



# 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

January 5, 2025



## THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

They were overjoyed at seeing the star.

- Mt 2:10

**WEEKLY CALENDAR:**

**Tuesday, January 7th.**

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

**Thursday, January 9th.**

7:p.m.—Adult choir rehearsal —church

**Saturday, January 11th.**

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

**IN THE PEACE OF CHRIST:**

Father James Callan



**ORDINARY JUBILEE YEAR 2025: PILGRIMS OF HOPE:**

Pope Francis offers examples of ways to bring Christ and His message of hope to the world during the Jubilee Year: work for peace and an end to conflicts—promote respect for human life and dignity—show amnesty to prisoners—forgive the debts of countries that will never be able to repay the more affluent nations—abolish the death penalty—share the goods of the earth— the rich be generous—put an end to hunger—favor development in the most impoverished countries—demonstrate care for adolescents, students, young couples—help exiles, migrants, refugees find a place with dignity —esteem the elderly. Throughout the Jubilee Year our parish Social Ministry Committee will be offering us tangible ways to live Jubilee.



**FROM THE DESK OF OUR SCHOOL PRINCIPAL:**

**Welcome the New Year with Faith and Gratitude.**

As we begin a new calendar year, the St. Mary Our Mother School community reflects on the joy and blessings of the Christmas season. We are deeply grateful for the love and support of our parish family, who help us fulfill our mission of providing a faith-filled, quality education rooted in Catholic values.

The new year brings fresh opportunities for learning, service, and spiritual growth. We remain committed to nurturing the mind, body, and spirit of every child entrusted to us. From engaging classroom activities to acts of kindness and service, our goal is to prepare our students to shine as examples of Christ’s love in the world.

At the end of January, we look forward to celebrating our students, parish, and community during Catholic Schools Week. This special time allows us to come together in gratitude and joy, highlighting the vibrant faith and academic excellence that makes Catholic education so impactful.

As we move into this season of hope and promise, we invite our parish family to keep our students in your prayers. May this year be filled with peace, joy, and the light of Christ for our entire community.

Yours in Christ,

Mrs. Heather Bill

Principal, St. Mary Our Mother School



**Prayer of Rejoicing**

Fill our hearts, Lord, with rejoicing as we seek and discover You. Your ways are full of wonder, glory, surprise, and joy.  
Amen.

**PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE:**

Due to early bulletin deadlines for the past five weeks, I am preparing this bulletin article for the first bulletin of 2025 on December 18th, a week before the celebration of Christmas! We are still waiting to conclude the season of Advent and are looking forward to our Christmas Masses and family holiday gatherings. In whatever manner you celebrated Christmas this year, it is my sincere hope that you were able to enjoy a very "Merry Christmas", and the gift of Christmas peace.

This weekend we celebrate the **Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord**. Today is a solemn celebration in which we acknowledge that Jesus Christ was born for all people. Just as the magi from the East, led by a star, made their way in search of the truth that came from the Christ child, so people today follow the lights of the world in search of the Word made Flesh.

This great mystery of the Incarnation invites us to continue in the way of Christ by the way we live, love, and care for all who share this world with us. We are challenged to be this light which helps lead others to Christ. This is not always an easy task! But the good news is that we can not take this initiative alone, we do so in the company of one another and always have the strength and guidance of the Holy Spirit.

I hope this Christmas season, which continues today and concludes with the Feast of our Lord's Baptism next weekend, has been a time of grace and peace for you and your families. My sincere hope is that the Christmas season afforded you an opportunity to spend quality time with family, friends, and loved ones, prayerfully remembering the wonderful gift from God we received on that first Christmas, the birth of Jesus Christ. As we begin 2025 together, may we be inspired by the saints of old as well as our modern day saints, who call us to live a life of holiness and grace. May 2025 find us willing to be Christ for others

The beginning of a new year finds many people offering some hope and resolutions for the coming year. Here are some hopes that I have for our parish community as we begin 2025:

*That we continue to be a warm and welcoming community for all, including those seeking to understand more about our Catholic faith;*

*That new parishioners will experience a sense of welcome, hospitality and friendship;*

*That those from our parish who have been absent from our community for whatever reasons, may experience a welcome return as they join us for regular Sunday worship;*

**MASSES FOR THE WEEK:**

<b>Monday,</b> <b>6:45 A.M.</b>	<b>January 6—Christmas Weekday</b> Carol Ann Wawrzusin— husband, Ray
<b>Tuesday,</b> <b>6:45 A.M.</b>	<b>January 7—Christmas Weekday</b> Guido Amisano— Guy Amisano
<b>Wednesday,</b> <b>6:45 A.M.</b>	<b>January 8—Christmas Weekday</b> Faithful departed
<b>Thursday,</b> <b>6:45 A.M.</b>	<b>January 9— Christmas Weekday</b> Faithful departed
<b>Friday,</b> <b>6:45 A.M.</b>	<b>January 10— Christmas Weekday</b> Faithful departed
<b>Saturday,</b> <b>5:00 P.M.</b>	<b>January 11, Christmas Weekday</b> Brian Kasonic—Carolyn & Tom Collins
<b>Sunday,</b> <b>8:30 A. M.</b>	<b>January 12, Baptism Of The Lord</b> Raymond Sherwood—Deloris, Frances and the Alsworths
<b>10:30 A.M.</b>	Claire Navone Pitts—her family

**Pastor's perspective continued:**

*That St. Mary Our Mother School continues to provide an excellent Catholic education for the children of our community, and that more parents will consider a catholic school education for their children;*

*That our Social Ministry and outreach efforts for justice continue to define us as followers of Jesus to our local community and to the world;*

*That the vibrancy of our Faith Formation programs continue to renew our commitment to life-long learning of our 'catholic faith for families and people of all ages;*

*That we continue to adopt principles of good stewardship, generously sharing our time, talent, and treasure;*

*That we continue to practice sound financial management for both St. Mary Our Mother parish and school;*

*That we continue to offer healing and acceptance of any person desiring and return home to our church.*

Just a few thoughts for us to consider as we begin 2025.

Enjoy the final week of the Christmas season. Please continue to take care of yourself and each other!

Fr. L.



**GOSPEL MEDITATION: The Epiphany of the Lord —Matthew 2:1-12**

Have you ever wondered *why* the magi had gold, frankincense, and myrrh? Matthew’s Gospel tells us, “**Then they opened their treasures and offered Him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh**” (Matt. 2:11). Why are these things their “treasures”? One possible answer is they were magicians and astrologers, and these three items were the tools of their questionable trade. In offering them to Christ, they demonstrate that they will cease using such items to predict or control life. They place this baby-king, the God of Israel, at the center of their lives, and not their own devices of control, manipulation and prediction.

Isn’t that what we need to do, too? Consider, for example, the magical power of money, symbolized by the magi’s gold. Seemingly whatever we ask of money, it does. It wields a god-like power over the world. It can predict the future by guaranteeing better outcomes for us — which is why it is such a tempting alternative to trusting in God. The problem is such absolute trust in money enslaves us to the economic forces that make money so powerful. In paying homage to Jesus with “gold” (i.e., tithing), we participate in His authority over (and therefore freedom from) the magical sway of money.

What things in your life do you use to predict or control your future? What in your life seems to give you power over the world? Those are your treasures. Are you tired of feeling enslaved to them? Find a way to open them and give them to Christ, and you will be freer.



**The Epiphany of Our Lord:**

Epiphany in Greek means “manifestation”. In the West, the visit of the magi is celebrated as the event through which the Lord was “manifested” to the pagans and, therefore, to the world. In the Eastern Church, the accent for this solemnity is on the Trinitarian “manifestation” during the Baptism of Jesus in the river Jordan. While what is central on Christmas is the birth of the child Jesus, on Epiphany what is highlighted is that this poor and vulnerable Child is King and Messiah, the Lord of all the earth. With Epiphany, Isaiah’s prophecy is fulfilled, as can be discerned through Isaiah 60: 1-6. “Rise up in Splendor, Jerusalem! Your Light has come. It’s as if the liturgy is saying—don’t give up, don’t remain prisoners of your “convictions,” don’t be demoralized, react, “lift up your eyes!”

Like the magi, observe “the star” and you will find “the Star, **JESUS!**”

**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

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- 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

**Notre Dame H.S. Grades 7-12 Open House For Prospective Students & Families:**

Notre Dame H.S. Grades 7-12 is hosting an Open House on Monday, January 27, from **6:00 pm-7:30 pm for prospective students and their families. Registration begins at 5:45 pm** followed by a brief presentation in the Charles and Mary Crossed Auditorium. Open House is your chance to meet the faculty, administration, and students, tour the campus, learn about the benefits of a Notre Dame education, and explore the many opportunities that await your student at Notre Dame. Notre Dame is a college preparatory school offering an inclusive environment that is rich in the traditions of the Sisters of Mercy and academic excellence. Additionally, Notre Dame offers a competitive athletic program, many opportunities to participate in the performing, visual, and language arts along with a variety of extra-curricular activities such as FTC & FRC Robotics teams, Climate Crusaders, The Notre Dame Spotlighters Group, MaryLeaf (school newsletter) Yearbook, and Quiz League. Notre Dame H.S. is located at 1400 Maple Avenue, Elmira and transportation is available from many of our local school districts. To RSVP for the Open House or to submit your application to ND for the 2025-26 school year, visit [notredamehighschool.com](http://notredamehighschool.com). Questions may be directed to Mr. Nick Weiermiller, Director of Admissions at 607734-2267. We hope to see you at our Open House!

**PRACTICING CATHOLIC : “THE ANSWER”**

Summary: The journey of the magi would have been treacherous and uncomfortable. Imagine the peace in their hearts as they approached the young Messiah and fell to their knees. The new, vibrant awareness of what their own purpose was. It was an epiphany for them. It can be the same for us.

**The Answer**

Have you ever had an epiphany?

I’ll confess that I’ve never spent much time reflecting on the term “epiphany.” In my head, there has always been a strict separation of church and state when it comes to this word. I think of the religious Feast of the Epiphany, when we celebrate the magi’s encounter with the Christ Child, as totally distinct from our modern understanding of the ancient Greek word *epipháneia*, which means “manifestation” or “appearance.”

“I’ve had an epiphany,” I have said many times before, and what I mean is that I have come to a long-awaited realization. I have received the answer to a question which has perplexed me, perhaps troubled me. I now know what course of action I must take.

“Today is the Epiphany,” I say to my children when we make a king cake and bring the little magi figures to our Nativity beneath the Christmas tree (which will, after today, be put back into storage, for the Christmas season has come to its fulfillment).

And I’ve always thought I meant I was saying two very different things.

But today, I ponder the journey of the magi, one that must have often been treacherous and uncomfortable. I think about their meeting with Herod, a situation that certainly was fraught with tension and fear. And I imagine the feeling in their hearts as they approached the young Messiah and fell to their knees. I think of the peace they must have felt. The new, vibrant awareness of what their own purpose was.

It was an epiphany for them — a discovery of truth. An answer.

It should be the same for us.

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

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