

# 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

December 10, 2023 - The Second Sunday of Advent

## THE WEEK AHEAD

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

<b>Mon. 12/11</b>	9:30 a.m.	Steel Magnolias SCC
<b>Tue. 12/12</b>	9:30 a.m.	OLM Pickleball Club
	1:00 p.m.	Potter's Clay SCC
	2:00 p.m.	Prayer Shawl
	4:00 p.m.	Gr. 3-6 Religious Ed.
	6:00 p.m.	Roman Candles SCC
	6:30 p.m.	OLM Pickleball Club
	7:00 p.m.	OLM Book Group
<b>Wed. 12/13</b>	9:30 a.m.	OLM Pickleball Club
	11:00 a.m.	Contemplative Prayer
	6:00 p.m.	Eucharistic Adoration
	7:00 p.m.	Knights of Columbus
<b>Thur. 12/14</b>	9:30 a.m.	OLM Pickleball Club
	6:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
	6:00 p.m.	Prayer Shawl
	6:00 p.m.	OLM Pickleball Club
<b>Fri. 12/15</b>	10:00 a.m.	Sisters of Scripture SCC
<b>Sat. 12/16</b>	4:30 p.m.	Sacrament of Penance
<b>Sun. 12/17</b>		<b>THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b>
	9:30 a.m.	Gr. K-2 Religious Ed.
	9:30 a.m.	Healing Ministry
	9:30 a.m.	Las Posadas
	11:00 a.m.	The Search Begins

## MISSION STATEMENT

*We are a Eucharistic, Catholic Christian Community of Communities formed by the Word of God and the teachings of the Church. We are empowered by the Holy Spirit to live the values of Jesus Christ in a prayerful, welcoming and nurturing environment.*

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

<b>Mon. 12/11</b>	Is 35:1-10	/ Lk 5:17-26
<b>Tue. 12/12</b>	Zec 2:14-17	/ Lk 1:26-47
<b>Wed. 12/13</b>	Is 40:25-31	/ Mt 11:28-30
<b>Thur. 12/14</b>	Is 41:13-20	/ Mt 11:11-15
<b>Fri. 12/15</b>	Is 48:17-19	/ Mt 11:16-19
<b>Sat. 12/16</b>	Sir 48:1-11	/ Mt 17:9-13
<b>Sun. 12/17</b>	Is 61:1-11/1	Thes 5:16-24 / Jn 1:6-28

## MASS INTENTIONS

<b>Mon. 12/11</b>	8:30 a.m.	<b>- NO MASS -</b>
<b>Tue. 12/12</b>	8:30 a.m.	<b>Marjorie Heberlein</b> (John Abbate)
<b>Wed. 12/13</b>	8:30 a.m.	<b>Stan Kobielski</b> (Irene Lucas)
<b>Thur. 12/14</b>	8:30 a.m.	
<b>Fri. 12/15</b>	8:30 a.m.	<b>Denny Smith</b> (Janet Smith)
<b>Sat. 12/16</b>	6:00 p.m.	<b>Don Duckett</b> (Family)
<b>Sun. 12/17</b>	8:30 a.m.	<b>Irene Abbate</b> (John Abbate)
	11:00 a.m.	<b>For the People of OLM</b>

## FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Offertory for the weekend of **December 3, 2023**

Envelopes sent:	357	
Envelopes returned:	63	\$ 3,177.00
Faith Direct Deposits:	134	\$ 3,339.57
Loose Change:		\$ 179.00
<b>TOTAL OFFERTORY:</b>		<b>\$ 6,695.57</b>

## Reconciliation Service

at St. James

2635 Buffalo Rd. Erie, PA 16510

Sunday, December 17 - 3:00 p.m.

## PRAYER LINE

9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Call **Donna Smicker** at 814-899-9108

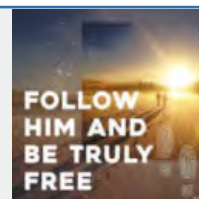
4:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.

Call **Gerri Extein** at 814-490-9681



## THIS SUNDAY'S REFLECTION

### THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT



We like to think we are totally free, but the bitter truth is we simply are not. Or better put, our freedom is limited on every side — by governments, corporate giants, physical and mental frailties, genetic shortcomings, and even the boundaries of time and space, and above all, the burden of our sins and pending deaths. In our day, we are perhaps particularly aware that we are not free to disconnect from the technocratic rulers of the air. If you doubt me, try not paying your internet bill and see what happens. We are not totally free.

It's nothing new, of course. In Jesus' day, everyone felt the crushing weight of the Roman Empire. You can say you're free all you want. But try not paying your taxes to Rome and see what happens.

Once we feel this burden in our own lives — however it comes — we are ready to hear the stunning announcement that commences Mark's gospel, "The beginning of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God." It's not a simple perfunctory introduction, but a dramatic announcement of new freedom. The word "gospel" was a political, even military, term. It meant: a great victory has been won and a new king is in charge. This Jesus — not the Roman emperor — is God's son, and he has defeated all that crushes human freedom. It's time to follow him and be truly free. This week let's refuse to submit our freedom to false rulers — especially that of sin. And let's rejoice that Christ is coming to make us perfectly free from all our oppressors.

— Father John Muir

©LPi

## 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.

## Special retreat opportunity for young adults between 19 and 35.

The Diocese of Erie is sponsoring a five-day retreat for college-age and young adults under the age of 35 from **Jan. 3-7**. The retreat will take place at the Villa Maria Education and Spirituality Center, 2067 Evergreen Rd, Pulaski, Pennsylvania. Applications are still being accepted, but space is limited. For more information, contact either of the retreat organizers, Jillian Zacyk, at [jzacyk@eriercd.org](mailto:jzacyk@eriercd.org) or Dave Roncolato at [droncola@allegheny.edu](mailto:droncola@allegheny.edu). The application for the retreat can be found at <https://www.eriercd.org/youth/silentretreat.html>.



## 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**.



## Child Protection and Creating Safe Environments

### Teaching Kids to Be Smart About Social Media

There are plenty of good things about social media – but also many risks and things kids and teens should avoid. To help your child find the balance, it's important to talk with your kids about how to use social media wisely. Emphasis to your child that it's important to: 1.) Be nice. Mean behavior is not OK. 2.) Think twice before hitting "enter". Remind them that what they post can be used against them. 3.) Use privacy settings. 4.) Don't "friend" strangers. If you don't know them, don't friend them. 5.) Teach kids not to share anything on social media that they wouldn't want their teachers, college admissions officers, future bosses – and even gramma – to see.

For additional resources visit [www.eriercd.org/childprotection/](http://www.eriercd.org/childprotection/)

## Question of the Week

Question-of-the-Week winner for the week of Nov. 27 was **Allison Laboski, grade 6**, who knew that Jesus is fully God and fully human.

## 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 this weekends bulletin!



## LITURGICAL MINISTRY SCHEDULE

### Saturday, December 16th at 6:00 p.m.

Lector.....Bob Cline  
 Bowl 1.....Marilyn Rinke  
 Bowl 2.....Nick Mauro  
 Cup 1.....Kathy Mauro  
 Cup 2.....Carol Stauffer  
 Altar Server.....Gabby Peters  
 Greeter.....Jason Rzodkiewicz  
 Greeter.....Joyce Rzodkiewicz

### Sunday, December 17th at 8:30 a.m.

Lector.....Chip Shamburg  
 Bowl 1.....Sandi Matts  
 Bowl 2.....Geoff McCreary  
 Cup 1.....Brian Meyer  
 Cup 2.....Ed Meyer  
 Cup 3.....Karen Meyer  
 Cup 4.....Marlene Meyer  
 Altar Server.....Kaylyn Still  
 Greeter.....Jane Chase  
 Greeter.....Mike Chase  
 AV Ministry.....Lisa Spelling

### Sunday, December 17th at 11:00 a.m.

Lector.....Nathan Henry  
 Bowl 1.....Nancy Clark  
 Bowl 2.....Judy Iesue  
 Cup 1.....Erica Taccone  
 Cup 2.....Maureen Brainard  
 Altar Server.....Zachery Henry  
 Greeter.....Jill Henry  
 Greeter.....Claudette Terrill

### 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 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 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 encounter Christ through the deep profound love of family.



## LOOKING FOR WAYS TO LOWER YOUR TAXABLE INCOME?

If you are age 70-1/2 or older IRS rules require you to take a required minimum distribution (RMD) from your tax deferred retirement account. To reduce the impact of RMD income investors may want to 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 can be excluded from your taxable income, thus reducing your tax bill.**

You could consider OLM...

There are several possibilities to consider with regard to your

contributions to OLM

- 1.) You could transfer a lump sum from your IRA to satisfy your CSA pledge.
- 2.) You could transfer a lump sum (or several lump sums during the year) from your IRA account to satisfy your weekly offertory amount.

*Those using Faith Direct can adjust their contributions accordingly.*

You could transfer one or several lump sums to satisfy both of the above. 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.

**Operation Assisting Santa**

A big THANK YOU to all who have taken the name of a child of a needy veteran and are buying them a Christmas present. Please remember- DO NOT WRAP your present and PLEASE ATTACH the card with the information on it to your present. The gifts are due back by **Sunday, December 10 before the 11:00 Mass**. The veterans are very grateful for your help. God Bless!



**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.

**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

**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.



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                     | Children's Ibuprofen                         | Children's Cough and cold |
| Infants Tylenol                        | Infants Ibuprofen                            | Infants Motrin            |
| Adult Tylenol                          | Adult Ibuprofen                              | Vicks                     |
| Adult Theraflu (nighttime and daytime) | Adult Cold and Sinus (nighttime and daytime) | Pepto                     |
|  | 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.*



**For the Religious Ed. Ministry**

- Spaghetti & Meatballs
- Refreshments
- Salad & Italian Bread
- Cookies
- Chinese Auction

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4**  
 12:00 - 5:00 p.m.

**SAVE THE DATE!**

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Josh Skarzenski – 3rd Generation Owner & Parishioner

*East*  
5001 Buffalo Road  
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*West*  
5341 West Lake Road  
Erie, PA 16505  
**835.6960**

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*Timothy P. Elkin, F.D.*

*William D. Elkin, F.D.*

Pre-Arrangements Available

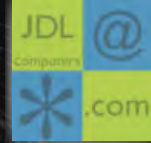


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**CONTACT ME Timothy Weir**

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.

