



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 15, 2024

Third Sunday of ADVENT



WEEKLY CALENDAR:**Tuesday, December 17**

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

Wednesday, December 186:30 p.m.—St. Mary Our Mother School
Christmas program— church**Thursday, December 19**9:00 a.m. — St. Mary Our Mother School
Christmas program (Reprise)—church

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

Saturday, December 21

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

MEMORIALS:

The Eucharistic Hosts for the week of December 15, 2024 have been donated in memory of Josephine & Henry Ryan by Mary & Jim Carr.

GOSPEL MEDITATION;

On a bright Spring morning, a passerby once saw St. Francis of Assisi hoeing a row of beans and asked him, “What would you be doing right now if you knew this was the last day of your earthly life?” The Saint responded, “I’d keep hoeing this row of beans.” Preparing for this world to end — whether by our death or by Jesus’ glorious coming — invites us to live not in the past or the present, but deeply in the present moment.

This same point is on display in the simple advice given by the wild and eccentric John the Baptist. He speaks of the one who is to come who will baptize “with the Holy Spirit and fire” (Luke 3:16). Despite the bizarre awesomeness of this announcement, he tells his listeners to engage in the present moment with simple acts of justice and love as their preparation for Jesus’ coming, sharing their clothes and food, eliminating greedy and underhanded practices, being content with their wages. It’s so undramatic. But how many actually did it? We don’t know. How many of us will commit ourselves to these types of humble and demanding practices in our lives? That’s what we should be doing now in our present moment, not worrying about the future.

Advent challenge: Name one way you are doing the bare minimum towards others in your daily life. Or name something you are doing because you are not content with your financial situation. Pray: “Jesus, if it is your will, help me to stop doing these things this week. Help me prepare for your coming.” Then make the appropriate changes.

Father John Muir

ADVENT/CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE**SACRAMENT OF PENANCE**

Saturday: 3:30 p.m.

**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

No Mass on Thursday, December 26th.

HOLY FAMILY**Saturday/Sunday-December 28/29, 2024***Regular weekend Mass Schedule***NEW YEAR’S EVE/DAY MASSES****Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God****Tuesday, December 31, 2024**

5:00 p.m.-Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

Wednesday, January 1, 2025

9:00 a.m. –Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

No Mass on January 2, 2025

SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY

Saturday/Sunday—January 4/5, 2025

*Regular Weekend Schedule***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.

PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE:

Today we arrive at the **Third Sunday of Advent**, oftentimes referred to as **Gaudete**, or **Rejoice Sunday**. Arriving at this mid-point of Advent reminds us of the two-fold nature of the season as a time of the already experienced and the yet to be experience of God coming among us. There is still enough time of Advent to rejoice as we continue our preparation for Christmas.

The month of December can be a very busy and hectic time of the year as we find ourselves in the throes of Christmas preparation. This busyness can cause us to lose sight of the spiritual importance of the Advent/Christmas season. Each December, the International Catholic Stewardship Council offers suggestions that can help us to keep Christ in Christmas. You may already find yourself doing some of these suggestions:

Give God a very special gift this year: *Let this gift be something personal that no one else needs to know about, and let it be a sacrifice. Perhaps your gift will be to commit more time with God daily or a habit you know you should give up. Why wait for New Year's resolution? Start now!*

Celebrate the Advent season: *Light the Advent wreath candles each evening before dinner. If you have children, let them offer their own prayers to the Christ child for whom we are waiting.*

Read the Christmas story in the Gospel of Luke 1:5-56 through 2:1-20. *Consider reading this account with your family and discussing it together.*

Put a creche in your home: *Consider having one set that is "child-proof" which your Children are allowed to handle. Children love to make the Nativity story their own, and they especially love angels!*

Plan a project to help someone at Christmas: *Identify someone with a genuine need, involve your whole family and see how happy you can make someone this Christmas. Many of you did this through our parish's Christmas Caring effort. If you didn't, there is still time. Make sure that your children are involved to make them aware of the needs of our greater community.*

Take a group Christmas caroling to a hospital or nursing home: *Get people together. Make it festive. Bring the gift of your joyful smiles and voices to those who need these gifts.*

Give a surprise gift or service to each member of your family: *The idea of giving an unexpected gift of service to members of your family reveals your own love and concern for them. You might consider giving your spouse a day away, running an errand for your brother, or cleaning out your closet for your mother. Make it personal and meaningful.*

Send Christmas cards and thank you notes that convey a spiritual message: *This is an easy way to share your faith during the Advent season. Don't just sign your name, but include a special message with each card. Set aside*

MASSES FOR THE WEEK:

Monday, 6:45 A.M.	December 16, Advent Weekend Faithful departed
Tuesday, 6:45 A.M.	December 17, Late Advent Weekday Brian Kasonic—Carolyn & Tom Collins
Wednesday, 6:45 A.M.	December 18, Late Advent Weekday Deceased of the Mills family—family
Thursday, 6:45 A.M.	December 19, Late Advent Weekday Warren Woodard—daughter, Evelyn & family
Friday, 6:45 A.M.	December 20, Late Advent Weekday Margaret Belleizia—family.
Saturday, 5:00 P.M.	December 21, Late Advent Weekday Mary Amisano—her family
Sunday, 8:30 A.M. 10:30 A.M.	December 22, Fourth Sunday of Advent Teri Guardi—Bob Phillip Amisano— his family

Pastors perspective continued:

time after Christmas to write thank you notes and help your children write thank you notes for the gifts they receive. This is a wonderful habit for a lifetime, and a good way to foster gratitude for all gifts.

Write a Christmas letter to someone who is away from home for Christmas, someone in the military or someone working or ministering in a foreign land.

It has been said that receiving a letter when you are far away from home is like opening a priceless gift on Christmas morning, no matter what day of the year! Many people are unable to travel home for the holidays, so it can be a very lonely time for them. Write a special Christmas letter to someone of your choice.

Enjoy an eco-friendly Christmas: *Christmas is a time when a large number of people enjoy excess and extravagance, but the environmental cost can be quite dramatic. Arguably, a million miles of unrecyclable wrapping paper is thrown into the trash each year. Look for simple ways to cut down on the waste over this festive period. Where possible, use recyclable gift wrap.*

And most importantly....

Attend Christmas Mass together with your family. *Make Christmas Mass an important part of your family's Christmas celebration. It is a wonderful way of "keeping Christ in Christmas! If you haven't been to Mass in some time for whatever reason, Christmas might be a good time to start attending Mass again. Invite a friend or neighbor to join you for Christmas Mass.*

Have a good Third Week of Advent

Fr. L

ST. MARY OUR MOTHER SCHOOL NEWS:

Mrs. Colleen Meehan, our sixth-grade teacher, and Mrs. Katy Piet, our music teacher, are diligently preparing our students for this year’s Christmas Program.

- * **Evening Performance:** Wednesday, December 18th, at 6:30 p.m.
- * **Reprise Performance:** Thursday, December 19th, at 9:00 a.m.

We invite all parishioners to join us in celebrating the joy of the season through this special presentation by our students. We look forward to seeing you there!

Dine-Out fundraiser for St. Mary Our Mother School

Join us in supporting St. Mary Our Mother School by dining out at Outback Steakhouse on Tuesday, December 17th! A portion of the proceeds from your meal will benefit the school, helping to enhance programs and opportunities for our students.

Enjoy a delicious meal while giving back to our school community! We look forward to seeing you there and thank you for your continued support.

With gratitude and blessings for a joyful Christmas season,

Mrs Heather Bill
Principal, St. Mary Our Mother School

RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS;By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Asking the Question

I have found in my life that if I am certain of the answer to a big and complicated question — right away, no doubts or hesitations — there is a high likelihood that the answer is actually the wrong one.

Because most of the time the truth is buried beneath a thicket of pride, prejudice, and ignorance. To find our answers, we have to be ready to put the gardening gloves on and pick through the thorns. We have to pray. We have to reflect. We have to question ourselves and others. We have to examine our feelings. And then we have to pray some more. See, I would be willing to bet that the tax collectors and soldiers knew. Deep in their hearts, they knew. They knew when they approached John the Baptist and asked him, “Teacher, what should we do?” that his reply was not going to be: “Keep doing exactly what you’re doing.” *(continued at the top of the next column)*

They had heard this guy preach. They knew what he was about: repentance. They might not have known exactly what John the Baptist was going to tell them to do, but they knew whatever it was, it was going to be a challenge. It was going to turn their lives upside down.

I give them credit for asking the question. That’s a hard thing to do, and I don’t do it enough. Too often, I’m afraid to ask the question.

How do I love this person? How do I live out my baptismal call in this particular situation? How do I draw water from the fountain of salvation — and how do I do it with joy, as we are commanded by the Psalms?

Christmas is ten days away. Are we asking the question?



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

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- 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

REJOICE!

"Rejoice: the Lord is nigh." As Christmas draws near, the Church emphasizes the joy which should be in our hearts over all that the birth of our Savior means for us. The great joy of Christians is to see the day drawing nigh when the Lord will come again in His glory to lead them into His kingdom. The oft-repeated *Veni* ("Come") of Advent is an echo not only of the prophets but also of the conclusion of the Apocalypse of St. John: "Come, Lord Jesus," the last words of the New Testament.

Advent Word Search

N	P	E	A	C	E	C	A	N	D	L	E	S	L
F	H	O	E	A	O	N	K	R	C	V	U	W	L
R	A	C	J	N	E	N	A	T	I	V	I	T	Y
A	I	H	E	M	S	T	E	T	N	E	N	N	I
N	S	R	S	E	S	R	E	S	E	G	O	L	D
K	S	I	U	H	N	E	M	E	S	I	W	E	N
I	E	S	S	E	Y	S	Y	A	E	O	J	V	I
N	M	T	R	L	L	E	R	M	N	Y	R	O	T
C	S	M	A	H	T	P	R	W	J	G	R	L	L
E	A	A	M	T	M	O	H	Y	O	J	E	I	A
N	C	S	A	E	S	H	E	R	P	H	L	L	H
S	L	Y	A	B	W	R	E	A	T	H	S	R	S
E	N	O	W	A	D	V	E	N	T	S	C	N	A
S	H	E	P	H	E	R	D	S	E	H	A	A	A

- STAR
- SHEPHERDS
- ANGELS
- PEACE
- GOLD
- BETHLEHEM
- JESUS
- FRANKINCENSE
- JOY
- CANDLE
- NATIVITY
- CHRISTMAS
- WREATH
- LOVE
- WISEMEN
- MESSIAH
- MYRRH
- ADVENT
- HOPE

Play this puzzle online at : <https://thewordsearch.com/puzzle/1766755/>

NOTRE DAME RETREAT HOUSE EVENTS:

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.

CORE RETREAT WEEKENDS:

Men’s weekends: January 17-19 and January 31-February 2

Couple’s weekend: February 28-March 2

Women’s weekends: May 2-4 and May 16-18

FILL YOUR SOUL DAYS!

December 11th—”A Time for Every Purpose” with Mike Wischnowski, PhD

January 14th- “Reading God: the Practice of Lectio Divina” with Fr. Edison Tayag

February 11th—”A Seat at the Table”- with The Catholic Black Coalition

DISCOVER THE RESCUE PROJECT– A perfect format for young parents to seniors with a computer.

Do you feel at times that God has forgotten you? Many factors we live with may increase chaos and despair in our lives. The **Rescue Project**, created by Fr. John Riccardo and Acts XXIX, is here to change that. Experience the power of the Gospel like never before—Jesus’ victory over sin, death, and despair—and discover the truth: **God loves you and has a plan to rescue you!** Join us for an 8-week, *online* experience starting January 2025. Through powerful videos, thought-provoking discussions, we’ll explore how God’s love and mercy was always there in your life. Accessible on-line from the comfort of your home. It’s perfect for anyone seeking renewal and hope. Learn more and register today at www.stnycatholic.com/The-Rescue-Project.



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