 senior sisters, brothers and religious order priests who have dedicated their lives to serving others. Let us show our gratitude to these selfless individuals by giving generously.

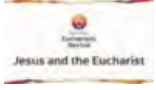


Question of the Week

Question-of-the-Week winner for the week of Nov. 20 was **Tyler Bryan, grade 2**, who knew that we celebrate the feast of Christ the King of the Universe on the last Sunday of the Church Year.

Jesus and the Eucharist

The bishops of the United States have invited all Catholics into a year of deepened understanding of and renewed faith in the Eucharist. The parishes of St. Mark, St. James and Our Lady of Mercy are coming together for a 7 week study of the Eucharist. Beginning **Monday, January 8, from 6:30 to 8:30**, you are invited to learn, pray and share with other Catholics as together we grow in our love for Jesus in the Eucharist. Each evening will include video presentation, discussion and prayer. Because this event is shared by 3 parishes, we will rotate among these locations. Please call Irene at 814-899-6132 if you will join us so that each parish can arrange the best space for the size of the group. You do not have to attend every night. The schedule will be **1/8 St. Mark, 1/15 St. James, 1/22 OLM, 1/29 St. Mark, 2/5 St. James, 2/12 OLM, 2/19 St. Mark**.



Spaghetti Dinner & Gift Basket Auction 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, consider making a donation of new items for our fundraiser. Unwanted Christmas gifts? Regift to this event. Items can be brought into the faith formation office at any time.

The Ella Cochran Food Pantry Thanks You

When the pantry lost access to grant money because Second Harvest Food Bank distributed the money more equitably among the food pantries it serves, we asked the community for help with paying our food bills. Many people responded with generous donation. We are happy to report that the food pantry is back in the "Black" and has some reserve funds for when the grant money runs out for any month. Over the last few months none of the families had to go with less. Thank you for responding so quickly.



OLM to Host a Stamping Soiree with Stampin' with Wendy B!

Get ready to stamp, create, and celebrate the beauty of spring at our crafting extravaganza! The soiree is **Saturday April 13, 2024** but registration is required by **January 13, 2024**. Cost is \$125 and included in your registration are amazing spring themed projects and cards from Stampin' Up's Annual Catalog, goodie bag valued at \$40, Prize Patrol, raffles, lunch and more! For more information see the flyer in the Gathering Space!



LITURGICAL MINISTRY SCHEDULE

Saturday, December 9th at 6:00 p.m.

Lector.....Clara Camillo
 Bowl 1.....Todd Beckes
 Bowl 2.....Gerri Extein
 Cup 1.....Chris Kaschak
 Cup 2.....Anne Spring
 Altar Server.....Nick Mauro
 Greeter.....Marilyn McDaniel
 Greeter.....Lisa Spelling

Sunday, December 10th at 8:30 a.m.

Lector.....Nancy Mowery
 Bowl 1.....Frank Kaleta
 Bowl 2.....Linda Kaleta
 Cup 1.....Dave Lefaiver
 Cup 2.....Marge Lefaiver
 Cup 3.....Ken Marhsall
 Cup 4.....Pat Marshall
 Altar Server.....Liliana Gelotte
 Greeter.....Paul Sacco
 Greeter.....Patty Sacco
 AV Ministry.....Adam Baker

Sunday, December 10th at 11:00 a.m.

Lector.....Adriana Grosch
 Bowl 1.....Erica Taccone
 Bowl 2.....Stacy Heidecker
 Cup 1.....Carole Peters
 Cup 2.....Maureen Brainard
 Altar Server.....Madden Inthavong
 Greeter.....Maggie Wuerstle
 Greeter.....Colton Wuerstle

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

Getting good news about someone I've been praying for made me feel God's presence.



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.

PLEASE CONSIDER MAKING A DONATION TO OLM DURING THIS CAMPAIGN.

- 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
- Go to the #iGiveCatholic website 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.



#IGIVECATHOLIC

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





• OUR LADY OF MERCY PRESENTS •



LAS POSADAS

December 17, 2023

9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Our Lady of Mercy
837 Bartlett Rd.
Harborcreek, PA 16421
814-899-6132

Let's Celebrate!

Join us as we journey with our Sister Parish and celebrate Las Posadas with traditional prayer and fun!

What is Las Posadas?

A religious festival celebrated in Mexico that commemorates the journey that Joseph and Mary made from Nazareth to Bethlehem.



As part of our Community Outreach the OLM Knights of Columbus have joined the efforts of the Knights from St. Luke and Holy Rosary to provide needed OTC supplies for the women at the Mercy Center.

We would like your help. Boxes for donations are in the gathering space and a detailed list of what they need can be found below. As always, we greatly appreciate your support!

Here is the list of products:

Children's Tylenol
Infants Tylenol
Adult Tylenol

Children's Ibuprofen
Infants Ibuprofen
Adult Ibuprofen

Children's Cough and cold
Infants Motrin
Vicks

Pepto

Adult Theraflu (nighttime and daytime)

Adult Cold and Sinus (nighttime and daytime)
Adult Cold and Cough (nighttime and daytime)

The Mercy Center for Women located at 1039 East 27th Street, Erie is a sponsored ministry of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas and is committed to enhancing the dignity of each person it serves through the healing of body, mind, and spirit.



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Josh Skarzenski – 3rd Generation Owner & Parishioner

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West
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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

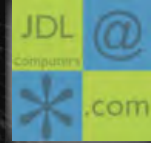


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www.brevillier.org

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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.

