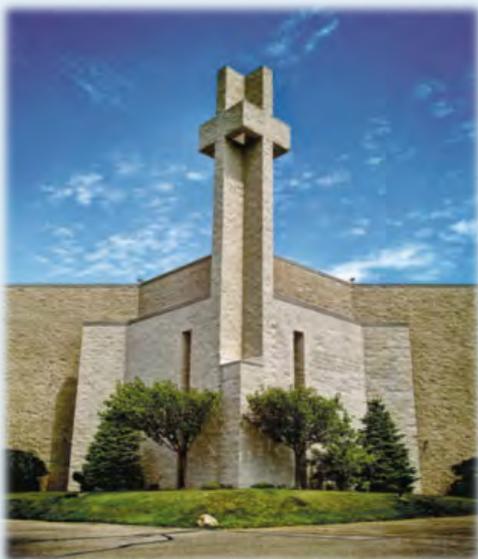


# OUR LADY OF MERCY CHURCH



## *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  
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, Parish Impact Coordinator

## 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 31, 2023 - The Holy Family

## THE WEEK AHEAD

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

<b>Mon. 01/01</b>	<b>SOLEMNITY OF MARY</b> <b>HAPPY NEW YEAR</b> <b>Parish Office Closed</b> 10:00 a.m. Holy Day Mass
<b>Tue. 01/02</b>	<b>Parish Office Closed</b> 9:30 a.m. OLM Pickleball Club 10:00 a.m. Angel's In Training SCC 1:00 p.m. Potter's Clay SCC 2:00 p.m. Prayer Shawl 6:30 p.m. Pastoral Council 6:30 p.m. OLM Pickleball Club
<b>Wed. 01/03</b>	9:30 a.m. OLM Pickleball Club
<b>Thur. 01/04</b>	9:30 a.m. AGIFT Meeting 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. 01/05</b>	10:00 a.m. Sisters of Scripture SCC
<b>Sat. 01/06</b>	12:00 p.m. OLM Pickleball Club 4:30 p.m. Sacrament of Penance
<b>Sun. 01/07</b>	<b>Casserole Club Drop Off</b> 9:30 a.m. Healing Ministry 9:30 a.m. Religious Ed. Gr. K-2 & 9 11:00 a.m. The Search 12:00 p.m. Gr. 7 & 8 EDGE

## #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. This put OLM in the top 10 in the Diocese of Erie for #iGiveCatholic donations. Thank you for your continued support.

### FINANCE REPORT

Operating Budget through Nov 2023

<b>Income</b>	\$ 193,230.46	<i>budget 226,330</i>
<b>Expenses</b>	\$ 212,344.28	<i>budget 212,568</i>
<b>Net Loss</b>	\$ (19,113)	

The #iGiveCatholic has helped us to close the budget gap.

## 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



## 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      • Irene.....214
- Deacon Paul.....233      • Kirk.....216
- Katie.....210      • Brandon.....211

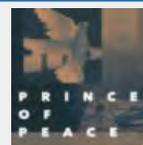
## SCRIPTURE READINGS

<b>Mon. 01/01</b>	Nm 6:22-27 / Gal 4:4-7 / Lk 2:16-21
<b>Tue. 01/02</b>	1 Jn 2:22-28 / Jn 1:19-28
<b>Wed. 01/03</b>	1 Jn 2:29-3:6 / Jn 1:29-34
<b>Thur. 01/04</b>	1 Jn 3:7-10 / Jn 1:35-42
<b>Fri. 01/05</b>	1 Jn 3:11-21 / Jn 1:43-51
<b>Sat. 01/06</b>	1 Jn 5:5-13 / Lk 3:33-38
<b>Sun. 01/07</b>	Is 60:1-6 / Eph 3:2-6 / Mt 2:1-12

## MASS INTENTIONS

<b>Mon. 01/01</b>	10:00 a.m.	<b>For the People of OLM</b>
<b>Tue. 01/02</b>	8:30 a.m.	<b>Maxine Cuba</b> (Carol Stauffer)
<b>Wed. 01/03</b>	8:30 a.m.	
<b>Thur. 01/04</b>	8:30 a.m.	
<b>Fri. 01/05</b>	8:30 a.m.	
<b>Sat. 01/06</b>	6:00 p.m.	<b>For the People of OLM</b>
<b>Sun. 01/07</b>	8:30 a.m.	<b>Terry Swanson</b> (Loretta Koneski)
	11:00 a.m.	

## THIS SUNDAY'S REFLECTION THE HOLY FAMILY



I remember the first time my older sister asked me if I wanted to hold her newborn son. Terrified, I told her I didn't think it was a good idea. My résumé had nothing to suggest I would be a qualified baby holder. But she warmly told me, "I'll help you hold him." It struck me that she is baby's mother. She is the one who decides who is qualified to hold him. I took him in my arms and soon I began to feel comfortable with that tiny little warm cooing creature in my arms, and soon I no longer feared holding him. Now, twenty-seven nieces and nephews later, holding a newborn child is one of the great joys of my life.

Do we sometimes think that Jesus is given only to the highly qualified, special religious people? In the Gospel of Luke today we hear about the presentation of the Lord in the temple. The newborn son of God is passed around like a baton in a relay race, not guarded like a precious jewel or a breakable china dish. We can see him going from the arms of Mary to Joseph, then to the priest performing the ceremony, then to Simeon the old man, then to Anna the old widow. Each one receiving him and then handing him to the next. A tidal wave of joy and thanksgiving follows wherever he is placed.

Believe me, you are qualified to hold Jesus in your arms. How can I say that with such confidence? Because the mother decides who is qualified. The Blessed Virgin, embodied in the Church, holds him out to you and me. She rejoices to place him in our arms to hold, and to hand him on, too.

— 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.



### We Remember...

*Living Memory*

**Patricia Mustio**, sister of Peggy Lesondak; who passed away recently. Please hold her and her family in prayer during this difficult time.



### 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 please call Wendy at **814-449-3238**.

### 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**.



### 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.



### 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**.



### 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.

### 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**.



### "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 kinds; and  
soon you will find; the true  
meaning of Love, sent down to  
us from heaven above.



### Question of the Week

Question winner for the week of Dec. 19 was **Kenslie Inthavong, grade 1** who knew that the Church dresses in white or gold for Christmas.

## LITURGICAL MINISTRY SCHEDULE

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

### 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

### Saturday, January 13th at 6:00 p.m.

Lector.....Nancy Mowery  
 Bowl 1.....Marilyn Rinke  
 Bowl 2.....Carol Stauffer  
 Cup 1.....Tom Eckendorf  
 Cup 2.....Kay Kaeberlein  
 Altar Server.....Bill Matrogran  
 Greeter.....Jason Rzodkiewicz  
 Greeter.....Joyce Rzodkiewicz

### Sunday, January 14th at 8:30 a.m.

Lector.....Joe Tarquinio  
 Bowl 1.....Gary Smith  
 Bowl 2.....Mary Beth Smith  
 Cup 1.....Karen Sweeney  
 Cup 2.....Rochelle Edwards  
 Cup 3.....Frank Kaleta  
 Cup 4.....Linda Kaleta  
 Altar Server.....Liliana Gelotte  
 Greeter.....Marilyn Garwig  
 Greeter.....Tony Gilmore  
 AV Ministry.....Lisa Spelling

### Sunday, January 14th at 11:00 a.m.

Lector.....Maureen Brainard  
 Bowl 1.....Stacy Heidecker  
 Bowl 2.....Carole Peters  
 Cup 1.....Nancy Clark  
 Cup 2.....Judy Iesue  
 Altar Server.....Madden Inthavong  
 Greeter.....Jill Henry  
 Greeter.....Claudette Terrill

## 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.

## Everyday Encounters with Christ

**Name: Addison Matusiak**  
 I experienced God through my choral camp that I did this summer. Being in a beautiful church and being surrounded by the beautiful music we sang.



## January Birthdays

Jan. 2 Hayley D'Angelo 16  
 Jan. 5 Ellie Stauffer 12  
 Jan. 8 Grace Galbreath 16  
 Jan. 8 Brodynn Smith 12



Jan. 11 Makenna Pearson 13  
 Jan. 25 Ryan Stauffer 11  
 Jan. 26 Kenslie Inthavong 7  
 Jan. 27 Madison Rizzo 14  
 Jan. 28 Lila Bly 14  
 Jan. 28 Macy Neil 2





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!

Supporting Our Lady of Mercy Since 1993



**Knights of Columbus**

Join the Catholic Brotherhood Changing the World

Call Jim: 814-899-6207



*Where There's Always  
Something GROWING On!*

Josh Skarzenski – 3rd Generation Owner & Parishioner

*East* 5001 Buffalo Road Erie, PA 16510 **899.5424**  
*West* 5341 West Lake Road 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

**SUPPORT OUR  
ADVERTISERS!**



5416 East Lake Road  
Erie, PA 16511  
814-899-8600  
www.brevillier.org

Ball Pavilion  
Short Term Rehab  
Long Term Nursing  
Care

Barnabas Court  
Licensed Personal  
Care, Residency &  
Independent Living.

Conrad House  
Independent Living



*"Your Computer  
Professional"*

**NEW SYSTEMS  
USED • REPAIRS**

*"WE SERVICE ALL BRANDS"*

**898-8300**

*Jerry & Dee Law - Parishioners*

**JDLCOMPUTERS.COM**

**OLLINGER  
PLUMBING, HEATING  
& AIR CONDITIONING**



Residential • Commercial  
Quality Installations & Service

**899-2809**



**LIBERTY ROOFING PROS**  
*Your Local Roofing Pros!*

libertyroofingpros.com

724-605-4024

**Place Your Ad Here and  
Support our Parish!**

Instantly create and purchase  
an ad with



4lpi.com/adcreator

**DUSCKAS - TAYLOR**



*Funeral Home & Cremation Services*

*Robert D. Taylor*  
Supervisor

5151 BUFFALO ROAD  
ERIE • PENNSYLVANIA 16510  
814-315-0911

dusckas-taylorfuneralhome.com

**LET'S GROW YOUR BUSINESS**

Place Your Ad Here and Support  
Our Parish!

**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.

