



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 1, 2024

First Sunday of ADVENT



WEEKLY CALENDAR:**Tuesday, December 3, 2024**

3:45 p.m. —Faith Formation classes—school

Thursday, December 5, 2024

7:00 p.m. —Adult Choir rehearsal—church

Saturday, December 7, 2024

3:30 p.m. —Sacrament of Penance—church

Sunday, December 8, 20245:00 p.m.— Service of Lessons & Carols
First United Methodist Church
1034 West Broad Street

The Eucharistic Breads or Hosts for the week of Dec. 1-7-2024 have been donated in memory of the Tenny and Frankie families by Helen Tenny & family.

In the peace of Christ:

Gerald Malanoski

CHRISTMAS FLOWER MEMORIALS:

Sign-up sheets for Christmas flower memorials (poinsettias and wreaths) are posted on the church bulletin board and will be available through 12-4-2024.

PARISH CALENDARS:

Our parish calendars have been delayed this year. There was a production issue at the company which prints our calendars. Hopefully, they will arrive soon. Thank you for your understanding.

CATHOLIC MINISTRY APPEAL:

We thank those who have given generously and ask all who have not yet given to prayerfully consider doing so. Please consider all the ways that God has blessed you and your family and think of how the Church has brought goodness into your lives. Join our appeal and give back what you can so that we remain strong and able to do God's work!

ADVENT/CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE**SERVICE OF LESSONS & CAROLS****Sunday, December 8, 2024**5:00 p.m.—First United Methodist Church
1034 West Broad Street**SACRAMENT OF PENANCE**

Saturday: 3:30 p.m.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION**Monday, December 9, 2024**

6:45 a.m.—Mass—Immaculate Conception

9:00 a.m.—Mass—Immaculate Conception

5:30 p.m.—Mass—Immaculate Conception

**ST. MARY OUR MOTHER SCHOOL
CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM**

6:30 p.m.—Wednesday, December 18

9:00 a.m.—Thursday, December 19

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT MASSES**Saturday, December 21**

5:00 p.m.—Mass —Fourth Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 22

8:30 a.m. —Mass—Fourth Sunday of Advent

10:30 a.m.—Mass—Fourth Sunday of Advent

CHRISTMAS MASSES**Tuesday, December 24, 2024**

3:00 p.m.—Christmas Family Mass

5:00 p.m.—Christmas Mass

9:30 p.m.—Adult Choral Concert

10:00 p.m.—Christmas Mass During the Night
(formerly known as “Midnight Mass”)**Wednesday, December 25, 2024**

9:00 a.m.—Christmas Mass

Blessing of Christmas gifts at Christmas Morning Mass



PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE:

An early bulletin deadline because of the Thanksgiving holiday weekend, finds me writing this column on Friday, November 15th, 13 days before the Thanksgiving holiday. One of the liturgies I look forward to each year is the Mass on Thanksgiving Day. It is a wonderful time for many to come together to offer their personal gratitude to God for the many blessings we enjoy. I hope you and your family enjoy a blessed Thanksgiving!

Advent 2024 has arrived! This season of anticipation arrives with all the natural signs that surround it. The days are darker and shorter, tending to make us quieter and more reflective. We are in the final hours of the Thanksgiving holiday weekend, and it's no secret that Christmas is coming. We have seen the advertisements, outdoor lights have been hung, including the lights of our church's outdoor Advent wreath. Christmas preparations are underway, cards need to be prepared, Christmas cooking and gatherings are in their planning stages. In addition, the Advent scriptures have a tone of their own. No longer is our attention focused on an adult Christ, but we hear of prophecy, anticipation as we begin to read the infancy narratives. Advent is the special time of year when we are invited to step back and remember the reason behind why we do what we do during this season. Advent invites us to avoid the commercialism that surrounds a secular holiday season, but to embrace the season's true meaning, "*God is with us.*"

There are several opportunities during Advent to reflect on that theme of "*God is with us*". There are opportunities for prayer, the greatest being the celebration of the Eucharist. For your Advent reading and devotions, we have made available publications of "*The Word Among Us*" as well as "*The Little Blue Book.*" "*The Word Among Us*, offers a complete guide for the Advent/Christmas season, including scripture readings, meditations and Mass texts for each day. "*The Little Blue Book*" provides a brief reflection for each day, including scripture, and historical note, a suggested good work, finally ending each day with the invitation, "*Spend some time with the Lord.*" We also have made available two publications from the Dynamic Catholic Publications. The first book is entitled "*The Three Ordinary Voices of God,*" written by Father Matthew Kelly. The second publication is entitled "*33 Days to Eucharistic Glory,*" with reflections from a number of authors and resources to help us deepen our understanding of the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist.

For the fourth year in lieu of a formal Christmas basket program, our Social Ministry Committee is teaming in a Christmas Giving program with the Horseheads Food Pantry. In addition to our weekly collection of food, you are invited to make a monetary donation to the parish, which will be forwarded to the food pantry for the purchase of meat for the pantry's Christmas outreach efforts. You are also invited to donate a Christmas ornament for the Christmas trees in the narthex, as well as a book for a young child. Envelopes for your donations are available on the vestibule table, or if you use an ordinary envelope,

MASSES FOR THE WEEK:

Monday, 6:45 A.M.	December 2, Advent Weekday Our Faithful Departed
Tuesday, 6:45 A.M.	December 3, St. Francis Xavier, Priest Eileen Lynam—Ray Wawrzusin
Wednesday, 6:45 A.M.	December 4, Advent Weekday Deceased of the Curtin family—family
Thursday, 6:45 A.M.	December 5, Advent Weekday Jacqualyne Owen—Carl and Donna Hammond
Friday, 6:45 AM	December 6, Advent Weekday John Kordyl—wife, Evie and family
Saturday, 5:00 P.M	December 7, St. Ambrose, Bishop and Doctor of Church Ann Barcomb—John & Susie Alexander
Sunday, 8:30 A.M.	December 8, Second Sunday of Advent Pablo & Elisea Atienza —Macapinlac family
10:30 AM	Anthony DeSocio, Sr.—the White family

Pastor's perspective continued:

please mark on the envelope what it is for. All checks should be made payable to St. Mary Our Mother, and all donations need to be received by **December 12th.**

One of the Advent traditions we have each year is the annual "**Service of Lessons & Carols.**" This ecumenical service is an opportunity to gather with our sisters and brothers of other Christian traditions to reflect on the Advent/Christmas season. The Service of Lessons & Carols will be held next Sunday, December 8th. at 5:00 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church in Horseheads. This service will feature our Adult Choir, as well as other choirs from various churches throughout our area. If you have never attended this service, I highly encourage you to do so. This is a wonderful opportunity to spiritually prepare for Christmas.

The Advent season offers us a time of quiet waiting, reflective living, and discovering the presence of Christ in our lives. This season invites us to do the ordinary things in life with renewed anticipation that Christ is present and working in our lives. If we make that special effort this Advent season, then Christmas will mean more to us, as we have been brought closer to God and to one another.

The season of Advent this year is 24 days. Enjoy this first week of Advent with the peace and the many blessings this season offers to us. Please continue to take care of yourself and each other.

Fr. L

CHRISTMAS CARING PROGRAM 2024



In this Christmas season of giving and caring, we, at St. Mary Our Mother, are reaching out to the clients of the Food Pantry in four special ways:

- Making a monetary donation so the pantry can supply meat and fresh food for the Christmas meal and the holiday week. Envelopes will be provided on the tables in back of the church for this purpose.
- Increasing our donations of canned and dried food to the vestibule food cart so the pantry clients have healthy and adequate food for the Christmas holidays.
- Bringing a Christmas ornament that you offer to a needy family. Please hang the ornament on our Christmas Caring tree in the back of the church. The ornaments will be taken to the pantry so the families and children can pick an ornament for their tree as a reminder that we care for them.
- **Purchasing a book for a young child** (age preschool through elementary school age) whose family visits the pantry. Place your book offering in the box provided in the vestibule.

This program is now in progress and will run until December 12. Donation envelopes are available in the vestibule along with a box for your book donation to a young child. The Christmas Caring trees are standing proudly in the back of the church awaiting more ornaments. The program will conclude the week of December 12th.

The Social Ministry Committee invites and encourages all parishioners to participate in this, our Christmas Caring Program, in any one or more of the four ways above. Please be involved in spreading joy and showing love and concern for our neighbors in need.

WOUNDED HEALERS:

The Wounded Healers’ Bereavement Support Group meeting will be offered on Tuesday, December 10, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. at St. Mary Our Mother School, 811 Westlake St., Horseheads NY. Use the door of the school across from the playground . You may want to bring a picture or two of your loved one who died, or a momento of significance. Each one has a personal grief journey so we are open to listen, and are careful to not dogmatize with “shoulds”. “We welcome those who are grieving the death of a loved one to this sharing; as you are each hoping to find encouragement, insight, and normalization from each other. You may share or you may just listen. We encourage you to be sensitive to your own needs. ALL are welcome. We strive to provide a safe, confidential , and open place where our motto remains, “We see healing in the very act of helping.”

MINISTERIAL STAFF

- Rev. Christopher E. Linsler**, Pastor
- Rev. Peter Singano**, in Residence
- Miss Lily Barr**, Faith Formation Assistant
- Mrs. Cathy Peckham**, Director of Music
- Mrs. Heather Bill**, Principal
- Mrs. Adriana Enright**, School Secretary
- Michelle Card**, Business Manager
- Mrs. Joyce Pirozzolo**, Parish Secretary
- Ms. Wendy Slater**, Office Assistant
- Mr. Doug Johnson**, Cemetery Manager
- Mrs. Barbara Matterazzo**, Bulletin Editor
- 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@dor.org
- 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
- Faith Formation Office**
- 816 West Broad Street(607)-739-8214

PRACTICING CATHOLIC - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS.

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Remembering Advent

It always makes me laugh a little, these apocalyptic Gospel readings that come at the beginning of Advent.

What a funny juxtaposition — all of us stringing twinkle lights and wrapping presents, with Jesus thundering on about the end of the world. It's Christmas! Don't be a downer. Pour me some more eggnog and turn up the Nat King Cole.

Well, except it's not Christmas. It's Advent.

There's nothing wrong with the cultural accessories that have developed alongside this religious holiday. There's nothing wrong with the twinkle lights and the eggnog. But here's the thing: when Satan knows we're watching the front gate, he slips in the back door. And something I've found is that one back door he likes to use in my life is Cultural Christmas.

I love Cultural Christmas. I tend to overdo Cultural Christmas. I over schedule, I over decorate, I over gift. All this "over" leads to — you guessed it! — overwhelmed. "The anxieties of daily life," as Jesus describes in today's Gospel, make my heart drowsy. My *spiritual* Christmas joy, time and time again, is diminished — all because I embrace Cultural Christmas and ignore Advent. Satan sneaks in with the twinkle lights and the Christmas carols and he snatches the Present like the nasty little Grinch he is. He photobombs my experience of the religious holidays with the anxieties I so willingly embrace because of the production that is Cultural Christmas.

So, remember to rest this Advent, folks. Rest your heart. Rest your hands. Watch the back door *and* the front. Remember that this is the perfect time to be thinking about the state of your soul and not just the state of your house.

(Even though, yes, I know, the guests are coming any minute.)



NOTRE DAME RETREAT HOUSE EVENTS:

December 7— Advent Day Retreat

“God Present and Coming: The Reigning of God in our Day” (with Sr. Mary McGlone, CSL)

December 11— Fill Your Soul Day

“Time Management: Making time for God, Self and Others”—Michael Wischnowski.PhD

January 10-12—Men & Women– The 12 Steps & Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola. “The Journey From Reformation to Transformation” w/Fr Gerry McKeon, S.H.

ST. OF THE WEEK: Blessed Chiara Luce Badano (1971-1990)

Blessed Chiara Luce Badano was an ordinary teenager who freely gave her life to Jesus in joy and suffering. She was Beatified in 2010, the first member of Generation X to be be Beatified. In 2018 she was one of the patrons of the Synod on Youth.

ADVENT PRAYER:

Dear God,

As we prepare for your arrival, align our hearts and homes to you will.

Pour into us your grace as we wait joyful expectation



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