



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 29, 2024



THE HOLY FAMILY

After three days they found him in the temple,
sitting in the midst of the teachers,
listening to them and asking them questions. - Lk 2:46

WEEKLY CALENDAR:

Saturday, January 4, 2025

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

PARISH OFFICES CLOSED:

The parish offices will be **closed Tuesday, December 31, 2024, and Wednesday, January 1, 2025**, in observance of the New Year's holiday. The offices will re-open on **Thursday, January 2, 2025**.

PARISH CALENDARS!

Thank you to the Lynch Funeral home for our 2025 parish calendars!

Thank you, Jim.

ORDINARY JUBILEE YEAR 2025: PILGRIMS OF HOPE

Pope Francis teaches.... "in a special way during the Holy (Jubilee) Year we are called to be tangible signs of hope for our brothers and sisters who experience hardships of any kind". The Jubilee indulgence is linked to works of mercy and penance. Following the example and mandate of Christ, we are encouraged to carry out works of charity and mercy more frequently, especially in service to those who are burdened by various needs. We are called to rediscover the corporal works of mercy. Feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked, welcome the stranger, heal the sick, visit the imprisoned, bury the dead.

NEW YEAR SCHEDULE:**SACRAMENT OF PENANCE**

Saturday: 3:30 p.m.

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

PRACTICING CATHOLIC - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS
By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman**Where is Jesus?**

Every mother who has ever lost sight of her child in a crowd, even for a few seconds, knows the panic.

I think of Mary living with that level of anxiety for three straight days. I doubt she slept, but I'm sure Joseph forced her to lie down at night, imploring her to think of her health, to rest while he kept on searching the streets of Jerusalem. I imagine her lying there, eyes open and staring at the ceiling. Mary, full of grace. Mary, spotless of sin. Weeping in the dark, whispering, "Where is he?"

It's an experience that we all have at one point or another. Running through the world, desperate and confused, just trying to find God and failing so miserably that we wonder if He's purposefully eluding us.

If Mary couldn't even find Him, do we stand a chance?

Why didn't Mary think to look in the temple? She had wisdom beyond anyone else who ever lived, at least when it came to Jesus. But I think God purposefully dropped a veil over her reasoning for these three days, so that He could show us it's okay to lose our way.

He isn't eluding us. In fact, He's trying to make it easy. He's staying put, in one place, the very place we should know to look. But the streets of our life are so crowded and loud, so full of distraction.

The Christmas season is about God revealing to us who and what and where He is. He has told us. The question is, have we listened?



PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE:

At every Sunday liturgy, we see numbers of families attending church together. A variety of families compose the parish "family" of St. Mary Our Mother: mothers and fathers with sons and daughters; single parents with their children, grandparents and their grandchildren, and combinations of others. It is a wonderful sight to see people of all ages gathering together to worship as one. It is a vivid reminder that we are living for today but with a vision for tomorrow. The heart and core of the Christian life is the family.

Today, we celebrate the **Feast of the Holy Family** of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. These three are central figures of this Christmas season. When reading the scriptural passages about the Nativity, you will find that God was very much a part of each person's life. God sent Gabriel to Mary and she said "Yes;" then God sent Gabriel to Joseph to fill him in on God's plan, and Joseph said "Yes." Then God told Joseph to move from Bethlehem to Egypt, and along with Mary, they gathered the child and were on their way. Jesus was conceived, Jesus was born, Jesus was saved. His early life was surrounded by the Holy Family.

There is not a great amount written in the scriptures about the early years of Jesus. We presume that He was raised like any other Jewish boy of His day. He adopted Joseph's profession as a carpenter. He went to the synagogue and observed the Jewish rituals. The adult Jesus reflects a balanced person, a religious individual, and someone with a strong moral character. Presumably, this was due to the effect that His parents had on Him. Family was the core of His life. This Feast of the Holy Family found between Christmas and New Year's Day is our attempt as Catholics to emphasize the family as all families continue to celebrate these wonderful Christmas holidays.

One of the enriching moments of our liturgy at St. Mary Our Mother is to see the many ways our children participate during Mass. Recently, I was presiding at one of our First Friday school Masses, and a certain song was sung which our children are very familiar. They sang at the top of their lungs, and it was a wonderful experience to hear them join their hearts and voices together. The Christmas Eve Family Mass was another special celebration where our children took an active role in the liturgy as singers and instrumentalists. Although not a Mass, the recent school Christmas program, where every single student in our school has a role, is yet another example. Their innocence, their enthusiasm, and their willingness to be involved helps to raise our spirits and helps us live in praise of God.

Holy Family Sunday invites us to celebrate the varieties of people who are part of our lives and enrich these days of the Christmas season.

It also calls us to appreciate and encourage the next generation to continue to participate and to see the Church as belonging to them.

MASSES FOR THE WEEK:

Monday, 6:45 A.M.	December 30, 2024 Our faithful departed
Tuesday, 6:45 A.M.	December 31, 2024 No Mass
5:00 P.M.	Joseph Henry—the Woodworth's
Wednesday, 6:45 A.M.	January 1, 2025, Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God No Mass
9:00 A.M.	Janis Zelko—Dan & Catherine Myers
Thursday, 6:45 A.M.	January 2, 2025, St. Basil the Great & Gregory Naziarizen, Bishops and Doctors of the Church No Mass
Friday, 6:45 A.M.	January 3, 2025, Christmas Weekday Our faithful departed
Saturday, 5:00 P.M.	January 4, Saint Elizabeth Ann Seaton, Religious Walter Ermold—the Woodworths
Sunday, 8:30 A. M.	January 5, 2025, Epiphany of the Lord Daniel J. Linsler
10:30 A.M.	Joan Mitchell—Ed and Mary Lee Fairbrother

Pastor's Perspective Continued

It also reminds us that these little people are an important part of our Sunday celebrations. Sometimes they are noisy, sometimes they are fidgety, sometimes they distract us—but, they are children, and we need to accept them. We are genuinely and richly blessed to have as many children as we have as a regular part of all our parish activities.

We also need to remember on this feast of the Holy Family, those people who have suffered a loss in their families, particularly those people who have been the victims of violence, terrorism, gun shootings, and war. With so much emphasis on families and the togetherness during the Christmas season, this time of year can be difficult for those families.

As we continue to move through these Christmas holidays, please know of our continued prayers for you, along with the best wishes from our entire staff for a happy, healthy, and blessed New Year! Thank you for your presence and generosity during the Advent/Christmas/Epiphany season.

Thank you for the role you play in making Saint Mary Our Mother a place of wonderful hospitality and warm welcome to the many who join us for Mass on Christmas! Enjoy and continue to celebrate these Christmas days, and many blessings to you as we begin 2025. Please continue to take care of yourself and each other!

Fr. L.

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

All in the Family

At first glance, we can often find the image of the Blessed Mother, St. Joseph and the Christ Child intimidating — who are we to aspire to that level of discipleship? How could we ever hope to conform ourselves to that mold? Sometimes, it can even be painful — perhaps we hail from a broken family or struggle with a broken relationship within our family, or perhaps we long to be a mother or a father ourselves and that state in life has eluded us.

But the image of the Holy Family is, in reality, a beautiful invitation to us all, no matter our vocation or our state in life, and the example of Mary, Joseph and Jesus is rich with the symbolism of stewardship.

You need not be a biological mother who has carried a child in her womb to be a mother in spirit. Who in your world needs you to love them with the heart of a mother?

The same goes for fatherhood. The Church and the world are crying out for the courageous witness of Christian men like St. Joseph. Who can you love with the steadfast, selfless protection of a father?

Who in your life needs you to love them with the faithful, unconditional love of a son? Who needs your gentle and constant love as a daughter?

We are the Body of Christ, friends. Those of us rejoicing in heaven, those of us suffering in purgatory, and those of us struggling here on earth. We are the great family. Let us love each other well.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS



Trivia answer:

The three kings who visited baby Jesus.

JUBILEE 2025: PILGRIMS OF HOPE



In May 2024 Pope Francis announced the Ordinary Jubilee Year of 2025 with the theme Pilgrims of Hope. The Jubilee Year began on the vigil of the Lord’s Nativity, Dec. 24, 2024 in Rome and will conclude on the Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord—January 6, 2026. The Jubilee Year is a significant moment in the life of the church proclaimed every 25 years since the thirteenth century and typically includes pilgrimages, processions, celebrations of Mass, and the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The liturgical celebrations are opportunities to receive the Lord’s mercy, especially through the Jubilee indulgence, and lead us to the performance of the work of mercy.

MINISTERIAL STAFF

- Rev. Christopher E. Linsler**, Pastor
- Rev. Peter T. 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

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

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

GOSPEL MEDITATION - The Holy Family

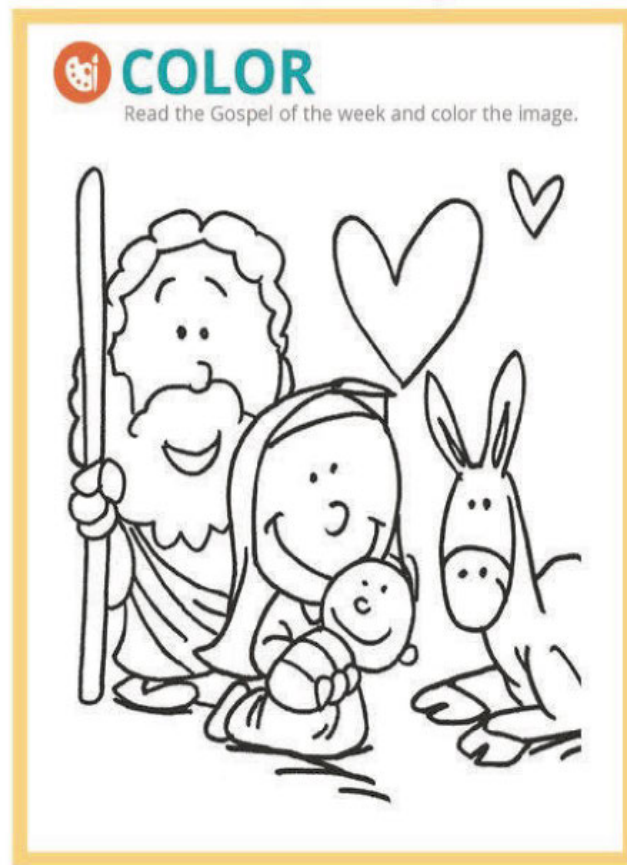
As a first-time pastor in a parish, I received a phone call one afternoon from a young married couple, “Father, our 2-year-old son drowned in our pool this morning. We are at the hospital. Please help us.” I sped over. The little boy was gone, his body cold, slightly blue, laid out on a bed. His parents were distraught and in shock. For the next few years, I walked with the couple along their difficult and painful road. They openly shared with me how they were often tempted to blame and accuse each other for the loss. And yet, by God’s grace, their love for each grew stronger and deeper as the years went by.

The Holy Family was not without its pain and loss, either. Luke tells us, after losing their twelve-year-old son, Joseph and Mary **“after three days found Him in the temple area, sitting among the teachers...”** (Luke 2:46). We don’t know specifically what those three days were like for them except for what Mary says: **“Your father and I have been looking for you anxiously.”** The three days of His absence foreshadow His death and burial. His finding in the temple is a kind of resurrection for his family. They had to learn, again and again, that their family was becoming a place where death and resurrection was not only accepted but welcomed and celebrated. But surely they deeply felt the dangerous agony of their loss — just like every couple who has lost a child.

What losses in your experience of family still cause you anxiety? In what ways has God’s presence seemingly vanished in your family? Will you keep searching for Jesus? Remember, He will rise and be found. Your family may be suffering, but when He is found, it will be stronger than ever before.

— *Father John Muir*

GROWING 
WITH THE **Gospel**
CYCLE C



Mary, Mother of God • Luke 2:16-21

A Holy Family prayer:

Dear God, in joy and gratitude we worship Jesus with Mary and Joseph. Help us always obey and follow our infant King!

CATHOLIC TRIVIA – JUST FOR FUN

Question: According to tradition, who were Balthasar, Melchior, and Casper?

Find answer on page 4

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