

# 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 17, 2023 - The Third Sunday of Advent

## THE WEEK AHEAD

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

<b>Mon. 12/18</b>	9:30 a.m.	Steel Magnolias SCC
	6:30 p.m.	Fireside Chatters SCC
<b>Tue. 12/19</b>	9:30 a.m.	OLM Pickleball Club
	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.
	6:30 p.m.	OLM Pickleball Club
<b>Wed. 12/20</b>	8:30 a.m.	Food Pantry Distribution
	9:30 a.m.	OLM Pickleball Club
	11:00 a.m.	Contemplative Prayer
<b>Thur. 12/21</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. 12/22</b>		
<b>Sat. 12/23</b>	4:30 p.m.	Sacrament of Penance
<b>Sun. 12/24</b>		<b>THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b>
	6:00 p.m.	<b>Christmas Eve Mass</b>
	10:00 p.m.	<b>Christmas Eve Mass</b>

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

<b>Mon. 12/18</b>	Jer 23:5-8	/ Mt 1:18-25
<b>Tue. 12/19</b>	Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25	/ Lk 1:5-25
<b>Wed. 12/20</b>	Is 7:10-14	/ Lk 1:26-38
<b>Thur. 12/21</b>	Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18	/ Lk 1:39-45
<b>Fri. 12/22</b>	1 Sm 1:24-28	/ Lk 1:46-56
<b>Sat. 12/23</b>	Mal 3:1-4, 23-24	/ Lk 1:57-66
<b>Sun. 12/24</b>	2 Sm 7:1-16/Rom 16:25-27/	Lk 1:26-38

## 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. 12/18</b>	8:30 a.m.	- <b>NO MASS</b> -
<b>Tue. 12/19</b>	8:30 a.m.	<b>Maxine Fromknecht</b> (Bunnie Buros)
<b>Wed. 12/20</b>	8:30 a.m.	<b>Peter Jacquel</b> (The Jacquel Family)
<b>Thur. 12/21</b>	8:30 a.m.	<b>Analida Braeger</b> (Tom Braeger)
<b>Fri. 12/22</b>	8:30 a.m.	<b>Marlies Finch</b> (Liana Wathen)
<b>Sat. 12/23</b>	6:00 p.m.	<b>Bill Miller</b> (Deb & Rick Killian)
<b>Sun. 12/24</b>	8:30 a.m.	<b>Justin Raydo</b> (Peggy Laskey)
	11:00 a.m.	<b>For the People of OLM</b>
	6:00 p.m.	<b>Christmas Eve Mass -</b> <b>For the People of OLM</b>
	10:00 p.m.	<b>Christmas Eve Mass -</b> <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.**

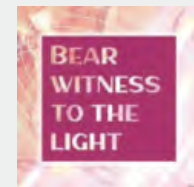
### We Remember...

**Bethany Shaw**, granddaughter of Candy Henry; who passed away recently. Please hold her and her family in prayer during this difficult time.



## THIS SUNDAY'S REFLECTION

### THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Why do we believe in Jesus and the Catholic Church? Why should we continue to do so? We've never seen him face-to-face (at least not most of us, I assume). Most of us have never had mystical visions of angels or saints. We live in the same world as our atheist and secularists friends. Why do we believe in Christ if we've never seen him?

The simple, symbolic answer the Gospel presents to us this week might surprise us: we believe because of John the Baptist. Early in John's Gospel we hear: "There was a man sent from God, his name was John. He came for testimony, to bear witness to the light, that all might believe through him." The Baptist powerfully announces Jesus. This is a historical fact, and it is also now a pattern at work in our lives.

John the Baptist stands for the entirety of the old covenant, everything entrusted to the Jewish people. And yet he prophetically opens the door to something entirely new in Jesus, to the revival and fulfillment of God's promises. In every generation, and in every human life, God continues to do this. He has done it through people named Augustine, Francis, Catherine, Theresa, and countless others. In my life, the Baptist's spirit has come through persons named Eric, Paul, Mary, and Ron. I challenge you to name at least three people through whom God has announced the coming of Jesus in your life. Consciously thank God for their testimony. And let's commit ourselves to listening to the spirit of John the Baptist testify again this week so that we might more strongly believe in the light.

— Father John Muir  
 ©LPi

### Sunday Morning \*C\*A\*F\*E\*

Open the new year with great friends, fresh coffee, delicious baked goods and an inspirational talk. Join us on **Sunday, Jan. 14 at 9:45** in Sperry Hall for the first CAFÉ of 2024. Our speaker will be a mother and son, Barb Emory and Justin Leroy.



### Question of the Week

Question-of-the-Week winner for the week of Dec.. 3 was **Gage Galbreath, grade 2**, who knew that Advent lasts for 4 Sundays.

### 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.**

### 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.

### 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.



### 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 Zaczyk, at [jzaczyk@eriercd.org](mailto:jzaczyk@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**.



### 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!

### 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.



### Book Group

Our January title will be The Measure by Nikki Erlick.

# LITURGICAL MINISTRY SCHEDULE

## Saturday, December 23rd at 6:00 p.m.

Lector.....Glory Piovarcy  
 Bowl 1.....Kathy Mauro  
 Bowl 2.....Gerri Extein  
 Cup 1.....Carol Stauffer  
 Cup 2.....**Minister Needed!**  
 Altar Server.....Nick Mauro  
 Greeter.....Lisa Spelling  
 Greeter.....**Minister Needed!**

## Sunday, December 24th at 8:30 a.m.

Lector.....Sue Haynes  
 Bowl 1.....Dave Seyboldt  
 Bowl 2.....Lorraine Bucklin  
 Cup 1.....Teresa Shamburg  
 Cup 2.....Chip Shamburg  
 Cup 3.....Rachel Still  
 Cup 4.....Chris Morealli  
 Altar Server.....**Minister Needed!**  
 Greeter.....**Minister Needed!**  
 Greeter.....**Minister Needed!**  
 AV Ministry.....Ken Marshall

## Sunday, December 24th at 11:00 a.m.

Lector.....**Minister Needed!**  
 Bowl 1.....Judy Iesue  
 Bowl 2.....**Minister Needed!**  
 Cup 1.....**Minister Needed!**  
 Cup 2.....**Minister Needed!**  
 Altar Server.....Colton Catrabone  
 Greeter.....**Minister Needed!**  
 Greeter.....**Minister Needed!**

## Sunday, December 24th at 6:00 p.m.

Lector.....Nathan Henry  
 Bowl 1.....**Minister Needed!**  
 Bowl 2.....Nancy Clark  
 Cup 1.....Chris Kaschak  
 Cup 2.....**Minister Needed!**  
 Cup 3.....**Minister Needed!**  
 Cup 4.....Rochelle Edwards  
 Altar Server.....Gabby Peters & Liliana Gelotte  
 Greeter.....Carol Sutton  
 Greeter.....**Minister Needed!**  
 AV Ministry.....Adam Baker

## Sunday, December 24th at 10:00 p.m.

Lector.....Deb Barko & Maureen Brainard  
 Bowl 1.....Karen Sweeney  
 Bowl 2.....Candy Henry  
 Cup 1.....Kathy Pearson  
 Cup 2.....**Minister Needed!**  
 Cup 3.....**Minister Needed!**  
 Cup 4.....**Minister Needed!**  
 Altar Server.....Kaylyn Still  
 Greeter.....**Minister Needed!**  
 Greeter.....**Minister Needed!**  
 AV Ministry.....Lisa Spelling

## Sunday, December 25th at 10:00 a.m.

Lector.....Rachel Still  
 Bowl 1.....Chris Morealli  
 Bowl 2.....Marge Lefaiver  
 Cup 1.....Dave Lefaiver  
 Cup 2.....Tim Lynch  
 Cup 3.....**Minister Needed!**  
 Cup 4.....**Minister Needed!**  
 Altar Server.....**Minister Needed!**  
 Greeter.....Cheri Longua  
 Greeter.....**Minister Needed!**  
 AV Ministry.....**Minister Needed!**

## 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      ● Kirk.....216
- Deacon Paul.....233      ● Donna.....213
- Katie.....210      ● Brandon.....211
- Irene.....214      ● Nick.....220

## Everyday Encounters with Christ

Name: Anonymous

On a Sunday in August, I was aware and open to my sinful nature and in need of great mercy, in a new way. At communion as Deacon Paul placed Jesus in my hand; what was once clean had become bloody, I was able to see truly our Savior's body, blood, soul and divinity in that short beautiful moment. I could not stop crying for hours afterwards.



## As a Parish Community, 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.

### 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.

### 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.

## 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.

### Our Lady of Mercy is On Instagram

Our Lady of Mercy is Instagram official! Follow along with us at <https://www.instagram.com/olmchurch814/> or you can simply search: **olmchurch814**. The content shared on our Instagram page will be unique to the app and unlike our other social media posts.



**Comedy Corner**  
What is a mother's favorite Christmas carol?  
Silent night!

A laugh is  
A smile that ~~doesn't~~  
An instant VACATION  
A day ~~not~~ WASTED  
A ticket to the SOUL  
A Great MEDICINE  
The More you LAUGH  
The More you LIVE.

## 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.*



# Jesus and the Eucharist Study

Dear Parishioners,

As we continue the year of parish Eucharistic Revival, we invite you to grow closer to Jesus alongside fellow parishioners from Saint Mark, Mount Calvary, Saint James and Our Lady of Mercy via the *Jesus and the Eucharist* study. Each session is full of rich theological content, powerful testimonies, and timely messages from individual bishops across the country. This is a great opportunity to dive more deeply into the richness of our Eucharistic faith.

### BELOW IS AN OVERVIEW OF EACH SESSION:

#### Session 1: What's Our Story?

The Bible is the story of God's love for us. He created us out of love, redeemed us by his love, and transforms us in his love.

#### Session 2: Who is Jesus?

Jesus is both God and man, therefore he reveals who God is in relation to us. Jesus asked Simon Peter, "Who do you say that I am?" (Matthew 16:15) He asks this same question of us: who do you say Jesus is?

#### Session 3: Am I Saved?

Salvation is a gift from God through Jesus Christ that requires our "yes."

#### Session 4: Why a Church?

Jesus didn't simply leave us a written message or instruction manual to follow. He gave us a living, dynamic Church where we encounter him personally and allow ourselves to be transformed into his likeness.

#### Session 5: God Is With Us

God's presence in the Old Testament foreshadows the gift of the Eucharist, one of the seven sacraments of the Church. Jesus established the Eucharist to give us strength and accompany us at every moment of our earthly journey.

#### Session 6: The Story of the Eucharist

The story of the Eucharist can be traced throughout Scripture. From Genesis to the present day, this session explores how the Cross is the new Tree of Life, and the Eucharist is its fruit.

#### Session 7: Bread for the Journey

The Eucharist sustains us on our spiritual journey. Our participation at Mass through the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist is an offering of thanksgiving to God. We are then sent forth to share what we have received.

Through the generosity of our donors, the content of this study is available free of charge. Additionally, we will be providing you with support to help you and your team be successful in hosting this series at your parish. Visit the Parish Point Person Portal at [eucharisticrevival.org/parishpointperson](http://eucharisticrevival.org/parishpointperson) to access trainings, invitation templates, and other support materials.

**Please sign up with your parish office and join us on Mondays starting January 8, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. for seven consecutive evenings at the locations listed below.**

**Hospitality will be provided, and we hope to see you there!**

January 8: St. Mark the Evangelist  
January 15: St. James  
January 22: Our Lady of Mercy  
January 29: St. Mark the Evangelist

February 5: St. James  
February 12: Our Lady of Mercy  
February 19: St. Mark the Evangelist

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Josh Skarzenski – 3rd Generation Owner & Parishioner

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*Timothy P. Elkin, F.D.*

*William D. Elkin, F.D.*

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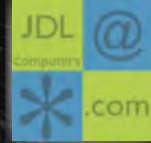


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**CONTACT ME Timothy Weir**

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.

