



ST. MARY OUR MOTHER CHURCH

MISSION STATEMENT

St. Mary Our Mother is a Catholic community committed to the spiritual growth of all people as we share our faith and serve our community.



816 West Broad Street, Horseheads, New York
(607) 739-3817

February 9, 2020

HANDS OF CHRIST AWARDS

Six of our high school seniors have been named recipients of this year's *Hands of Christ* recognition. These young people were so recognized because they have consistently served God, their parish, and the greater community.

We congratulate this year's recipients of the *Hands of Christ Award* from St. Mary Our Mother:

<i>Katherine Bukowski</i>	<i>Angelina Villegas</i>
<i>Therese Cites</i>	<i>Grayson Woodhouse</i>
<i>Megan Puylara</i>	<i>McKenna Woodworth</i>

The *Hands of Christ* recognition ceremony took place on Thursday, January 30, 2020 at the Church of St. Mary Our Mother.

ST. MARY OUR MOTHER SCHOOL REGISTRATION

St. Mary Our Mother School is accepting student registrations for grades pre-k 3 through grade six. Openings will be filled on a first-come, first-serve basis. Parents or guardians who are new to St. Mary Our Mother School will need: birth certificate, baptismal certificate, immunization records and a completed parish commitment form for members of the parish. The non-refundable registration fee is \$150 per family. Both before and after school care are available. For further information, call St. Mary Our Mother School at 739-9157.

CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL

It is not too late to offer a gift to the annual Catholic Ministries Appeal. As of January 31st, 260 parishioners have pledged \$74,247.88, which is 66.17% of our goal of \$112,209.00. If you have not already given, please consider a gift to the CMA to help us reach our parish goal. Thank you!

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

What does it mean to be salt and light? If we listen carefully to Jesus' words, we gain some direction. To be salt means to bring taste, zest, and joy to life. We are asked to liven things up a bit by allowing the joy of our faith to spill over into the lives of others. Only a sincere and deep relationship with God can freshen up humanity and set it on proper course. To be light means that our faith must translate into action so that we can be Christ for others and extend the same arm of mercy and compassion that Christ did. Our acts of piety, then, cannot be directed solely at ourselves. Prayer is never about self-benefit but must always be directed toward union with God, deepening our relationships with one another and learning how to be effective stewards of the beautiful universe God has entrusted to our care.

The Master gives us wise direction in terms of how we can best become the salt and light he desires. Listen carefully to the Beatitudes. Think about the oppression and alienation that exists in our world, the violence and prejudice, the anger and the hatred, the fear and the shame. All of these things require action. The poor need food, housing, and clothes. Hatred must be replaced by love. Retaliation and violence by forgiveness. Our thoughts and speech can become more like Christ. We can change and continue to change. Blessed John Henry Cardinal Newman said, "To live is to change and to be perfect is to have changed often."

But it doesn't end with just offering the bandages needed to heal wounds. It must go deeper. We must ask ourselves what has happened that we have found ourselves in this place with these wounds and divisions. What are their causes? Together we must address these systemic problems, politically and spiritually, and face the truth. Only then will we truly be salt and light. But then again, we may not like what the light shows us.

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WEEKLY CALENDAR

Monday, February 10

5:00 PM Mary Queen of Peace - chapel
 5:30 PM Stewardship committee - church

Tuesday, February 11

3:45 PM Religious Education - school
 3:45 PM RCIA - school
 5:00 PM Finance Council - rectory
 7:30 PM Wounded Healers - school

Wednesday, February 12

5:30 PM Parish Pastoral Council - rectory

Thursday, February 13

6:30 PM Parent Association meeting - school

Friday, February 14

6:00 PM Youth Group meeting - school

Saturday, February 15

3:30 PM Sacrament of Penance - church

Sunday, February 16

5:00 PM Regional Mass - St. Peter & Paul

IN THE PEACE OF CHRIST

John, Keri & Alyssa Altobelli
 Gianna & Kobe Bryant
 Sara & Payton Chester
 John Madden
 Christina Mauser
 Ara Zobayan

MEMORIALS

Sanctuary Candle:

In memory of Gayle Margeit Pritchard - Ed & Louise Oksinski

Votive Candle:

In loving memory of Francis B. Meade - sons, Alan & Sheldon

Eucharistic Hosts & Sacramental Wine:

In loving memory of Gayle Margeit Pritchard - Mom & Dad

FLOWER DONATIONS:

Main Altar Arrangement:

Special thanksgiving - Mike Stansfield
In memory of Marguerite, Joseph & David Gwin - Sally Gwin

Chapel Candle Flowers:

(2) In loving memory our friend, Billy D - your 6:45 a.m. Mass family

Blessed Mother – Church:

Special Intention - Joy Anderson

Blessed Mother – Chapel:

In memory of Bill Dominikoski - always in our hearts - the Leipold family

STEWARDSHIP

January 5, 2020

Sunday Offering:.....\$12,479.53

January 12, 2020

Sunday Offering:.....\$9,345.50

January 19, 2020

Sunday Offering:.....\$6,626.06

January 26 2020

Sunday Offering:.....\$8,336.51

SCRIPTURE READINGS

SUNDAY - February 16, 2020

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: Sirach 15:15-20
 Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 2:6-10
 Gospel: Matthew 5:17-37

IN OUR PARISH

Lenten Soup Supper

Our Parish Life committee will host a Lenten Soup Supper immediately following the 5:30 p.m. Ash Wednesday Mass on February 26th. The committee is in need of volunteers to donate a crock pot of any type of vegetarian soup for the supper; and please share a copy of your recipe. The soup can be delivered either to the parish office on the 26th or to O'Brien Hall before the supper. For further information, please call Wilma Sullivan at 731-8085.

Communion Procedures

According to statistics from the National Center for Disease Control, New York State is one state which has experienced an increase in the number of reported cases of the flu. Therefore, we will suspend offering Communion from the cup until further notice. Thank you for your understanding in this matter.

Mass Intentions

Any one of our regularly scheduled Masses may be offered for a specific intention - in memory of a deceased person, for a sick person's recovery, a special birthday, a special anniversary or other occasion.

Please call the parish office at 739-3817 to request your Mass.

Altar Memorials

When Masses are not available for a particular day, Altar Memorials are a special way you can remember those who have died and those intentions you may wish to remember for the living.

Our Altar Memorials are available each week during the year. Donation for the week is as follows:

Sanctuary candle	\$10.00
Icon candle	\$10.00
Sacramental wine	\$15.00
Eucharistic bread (hosts)	\$10.00

PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

Today is Public Policy Sunday. It is a time each February when the Diocese of Rochester advocates for causes which are in need of the church's support and advocacy. This year, we are asked to lend our support to the improvement of palliative and hospice care while objecting to the legalization of physician assisted suicide.

Our faith calls us to uphold the dignity and value of human life until its natural end. Church teaching requires that we accept ordinary medical treatments, those that offer a reasonable hope to benefit without excessive burden. But it does not require that we suffer an agonizing long and painful death. On the contrary: overly burdensome treatments that provide little or no benefit to patients are not morally required.

Proposed legislation in New York would allow physicians to legally prescribe a deadly dose of medication at the request of a patient with a terminal diagnosis. While proponents may call it "death with dignity" or "aid in dying," in reality these proposals would authorize the direct and intentional taking of human life.

Physicians and healers and their profession are guided by the principle, "first, do no harm." Physician assisted suicide will blur longstanding medical, moral, and legal distinctions between withdrawing extraordinary medical assistance and taking active steps to destroy human life. The former removes burdensome or useless treatments, allowing nature to take its course, and allowing the patient to either live or die. The latter is a deliberate and direct act of taking a patient's life.

Both the American Medical Association and the Medical Society of the State of New York hold policy positions against physician-assisted suicide.

As Christians, we are called to reach out in love, compassion, and support to those experiencing illness and suffering, not to abandon them during their time of need. Those experiencing suffering at the end of life should have full access to palliative care, which eases physical pain while honoring the dignity of the patient.

If you are interested in learning more about this proposed legislation in New York State please go to www.nyscatholic.org.

This weekend members of our Social Ministry Committee will have petitions available asking for your support for the improvement of palliative and hospice care, while opposing the legalization of physician suicide. Please consider signing the petition this weekend. Additional petitions will be available on the table in the vestibule for those who are unable to sign the petition today.

Have a great week, and Happy Valentine's Day this Friday. See you in church!

Fr. L.

MASSES FOR THE WEEK**Monday, February 10 - St. Scholastica, Virgin**

6:45 AM For the Faithful Departed

Tuesday, February 11 - Weekday

6:45 AM Teri Guardi - her family

Wednesday, February 12 - Weekday

6:45 AM Guy Hall - faculty & staff of St. Mary Our Mother School

10:30 AM (Bethany Manor) Special Intention

Thursday, February 13 - Weekday

6:45 AM Elizabeth & George Bartosch

Friday, February 14 - Ss. Cyril, Monk, and Methodius, Bishop

6:45 AM Mary Woodard - her sister, Evelyn & family

Saturday, February 15 - Weekday

5:00 PM Sue Beering - husband, Fran

Sunday, February 16 - Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:30 AM Henry & Josephine Ryan - Mary & Jim Carr

10:30 AM Michael Mastrantuono - Joann Sabatura

5:00 PM Regional Mass - Ss. Peter & Paul

Funding for Energy Efficiency and Critical Capital Needs in Catholic Schools

Next to salary and benefits for personnel, the costs for energy and facility maintenance/repair are among the largest portions of school budgets. But unlike public school counterparts, religious and independent schools do not receive state building aid, nor do they have the authority to levy taxes or issue bonds to finance energy efficiency or other important capital projects. Although energy-saving improvements can pay for themselves over time, the up-front costs are often out of reach for cash-strapped schools. Maintaining Catholic Schools is not only good for the students and their families, it saves taxpayers the cost of educating those students.

The Diocese of Rochester with the NYS Catholic Conference urges a \$200 million appropriation in the next state budget for critical projects at religious and independent schools and an energy efficient grant/loan program (\$75 million) to provide seed money for energy efficiency projects. Those schools utilizing the loan fund would repay the grants with the savings they achieve in energy efficiency.

This initiative is consistent with the Diocese of Rochester's action/advocacy to respond to the call of Pope Francis in his encyclical, *Laudata Si: On Care For Our Common Home*, and is consistent with the New York State renewable energy and conservation goals to address climate change.

**REGIONAL EVENTS
SIGN TODAY TO OPPOSE PHYSICIAN
ASSISTED SUICIDE**

The New York State Legislature is under increasing pressure to pass legislation that would legalize physician assisted suicide for patients diagnosed with a terminal illness. Medical professionals, who have chosen a vocation dedicated to the service of life, would assist in the termination of the very lives they have pledged to heal and to comfort at life's most critical moments. As Catholics, we believe that the lives of people who are gravely ill or facing death are no less valuable than others.

The New York State Catholic Conference (NYSCC) has joined with those in the medical community, disability rights community, and other faith-based groups to stand for the dignity of every human life and oppose this legislation that fails those at such a vulnerable stage of life. As Catholics we should seek "to maintain New York State's current prohibition on assisted suicide while ensuring increased support, resources, palliative and hospice care, appropriate pain relief and treatment for the terminally ill."

Take time today after Mass to sign the petition to let Governor Cuomo and your New York State legislators know that you oppose legislation to legalize physician assisted suicide in NYS.

Valentines for Vets

Valentines for Vets is a thirteen year old local project that supports veterans at the Bath VA Medical Center and beyond. The purpose of this project is to wish veterans a Happy Valentine's Day as well as thank them for their service and sacrifice. Last year, over 600 valentines were delivered to the VA Center and personally shared with the veterans. Children from St. Mary Our Mother School, Faith Formation classes, parish families, and seniors from Bethany Courtyards all created valentines. We also received valentines from the Key Club at Edison and a parish family collected over 200 valentines from Big Flats Elementary and the Elks Club and delivered them as a family at the event. Our Social Ministry committee would like to continue to have our parish family be involved in this project.

We ask that you create handmade cards, letters, and posters thanking our veterans for their service and wishing them a Happy Valentine's Day. Please use the salutation Dear Veteran or Thank You Veteran and do not include last names or personal photos. A red box has been placed on the table across from the bulletin board to drop your valentines in. Valentines will be collected in January and into February. Sample cards and any additional details will be attached to the box.

HUD-Approved Financial Fitness Counseling Services

Call Catholic Charities at 734-9784, ext. 2127 to schedule an appointment for free, confidential financial fitness counseling services. Catholic Charities housing counselor will help you assess your income and spending patterns, explore financial goals, set new priorities, and establish savings.

HUD-Approved Mortgage Foreclosure Prevention Services

Call Catholic Charities at 734-9784, ext. 2132 to schedule an appointment for free, confidential mortgage foreclosure prevention counseling services. A HUD-certified housing counselor will help you explore the alternatives to foreclosure to avoid the lost of your home.

Horseheads Food Pantry

Non-perishable food and grocery items are being collected for the Horseheads Food Pantry this month. The Horseheads Food Pantry is in need of all food items and especially asks for broth or gravy for the month of February. For your convenience, please place all donations in the cart located across from the bulletin board. Thank you for your generosity!

MINISTERIAL STAFF

- Rev. Christopher E. Linsler**, Pastor
- Rev. Richard F. Kajiru**, In Residence
- Mrs. Barbara Matterazzo**, Coordinator of Faith Formation
- Mrs. Cathy Peckham**, Director of Music
- Mrs. Jean Yorio**, School Principal
- Mr. Richard O'Lenick**, Business Manager
- Mrs. Elizabeth Berliner**, RCIA Coordinator
- Mrs. Joyce Pirozzolo**, Parish Secretary
- Mrs. Jeanne Carney**, Facilities Coordinator
- Mrs. Maribeth Leipold**, Faith Formation Secretary
- Mrs. Amy Barr**, Faith Formation Associate
- Mrs. Sue Wood**, Bulletin Editor
- Mr. Doug Johnson**, Cemetery Manager
- Mrs. Kim Roemmelt**, School Secretary
- Ms. Jenna Crandall**, Maintenance

PASTORAL COUNCIL

- Mr. Vincent Moschetti**, Chairperson
- Mrs. Richelle Riina**, Recording Secretary

CONTACT INFORMATION

- Parish Office**
- 816 West Broad Street..... (607)-739-3817
- Fax (607)-739-5628
- E-mail..... smomc@stny.rr.com
- Parish Web Site..... www.StMaryOurMother.com
- St. Mary Our Mother School**
- 811 Westlake Street..... (607)-739-9157
- E-mail..... smoms@dor.org
- School Web Site..... www.stmaryourmother.school
- Religious Education Office**
- 816 West Broad Street..... (607)-739-8214
- E-mail..... smomfaithformation@gmail.com

YOUTH GROUP NEWS

Need a babysitter for Valentine's Day? St. Mary Our Mother Youth Group has you covered! On **Friday, February 14th** from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., our youth group will be offering a night off for parents by providing babysitting for children in pre-k through grade 4. For just \$2.00, parents can drop their child(ren) off at O'Brien Hall for activities, games, and dinner. Our youth group members will be the primary caregivers: playing games, making crafts, and helping with the set up and cleanup of our space. CASE trained adults will be there to supervise and chaperone. To sign your child up, or if you have an older child (grade 5-12) who would like to help with this event, please call the Faith Formation office at 739-8214 or email smomfaithformation@gmail.com.

EVERY DAY STEWARDSHIP

When a new store or restaurant opens in the area, there can be quite a buzz. People want to see what the place is like. If the establishment is lucky, a positive word of mouth can spread all over the area. The challenge then becomes keeping that buzz alive. If people start to think that the new place is not as good as advertised or they had hoped, the crowds will dwindle and soon the new place will simply become an old place. Even worse, it could become a closed place.

If you were a store owner, what would you do to attract people? Would you always put your best foot forward? How hard would you work to show everybody that your place is worth repeated visits and patronage?

You may not be an entrepreneur with your own business, but you do have your parish community. This is your community and what you do and how you act in the world around you will either add to a buzz or a lack of interest. How you use the gifts you and your community have been given will do a lot to attract people and cause them to talk. You will be like a city on top of a mountain that no one can miss. Can your light shine so bright that it can be seen from miles around? You may be only one person, but you are a part of something greater than yourself. Your stewardship can easily become contagious. At a time when too many are choosing to disregard the Church, it is time to create a positive buzz.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS
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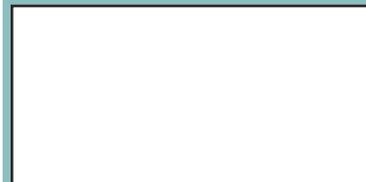
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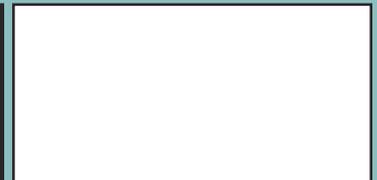
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