

# 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

# January 21, 2024 - The 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

## THE WEEK AHEAD

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

Mon. 01/22	9:30 a.m.	Steel Magnolias SCC
	6:30 p.m.	Jesus and the Eucharist (at OLM)
Tue. 01/23	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.	Religious Ed Gr. 3-6
	6:00 p.m.	Sister Parish Committee
Wed. 01/24	6:00 p.m.	Roman Candles SCC
	6:30 p.m.	OLM Pickleball Club
	9:30 a.m.	OLM Pickleball Club
	11:30 a.m.	Lunch with the Lord (at Grace Church)
	1:00 p.m.	Hallelujah Girls SCC
Thur. 01/25	6:30 p.m.	OLM Pickleball Club
	7:30 p.m.	Sanctus Team Meeting
	9:30 a.m.	OLM Pickleball Club
	6:00 p.m.	The Chosen
	6:00 p.m.	Prayer Shawl
Fri. 01/26	6:00 p.m.	OLM Pickleball Club
Sat. 01/27	12:00 p.m.	OLM Pickleball Club
	4:30 p.m.	Sacrament of Penance
Sun. 01/28	9:30 a.m.	Religious Ed. Gr. K-2
	11:00 a.m.	Gr. 6 Class Mass
	5:00 p.m.	Gr. 9 & 10 Candidate/ Sponsor Evening of Reflection

## 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.*

## 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. 01/22		- NO MASS -
Tue. 01/23	8:30 a.m.	Don Murrey (John Abbate)
Wed. 01/24	8:30 a.m.	Pasqualina Butera
Thur. 01/25	8:30 a.m.	Patsy & Ann Marie Sette
Fri. 01/26	8:30 a.m.	
Sat. 01/27	6:00 p.m.	For the People of OLM
Sun. 01/28	8:30 a.m.	Bethany Shaw (Jim & Carol Perrotto)
	11:00 a.m.	Sarah Selleny (Suzanne Selleny)

## FINANCIAL SUPPORT

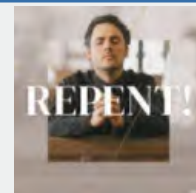
Offertory for the weekend of January 14, 2024

Envelopes sent:	357	
Envelopes returned:	50	\$ 2,845.80
Faith Direct Deposits:	137	\$ 3,183.95
Loose Change:		\$ 129.00
<b>TOTAL OFFERTORY:</b>		<b>\$ 6,158.75</b>

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

Mon. 01/22	2 Sm 5:1-7, 10	/ Mk 3:22-30
Tue. 01/23	2 Sm 6:12-19	/ Mk 3:31-35
Wed. 01/24	2 Sm 7:4-17	/ Mk 4:1-20
Thur. 01/25	Acts 22:3-16 or 9:1-22	/ Mk 16:15-18
Fri. 01/26	2 Tm 1:1-8 or Ti 1:1-5	/ Mk 4:26-34
Sat. 01/27	2 Sm 12:1-7, 10-17	/ Mk 4:35-41
Sun. 01/28	Jon 3:1-10/ 1 Cor 7:29-31	/ Mk 1:14-20

## THIS SUNDAY'S REFLECTION THE 3RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



We start telling lies around the age of three, the experts tell us. It's understandable. Lying is a god-like power. Whatever I want, I need only say it, and the world rearranges itself accordingly. It's amazing at first. But soon reality snaps back and I'm faced with a dilemma. If I remain committed to my lie I start to fracture into pieces. My words and reality drift apart, and I find myself lost in a lonely world of further falsehoods and fear of being found out.

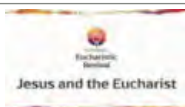
How marvelous, then, that Jesus begins his ministry by proclaiming: "Repent!" We tend to think it means "stop doing bad things" but it doesn't. It literally means "go beyond the mind you have." Think in a new way. It's painful to admit, but some portion of my mind is addicted to lie-telling, usually to protect my ego or make life easier. To repent means to admit this tendency, to say, "I'm done lying," and to move beyond my split mind into a complete commitment to the truth. Perhaps that's why at Mass we together proclaim, "I have sinned in my thoughts, and in my words..." Repentance and truth-telling work together.

Those who know the twelve-step process of addiction recovery know this process well. The fourth step requires radical truth-telling: listing our moral defects. This isn't being scrupulous. Rather it is freedom from falsehood, and entrance into the real world. This week, I invite you to join me in this practice. Get your phone or piece of paper. Answer the question: what are your true moral defects? Write them down. Remember, the Lord knows them already and loves you. We have a sacrament where this truth-telling is celebrated: Confession. Perhaps it is finally time to go beyond our childish lies.

— Father John Muir  
 ©LPI

## 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 **1/22 OLM, 1/29 St. Mark, 2/5 St. James, 2/12 OLM, 2/19 St. Mark.**

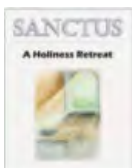


## Spaghetti Dinner & Gift Basket Auction Fundraiser for Religious Education

Plan to join us for our delicious spaghetti dinner in support of religious education on **Feb. 4**. Tickets are on sale after all Masses the weekends in January. The cost is \$13 for a full size and \$8 for a half size dinner. 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.

## Sanctus

Make a New Year's resolution to get into spiritual shape. Mark your calendar and join us for a day of prayer and reflection on the spiritual life on **Saturday, Feb. 17**. The event is free and open to all adults. Registration forms are available on the bulletin tables and the parish website. Questions? Contact Irene at **814-899-6132** or [ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org](mailto:ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org).



## Book Group



Join us on **Wednesday, Feb. 21 @ 7:00** at the home of Cheri Longua, 4512 North Woods Dr., to discuss Finding Me by Viola Davis. In March we will discuss The Edge of Sadness by Edwin O'Connor.

## New Ministry at OLM

We would like to organize what we have been doing as a community for decades. We are forming a ministry to bring meals to families facing health or other difficulties. If you would be willing to serve on this ministry, to be available to help if someone needed a hot cooked meal, please contact Irene at [ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org](mailto:ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org) or **814-899-6132**.



## 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.

## Question of the Week

Question-of-the-Week winner for the week of Jan. 8 was **Zach Henry, grade 6**, who knew that the two halves of the Mass are the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

## 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**.



## 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**.

## Everyday Encounters with Christ

Name: **Anonymous**

I encounter Christ when my grandson greets me after work. His smile, enthusiasm and hug showed the presence of God to me in that moment.





## LITURGICAL MINISTRY SCHEDULE

### Saturday, January 27th at 6:00 p.m.

Lector.....Marilyn Rinke  
 Bowl 1.....Chris Kaschak  
 Bowl 2.....Anne Spring  
 Cup 1.....Tom Eckendorf  
 Cup 2.....Bonnie Eckendorf  
 Altar Server.....Bill Matrogran  
 Greeter.....Marilyn McDaniel  
 Greeter.....Lisa Spelling

### Sunday, January 28th at 8:30 a.m.

Lector.....Tim Fuhrman  
 Bowl 1.....Ginny Fuhrman  
 Bowl 2.....Ken Marshall  
 Cup 1.....Pat Marshall  
 Cup 2.....Sandi Matts  
 Cup 3.....Geoff McCreary  
 Cup 4.....Greg Morealli  
 Altar Server.....Liliana Gelotte  
 Greeter.....Mike Chase  
 Greeter.....Jane Chase  
 AV Ministry.....Adam Baker

### Sunday, January 28th at 11:00 a.m.

Lector.....Adriana Grosch  
 Bowl 1.....Carole Peters  
 Bowl 2.....Maureen Brainard  
 Cup 1.....Nancy Clark  
 Cup 2.....Judy Iesue  
 Altar Server.....Zachery Henry  
 Greeter.....Maggie Wuerstle  
 Greeter.....Colton Wuerstle

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

### Saturday, February 3rd at 6:00 p.m.

Lector.....Clara Camillo  
 Bowl 1.....Marilyn Rinke  
 Bowl 2.....Bonnie Eckendorf  
 Cup 1.....Tom Eckendorf  
 Cup 2.....Todd Beckes  
 Altar Server.....Gabby Peters  
 Greeter.....Joyce Rzodkiewicz  
 Greeter.....Jason Rzodkiewicz

### Sunday, February 4th at 8:30 a.m.

Lector 1.....Carrie Galbreath  
 Lector 2.....Denise Lewandoski  
 Bowl 1.....Tom Palisin  
 Bowl 2.....Kathy Pearson  
 Cup 1.....Donna Schersten  
 Cup 2.....Teresa Shamburg  
 Cup 3.....Chip Shamburg  
 Cup 4.....John Skuce  
 Altar Server.....Colton Catrabone  
 Greeter.....Rochelle Edwards  
 Greeter.....Marilyn Garwig  
 AV Ministry.....Lisa Spelling

### Sunday, February 4th at 11:00 a.m.

Lector.....Nathan Henry  
 Bowl 1.....Maureen Brainard  
 Bowl 2.....Steve Brainard  
 Cup 1.....Judy Iesue  
 Cup 2.....Carole Peters  
 Altar Server.....Zachery Henry  
 Greeter.....Jill Henry  
 Greeter.....Maureen Rizzo

## Lunch with the Lord

A wonderful time to come together to share a meal and share  
 our faith journeys, joy and challenges.

Host sites will provide the warm and welcoming space and  
 liquid refreshments.

Attendees are responsible for bringing their own lunches.  
 Pre-registration is not required but appreciated.

When: January 24, 2024

Time: 11:30 am

Host Church: Grace Harborcreek

2420 Cumberland Rd.

in the main atrium of the church

**ALL ARE WELCOME!**



**PART-TIME  
OFFICE  
MANAGER**

### POSITION OBJECTIVE

Manage welcome and support operations for an effective Church Office. Maintain office services by managing operations and procedures for the day-to-day function of the church office. Organize and give priority attention the multi-faceted needs of people who interact with it. Oversee and provide necessary and sound business practices in the areas of accounting, payroll, and computer maintenance.

### ARE YOU INTERESTED?

If you are interested in becoming the new part-time Office Manager at Our Lady of Mercy Church, please email your resume to [info@ourladyofmercychurch.org](mailto:info@ourladyofmercychurch.org) Please include "ATTN: Hiring Committee" in the subject line.





# Spaghetti Dinner

## Fundraiser

For the Religious Education Ministry  
at Our Lady of Mercy Church

**SUNDAY FEBRUARY 4, 2024**

**12:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.**

**Our Lady of Mercy Church**  
**837 Bartlett Rd. Harborcreek, PA 16421**

**\$13 for full plate / \$8 for half plate**  
Sit down and take-out options are available

**Visit [www.ourladyofmercychurch.org](http://www.ourladyofmercychurch.org)  
for credit card purchases**

Limited number of  
tickets will be available  
at the door.

To guarantee a meal,  
please purchase by  
January 28<sup>th</sup>.

**For more information, call 814-899-6132**

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



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



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

[libertyroofingpros.com](http://libertyroofingpros.com)

**724-605-4024**



5416 East Lake Road  
Erie, PA 16511

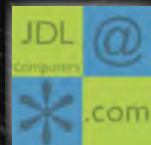
814-899-8600

[www.brevillier.org](http://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**

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

Instantly create and purchase  
an ad with

**AD  
CREATOR  
STUDIO**



[4lpi.com/adcreator](http://4lpi.com/adcreator)



**Erie Cemetery  
ASSOCIATION**

Erie • Laurel Hill • Wintergreen Gorge

*Celebrate Life Through Remembrance*

**814.459.2463**

**All Faiths Welcome**

**Many Options for Traditional Burial  
and Cremation Services**

**DUSCKAS - TAYLOR**



*Funeral Home & Cremation Services*

*Robert D. Taylor*  
Supervisor

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

[dusckas-taylorfuneralhome.com](http://dusckas-taylorfuneralhome.com)

**LET'S GROW YOUR BUSINESS**

Place Your Ad Here and Support  
Our Parish!

**CONTACT ME Timothy Weir**

[tweir@4LPi.com](mailto: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.

