



# 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

December 6, 2020

**FIRST READING:**  
A voice cries out:  
In the desert prepare the way of the LORD!  
Make straight in the wasteland a highway  
for our God! (Is 40:3)

**PSALM:**  
Lord, let us see your kindness,  
and grant us your salvation. (Ps 85)

**SECOND READING:**  
The day of the Lord will come like a thief,  
and then the heavens will pass away with a mighty roar  
and the elements will be dissolved by fire,  
and the earth and everything done on it will be  
found out. (2 Pt 3:10)

**GOSPEL:**  
"One mightier than I is coming after me.  
I am not worthy to stoop and loosen the  
thongs of his sandals.  
I have baptized you with water;  
he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit." (Mk 1:7b-8)

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2007,  
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## WORSHIP & MEDITATION

**PREPARE  
THE WAY OF  
THE LORD!**

### GOSPEL MEDITATION Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

People knew over a year in advance that the Pope was coming for a visit to America and the preparations began. Security, space limitations and requirements, protocols, crowd management, itineraries, invitations, regulations, and so much more was necessary to pull this event off effectively. It's not every day that we get a visit from such a prominent dignitary. Thought, effort, meticulous attention to detail and vision all are necessary to make this thing work. After all, he can't just show up in the ordinary and normal daily routines of life and catch people unprepared! Tickets have to be purchased, buses rented, hotel rooms reserved, and travel arrangements made early because it will be impossible to see him if we wait too long!

We do this kind of preparing not only for prominent religious figures but for political dignitaries, notable sports figures, people of fame, and even actors. If an individual intrigues us, we are going to want to do all we have to do to get a "good seat" in the house. Does Jesus Christ captivate this much of our attention? We are asked to prepare the way of the Lord and to do so not with frantic frenzy but patient enthusiasm. We do not have to stand on a street corner making profound announcements about God's coming or become overly zealous in our embrace of the Good News. Our task is quieter, more interior, captivating, and consuming. We are asked to change. We have to conduct our lives with holy devotion.

Is the cost of that ticket too much for you? Don't you want the "best seat" in the house? You don't want to miss Our Lord's arrival when he comes, do you? After all, if he comes while you are going about your daily routines without you even knowing, he may catch you off guard. Or, he may come in disguise looking like a beggar, a prisoner, migrant, refugee, or someone who is lost. Would you be ready to recognize him then? Preparing for the coming of Christ requires a change of mind, heart, and behavior. It is not adequate to simply do the things we always do. We want our lives to speak of the exciting news of Christ's coming and the joy that the Gospel brings. It has to do with our demeanor, values, priorities, choices, and how we structure daily routines. Of course, it involves sacrifice. All anticipations do! Are you excited, captivated, enthusiastic, and sitting on the edge of your seat eager to celebrate his coming among us at Christmas, and waiting for him to come again? If not, why not?

**IN THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

Francis Altilio

Carol Farr

**MEMORIALS****Votive Candle (Blessed Mother):***In memory of Mary Lantzy - Bob & Lois Lantzy***SCRIPTURE READINGS****SUNDAY - December 13, 2020****THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

First Reading: Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Gospel: John 1:6-8, 19-28

**IN OUR PARISH****Christmas Mass Schedule**

The following is a "tentative schedule" for our Christmas Masses:

**CHRISTMAS EVE**

3:00 p.m. - Christmas Mass

5:00 p.m. - Christmas Mass

11:00 p.m. - Christmas Mass during the Night

**CHRISTMAS DAY**

10:00 a.m. - Christmas Mass

**Please remember that this is a "tentative schedule" contingent on the county's removal from "orange zone" status for the covid-19 virus. If our county retains its status in the "orange zone", Christmas Masses will be live-streamed, and available through our parish website.**

**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 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.

**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.

**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.

"Today's Missal", and the "Little Blue Book" for Advent and Christmas 2020 have arrived at the parish office along with the 2021 parish calendar.

If you would like to have these items, please call the office at 739-3817 or stop by...remembering that masks are required.

**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.

**Parish Calendars**

The parish of St. Mary Our Mother is sincerely grateful to the Lynch Funeral Home for their generous donation of our 2021 parish calendars. **THANK YOU!** (At this time, our parish calendars are available at the parish office.)

**Live Stream Masses**

Please check our parish website for a listing of Masses at [www.StMaryOurMother.com](http://www.StMaryOurMother.com). There are also resources available at the diocesan website, [dor.org](http://dor.org).

*(In Our Parish continued on page 4...)*

**PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE**

We begin the **second week** of the **Advent season**. This season presents us with an invitation and challenge to take some time out of these extremely busy and hectic December days to slow down and be more aware of God's presence in our lives. Years ago, John the Baptist preached this message and encouraged people to listen to his message as he proclaimed and prepared for Jesus' coming. Even in these days of the pandemic, this is a season of anticipation and joy that comes from knowing that God is in our midst. As this season will be quite different from any we have experienced in some time, I encourage you to use this time to allow God to comfort and relieve any anxiety you may have that prevents you from fully entering into the joy this time of year.

As of this writing this past Monday, the New York State Governor's Office continues to designate our area of Chemung County as an "orange zone" for the covid-19 virus, which significantly limits the number of people who can attend public Masses. When this designation will change is not known. We have received a number of inquiries concerning what our Christmas Mass schedule will be. A possible Christmas Mass schedule is printed elsewhere in this bulletin. **However, I need to remind you that if local infection rates do not drop enough for the orange zone restrictions to be lifted by Christmas, we will only be able to offer our Christmas Masses through live-stream**, as so few people would be able to attend. While this arrangement is far from being an "ideal scenario", I remind you that we are living in unprecedented times due to the Coronavirus. Please check the parish web-site on a regular basis and the bulletin for the next weeks for any updates for changes.

Now on to a different topic. Many of you may remember the late **Father Joseph F. Hogan**. Father Hogan served as the pastor of **St. Vincent de Paul Church** in **Corning** from 1964-1983. He also served as the first chaplain at **Notre Dame High School** from 1955-1961. Upon his retirement, Father Hogan came to live at **St. Patrick Church, Elmira**, with the then pastor, **Father Daniel F. Holland** and me. When he was assigned to be the homilist for the weekend Masses during the season of Advent, St. Patrick had four weekend Masses, (all parishes in Chemung County had 4-5 weekend Masses in those days). Father Hogan would include the following poem in his homily. I am not sure of the author, but it is entitled, **Promise, My Christmas Pledge**:

1. *I promise to make my Christmas a holy day with Christ - not a holy day without Him.*
2. *I promise to observe Christmas as the birthday of Christ - not a day to give and receive just material gifts.*
3. *I promise to remember that the real symbols of Christmas are the Star, the Stable, and the Crib - not Santa and his reindeer.*

**MASSES FOR THE WEEK****Monday, December 7 - St. Ambrose, Bishop**

6:45 AM John Kordyl - Evelyn & family

**Tuesday, December 8 - The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

6:45 AM Mass of Thanksgiving on the 57th wedding anniversary of Pat & Ed Baker

**Wednesday, December 9 - Advent Weekday**

6:45 AM Deceased members of the Gresock & Anderson families - Ann & George

**Thursday, December 10 - Advent Weekday**

6:45 AM Howard Coddington - Orlando & Maureen Smith & family

**Friday, December 11 - Advent Weekday**

6:45 AM No Mass

**Saturday, December 12 - Our Lady of Guadalupe**

5:00 PM Anna Garrison - Mary Suffern

**Sunday, December 13 - Third Sunday of Advent**

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

10:30 AM Joseph C. Jessick - sister, Mary Anna Grabowski

4. *I promise to teach my children that "Santa Claus" is the nickname for Saint Nicholas, who gave to the poor, in honor of Christ.*
5. *I promise to help one poor family - in honor of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, the poor and homeless family of Bethlehem.*
6. *I promise to send Christmas cards remindful of Jesus, the infant Savior - not decorated with candy canes, ribbon and wreaths.*
7. *I promise to make room in my home for Christ - with a Christmas Crib - to remind me that He was born in a stable.*
8. *I promise during this season, in a special way, to honor Mary, his mother - who kept the first Christmas vigil beside the manger.*
9. *I promise to begin this day, by leading my family to Church and to God's table - to receive the Bread of Life.*
10. *I promise today and every day to give "Glory to God in the highest" - and to work and pray for "Peace on earth to all of good will".*

Have a blessed second week of Advent.

Fr. L.

**IN OUR PARISH CONTINUED...**

**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!

**Catholic Ministries Appeal**

The Catholic Ministries Appeal provides funding for important programs, services, and ministries that strengthen our entire Church. In order to reach our parish goal of \$112,209.00, we need the support of all. In the spirit of generosity, please prayerfully consider your gift to this year's Catholic Ministries Appeal. We would like to thank the 138 parishioners from St. Mary Our Mother who have responded to this drive. Their pledges and contributions of \$40,801.00 have enabled us to achieve 36.36% of our goal. If it is easier, you can make your gift by going to [www.dor.org](http://www.dor.org). Additional pledge forms are available in the vestibule, and can be returned in the collection or mailed directly to the diocese.

**REGIONAL EVENTS**

**Stand for Life**

Stand up for the most vulnerable! Plan now to "STAND FOR LIFE" in an hour of prayer and witness on **January 24th**, from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m., in downtown Elmira at Church and Water Street. Bring pro-life signs and banners, or we will have ones you can use. Social distancing will be followed and all are asked to wear a mask when coming and going. All ages are welcome. It is a free event, though donations will be accepted for next year's bus trip to the March for Life 2022 in Washington, DC. Plan now. Call Steve at 739-9282 for further information. Pro-life hats will be available for a donation.



**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

**SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

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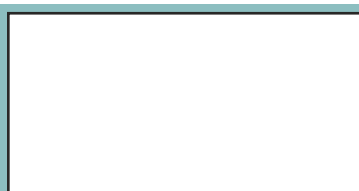
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