



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

November 22, 2020

WORSHIP & MEDITATION



FIRST READING:

As for you, my sheep, thus says the Lord God, I will judge between one sheep and another, between rams and goats. (Ez 34:17)



PSALM:

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want. (Ps 23)



SECOND READING:

For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death. (1 Cor 15:25-26)



GOSPEL:

"He will place the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. Then the king will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father. Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.'" (Mt 25:33-34)

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GOSPEL MEDITATION

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

Many Americans are fascinated with England's monarchy. For many different reasons, we are drawn to the regal pageantry and all of the protocols associated with royal lifestyles. What's most amazing is that for all of the media attention focused on the comings and goings of English royalty, they really have very little effect on the day to day dealings of their country. Thoughts and images of kings and queens are often centered on this story book understanding of who and what they are. We associate protocols, etiquette, and proper words and actions to how we approach members of a royal family. These tools serve the necessary purpose of keeping them isolated, enthroned, and at a distance. There is something attractive about being an observer of ritual, pomp, and circumstance. It's almost theatrical.

Is this how we see Jesus Christ, too? We often behave as if Christ is an isolated, enthroned, royal, and even ineffective king. Jesus wants nothing to do with having the status of an earthly king. Jesus also does not want to be watched, observed, or set apart. He wants to get down and dirty with the very stuff of life especially the poor, marginalized, confused, hurting, lost, broken, imprisoned, and forgotten ones. Jesus is the king who turns the tables on us and wants not only our attention but our engagement and conversion. He wants us to get dirty too.

How we treat other people is at the heart of Christ's kingdom. "Whatever you did for one of the least brothers of mine, you did for me." At different times in our lives we are all counted among the "least" ones. We may not be physically poor, but we can easily become emotionally and spiritually poor. We may not be marginalized as many physically are, cast aside because they have too many needs or don't quite fit in. But who hasn't experienced isolation, loneliness, inner turmoil, angst, heartache, or loss? Almost every human being has experienced brokenness at one point or another, or will most definitely at some future point, facing discouragement, fear, insecurity. People are thirsty for more than water. We are imprisoned by our prejudices, misconceived notions and ideas, self-focused obsessions and ideologies. There is a lot of pain and many least ones around us. Stop, look and listen. This is what Christ the King is asking us to do. Look deeply into the eyes and soul of your sisters and brothers, all of them, and see Christ himself.

Being a spectator and observing all of the pageantry isn't enough. Jesus wants us to inherit the kingdom and live the kingdom. It is built on the blocks of love, mercy, compassion, hope, faith, and blessing. It engages those who want it, changes and informs minds, inspires and transforms hearts, converts and renews souls, and sets things right. There is such a great need around us. Are you ready and willing to do whatever you can to serve in God's kingdom?

GUIDELINES FOR MASS ATTENDANCE

We ask that you register each week for the Mass you will be attending, as we need to limit the size of the congregation to 33% of our church seating capacity, approximately 150 people. Please call the parish office or email smomc@stny.rr.com no later than **Thursday at 4:00 p.m.** Remember that the obligation to attend Sunday Mass has been suspended until further notice.

To prepare to attend:

Wash your hands before you leave home.

Bring a face covering or mask; masks are required from the time you exit your car in the parking lot until you return to your car. (This also applies to private prayer in church.)

Bring your own hand sanitizer to use before receiving Communion.

Bring your own worship materials, as no hymnals or missalettes are available.

Please do not congregate in the church building or anywhere on the parish grounds.

One restroom is available, but do not congregate around it.

When you arrive:

Please plan to arrive 10-15 minutes before Mass, and check with the person at the registration table.

Ushers will be available to help you.

You can deposit your offering envelope in the receptacle near the doors when you arrive. There will not be a collection at the offertory.

Please sanitize your hands at one of the stations as you enter church.

You will be directed to a seat in church, with seating beginning in the front to the back.

The chapel remains closed at this time.

During Mass:

Generally, there will be little congregational singing, as masks must **always** be worn throughout Mass.

There will be no acolytes, altar servers or choir, one lector, one Eucharistic Minister, one cantor, when needed.

There is to be no physical contact during the Lord's Prayer or at the Sign of Peace.

When approaching to receive Communion, please follow the directions of the ushers or volunteers present. Remain six feet apart from others, observing the markings on the floor.

As you receive Communion, receive Communion in your hands (there is no safe or hygienic manner to receive Communion on the tongue during the pandemic), walk at least six feet away from the minister before lowering your mask to receive the host, replace your mask, and return to your seat.

The Eucharist will only be offered in the form of the Body of Christ.

You are not obliged to receive Communion at Mass if you are uncomfortable doing so. If you are not receiving Communion, simply step out of your

seat and back away to allow others to return to their seat with minimal contact.

Going forth:

At the end of Mass, the priest will go immediately to the sacristy, and the ushers will direct you to exit from the church building, beginning with the last pew first.

Private prayer is not available after Mass as to facilitate immediate cleaning and sanitizing of the pews and restrooms.

Please go directly to your vehicle when you leave church, with no socializing in the Church, side walks, or in the parking lots.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation as we work our way through this phased reopening process. We thank you for your suggestions as we move forward!

FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Tax Advantaged Donation Strategies

In addition to donating with cash or checks, there are other tax beneficial ways that you can donate to St. Mary Our Mother:

If you are over age 72 and you have an IRA retirement account, you may be eligible for a tax benefit called a **Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD)**. This provision in the tax law allows you to make a distribution from your IRA directly to St. Mary Our Mother. Using the QCD option, you can transfer up to \$100,000 per year to charity and exclude the entire distribution from your gross income for tax purposes. This is a nice tax benefit that allows you to reduce your taxable income for charitable giving, regardless of whether you are otherwise eligible to deduct charitable contributions on your tax return. To use the QCD election, you will need to sign a form provided by your IRA account custodian. On the form you will elect to make the payment payable directly to "St. Mary Our Mother" and you will enter the address as: 816 West Broad Street, Horseheads, NY 14845.

If you have appreciated securities, you may be able to save money on capital gains taxes by donating shares to St. Mary Our Mother. You can transfer stocks, bonds, mutual funds or exchange traded funds (ETF) positions that have appreciated in value directly to our investment account. We can sell the positions for you and use the proceeds. We do not owe capital gains tax on the sale, since we are a qualified non-profit organization. In addition to avoiding capital gains tax on selling the position, you may also be able to deduct the value of the security that you donate, as a charitable contribution. If you hold the appreciated security in a brokerage account, your custodian can provide you with the forms to sign to make the transfer.

If you have any questions, or need any clarification, please let us know. We will do everything we can to accommodate and make the donation as easy as possible. Thank you for your gifts and for all your contributions to St. Mary Our Mother!

PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

Today, we celebrate the **Solemnity of Christ the King**. This feast was established by Pope Pius XI in 1925, and celebrates an aspect of Jesus: identity rather than an event in His life and is thus categorized among the "idea feasts." Another example of an "idea feast" would be that of the Holy Family. This feast was originally celebrated each year on the last Sunday in October, but with the revision of the Roman Missal after the Second Vatican Council, this feast was moved to the final Sunday of the liturgical year. By instituting the Feast of Christ the King, Pope Pius XI hoped to renew and strengthen the faith of the people of his time. It was Pius XI's hope that this annual celebration would serve as a powerful sign of Jesus' reign in our midst, that its celebration would speak powerfully of our belief in God's triumph over evil. Christ Our King continues to empower us to be his living presence in today's world.

Thursday of this week we celebrate the American feast of **Thanksgiving**. It is an annual event that invites us to go back into our history. We may think of the traditional story of the pilgrims and the Native Americans sitting down to that meal of turkey, corn on the cob, potatoes, squash, and wonderful pies. We may think of the excited dreams that our colonial forefathers had as they ended their first year in this new land; the opportunities that they saw opening up for them and how they rejoiced in the opportunity to make dreams come true. We may think of our more recent history and what it is for which we need to thank God. We may revisit Thanksgiving past and those who sat at the table with us and now sit at God's table. We may simply look around our family table at home and see familiar faces and hear familiar stories and simply be grateful that we are a part of it all. Wherever our mindset might be, Thanksgiving gives us a moment to pause and not achieve anything but to simply be grateful for who we are.

Some years ago, I remember attending a kindergarten Thanksgiving Dinner. When I asked the children what the pilgrims ate on Thanksgiving, they, of course, responded "*Turkey!*" Then a little boy put his hand up, and said, "*They had popsicles!*" I smiled and asked the child, "*Why do you think they had popsicles?*" He responded, "*My teacher said that the pilgrims and Native Americans had their favorite foods - popsicles are my favorite food, so they must have had popsicles!*" I told him that I didn't know if they had popsicles or not, but his logic was flawless! We then gathered in this huge circle and we were asked to name what we were thankful for. The usual answers were spoken: "*Mom and Dad; Grandma and Grandpa; my sister; my brother; and the pet dog.*" Then I heard a little voice which said, "*I thank God that my Mommy is still alive!*" A profound silence filled the room. I knew that this child's mother had been battling cancer and the tiny voice of a child spoke volumes of what was in her heart - it was a true prayer of thanks.

An early bulletin deadline due to the Thanksgiving holiday weekend finds me writing this column on Tuesday, November 10th. Most years in this bulletin before the Thanksgiving holiday, I extend an invitation to the entire parish to begin your Thanksgiving Day by

MASSES FOR THE WEEK**Monday, November 23 - Weekday**

6:45 AM John Gough - Mary Ann Coddington & family

Tuesday, November 24 - St. Andrew Dung-Lac, Priest, & Companions

6:45 AM Puglisi Fae family - Franca & George Lazzaris

Wednesday, November 25 - Weekday

6:45 AM Deceased Curtin family - their family

Thursday, November 26 - Thanksgiving Day

9:00 AM For the People of St. Mary Our Mother

Friday, November 27 - Weekday

6:45 AM No Mass

Saturday, November 28 - Weekday

5:00 PM Deceased Curtin family - family

Sunday, November 29 - First Sunday of Advent

8:30 AM David Crowley - Kadlec family

10:30 AM Mass of Thanksgiving on the 55th wedding anniversary of Barb & Bill Limoncelli

PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE CONTINUED...

joining us for Mass that morning. As of this date, we have not received word from the New York State Governor's Office when the designation for Chemung County as an Orange Zone for covid-19 will be lifted. This restriction limits the number of people who can gather in one place to 25 people, the reason our Sunday masses have been suspended since October 25th. I wish I had a more definitive answer as to when the Orange Zone restrictions will be lifted. We will have one Mass on Thanksgiving Day at 9:00 a.m., with attendance limited to 25 people. Please call the parish office this week to register.

Many blessings to you and your family this Thanksgiving. Continue to take care of yourself and each other!

Fr. L.

IN THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Mary Hicks

MEMORIALS**Sanctuary Candle:**

In loving memory of Colleen Deats - her Mom, Loretta

CHURCH CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS

Would you like to see our Church beautifully decorated for the Christmas Masses - even though we might not all be able to be present?

If you would like to have a poinsettia or a wreath at the Church to remember a loved one or for a special occasion, please call the parish office at 739-3817 with your intentions.

IN OUR PARISH

Social Ministry Christmas Baskets

Due to the covid-19 pandemic, there are many issues that the Social Ministry Committee needed to address with regard to our Christmas Basket event. We work with the Horseheads Food Pantry to meet with families and St. Mary Our Mother School to sort, pack and distribute the food and gifts. For various reasons neither of these locations were viable options this year. Also, the health and safety of our members and the many wonderful volunteers are upmost in our minds. What we have knowledge of at this time and not knowing what is ahead of us, we feel our customary plan for this event is not possible. Please consider making a donation to a charitable organization in our area to help them in their efforts this holiday season.

Hands of Christ Award 2021

The **Hands of Christ** is a recognition program to assist parishes in affirming their high school seniors who have been the "Hands of Christ" in their church, home, school, and greater community. You are invited to nominate a high school senior of the class of 2021 for the Hands of Christ recognition.

A nominated high school senior must meet the following criteria:

- Consistently demonstrates a Christian attitude by word and example;*
- is actively involved in their parish as well as their school community;*
- is a positive role model for peers and younger children;*
- is a participating member of St. Mary Our Mother parish.*

To nominate a senior, please stop at the parish office for a registration form, complete the registration form including only the nominee's name, address, telephone number, and high school. These registration forms will be reviewed by Father Linsler for approval as pastor and then the nominee will be contacted for further information. The nominations are due in the parish office by December 18, 2020.

Advent/Christmas Booklets

As we are all aware, the parish is unable to have printed materials available in the Church during these months of a pandemic.

The "Word Among Us," "Today's Missal," and "The Little Blue Book" for Advent and Christmas 2020 have arrived at the parish office.

If you would like to have copies of these booklets, please call the office at 739-3817 to make arrangements.....always remembering that masks are required when stopping at the office.

Live Stream Masses

Please check our parish website for a listing of Masses at www.StMaryOurMother.com. There are also resources available at the diocesan website, dor.org.

A STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

In today's Gospel, St. Matthew offers a compelling vision of the end-time, when the people of all the nations are brought before the Lord to give an account of their lives and actions. Interestingly, the sheep, the righteous ones, are rewarded for having acted with love and compassion without having recognized the face of Christ in others. Good stewards recognize those in need of their care as gifts from God. They know that they are the instruments of Christ's active, loving presence in the world. How will we treat others this week: our family members, neighbors, customers or strangers? What accounting will we make to the Lord for their care?



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
- Mr. Roger Williams**, 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

REGIONAL EVENTS

Notre Dame High School Virtual Turkey Day 5K

Notre Dame High School is pleased to announce we WILL be holding the 8th annual Turkey Day 5K. This year's event will be held virtually, from Thanksgiving Day, through Saturday, November 28. Gather your family and run, walk, wobble or trot your favorite 5K route as part of your Thanksgiving!

Register today and all proceeds will benefit Notre Dame High School. To register for the event, please visit notredamehighschool.com or call 607-734-2267.

American Red Cross

The American Red Cross is urging donors who are healthy and feeling well to make an appointment to give blood to maintain the blood supply for patients who rely on lifesaving transfusions. Blood donors are needed now to ensure hospitals have the blood needed to save lives. The Red Cross is testing all blood donations for Covid-19 antibodies, providing donors insight into whether they have been exposed to this coronavirus.

How can you help? Please call 1-800-REDCROSS or contact redcross.org for information.

THANKSGIVING PRAYER

This Thanksgiving, let us remember all the good things, and people, who have come into our lives. We focus on thanking each one who has helped us, and ultimately thank God for the good gifts of this world.

Let us pray...

God our Father,
Graciously accept from your humble people
a thankful heart and spirit.

Everything we have and are able to share with others
ultimately comes from your love of your creations.

Often we think that everything we have
is our own creation;
we ask you this day to create in us
a spirit of gratitude,
that we may always know
that all good gifts come from you.

We ask this through Christ our brother,
in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

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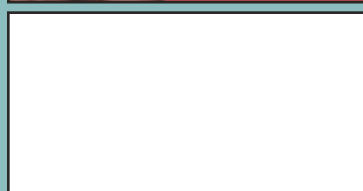
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