

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

April 21, 2024 - 4th Sunday of Easter

THE WEEK AHEAD

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

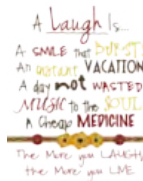
Mon. 04/22	9:30 a.m.	Steel Magnolias SCC
	6:00 p.m.	Roman Candles SCC
	6:30 p.m.	Fireside Chatters SCC
Tue. 04/23	9:30 a.m.	OLM Pickleball Club
	10:00 a.m.	Angels In Training SCC
	1:00 p.m.	Potter's Clay SCC
	2:00 p.m.	Prayer Shawl
	4:00 p.m.	Religious Ed. Gr 3-6
	6:30 p.m.	OLM Pickleball Club
Wed. 04/24	9:30 a.m.	OLM Pickleball Club
	1:00 p.m.	Hallelujah Girls SCC
	6:00 p.m.	Sister Parish Committee
	6:15 p.m.	Cursillo GR
	7:00 p.m.	Discover the Woman
Thur. 04/25	9:30 a.m.	OLM Pickleball Club
	6:00 p.m.	Prayer Shawl
	6:00 p.m.	OLM Pickleball Club
Fri. 04/26		
Sat. 04/27	12:00 p.m.	OLM Pickleball Club
	4:30 p.m.	Sacrament of Penance
Sun. 04/28	9:30 a.m.	Religious Ed. Gr K-2
	12:00 p.m.	Sundae Sunday

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Mon. 04/22	Acts 11:1-18	/ Jn 10:1-10
Tue. 04/23	Acts 11:19-26	/ Jn 10:22-30
Wed. 04/24	Acts 12:24-13:5a	/ Jn 12:44-50
Thur. 04/25	1 Pt 5:5b-14	/ Mk 16:15-20
Fri. 04/26	Acts 13:26-33	/ Jn 14:1-6
Sat. 04/27	Acts 13:44-52	/ Jn 14:7-14
Sun. 04/28	Acts 9:26-31/1 Jn 3:18-24/ Jn 15:1-8	

Comedy Corner

How does the man on the moon cut his hair? Eclipse It!



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



FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Offertory for the weekend of April 14, 2024

Envelopes sent:	357	
Envelopes returned:	64	\$ 3,497.00
Faith Direct Deposits:	137	\$ 3,183.95
Loose Change:		\$ 191.00
TOTAL OFFERTORY:		\$ 6,871.95

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:

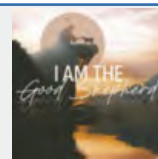
- Fr Matt.....226
- Deacon Paul.....233
- Katie.....210
- Irene.....214
- Kirk.....216
- Brandon.....211
- Sue.....213

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon. 04/22		- NO MASS -
Tue. 04/23	8:30 a.m.	Irene Abbate (John Abbate)
Wed. 04/24	8:30 a.m.	Analida Braeger (Tom Braeger)
Thur. 04/25	8:30 a.m.	
Fri. 04/26	8:30 a.m.	
Sat. 04/27	6:00 p.m.	Suzanne Seyboldt (Dave & Marilyn Rinke)
Sun. 04/28	8:30 a.m.	For the People of OLM
	11:00 a.m.	Marlies Finch (Liana Wathen)

THIS SUNDAY'S REFLECTION

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



Recently I was with my little dog Libby at a retreat center in the Arizona desert. I sat in a chair near a ravine filled with shrubs. Unbeknownst to me, Libby wandered down there and disappeared. Suddenly an animal's wild shriek erupted from the area. Without thinking, I bolted down into the ravine fully expecting to see coyotes, javelinas, or rattlesnakes. I didn't care. I desperately wanted to get Libby out of there, without any self-regard. Before I could face whatever danger lay hidden, my dog blissfully trotted out from an entirely different area, utterly unaware that I had (quite heroically) just placed my life on the line.

When the adrenaline wore off, I thought to myself: how far would I have been willing to go to save her? I don't know. But I do know, if I had literally died, my friends and family would have certainly thought me insane for dying for a dog. No offense, Libby.

How passionately Jesus wants us to know him and his willingness to die for us! This week he says, "I know my own and my own know me," and "I lay down my life for the sheep." Here we encounter an insanely excessive love for us. Christianity is a relationship and not simply a religion or ethical code. In Jesus, God rescues and saves us. He laid down his life for you and me — and he has taken it up again. So often we are like Libby — blissfully ignorant of the reality of both our spiritual danger and his saving love. This Easter season, the risen Jesus calls us to be more conscious than ever before about his love. He never ceases to lay down his life for us.

— Father John Muir
©LPi

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for content for the May 2024 edition of the For Mercy's Sake Newsletter is **TODAY Sunday April 21st**. Please send all newsletter articles or flyers to Katie at secretary@ourladyofmercychurch.org. Anything sent after the deadline can not be guaranteed to make it in the May edition.



Discover the Woman Within

Ladies, please join us for a Discover the Woman Within program on **Wednesday, April 24th at 7:00 in the Worship Space**. The topic will be vulnerability and our speaker will be Lois Stanley. It will be an evening of reflection and much LAUGHTER!!! Bring a friend, all are welcome and stay for fellowship following the program.

Sundae Sunday

Celebrate the sweet Easter season and joy of spring with an ice cream sundae bar and cake walk. Join us **after the 11:00 Mass on April 28**. If you can bake and donate a cake for the cake walk, contact Irene or sign up on the easel in the Gathering Space.



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.

Vacation Bible School 2024

Mark your calendar for a week of summer fun **July 29-Aug. 2**. VBS is open to all children age 4 years old through grade 6. Calling all lords and ladies, maidens and pages, all Guardians of God's Kingdom to put on your helmet of holiness and take up your shield of salvation and be part of this great summer event.



VBS Seeking Volunteers!

Volunteers are needed to make this week a success. If you can help for one day or all five, if you can help with story time or craft, with being an age group leader or making game time fun, contact Irene at ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org or **814-899-6132**. Clearances are required for all volunteers, so sign up in time to complete the paperwork.

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 April 8 was **Ava Still, grade 1**, who knew that the Easter Season lasts for 50 days.

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.



Knights of Columbus Golf & Sports Raffle

The 28th Golf & Sports Raffle will be held on **Friday May 10** in the Gym and Sperry Hall from **6 to 11 p.m.** Tickets will be on sale in the Gathering Space after Mass on **April 21, 28 and May 5**. Tickets will also be on sale in the Parish Office during the week from 8 till 3. Tickets are \$10 each or 3 for \$25. The grand prize this year is \$ 1,000! Our Golf & Sports Raffle has become the largest in the Erie area thanks to the support of our parish and our many ticket sellers. Proceeds from the raffle are used to support youth programs in the parish, provide scholarships for parish high school seniors, and fund capital projects. Please help the Knights help the parish.



KofC Basket Raffle Donations Needed

The Knights are currently accepting donations for the basket raffle. Please drop items off in Classroom 1. If you have any questions, please contact Kay Kaerberlein.

KofC Scholarship

Scholarship applications from graduating high school seniors are being accepted by the Our Lady of Mercy Knights of Columbus Council. The scholarship program began almost 30 years ago with the purpose of awarding a portion of the annual Golf and Sports Raffle proceeds to college-bound students, who along with their parents are members of the parish. An application form, brief essay and certified and sealed transcript from the applicant's school are required. The deadline for application is Sunday, May 12. It is understood that the transcript will only include grades through the most recent grading period. Please remind others who may be interested in applying. Watch the bulletin and check the OLM website for reminders.

LITURGICAL MINISTRY SCHEDULE		*If you can not make your scheduled Mass, please contact another minister to sub for you*	
<u>Saturday, April 27th at 6:00 p.m.</u>		<u>Saturday, May 4th at 6:00 p.m.</u>	
Lector.....Colette Landfried	Bowl 1.....Marilyn Rinke	Lector.....Deb Barko	Bowl 1.....Chris Kaschak
Bowl 2.....Gerri Extein	Cup 1.....Kay Kaeberlein	Bowl 2.....Marilyn Rinke	Cup 1.....Anne Spring
Cup 2.....Fred Kaeberlein	Altar Server.....Nick Mauro	Cup 2.....Carol Stauffer	Altar Server.....Gabby Peters
Greeter.....Jason R zodkiewicz	Greeter.....Joyce R zodkiewicz	Greeter.....Maureen Rizzo	Greeter.....Christine Stroker
<u>Sunday, April 28th at 8:30 a.m.</u>		<u>Sunday, May 5th at 8:30 a.m.</u>	
Lector 1.....Joe Tarquinio	Lector 2.....Tim Fuhrman	Lector 1.....Carrie Galbreath	Lector 2.....Sue Haynes
Bowl 1.....Gary Smith	Bowl 2.....Mary Beth Smith	Bowl 1.....Lorraine Bucklin	Bowl 2.....Ginny Fuhrman
Cup 1.....Rachel Still	Cup 2.....Karen Sweeney	Cup 1.....Candy Henry	Cup 2.....Frank Kaleta
Cup 3.....Dan Szczesny	Cup 4.....Tish Szczesny	Cup 3.....Linda Kaleta	Cup 4.....Tim Lynch
Altar Server.....Kaylyn Still	Greeter.....Mike Chase	Altar Server.....Kaylyn Still	Greeter.....Gary Smith
Greeter.....Jane Chase	AV Ministry.....Adam Baker	Greeter.....Mary Beth Smith	AV Ministry.....Lisa Spelling
CLW Leader.....Nancy Mowery		CLW Leader.....Carolyn Brigham	
<u>Sunday, April 28th at 11:00 a.m.</u>		<u>Sunday, May 5th at 11:00 a.m. **FIRST EUCHARIST**</u>	
Lector.....Adriana Grosch	Bowl 1.....Maureen Brainard	Lector.....	Bowl 1.....Maureen Brainard
Bowl 2.....Erica Taccone	Cup 1.....Nick Heise	Bowl 2.....Steve Brainard	Cup 1.....Nancy Clark
Cup 2.....Judy Iesue	Altar Server.....Madden Inthavong	Cup 2.....Carole Peters	Altar Server.....Zachery Henry
Greeter.....Maggie Wuerstle	Greeter.....Colton Wuerstle	Greeter.....Jill Henry	Greeter.....

OLM Bus Trip

We are organizing a bus trip to St. Anthony Chapel in Pittsburgh, the home of the world's largest collection of relics outside of the Vatican. Join us **Saturday, June 22** aboard an Anderson bus. The day will include a visit to Pittsburgh's famous Strip District for lunch and shopping, a tour at St. Anthony Chapel, Saturday Vigil Mass at St. Stanislav Chapel and dinner in Cranberry. Cost is \$65 (which does not include food). In order to see if there is sufficient interest, people are asked to sign up on the easel in the Gathering Space by **May 1**. Payment is due to the Faith Formation Office by **May 15**.



Our Lady of Mercy Men's Softball

Our Lady of Mercy Men's softball team is forming. Come one, come all, for some Christian fellowship. Ages 16 and over. Season starts Memorial Day week and goes through Labor Day. If interested, please contact Mike Bleil at **814-528-1132** or Ken Bleil at **814-806-4675**.



Child Protection and Creating Safe Environments

Child Abuse Prevention Month National CyberTipline



The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children's CyberTipline is the nation's centralized reporting system for the online exploitation of children. Anyone can make reports of suspected online enticement of children for sexual acts, molestation, child pornography, child sex tourism, child sex trafficking (includes prostitution), child sextortion and unsolicited obscene materials sent to a child. Misleading domain names, misleading words or digital images on the internet can also be reported to the CyberTipline. All tips are reviewed to find a potential location for the reported incident. It is then made available to the appropriate law-enforcement agency for possible investigation. NCMEC provides resources/help in removing an online image. Reports can be made 24/7 online at www.cybertipline.org or by calling **(800) 843-5678**.



Pastoral Council Seeking New Members

Every spring the Pastoral Council seeks out parishioners who can help us envision the future of this community. The Pastoral Council engages in the process of pastoral planning and helps to set the direction of the parish community in prayer, leadership, service and pastoral action in consultation with the Pastor and staff.

A nominee must be a parishioner who:

- Has been confirmed in the Roman Catholic Church.
- By his or her free and consistent choice is a registered member of Our Lady of Mercy Parish.
- Contributes to the betterment of the parish community.

We ask your prayerful consideration in nominating either yourself or another member of the parish community.



*Looking to deepen your relationship with God?
Spiritual direction may be just the help you are looking for.*

What is spiritual direction?

Come and see on Monday, April 29, 6:30-8:00pm



A presentation and discussion with
spiritual directors:

Sr. Rosemary O'Brien, SSJ

Margaret Chrymko, SSJ Associate

Mary Fuhrman, SSJ Associate

Spiritual direction is a conversation between two people. It is an ancient tradition of holy listening that involves the Holy Spirit, the spiritual director (someone trained in holy listening), and the directee (the spiritual seeker). Each has a distinct role in helping us become more aware of God's presence and action in daily life.

As a person shares what's been happening in their prayer and daily life with the spiritual director/companion, the director/companion carefully listens for the Holy Spirit's nudges and promptings. This deep listening for God at work in the directee/seeker's life helps the director ask questions and offer observations that can help the seeker clarify their experience of God. This increased clarity can help a person discover what God is inviting them to and to gain awareness of what gets in the way of their growth in God. Spiritual directors are not "the expert," but are spiritual companions educated to listen for the holy in the ordinary.

People meet with a spiritual director for many reasons. Perhaps they want to grow in relationship with God and are seeking suggestions to start or deepen their prayer lives. Perhaps they are trying to sort through whether an opportunity is an invitation from God or something else. People may be drawn to spiritual direction when they are in the middle of a major transition or crisis of faith.

No matter where you are on your faith journey, we invite you to learn more about spiritual direction so you can consider whether you might like to meet with a spiritual director who can accompany you deeper in your encounter with Christ.

Supporting Our Lady of Mercy Since 1993



Knights of Columbus

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CONTACT ME Mike Hall

mhall@4LPi.com • (800) 477-4574 x6311

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.