



FOR MERCY'S SAKE

the quarterly newsletter of Our Lady of Mercy Church

August 2024

837 Bartlett Road Harborcreek, PA 16421
814-899-5342 • www.ourladyofmercychurch.org
www.facebook.com/ourladyofmercyharborcreek
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FEAST OF OUR LADY OF MERCY

September 29, 2024

A time to celebrate being the faith community of Our Lady of Mercy.

OUR FEAST DAY MASS is at 9:30 a.m.

Followed by a pot luck meal
in Sperry Hall.

Please bring a dish to share
for the luncheon according to
your last name:

A-G Salad or Appetizer

H-O Dessert or Snack

P-Z Casserole or Fruit

Gluten-free items are welcome.



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A Year of Jubilee *Pilgrims of Hope*

Pope Francis has declared 2025 A Year of Jubilee. Jubilee years are also known as Holy Years because these years of grace call the faithful to renewed relationship with God, with one another and with creation.

The Jubilee has its roots in the Bible. Leviticus 25 calls God's people to set aside every seventh year as a sabbatical year, a year dedicated to God. When the community had celebrated seven sabbaticals, the next year was declared a Jubilee. Every 50 years, the Jubilee demanded that property be returned to its ancestral owner, debts be forgiven, slaves be set free, the land be allowed to rest and be renewed as it lay fallow, grievances be reconciled and justice and harmony be restored to the community.

Jesus begins his public ministry with the words of the prophet Isaiah,

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, and to proclaim a year acceptable to the Lord" (Lk. 4:18-19)

With these words, Jesus connects his work with God's ancient vision for the Jubilee. Through His teachings, healings and forgiveness, Jesus brings about the renewal of relationship with God, others and creation which is at the heart of the Holy Year.

The first Jubilee Year in the Catholic Church was called by Pope Boniface VIII in 1300. His vision was to have a Jubilee every century. In 1470, Pope Paul II established the Jubilee every 25 years. These regular calling of a "Jubilee" are "ordinary Jubilees". Periodically the Pope will call for an additional or "extraordinary Jubilee". The most recent "extraordinary Jubilee" was the Year of Mercy in 2015.

It has become tradition to begin the Jubilee Year in December with the opening of the "Holy Door" at St. Peter Basilica and to bring it to a close on Epiphany a year later. The open Holy Door symbolizes the invitation to enter into God's transforming grace by which we are made "holy". These months are a time of

pilgrimage as the people renew their commitment to journey together into the Kingdom of God.

"Pilgrims of Hope" is the theme for this Holy Year. As the world grapples with the devastation of wars, the lingering effects of COVID, the impact of climate change, we are reminded of the hope we have from Christ, the hope that informs our vision of the future and our response to the present.

In preparation for this Jubilee Year, Pope Francis has asked the Church to dedicate 2024 as a year of prayer. He has also challenged Catholics to take time over the coming months to study the key documents of the Second Vatican Council.

2025 is a special year for our parish family. As the Church celebrates this Jubilee Year, Our Lady of Mercy celebrates the 25th anniversary of the new building. It is an opportunity to remember with gratitude where we have been, to anticipate with hope where God is leading us and to celebrate with joy the grace that is ours in the present. Our parish anniversary will be launched with our September 29 feast day celebration. Our Mass on Christmas Eve will connect our community to the opening of the Holy Door in Rome. April 9, the anniversary of the dedication of our Worship Space, will be a highlight of the year with a special Mass celebrated by Bishop Persico followed by a parish party. Mark your calendar. Between September 29 and April 9, we will have opportunities to share memories, reconnect to the beauty of our Worship Space and deepen our commitment to Christ and each other. Watch the announcements as each piece unfolds.

May this Holy Year draw each of us to the transforming grace of God. In our anniversary celebration, may we be renewed in the faith we profess, the hope we proclaim, the love we en flesh. May this be a Holy Year for a holy people in Harborcreek.

Pilgrims of Hope Journeying Toward the Jubilee: A Fall Study



Pope Francis has declared 2025 to be a Holy Year. In the months leading to the opening of the Holy Door, he has called the faithful to a time of prayerful preparation. As part of preparing for the Jubilee Year, Catholics are encouraged to spend time reflecting on the 4 major documents of the Second Vatican Council. These documents offer an inspiring vision of the Church as they call all of God's people to lives of holy witness and courageous service in building the Reign of God.

This fall, we will have an opportunity to reflect on and discuss these documents, to let them renew our commitment to the Church and inspire us to live with audacious hope.

Monday, Sept. 23, 30 & Oct. 7
9:00 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.
OLM Conference Room

Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World
(Gaudium et Spes):

The church must read the signs of the times and interpret them in the light of the Gospel. The church does not exist alongside or apart from the world; the church is part of the world, and its mission is to serve the whole human family in order to make the human race's history more human.

For more information, contact Irene at **814-899-6132** or
ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org

BAPTISMAL PREPARATION SESSION

Are you expecting a new child? Has a baby recently blessed your family? Is the celebration of the Sacrament of Baptism with your child something that you are planning for some time in the next year? If so, mark your calendar for 10:30 AM on Sunday, October 6 for our semi-annual Baptismal Preparation Session.



All parents/guardians and godparents are asked by the Diocese of Erie, to prepare their hearts and spirits to celebrate this wonderful Sacrament with their child by attending a special session just for them. Because these sessions are only held twice a year here at Our Lady of Mercy, you will want to take advantage of the opportunity now.

To register for the Baptismal Preparation Session, parents/guardians are asked to call the Parish Office at 814-899-5342. Questions can be asked at that time. Or, check out our web page to see the answers to the most frequently asked questions about child Baptism.

If the session scheduled at Our Lady of Mercy does not fit your calendar, you may attend a Baptismal Preparation Session for Parents at any Catholic parish in the area. If you call the area parishes, you should find a session that meets your time constraints; evening and weekend classes are available.

LEADER FOR BAPTISMAL PREP NEEDED

After many years leading the Baptismal Prep Session at OLM, helping parents and god parents embrace their awesome responsibility as they bring a child to the living water of baptism, Vickie and Larry Gilchrist are ready to take on new ministries in our community. We are looking for a faith-filled couple who is willing to hold these semi-annual sessions. Vickie and Larry are willing to share what they have done with their successor. For more information, contact Irene at 814-899-6132 or ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org.



Coming Soon to a bulletin near you...
"MERCY MEMORIES!"

Be sure to pick up a
bulletin for fun facts
and memories
all about
Our Lady of Mercy!

CELEBRAMOS!

Let us celebrate

Nuestra Senora de la Asuncion

August 15 is the feast day of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the name of our sister parish in Peto. The Sister Parish Committee invites all of us to gather to celebrate along with our sisters and brothers in Mexico.

**Join us for a party in
Sperry Hall immediately
after the evening Mass on**

August 15.

Enjoy a make-your-own-taco-bar, music, and the joy of friends. There is no cost. This is a gift of the Sister Parish Committee.



Religious Education Registration

Hints of fall are everywhere. Back to school sales are being advertised. Nights hold the nip of autumn. Days are growing shorter. As families prepare for a new school year, the OLM family is preparing for a new year of religious education. With the changes to our Mass schedule, there will be changes to our **faith formation schedule also**.



Registration for the 2024-2025 religious education program will take place after Masses the weekend of August 17-18. If you have found that you have missed the general registration weekend, please stop by the Office of Lifelong Faith Formation during normal working hours. All families with children intending to participate in the 2024-2025 Rel. Ed. program are asked to register at this time. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

Again this year, there will be a \$10 discount on the registration fee for those families who provide the parish with current clearances for at least one parent. If you already submitted clearances and they are less than 3 years old, the discount will apply. As most of you know, all those who volunteer with children must have government issued clearances, both Criminal Background checks and Child Abuse Clearances. This law applies to parents helping with a classroom party, chaperoning a field trip, religious education substitutes and the like. These clearances are free for volunteers. However, they must be on file with the sponsoring organization before any volunteer can assist with any aspect of any program.

Our Lady of Mercy believes that parent participation in the religious education ministry is essential to its success. Whether parents can volunteer on a weekly basis or assist with a one-time project, we value your gifts and time. The only way that we can involve parents is if we have their clearances on file.

Many of you already have obtained these clearances for school, scouting, sports or other programs. If you do not already have these documents, you can apply on-line. All links can be found at the diocesan website <http://eriercd.org>. If you have any difficulty completing the on-line application for these clearances, call the parish and we will assist you.

Program Fees may be paid at the time of registration. Checks should be made payable to Our Lady of Mercy Religious Education. Program fees are:

\$40.00	Registration-One Child
\$50.00	Registration-Two Children
\$60.00	Registration-Three or more children
\$55.00	Registration-Per Child Non-Parishioner
\$10.00	Youth Ministry fee per child Gr 7-12
\$25.00	Youth Ministry Fee for 3 or more children Gr. 7-12

For a family who has current Criminal Background Checks and Child Abuse Clearances on at least one parent on file at OLM, the fee schedule is:

\$30.00	Registration-One Child
\$40.00	Registration-Two Children
\$50.00	Registration-Three or more children
\$45.00	Registration-Per Child Non-Parishioner
\$10.00	Youth Ministry fee per child Gr 7-12
\$25.00	Youth Ministry Fee for 3 or more children Gr. 7-12

If we have current clearances on file, a notation will appear on your registration form. If you present clearances at time of registration, the registration fee will be adjusted accordingly.

Kindergarten religious education class is held on Sunday mornings from 10:30-12:00. Participants must be age 5 by September 1 and should be in the same school grade. The Kindergarten group meets in classroom #5

Grade One religious education is required prior to participation in the Sacramental Preparation program. First grade religious education students meet in classroom #7 on Sunday mornings from 10:30-12:00.

First Reconciliation preparation is conducted on the second grade level. The First Reconciliation program, held 10:30-12:00 Sunday morning in classroom #6, is open to all students in Grade 2 or older who have previously been involved in at least one year of religious instruction and who have been baptized. **No child can be registered for the grade 2 RE class who has not attended one year of formal religious education classes at a Catholic parish. In order to qualify as successfully completing 1 year of instruction, the child must have been present for a minimum of 3/4th of the schedule classes or provide a letter of completion from the pastor or director of the parish program they attended stating such.** Participation in a 3-hour preparatory retreat is required prior to the celebration of the sacrament. The celebration of First Reconciliation occurs in March. Parental support and involvement is essential during periods of sacramental preparation.

First Eucharist preparation is the curriculum for the third grade program. Individuals must have celebrated the sacraments of Baptism and Reconciliation prior to the celebration of their First Eucharist. First Eucharist is celebrated in May. Students are required to participate in an April retreat day as part of the preparation program. Parental involvement and support is essential during periods of sacramental preparation.

The Intermediate Program encompasses grades 3-6. Students participating in religious education on this level gather for classes on Tuesday afternoons from 4:00-5:30. The school bus service for Harbor Creek School District brings children from the Harbor Creek elementary schools to the parish. Parents are responsible for picking up their children at class end.

Behavior for the Rel. Ed. bus follows the same policies as that enforced by the Harbor Creek School District. Failure by any student to behave in an appropriate fashion while riding the bus to religious education classes will result in the suspension of the privilege to receive this transportation for the remainder of the academic year.

Junior High youth meet Sunday from 10:30-12:00. Combining fun activities, faith sharing, witness talks and prayer, 7th & 8th grade youth are invited into a deeper relationship with Christ and with His Body, the Church. The junior high group gathers in the gym. Diocesan policy mandates that youth participate in 7th & 8th grade faith formation prior to beginning Confirmation preparation. The Diocese of Erie requires 90% attendance at this level.

Confirmation Preparation takes place in 9th grade. Those attending a Catholic high school must prepare for the sacrament in their home parish. This program includes small group Sessions, service projects, retreat days, etc. Those celebrating the sacrament of Confirmation must be in the second semester of 9th grade or older, have been baptized, and have completed all requirements. Confirmation preparation takes place Sunday from 10:30-12:00. The group meets in the Ritchie Room.

Days of Retreat are provided for students in the formal religious education program. All program provided retreat experiences are free to participants. Attendance at these events is required for those preparing for a sacramental celebration (**Grade 2 First Reconciliation, Grade 3 First Eucharist and Grade 9 Confirmation**). All other experiences are encouraged, but not mandatory. These days combine fun with spiritual growth.

Family Faith Days are opportunities for families to share in the faith formation process with their children. Currently, these are scheduled twice during the school year during the Sunday morning program. On these specially designated mornings, all children in **Kindergarten through gr. 2** are joined by parents, siblings and any extended family members to share in a special morning of prayer and fun.

Parent Meetings enable family members to best support the faith development of their child. Every year we hold a series of parent meetings designed to inform parents of curriculum topics, special projects and other details of interest. All parent meetings are designed to be informative and brief. All parents and guardians are highly encouraged to attend these meetings. Please consult the religious education calendar and the bulletin for specific times and dates.

Absentee Policy: Preparing for a sacramental celebration is a very important process. Extra care and attention is directed to these parts of the program by the R. E. Office, the catechists and the families. To ensure that youth are as well prepared as possible, attendance policies are in place for these years. **Children preparing for First Reconciliation and First Eucharist (grades 1, 2 & 3) must be present for a minimum of ¾ of scheduled classes.** Any child absent for more than a quarter of the scheduled classes will not be approved to celebrate this sacrament. (Any first grade student who has missed more than a quarter of the scheduled classes will not have met the requirement of completing a year of religious ed necessary to enter the First Reconciliation program.) Jr. High youth are required to attend 90% of the 7th & 8th grade sessions before enrolling in Confirmation preparation. **Confirmation candidates (grade 9) are mandated by diocesan policy to attend 90% of the sessions.** Additional absences must be made up with the Director of Lifelong Faith Formation before the candidate can continue in the process. Additionally, this year of preparation includes work to be done at home. **All homework must be completed and returned before the individual will be approved for the sacramental celebration.**

To all returning catechetical ministers, students and families, I look forward to seeing you soon. To all new participants in the religious education program, I welcome you. To all members of this parish community, I encourage your comments, ideas and suggestions.

**Religious Education Classes begin on Tuesday, September 3.
Religious Education calendars are available at the time of registration.**

May you continue to deepen your love for God and one another. May the remaining weeks of the summer season bring many blessings.



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS®

KNIGHTLY NEWS SUMMER 2024

30th Anniversary

The anniversary of OLM Council's founding on June 27, 1993 was celebrated by Knights sitting together at Mass, accompanied by spouses, family members and those of special importance in our lives. During Mass, **Frank Abate** was named the **Knight of the Year** and in recognition presented with a plaque. He is always available and visible when help is needed and he has a long-standing reputation for selling the most golf raffle tickets of anyone - ever! Thank you and congratulations Frank! After Mass, those present were invited to Sperry Hall where they were served a pancake breakfast as a way of saying thank you for supporting our fundraisers and initiatives for all these years. Your support in turn benefits our church, its members, the diocese, and people in need both locally and around the world. A few words were offered to explain what the Knights are about and how we reach out to others. Please consider joining if you are not already a member.

Golf & Sports Raffle

The annual (29th) Golf Raffle was a huge success! Over six hundred people came through the doors of Sperry Hall! Thanks to all who contributed and supported it in any way. Over and over, this event has proven to be one to which the people of Harborcreek look forward. A special thank you to The Ladies of the Knights - Kay Kaeberlein, Rochelle Edwards, Judy Manna and all helpers for organizing The Basket Raffle. After many years, Kay has decided to step down as chair. She will mentor Pat Marshall who will take over. Thank you, Kay, for your dedication, hard work and success - and you Pat Marshall for accepting the challenge; we know you will do well. The July council meeting was held at the OLM Pavilion, where a brief business meeting was followed by a dinner and refreshments to celebrate the success of the Golf Raffle.

Knights of Columbus Scholarship

We are pleased to congratulate awardees **Leah Corey, Josephine Hicks, Benjamin Smith and Georgia Weber** - all Harborcreek High School graduates. Their achievements are impressive and we know they will do well in the next phase of their education. Our Lady of Mercy Council of the Knights of Columbus awards scholarships annually to high school seniors who attend our parish. This is one of the many ways in which The Knights, and indirectly those of you who support the fundraisers, primarily The Golf Raffle, contribute to the parish and its members.

Youth Mission Trip

A \$1,500 donation was made in support of the Michigan Trip in June which Nick Heise coordinated. Included were several local churches at a total cost of \$25,000. Attending from OLM were 12 students and 5 adults.

OLM Women's Group request

A \$500 donation was made, at their request, to help defray the cost of an event in October. A woman who portrays Eleanor Roosevelt will travel to OLM to make a presentation.

Degrees

By completing the CUF Degree, two new members, John Curtin and John Trombetta, have joined the council. CUF stands for the principles of the Knights - Charity, Unity and Eraternity. There is one additional degree; its principle is Patriotism.





Baby Bottle Fundraiser

For the third consecutive year, the collection at OLM for this Diocesan-wide fundraiser ran from Mothers Day through Fathers Day. Since funding for Women’s Care Center of Erie was drastically cut by the governor of Pennsylvania, proceeds will help make up a portion of that loss and enable the center to continue its Pro-Life outreach. Response, in view of the loss, was impressive and we thank all who donated. Phil Legler of OLM and our K of C Council, along with Greg Penco, Grand Knight of Erie’s Mount Carmel Council, play key roles in this initiative.

Elections of Council Officers

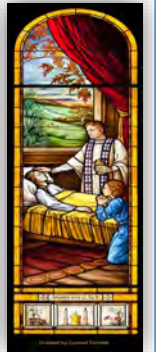
There were no nominations or volunteers. After some discussion, a motion carried to close nominations and retain the current officers. However, Gus Manna will mentor a person for his position as treasurer and John Skuce will mentor another, Tony Mazza, for his position as recording secretary.

Summer Festival Weekend

Knights were out in force working in many areas during Friday and Sunday to make the festival the best ever.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Our Parish Community will celebrate the **Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick** at all Masses on **October 19 & 20**. Jesus spent the greatest amount of his time healing both spiritually and physically. It is said that we spend our time on those things which are most important to us. If this is true, then healing must have been a very important value to Jesus. Our Mission Statement reminds us that we are a community that lives the values of Jesus Christ. Our celebration is not just for the sick. The faith community gathers with them to show their concern for the sick of our community, and to pray with and for the sick of the community.



Parish Festival

2024 Results

REVENUE

TOTAL INCOME \$39,220.07

EXPENSES

TOTAL EXPENSES \$12,915.06
TOTAL PROFIT \$26,305.06

Festival Winners

- Grand Prize #1 - Nick Mauro
- Second Prize - Brian Meyer
- Lottery - Maryellen Brennan
- Restaurant Cards - Carol Perrotto
- Restaurant Cards - Andrea Maille
- Wine Basket - Jeff G.
- Beer Basket - Gerri Extein
- Limo Service - Patty Lanich
- Beer Pyramid - June Pomorski

Congratulations to all of our prize winners!

Festival 2022 Results

Income \$30,418.03
Expenses \$9,346.33
Profit \$21,071.70

Festival 2023 Results

Income \$33,705.85
Expenses \$11,878.91
Profit \$21,823.94



PARISH MISSION

**OUR LADY OF MERCY PARISH
837 BARTLETT RD., HARBORCREEK**

The Heart of a Community: Building Gospel Courage & Spiritual Wholeness into our Daily Lives



**Sunday, October 13 thru Tuesday, October 15
7:00 p.m.**

In these times of confusion, divisions, and even uncertainty and fear, the winds are blowing for fresh air, for inspiration, for courage and even joy. What better time to treat ourselves to a series of uplifting sessions offered in our parish community by Irish-born storyteller, biblical scholar, and poet Tricia Hoyt?

In Tricia's words, "Taking on the courage of the Gospels and the deep well of spiritual wholeness offered to us through God's wisdom in the ancient sacred texts is mighty work... some might say intimidating and almost too complex! But no, I say it's the perfect opportunity for creativity, poetry, humor, and story to enlighten us with respect to the spiritual depth we need in our families and communities today."

Bringing a heart wide and light to stories old and ever-new, Tricia Hoyt offers three evenings that will enthrall, challenge, and inspire us.

Tricia Hoyt is a biblical scholar, retreat director, leadership trainer, educator, and writer. Originally from Ireland, she resided in France and Peru before moving to the U.S. in 1981. She worked for 30 years as an educator and leadership trainer in Arizona, serving as director of the Diocesan Office of Peace and Justice; director of the School of Biblical Studies at Kino Institute of Theological Studies; and director of the Leadership Wellness Center at the Franciscan Renewal Center. She has traveled frequently across the U.S. and in Europe to offer workshops on biblical storytelling and a spirituality for justice. Tricia holds a MA in Adult Christian Community Development from Regis University in Denver, and completed ten years of doctoral work in Biblical Interpretation at Brite Divinity School (TCU), Fort Worth. She has four adult children and 9 extraordinary grandchildren.



For more information, call the parish at 814-899-6132.



SAVE THE DATE

Our Lady of Mercy's
**A Merry Mercy
Christmas**
Sunday December 15
2 - 5 p.m.

Family fun, community, Christmas-time
celebration.

Something to do
for all ages.

More details will be released as they become
available. Please follow our social media
pages and our parish bulletin
to stay up to date.

Our Lady of Mercy Scrip Program

Gift Card Order Form

Our Lady of Mercy earns cash with every gift card purchased. (1.7% - 14% depending on the gift card)

The cards listed below are those available in the Parish Office or visit the RaiseRight mobile app or ShopWithScrip.com to see all 750+ brands and available denominations.

3 ways to order:

- ❖ Stop by the parish office after the weekend Masses or during the week between 9 and 2.
- ❖ Fill out the form below and drop it off or mail it to OLM 837 Bartlett Rd Harborcreek PA 16421
- ❖ Text (814)440-4890 or email pmm1955.erie@gmail.com

Please make checks payable to: Our Lady of Mercy Church

For questions or more information please call Pat Marshall at 814-440-4890

In stock
Total \$ _____
Cards _____ Check # _____
or Cash

Store	Denomination	Quantity	Total Cost
Amazon	\$25		
Amazon	\$100		
Apple/iTunes	\$25		
Applebees	\$25		
Arby's	\$10		
Barnes & Noble	\$10		
Bath & Body Works	\$10		
Bath & Body Works	\$25		
Bob Evans	\$10		
Bob Evans	\$25		
Buffalo Wild Wings	\$10		
Buffalo Wild Wings	\$25		
Burger King	\$10		
Chipotle	\$10		
Chipotle	\$25		
Cinnabon-Moes etc.	\$25		
Country Fair	\$25		
Country Fair	\$50		
Country Fair	\$100		
Dairy Queen	\$10		
Darden Restaurants	\$25		
Domino's	\$10		
Dunkin	\$10		
Dunkin	\$25		
Giant Eagle	\$25		
Giant Eagle	\$50		
Giant Eagle	\$100		

Store	Denomination	Quantity	Total Cost
Home Depot	\$25		
Kohl's	\$25		
Michael's	\$25		
Old Navy	\$25		
Outback Steakhouse	\$25		
Outback Steakhouse	\$50		
Panera	\$10		
Panera	\$25		
Pizza Hut	\$10		
Sonic	\$10		
Sonic	\$25		
Stan's Garden Center	\$25		
Starbucks	\$10		
Starbucks	\$25		
Subway	\$10		
Target	\$10		
Target	\$25		
Target	\$50		
Tim Hortons	\$10		
Total Wine	\$25		
Ulta	\$25		
Walmart	\$25		
Walmart	\$50		
Walmart	\$100		
Wendy's	\$10		

Customer Info:

Name: _____
 Phone # _____ Email: _____

Looking for individuals willing to sell gift cards after weekend Masses. If interested, please fill out the form below or call/text Pat Marshall (814)440-4890 or call the office (814)899-5342.

Thank you!



Name: _____ Mass: _____

Phone: _____ email: _____