

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 28, 2024 - 5th Sunday of Easter

THE WEEK AHEAD

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

Mon. 04/29	9:30 a.m.	Steel Magnolias SCC
	6:00 p.m.	Roman Candles SCC
	6:30 p.m.	Spiritual Direction Program
Tue. 04/30	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
	5:30 p.m.	First Eucharist Practice
	5:45 p.m.	VBS Planning Meeting
	6:30 p.m.	OLM Pickleball Club
Wed. 05/01	9:30 a.m.	OLM Pickleball Club
	4:30 p.m.	Celebration Committee Meeting
	6:30 p.m.	Pastoral Facilitator Meeting
	6:15 p.m.	Cursillo GR
Thur. 05/02	9:30 a.m.	OLM Pickleball Club
	6:00 p.m.	Prayer Shawl
	6:00 p.m.	OLM Pickleball Club
Fri. 05/03		
Sat. 05/04	12:00 p.m.	OLM Pickleball Club
	4:30 p.m.	Sacrament of Penance
Sun. 05/05		Casserole Club Drop Off
	9:30 a.m.	Healing Ministry
	11:00 a.m.	First Eucharist

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Mon. 04/29	Acts 14:5-18	/ Jn 14:21-26
Tue. 04/30	Acts 14:19-28	/ Jn 14:27-31
Wed. 05/01	Acts 15:1-6	/ Jn 15:1-8
Thur. 05/02	Acts 15:7-21	/ Jn 15:9-11
Fri. 05/03	1 Cor 15:1-8	/ Jn 14:6-14
Sat. 05/04	Acts 16:1-10	/ Jn 15:18-21
Sun. 05/05	Acts 10:25-48/1 Jn 4:7-10/ Jn 15:9-17	

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

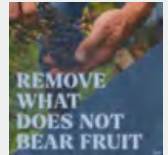


We Remember...

In Loving Memory
Roberta Buckel,
who passed away recently.
Please hold her and her family in
prayer during this difficult time.

THIS SUNDAY'S REFLECTION

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



My friend and fellow pastor, Father Paul, noticed unsightly, overgrown trees near his parish church. He asked the maintenance crew to cut back the growth, which they happily did, telling him the trees would be much healthier and even fuller after a good pruning. A few days later, Father Paul received a letter from an irate man in the neighborhood who wrote, "Jesus would never prune trees like that. He loves trees, unlike you."

I suspect that the neighbor was not familiar with this week's Gospel in which Jesus says of his Father, "He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit" (John 15:2) I don't mean to pick too much on that fellow. He was perhaps ignorant of arboriculture. But I'd wager his main confusion was the pruning and removing quality of God's love. That confusion afflicts us all to some degree, doesn't it? It is just so darn easy to react negatively when God cuts something out of our lives and assume it's not his work at all. In the moment, all we see is the loss, and not the loving desire for future flourishing.

The cross is the great pruning of Christ's body. Jesus' rising is the brand-new growth. It is God's promise to us that all the painful pruning in life is leading us somewhere beautiful. What has been cut back or out in your life? A friend, an opportunity, a sense of certainty, a job, health, a relationship? This week, offer those dry branches to the one who lovingly prunes us in order to make our lives burst with verdant growth.

— Father John Muir
©LPi

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Offertory for the weekend of April 21, 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

Comedy Corner

What will you call a flower that loves to dress up? A dandy-lion.



MASS INTENTIONS

Mon. 04/29		- NO MASS -
Tue. 04/30	8:30 a.m.	Father Ritchie
Wed. 05/01	8:30 a.m.	
Thur. 05/02	8:30 a.m.	Richard Wilhelm (Family)
Fri. 05/03	8:30 a.m.	
Sat. 05/04	6:00 p.m.	Frank Szklenski (The Heise Family)
Sun. 05/05	8:30 a.m.	For the People of OLM
	11:00 a.m.	Geri Gallagher (David & Cindy Gruzca)

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** in Mary's Chapel for a workshop given by Sr. Rosemary O'Brien, Margaret Chrymko, and Mary Fuhrman. This evening is for anyone who would like to know more about spiritual direction, including what happens in a direction session.



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 15 was **Beau Lewandowski, grade Kdg**, who knew that the 3rd commandment tells us that we must go to Mass every Sunday.

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. The next planning team meeting is **Tuesday, April 30 at 6:30** in the Conference Room.



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.



Book Group



Join us on **Wednesday, May 15 @ 7:00** at the home of Pat Marshall, 516 W. Eaglewood to discuss Black Cake by Charmaine Wilkerson. Our June title will be Women by Kristin Hannah.

First Eucharist Celebration

First Eucharist will be celebrated **next Sunday at the 11:00 Mass**. All are invited to join our parish youth in this special day. Note: pews will be reserved in the center sections of the church for our First Eucharist families.



Operation Rice Bowl



Last call for any rice bowl banks that have not yet been returned. We will be sending the check to Catholic Relief Services this week.

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**.



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, May 4th at 6:00 p.m.</u>		<u>Saturday, May 11th at 6:00 p.m.</u>	
Lector.....	Deb Barko	Lector.....	Clara Camillo
Bowl 1.....	Chris Kaschak	Bowl 1.....	Nick Mauro
Bowl 2.....	Marilyn Rinke	Bowl 2.....	Kathy Mauro
Cup 1.....	Anne Spring	Cup 1.....	Carol Stauffer
Cup 2.....	Carol Stauffer	Cup 2.....	Todd Beckes
Altar Server.....	Gabby Peters	Altar Server.....	Gabby Peters
Greeter.....	Maureen Rizzo	Greeter.....	Marilyn McDaniel
Greeter.....	Christine Stroker	Greeter.....	Lisa Spelling
<u>Sunday, May 5th at 8:30 a.m.</u>		<u>Sunday, May 12th at 8:30 a.m.</u>	
Lector 1.....	Carrie Galbreath	Lector 1.....	Denise Lewandoski
Lector 2.....	Sue Haynes	Lector 2.....	Sue McCreary
Bowl 1.....	Lorraine Bucklin	Bowl 1.....	Dave Lefaiver
Bowl 2.....	Ginny Fuhrman	Bowl 2.....	Marge Lefaiver
Cup 1.....	Candy Henry	Cup 1.....	Pat Marshall
Cup 2.....	Frank Kaleta	Cup 2.....	Sandi Matts
Cup 3.....	Linda Kaleta	Cup 3.....	Greg Morealli
Cup 4.....	Tim Lynch	Cup 4.....	Kathleen Pearson
Altar Server.....	Kaylyn Still	Altar Server.....	Kaylyn Still
Greeter.....	Gary Smith	Greeter.....	Rochelle Edwards
Greeter.....	Mary Beth Smith	Greeter.....	Marilyn McDaniel
AV Ministry.....	Lisa Spelling	AV Ministry.....	Ken Marshall
CLW Leader.....	Carolyn Brigham	CLW Leader.....	Nancy Mowery
<u>Sunday, May 5th at 11:00 a.m. **FIRST EUCHARIST**</u>		<u>Sunday, May 12th at 11:00 a.m.</u>	
Lector.....		Lector.....	Nathan Henry
Bowl 1.....	Maureen Brainard	Bowl 1.....	Stacy Heidecker
Bowl 2.....	Steve Brainard	Bowl 2.....	Judy Iesue
Cup 1.....	Nancy Clark	Cup 1.....	Erica Taccone
Cup 2.....	Carole Peters	Cup 2.....	Nick Heise
Altar Server.....	Zachery Henry	Altar Server.....	Colton Catrabone
Greeter.....	Jill Henry	Greeter.....	Maggie Wuerstle
Greeter.....		Greeter.....	Colton Wuerstle

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). There are only 10 seats left, so sign up on the easel in the Gathering Space by **May 1**. Payment is due to the Faith Formation Office by **May 15**.



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**.

Child Protection and Creating Safe Environments

Child Abuse Prevention Month

Recent statistics tell us one out of every ten children will be abused before they turn 18. 91% of sexual abuse is perpetrated by someone the child or the child's family knows. This means that on every Sunday in our congregation there are people who have been abused and may continue to experience the pain of that abuse. Reaching out to those who have suffered from abuse is critical in bringing hope and the love of Christ to them. Assistance is available for victims/survivors of clergy sexual abuse by contacting the Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator, Dr. Gerard Tobin at **814-451-1521**.



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**.





May 1	Josie Hicks	18
May 4	Colton Wuerstle	15
May 6	Liam Marshall	15

May 7	Madden Inthavong	13
May 9	Logan Taccone	11
May 14	Gavin Galbreath	14
May 17	Johnathan Catrabone	12
May 19	Levi Gilchrist	10
May 23	Landon Ford	16
May 23	Leo Martin	5
May 25	Eoin Eighmy	14
May 26	Nora Weiss	14
May 30	Joseph Skelly	5



2024 Baby Bottle Fundraiser

The Knights of Columbus in Erie and Crawford Counties are conducting our 3rd annual Baby Bottle Fundraiser. Your charitable donations thus far have enabled the Knights to purchase five state of the art Ultrasound Machines and a Mobile Ultrasound Clinic for the Women’s Care Center of Erie. Since then, 661 babies have been born to women after they viewed their ultrasounds. They chose life for their babies even though they were originally abortion bound. The Women’s Care Center is now facing a difficult crisis. For the past thirty years, the State of Pennsylvania allocated funds to organizations such as the Women’s Care Center that promote childbirth as an option, rather than abortion by providing pregnancy and parenting support services. The current Governor of Pennsylvania made the decision to end this program. This has caused a significant loss of funding to our Women’s Care Center’s Erie locations that need our financial support more than ever. Baby bottles will be distributed at the Church entrances on **Mother’s Day weekend (May 11-12th)**. Please take one home and fill it with spare change, cash, or checks. Envelopes will also be available as an option to the Baby Bottles. The bottles and envelopes should be returned **Father’s Day weekend (June 15-16th)** We thank you in advance for your kind generosity, and pray you will once again join us in our continuing efforts in saving the lives of the unborn.



29th Annual Knights of Columbus
Our Lady of Mercy Council 11144

GOLF & SPORTS RAFFLE Casino Night

Benefitting Youth Activities at Our Lady of Mercy Parish

Friday, May 10, 2024

Our Lady of Mercy Church, Sperry Hall

Bartlett and Dutton Roads, Harborcreek / Doors Open 6-11 pm

FREE FOOD AND REFRESHMENTS

ALL TICKETS ELIGIBLE FOR ALL DRAWINGS
NEED NOT BE PRESENT TO WIN

CASH PRIZES AWARDED
FOR THOSE IN ATTENDANCE

All prizes must be claimed by August 31, 2024



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CONTACT ME Mike Hall

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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.