

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
Website: 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 28, 2024 - The 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

THE WEEK AHEAD

For a complete calendar of events, please visit
ourladyofmercychurch.org/calendar

Mon. 01/29	9:30 a.m.	Steel Magnolias SCC
	6:30 p.m.	Jesus and the Eucharist (at St. Mark)
Tue. 01/30	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.	Religious Ed Gr. 3-6
	5:30 p.m.	Youth Open Gym
Wed. 01/31	5:45 p.m.	VBS Planning Mtg.
	6:30 p.m.	OLM Pickleball Club
	9:30 a.m.	OLM Pickleball Club
	6:30 p.m.	OLM Pickleball Club
	6:30 p.m.	Pastoral Facilitator Mtg.
Thur. 02/01	9:30 a.m.	OLM Pickleball Club
	6:00 p.m.	Prayer Shawl
	6:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
	6:00 p.m.	OLM Pickleball Club
Fri. 02/02	10:00 a.m.	Sisters of Scripture SCC
Sat. 02/03	12:00 p.m.	OLM Pickleball Club
	4:30 p.m.	Sacrament of Penance
Sun. 02/04	Casserole Club Drop-Off	
	9:30 a.m.	Religious Ed. Gr. K-2
	9:30 a.m.	Healing Ministry
	12:00 p.m.	Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser
	12:00 p.m.	Gr. 7 & 8 Service Project

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. 01/29		- No MASS -
Tue. 01/30	8:30 a.m.	Helen Behringer (Donna & Lee Auditory)
Wed. 01/31	8:30 a.m.	
Thur. 02/01	8:30 a.m.	Betty Bliss (Virginia Maille)
Fri. 02/02	8:30 a.m.	Gerald Stauffer (Family)
Sat. 02/03	6:00 p.m.	Millie Herrmann (Family)
Sun. 02/04	8:30 a.m.	For the People of OLM
	11:00 a.m.	Dan Finch (Liana Wathen)

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Offertory for the weekend of January 21, 2024

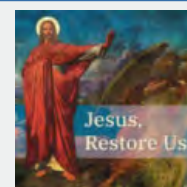
Envelopes sent:	357	
Envelopes returned:	61	\$ 3,305.00
Faith Direct Deposits:	137	\$ 3,183.95
Loose Change:		\$ 153.00
TOTAL OFFERTORY:		\$ 6,641.95

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Mon. 01/29	2 Sm 15:13-14, 30; 16:5-13/ Mk 5:1-20
Tue. 01/30	2 Sm 18:9-14, 24-19:3 / Mk 5:21-43
Wed. 01/31	2 Sm 24:2, 9-17 / Mk 6:1-6
Thur. 02/01	1 Kgs 2:1-4, 10-12 / Mk 6:7-13
Fri. 02/02	Mal 3:1-4 / Heb 2:14-18 / Lk 2:22-40
Sat. 02/03	1 Kgs 3:4-13 / Mk 6:30-34
Sun. 02/04	Jb 7:1-7 / 1 Cor 9:16-23 / Mk 1:29-39

THIS SUNDAY'S REFLECTION

THE 4TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



I love movies about exorcisms. Apparently, so do many others. The 2023 movie "Nefarious" features a possibly possessed inmate on death row. Critics were not impressed, but audiences scored it at 97% on the website Rotten Tomatoes. Most people have an appreciation for the demonic realm, even if cultural elites are generally embarrassed about it. As is standard in exorcism movies, the afflicted person (in this case, a man named Edward Brady) thinks and acts like multiple persons. He is someone besides himself. We know what that is like. We feel fake sometimes, not ourselves.

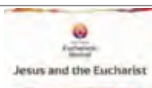
The same dynamic is on dramatic display this week in the Gospel. Jesus the Exorcist approaches a possessed man who utters, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth?" Notice the plural, us. The basic effect of the demonic is division. The man's identity is fractured, divided, and thus many. Jesus powerfully expels the spirit by saying, "Quiet! Come out of him!" Jesus' word has the power to restore the man's singularity — him — and indeed it does.

All this helps us to dismiss childish images of demons sporting red goat tails. Equally, it overcomes the cultured aloofness that dreams demons are mere metaphors for evil. We see instead that fallen angels are conscious and intelligent beings who orient their agency toward division. They bring about schism where there should be unity, e.g., in persons, families, communities, politics, and so on. Thankfully, Jesus commands demons to flee from all these places to restore wholeness and peace. What if we made room for his word where we need it?

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

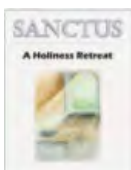


Spaghetti Dinner & Gift Basket Auction Fundraiser for Religious Education

Plan to join us for our delicious spaghetti dinner in support of religious education on **Feb. 4**. This is the last weekend to purchase tickets for the dinner. The cost is \$13 for a full size and \$8 for a half size dinner. There will be a limited number of tickets on sale at the door. To guarantee a meal, please purchase your tickets **this weekend**. We are still 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

This is the final week to register for 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.



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 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. 15 was **Charley Turbaczewski, grade 1**, who knew that the greatest commandment is to love God with your whole heart, mind and strength and to love your neighbor as yourself.

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 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: Rose

I encountered Christ once when a tornado was approaching, I was praying hard in my basement for God's protection on me and my loved ones. The tornado was 2 minutes away and then stopped and died out. That was God's hand...



LITURGICAL MINISTRY SCHEDULE

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 R zodkiewicz
Greeter.....Jason R zodkiewicz

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

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

Saturday, February 10th at 6:00 p.m.

Lector.....Bob Cline
Bowl 1.....Kay Kaerberlein
Bowl 2.....Fred Kaerberlein
Cup 1.....Chris Kaschak
Cup 2.....Anne Spring
Altar Server.....Gabby Peters
Greeter.....Marilyn McDaniel
Greeter.....Lisa Spelling

Sunday, February 11th at 8:30 a.m.

Lector 1.....Sue McCreary
Lector 2.....Christine Morealli
Bowl 1.....Rachel Still
Bowl 2.....Karen Sweeney
Cup 1.....Dan Szczesny
Cup 2.....Tish Szczesny
Cup 3.....Erica Taccone
Cup 4.....Nick Heise
Altar Server.....Kaylyn Still
Greeter.....Tony Gilmore
Greeter.....Linda Kaleta
AV Ministry.....Ken Marshall

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

Lector.....Reagan Andrews
Bowl 1.....Stacy Heidecker
Bowl 2.....Carole Peters
Cup 1.....Maureen Brainard
Cup 2.....Steve Brainard
Altar Server.....Madden & Makayla Inthavong
Greeter.....Maggie Wuerstle
Greeter.....Colton Wuerstle



Feb. 09	Cooper Benson	14
Feb. 11	Samuel Massella	8
Feb. 11	Dean Massella	8
Feb. 21	Callum Baker	5
Feb. 26	Blake Nguyen	14
Feb. 28	Kinsley Durst	5



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.



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
for credit card purchases**

Limited number of
tickets will be available
at the door.

To guarantee a meal,
please purchase by
January 28th.

For more information, call 814-899-6132

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

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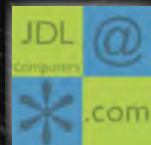
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OUR LADY OF MERCY CATHOLIC CHURCH

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.



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