

# 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 24, 2023 - The Fourth Sunday of Advent

## THE WEEK AHEAD

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

<b>Mon. 12/25</b>	<b>CHRISTMAS DAY - MERRY CHRISTMAS</b> Parish Office Closed 10:00 a.m. Christmas Day Mass
<b>Tue. 12/26</b>	Parish Office Closed 9:30 a.m. OLM Pickleball Club 6:30 p.m. OLM Pickleball Club
<b>Wed. 12/27</b>	9:30 a.m. OLM Pickleball Club
<b>Thur. 12/28</b>	9:30 a.m. OLM Pickleball Club 6:00 p.m. OLM Pickleball Club
<b>Fri. 12/29</b>	
<b>Sat. 12/30</b>	12:00 p.m. OLM Pickleball Club 4:30 p.m. Sacrament of Penance
<b>Sun. 12/31</b>	



### #iGiveCatholic

The staff of Our Lady of Mercy would like to send out a great big **"thank you"** to all who contributed to our Giving Tuesday #iGiveCatholic campaign. Because of our generous givers, we raised over \$12,000 to help us close our \$33,000 budget gap. This put OLM in the top 10 in the Diocese of Erie for #iGiveCatholic donations. Thank you for your continued support.

## Thank You, Donna!

The community of Our Lady of Mercy would like to thank Donna Clark for her 20 years of service to our parish! Though we will miss her, we are excited for her to follow God's whispers that lead her on this new journey. Please consider joining us on **Wednesday, January 17 at 6:30 p.m.** as we celebrate Donna's 20 years at OLM and wish her only the best on her future adventures. More details to follow.

## 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



## SCRIPTURE READINGS

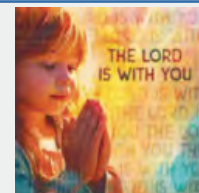
<b>Mon. 12/25</b>	Is 9:1-6 / Ti 2:11-14	/ Lk 2:1-14
<b>Tue. 12/26</b>	Acts 6:8-10	/ Mt 10:17-22
<b>Wed. 12/27</b>	1 Jn 1:1-4	/ Jn 20:1-8
<b>Thur. 12/28</b>	1 Jn 1:5-2:2	/ Mt 2:13-18
<b>Fri. 12/29</b>	1 Jn 2:3-11	/ Lk 2:22-35
<b>Sat. 12/30</b>	1 Jn 2:12-17	/ Lk 2:36-40
<b>Sun. 12/31</b>	Sir 3:2-14 / Col 3:12-21	/ Lk 2:22-40

## MASS INTENTIONS

<b>Mon. 12/25</b>	10:00 a.m.	<b>For the People of OLM</b>
<b>Tue. 12/26</b>	8:30 a.m.	<b>- NO MASS -</b>
<b>Wed. 12/27</b>	8:30 a.m.	<b>Casimir &amp; Frances Hilinski</b>
<b>Thur. 12/28</b>	8:30 a.m.	<b>Andrew Cerula</b> (Rose Galeza)
<b>Fri. 12/29</b>	8:30 a.m.	<b>Edward &amp; Jenny Bujnowski</b>
<b>Sat. 12/30</b>	6:00 p.m.	
<b>Sun. 12/31</b>	8:30 a.m.	<b>For the People of OLM</b>
	11:00 a.m.	<b>Bea Martin</b> (The Stephenson's)

## THIS SUNDAY'S REFLECTION

### THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Life is troubling. Who among us has not struggled with anxiety and difficulties, sometimes massive ones? I certainly have, as have many of my loved ones. If we do, does this mean that we don't trust the Lord or just need to toughen up?

I don't think so. How encouraging for us anxious and troubled souls to hear Luke describe the Blessed Mother Mary in these words, "But she was greatly troubled at what was said." An archangel has visited her. An inconceivable promise has been made to her. Her life has become wildly unpredictable, perhaps more so than any person before or since. The first point for us: the Lord is with her precisely when she is troubled. Her anxiousness and God's presence are not mutually exclusive. Christianity is not about a trance-like robotic indifference. It's about the presence of divine love. Even in — especially in — troubled circumstances.

Our troubled soul can become our greatest treasure. What seems so troubling at first to Mary becomes the best possible thing. Jesus, the Savior and Lord, is now her son. All the difficulties and troubles remain, and yet her movement into the fullness of God is accelerated. What is troubling you right now? This scripture invites us now, this week, to hear the Lord's messenger say to us what he said to Mary, "Do not be afraid! You have found favor with God."

— 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. 10 was **Madden Inthavong, grade 6**, who knew that John the Baptist prepared the way for Jesus.

### 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.**



### 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**.



### 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



Join us on January 10 at the home of Pat Marshall, 516 W. Eaglewood to discuss The Measure by Nikki Erlick. Want to read ahead? In February we will discuss Finding Me by Viola Davis.

### 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**.

## LITURGICAL MINISTRY SCHEDULE

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

### Saturday, December 30th at 6:00 p.m.

Lector.....Tom Eckendorf  
 Bowl 1.....Todd Beckes  
 Bowl 2.....Gerri Extein  
 Cup 1.....Fred Kaeberlein  
 Cup 2.....Kay Kaeberlein  
 Altar Server.....Gabby Peters  
 Greeter.....Lisa Spelling  
 Greeter.....Marilyn McDaniel

### Sunday, December 31st at 8:30 a.m.

Lector.....Rachel Still  
 Bowl 1.....Gregory Morealli  
 Bowl 2.....Tom Palisin  
 Cup 1.....Kathleen Pearson  
 Cup 2.....Donna Schersten  
 Cup 3.....Dave Seyboldt  
 Cup 4.....John Skuce  
 Altar Server.....Kaylyn Still  
 Greeter.....Rochelle Edwards  
 Greeter.....Linda Kaleta  
 AV Ministry.....Ken Marshall

### Sunday, December 31st at 11:00 a.m.

Lector.....Denise Lewandoski  
 Bowl 1.....Nancy Clark  
 Bowl 2.....Judy Iesue  
 Cup 1.....Carole Peters  
 Cup 2.....Maureen Brainard  
 Altar Server.....Johnny Catrabone  
 Greeter.....Maureen Rizzo  
 Greeter.....Christine Stroker

### Saturday, January 6th at 6:00 p.m.

Lector.....Fred Kaeberlein  
 Bowl 1.....Bonnie Eckendorf  
 Bowl 2.....Tom Eckendorf  
 Cup 1.....Chris Kaschak  
 Cup 2.....Anne Spring  
 Altar Server.....Gabby Peters  
 Greeter.....Jason Rzodkiewicz  
 Greeter.....Joyce Rzodkiewicz

### Sunday, January 7th at 8:30 a.m.

Lector.....Karen Sweeney  
 Bowl 1.....Teresa Shamburg  
 Bowl 2.....Chip Shamburg  
 Cup 1.....Rachel Still  
 Cup 2.....Dan Szczesny  
 Cup 3.....Tish Szczesny  
 Cup 4.....Sandy Emling  
 Altar Server.....Liliana Gelotte  
 Greeter.....Mary Beth Smith  
 Greeter.....Gary Smith  
 AV Ministry.....Adam Baker

### Sunday, January 7th at 11:00 a.m.

Lector.....Reagan Andrews  
 Bowl 1.....Erica Taccone  
 Bowl 2.....Nancy Clark  
 Cup 1.....Judy Iesue  
 Cup 2.....Carole Peters  
 Altar Server.....Colton Catrabone  
 Greeter.....Maggie Wuerstle  
 Greeter.....Colton Wuerstle

## 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
- Brandon.....211

## Everyday Encounters with Christ

**Name: Nick Thompson**

I'm doing the "Bible in a Year" and on day one Fr. Mike talks about the Eucharist and why it's the body of Christ. As soon as I heard this a wave of chill and strong belief/love fell over me. I struggled with this truth my whole life, but now I believe.




## "Christmas Peace"

**By: Mary Ann**



Everyday; should be Christmas Day,  
 for in our own special way;  
 we should give our love away.  
 The presents that we bring,  
 causes our heart to sing.  
 The infant born of Mary long ago;  
 only goes to show; that  
 His peace is our to keep; as  
 He comforts us, "His Little Sheep."  
 So, take with you this very life,  
 amid all the strife, as you  
 recall the Virgin's birth, the  
 day that Jesus came down to earth,  
 And rejoice; as you hear His little voice;  
 of a caring shepherd,  
 who is humble and kind; and  
 soon you will find; the true  
 meaning of Love, sent down to  
 us from heaven above.



Thank you  
for being a part of this  
Christmas celebration!  
We hope you have  
experienced the love  
of Christ in our midst.

**We especially welcome any visitors and guests.**

Are you looking for a safe, welcoming & nurturing place  
to call your spiritual home?

You are always welcome here!

On behalf of the entire parish community,  
we invite you to join us & hope you will choose to  
worship here!

May the light of Christ enlighten you, enliven you,  
& bless you this Christmas and always.

## Upcoming Events

### **JESUS AND THE EUCHARIST SERIES**

Monday Nights January 8 - February 19  
6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

### **"THE CHOSEN"**

Thursday Nights in January  
6:30 p.m.

### **SPAGHETTI DINNER**

February 4th  
12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

### **SANCTUS RETREAT**

February 17th  
8:00 a.m.

For a complete list  
of parish activities,  
please reference our  
bulletin or the  
calendar on our  
website.



# Merry Christmas!

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Josh Skarzenski – 3rd Generation Owner & Parishioner

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**835.6960**

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**725-4511**

*Timothy P. Elkin, F.D.*

*William D. Elkin, F.D.*

Pre-Arrangements Available

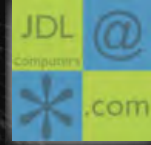


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**CONTACT ME Timothy Weir**

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.

