

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
Sue Berdis, Business Administrator
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

March 31, 2024 - Easter Sunday

THE WEEK AHEAD

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

Mon. 04/01	Parish Office Closed 9:30 a.m. Steel Magnolias SCC 6:00 p.m. Wild Hope SCC 6:30 p.m. Fireside Chatters SCC
Tue. 04/02	9:30 a.m. OLM Pickleball Club 1:00 p.m. Potter's Clay SCC 2:00 p.m. Prayer Shawl 6:30 p.m. OLM Pickleball Club 6:30 p.m. Pastoral Council
Wed. 04/03	9:30 a.m. OLM Pickleball Club 5:00 p.m. Cursillo Set-Up 6:00 p.m. AGIFT Meeting
Thur. 04/04	CURSILLO WEEKEND 6:00 p.m. Prayer Shawl
Fri. 04/05	CURSILLO WEEKEND
Sat. 04/06	CURSILLO WEEKEND 4:30 p.m. Sacrament of Penance 9:00 p.m. Cursillo Holy Hour
Sun. 04/07	CURSILLO WEEKEND Casserole Club Drop Off 9:30 a.m. CLW Meeting 9:30 a.m. Healing Ministry

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Offertory for the weekend of **March 24, 2024**

Envelopes sent:	357	
Envelopes returned:	69	\$ 3,450.30
Faith Direct Deposits:	137	\$ 3,183.95
Loose Change:		\$ 21.00
TOTAL OFFERTORY:		\$ 6,655.25

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. 04/01		- NO MASS -
Tue. 04/02	8:30 a.m.	Barbara Alex (Susan Szymeccki & Family)
Wed. 04/03	8:30 a.m.	Clemens & Millie Herrmann (Family)
Thur. 04/04	8:30 a.m.	Betty Bliss (Virginia Maille)
Fri. 04/05	8:30 a.m.	Richard Liebel (John Abbate)
Sat. 04/06	6:00 p.m.	Lou Ann Nowosielski (Family)
Sun. 04/07	8:30 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	For the People of OLM Geri Gallagher (Maxine Tonks)

SCRIPTURE READINGS

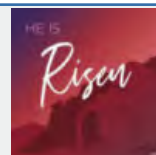
Mon. 04/01	Acts 2:14, 22-33	/ Mt 28:8-15
Tue. 04/02	Acts 2:36-41	/ Jn 20:11-18
Wed. 04/03	Acts 3:1-10	/ Lk 24:13-35
Thur. 04/04	Acts 3:11-26	/ Lk 24:35-48
Fri. 04/05	Acts 4:1-12	/ Jn 21:1-14
Sat. 04/06	Acts 4:13-21	/ Mk 16:9-15
Sun. 04/07	Acts 4:32-35 / 1 Jn 5:1-6	/ Jn 20:19-31

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
- Sue.....213

THIS SUNDAY'S REFLECTION EASTER SUNDAY



Outside Chicago, there is a small cemetery in the woods behind Mundelein Seminary, where I was a student. One night I was exploring it. I looked up and was shocked to see an imposing seventeen-foot angel towering over me and preparing to blow a trumpet. Adrenaline rushed through me. I gasped and uttered, "Oh my God!" Quickly I realized it was in fact a massive bronze statue. I tried to calm myself down. But it still freaked me out.

As we begin to celebrate Easter today, this image might seem a bit unnerving. But please recall that for the first disciples on the morning of the resurrection, it was precisely that. It wasn't joyful at first, it was terrifying. It wasn't peaceful, it was unsettling. In that Jerusalem cemetery, something otherworldly had happened. Angels announced that he was no longer dead, but alive. They had blown their trumpets, so to speak, and Jesus had risen. Soon the disciples' shock in that dark cemetery would turn into joy.

We all have our own places of the dead, too, don't we? Deceased loved ones. Our tired patterns of blame. Relationships stuck in resentment. Indifference to the poor. Lost dreams. Despair about our future. Fear of sickness and death. These are our "cemeteries" where we don't expect much to happen. Today we enter — if we dare — those places with the disciples. See the mighty angel standing there, trumpet ready to blare!

— Father John Muir
©LPi



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**. If you are willing to bring the Eucharist to the homebound, please contact Irene Lucas in the Faith Formation Office.



Confirmation Prayer Pals



We will celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation on **April 8** with St. Gregory parish. Remember to pray for the young person highlighted in your Prayer Pal booklet. Send her or him a note of support and sign your name. If you were not here the weekend that the booklets were distributed, extra copies can be found on the bulletin tables.

Meal Ministry

Our Lady of Mercy has a new ministry to provide meals for families during difficult times. If you know of a parish family who would be blessed by having a home cooked meal arrive at their door, contact Irene at **814-899-6132**.



Being the Hands and Feet of Christ

Christ has no hands, no feet on earth but yours. Many of our parishioners are limited by age or physical ability to drive to doctor appointments. They need their parish family to be the arms of Christ to help them. We are starting a new ministry at OLM of people willing to be called on if a parishioner needs a ride to a doctor's appointment. If you are willing to be on a list of people we can call on, contact Irene at ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org or call **814-899-6132**.



Spiritual Direction Workshop

What Is It For and Who Is It For? The ministry of spiritual direction goes back to the early centuries of Christianity. In our time, this holy practice has received renewed attention. But many people in the pews have only a vague idea of what spiritual direction is, who it is for or how to find a director. If you are curious, join us on **Monday, April 29 at 6:30** for a workshop given by Sr. Rosemary O'Brien, and Mary Fuhrman. This evening is for anyone who would like to know more about spiritual direction, including what happens in a direction session.



Book Group
Join us on **Wednesday, April 17 @ 7:00** to discuss The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store by James McBride.

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 March 18 was **Patrick Cillessen, grade 1**, who knew that Holy Week begins on Palm Sunday.

Women's Cursillo #261

Our Lady of Mercy is hosting a Women's Cursillo **April 5-7th**. If you are interested in making this retreat, please apply online at eriecursillo.org or talk to someone who has made a Cursillo before. OLM's very own, Kathy Pearson will be the Rector for this Cursillo.



Vacation Bible School 2024

It is time to plan for another fun-filled week of VBS excitement at OLM. We are recruiting volunteers to help make this week a blast for our young people. If you are willing to help us create a dynamic week, join us. There will be a planning meeting **Tuesday, April 9 at 5:45**. If you are not able to join this meeting, but are willing to volunteer, contact Irene at ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org or **814-899-4383**.

Sunday Morning *C*A*F*E*

Join us for a spring CAFÉ on **Sunday, April 14 from 9:45-10:45** in Sperry Hall. Enjoy fresh brewed coffee, delicious homemade treats and an inspirational speaker. Barbara Emory and Justin Leroy are rescheduled from January when a snow storm forced the cancellation of our last CAFÉ. This mother and son will share their experience of encountering God's abundant love and unending care on the road of addiction.



A Special "Thank You"

During my recent illness I received many cards, phone calls and prayer offerings. It was a reminder of why Our Lady of Mercy is such a great faith community. Thank you for your time and care, it lifted me up when I needed it. – Dave Horanic

Everyday Encounters with Christ

Name: Anonymous
I encountered Christ while kayaking in the bay and not another human around for miles. Experiencing the beauty of God's creations with no interruptions and no need to be in a hurry to move on.



LITURGICAL MINISTRY SCHEDULE		*If you can not make your scheduled Mass, please contact another minister to sub for you*	
<u>Saturday, April 6th at 6:00 p.m.</u>		<u>Saturday, April 13th at 6:00 p.m.</u>	
Lector.....Fred Kaeberlein	Bowl 1.....Nick Mauro	Lector.....Glory Piovarcy	Bowl 1.....Carol Stauffer
Bowl 2.....Marilyn Rinke	Cup 1.....Kathy Mauro	Bowl 2.....Todd Beckes	Cup 1.....Gerri Extein
Cup 2.....Anne Spring	Altar Server.....Gabby Peters	Cup 2.....Chris Kaschak	Altar Server.....Nick Mauro
Greeter.....Jason Rzodkiewicz	Greeter.....Joyce Rzodkiewicz	Greeter.....Maureen Rizzo	Greeter.....Christine Stroker
<u>Sunday, April 7th at 8:30 a.m.</u>		<u>Sunday, April 14th at 8:30 a.m.</u>	
Lector 1.....Chrissy Saber	Lector 2.....Chip Shamburg	Lector 1.....Karen Sweeney	Lector 2.....Rachel Still
Bowl 1.....Dave Lefaiver	Bowl 2.....Marge Lefaiver	Bowl 1.....Geoff McCreary	Bowl 2.....Brian Meyer
Cup 1.....Tim Lynch	Cup 2.....Ken Marshall	Cup 1.....Ed Meyer	Cup 2.....Karen Meyer
Cup 3.....Pat Marshall	Cup 4.....Rochelle Edwards	Cup 3.....Marlene Meyer	Cup 4.....Greg Morealli
Altar Server.....Kaylyn Still	Greeter.....Rochelle Edwards	Altar Server.....Kaylyn Still	Greeter.....Tony Gilmore
Greeter.....Marilyn Garwig	AV Ministry.....Adam Baker	Greeter.....Linda Kaleta	AV Ministry.....Lisa Spelling
<u>Sunday, April 7th at 11:00 a.m.</u>		<u>Sunday, April 14th at 11:00 a.m.</u>	
Lector.....Nathan Henry	Bowl 1.....Maureen Brainard	Lector.....Reagan Andrews	Bowl 1.....Carole Peters
Bowl 2.....Steve Brainard	Cup 1.....Nancy Clark	Bowl 2.....Erica Taccone	Cup 1.....Nancy Clark
Cup 2.....Judy Iesue	Altar Server.....Zachery Henry	Cup 2.....Stacy Heidecker	Altar Server.....Colton Catrabone
Greeter.....Jill Henry	Greeter.....Maureen Rizzo	Greeter.....Maggie Wuerstle	Greeter.....Colton Wuerstle

Coming soon!

Our Lady of Mercy will be organizing a bus trip to Pittsburgh, to visit two of "The Shrines of Pittsburgh". Trip will include:



- A guided tour of St. Anthony Chapel, home to the largest collection of Christian relics (5,000) in the world, outside of the Vatican.
- Mass at St. Stanislaus Kostka church, the first ethnic Polish Parish in the Diocese of Pittsburgh. In 1969, Pope John Paul II visited and offered prayers there.
- A stop for lunch and shopping at the Strip District, a one-half square mile shopping district full of ethnic grocers, produce markets, bakeries, and sidewalk vendors.

Save the date: **Saturday, June 22, 2024**

More details and sign-up instructions to follow.

All are welcome to join a unique S.C.C. hosted by Parish Impact Coordinator, Nick Heise. This S.C.C. meets every **Thursday at 6:30 p.m.** via Google Meet! Simply scan the QR code to join through your phone or tablet. To join via computer please email youthministerourladyofmercy@gmail.com and you'll receive the link! We look forward to seeing you!



Pastoral Planning Update

Bishop Persico has announced that the Pastoral Plan for the parishes in Erie County will be made known on **April 11.**

Please continue to pray the Pastoral Planning Prayer

Loving God, author of creation,
your spirit pervades and enriches our world.
Through your Son, who shares our humanity,
you have called us to participate in your divine creativity
and to build the kingdom of God here on earth.
Form us, we pray, as one community
under the leadership of our bishop
to serve all the people of this region in your name.

Inspire us to discover new ways
and structures to spread your Gospel.
Open our eyes to see Christ in others,
especially the poor, the sick and the marginalized.
Empower us to be the hands and feet of Christ
in our parishes and communities.
Help us to welcome all into His embrace.

Guide us in our discernment,
as we pray with Pope Francis
for the vision to see new paths of possibility;
for a spirit of mission that invigorates our every effort;
and for the strength to be unafraid of what is new.
We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

THANK YOU FOR SHARING EASTER WITH US!

“The message of Easter is not
that Jesus is alive;
it is so much more.

The message of Easter is that
Jesus has risen!”

Easter reminds us that
hope must never be lost
for as dark as the road may seem,
there always lies light at the end of it.
May the Glory of the Risen Lord fill your
heart with JOY this Easter season and always.

With Love,
Fr. Matt and the Staff of
Our Lady of Mercy

To continue your experience of Easter Joy, we
invite you to come back to church
next weekend!

We promise a welcoming church family,
teaching from God’s Word, and a place for you
to ENCOUNTER, GROW & SERVE in Christ’s name.

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Josh Skarzenski – 3rd Generation Owner & Parishioner

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Erie, PA 16505
835.6960

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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.