



# ST. MARY OUR MOTHER CHURCH

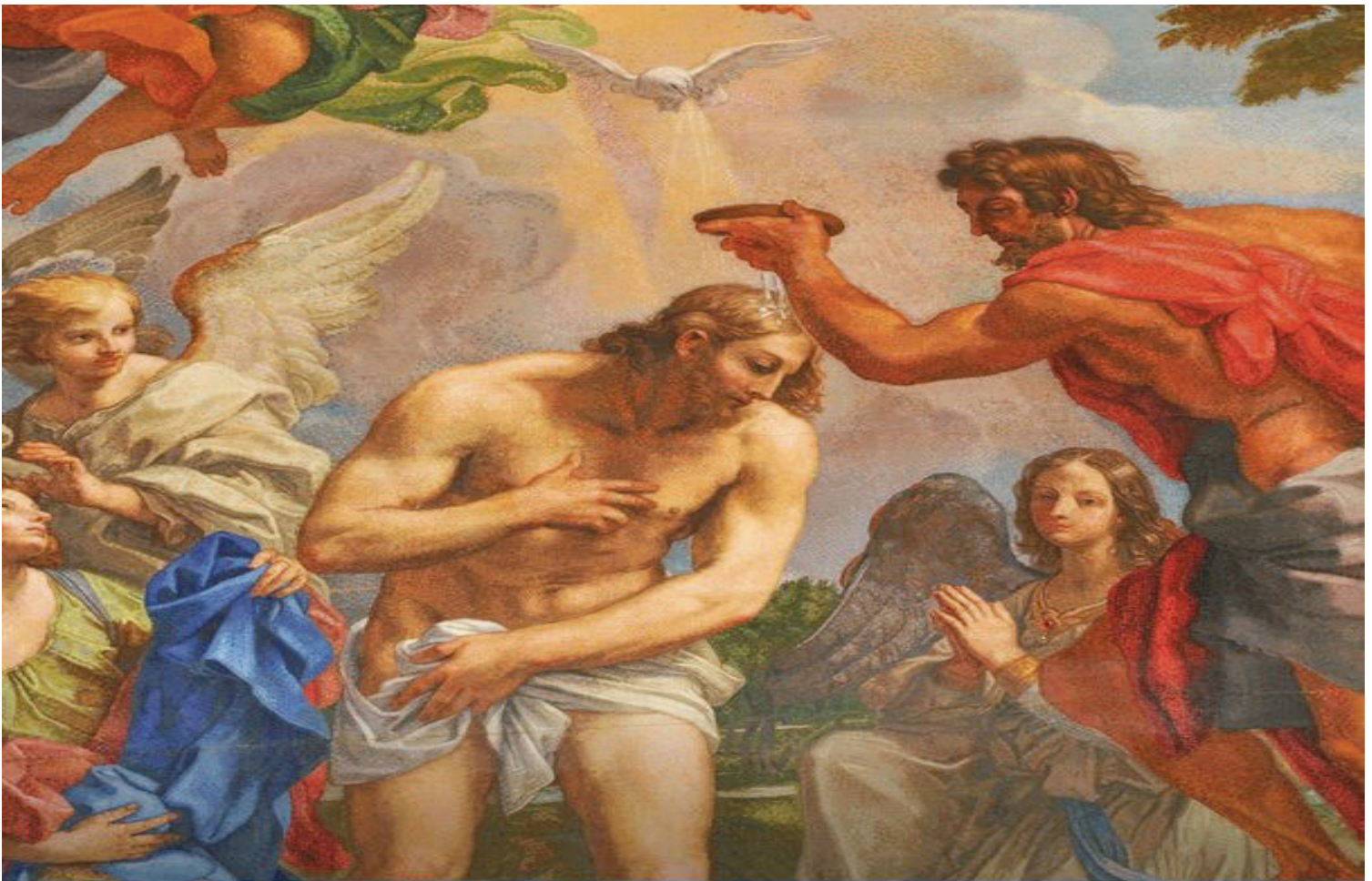
## *MISSION STATEMENT*

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 12, 2025



## THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD



After all the people had been baptized and Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. - Lk 3:21-22a

**WEEKLY CALENDAR:****Tuesday, January 14**

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

**Thursday, January 16**

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

**Saturday, January 18**

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

**IN THE PEACE OF CHRIST:**

President Jimmy Carter  
 William Hollenbeck  
 Florence Holloway  
 John (Zack) Stermer

**MEMORIAL:**

The Eucharistic Hosts, the Sanctuary Candle, the Icon Candle, Sacramental Wine for the week of January 12-18, 2025 have been donated in loving memory of Raymond Sherwood by Deloris, Frances and the Alsworth's.

**MASS INTENTIONS:**

Would you like to offer a Mass Intention? It is a holy and noble custom to offer Mass for living or deceased person, or for a personal intention. We are happy to schedule your Mass intention(s). Please call the parish office at 739-3817.

**QR GIVING CODE:** Use your photo app, or your QR reader app to scan the image below and it will bring you to our online donation website. Once your account is setup, future donations require just a few clicks to complete.

**FROM THE DESK OF OUR SCHOOL PRINCIPAL:*****Preparing for Mid-term Exams at St. Mary Our Mother School:***

As we begin the new year, students in grades 3 through 6 at St. Mary our Mother School are working diligently to prepare for their mid-term exams. These exams, which will take place on the following dates, provide an opportunity for students to demonstrate their understanding and mastery of the curriculum:

**January 14th**

3rd, 4th, 5th—English Language Arts  
 6th—Math

**January 15th**

6th — Social Studies

**January 16th**

3rd, 4th, 5th—Math  
 6th—English Language Arts

**January 17th**

6th—Science

Mid-term exams are an important part of the academic journey helping to reinforce the lessons learned and encouraging students to develop strong study habits, time management skills, and self-discipline. These skills are invaluable, not only for their immediate academic success but also as they grow into future-ready learners equipped for high school and beyond.

In addition to fostering academic growth, the experience of preparing for and taking exams nurtures the virtues of perseverance and resilience. We encourage our students to approach their studies prayerfully, trusting in the talents and abilities that God has blessed them with.

We ask our parish family to keep our students in your prayers during this time. May they feel supported and guided by their teachers, families, and faith as they work toward their goals.

Thank you for your continued support of our mission to educate and nurture the whole child—mind, body, and spirit.

Yours in Christ,

Mrs. Heather Bill

Principal, St. Mary Our Mother School

**PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE:**

Today we celebrate the **Baptism of the Lord**, which brings the liturgical season of Advent/Christmas/Epiphany to a close. This time of year there is a sense of sadness when it comes to taking down, a sense of sadness as we take down the lights and seasonal decorations of Christmas. As the popular saying goes, "time marches on," and our church's liturgical calendar unfolds into the fullness of time, but it is a bittersweet time to bid farewell to our Christmas experiences each year. There is also a sense of relief that after the Christmas season we are returning to some measure of normalcy to our daily routine. I hope you enjoyed a blessed and Merry Christmas! I wish to thank all who made Christmas 2024 at St. Mary our Mother a beautiful, festive, and joyful experience that it was.

Because of the early bulletin deadlines throughout the month of December—last Sunday's bulletin went to press December 20th—we are including the vital statistics from those weeks and Christmas in today's bulletin. Our four Christmas Masses drew nearly 1500 people. Many of our parishioners and visitors expressed their appreciation and admiration for the prayerful and reverent manner in which our liturgies are celebrated at St. Mary Our Mother, especially during the Christmas season. Many expressed their appreciation of the warm welcome they received when joining us for worship. A special word of thanks to our ministers of hospitality, our ushers, and to all for extending a warm welcome to all!

Today's celebration of the Baptism of the Lord reminds us of the new life given to all of us through the Sacrament of Baptism, a bond that unites us with God's chosen and holy people. That bond and relationship began for us on the day of our baptism, when we were cleansed of sin, given the new life in Christ, and welcomed into the Church. As children of God through baptism, we are called to embrace a life-giving and life-long relationship with Christ. It is a relationship which invites us to continually grow in our Christian faith.

Today's feast also invites us to reflect on the call of God in our lives, and how best to respond to that call. The beginning of a new year and decade finds many making some New Year's resolutions, taking the time to reassess and recommit ourselves to God's call. The following are a few suggestions you might consider as resolutions or opportunities for this new year and decade:

**Prayer:** *Nothing is more important than nurturing a closer relationship with God. Take some time each day to listen to the voice of God.*

**Family:** *How often in our busy lives does time with family get neglected? Make sure family meals are celebrated frequently. The ideal would be every day. Plan a special family outing once or twice a month, and attend Mass together. Resolve that when your spouse or child speaks, you look at them and truly listen.*

**MASSES FOR THE WEEK:**

<b>Monday,</b> 6 :45 A.M.	<b>January 13—Weekday (first week in ordinary time)</b> Margaret Bellizia—family
<b>Tuesday,</b> 6:45 A.M.	<b>January 14—Weekday</b> Cam Lesgyk—Delores Boedecker
<b>Wednesday,</b> 6:45 A.M.	<b>January 15—Weekday</b> Agnes Amisano — Guy
<b>Thursday,</b> 6:45 A.M.	<b>January 16—Weekday</b> Our faithful departed
<b>Friday,</b> 6:45 A.M.	<b>January 17—St. Anthony, Abbot</b> Living and deceased members of the 6:45 a.m. family
<b>Saturday,</b> 5:00 P.M.	<b>January 18—Weekday</b> Lourdes & Cerilo Sobremante—the Lapitan's
<b>Sunday,</b> 8:30 A.M.	<b>January 19—</b> Elda Menchella Angelo—Elaine Ferrari
10:30 A.M.	Edward J. Linsler

**Pastor's Perspective continued:**

**Health:** *Without good health, we lack energy to serve the Lord well. Resolve to make that doctor or dentist appointment. Make one healthy change in your eating habits. Moderate your consumption of alcohol, and add a few minutes of exercise to your daily routine.*

**Possessions:** *Want less: live more simply. Challenge yourself to sacrifice something you like but that you know another person needs more than you. Access your clothing closet and drawers and donate clothing that you have not worn since the beginning of the millennium.*

**Parish:** *Offer your service to a liturgical ministry or another parish ministry for the new year. We are always in need of more volunteers in the parish. You enrich the parish and your parish experience when you become involved.*

These are a few resolutions for you to consider for the new year.

Have a great week. Please continue to take care of yourself and each other!

Fr. L.



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

**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 extracurricular 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. Questions may be directed to Mr. Nick Weiermiller, Director of Admissions at 607734- 2267. We hope to see you at our Open House.



**THE WOUNDED HEALERS' BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP:**

The support group meeting will be offered on Tuesday January 7, 2024 at 7:00 P.M., in person, at St. Mary our Mother School, 811 Westlake St., Horseheads, NY. This will be our annual Memorial Service. There are no pressures only invitations or remembering and supporting.

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 his 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 see healing in the very act of helping.

**A reading from the letter of St. Paul to Titus**

Beloved:

The grace of God has appeared, saving all and training us to reject godless ways and worldly desires and to live temperately, justly, and devoutly in this age, as we await the blessed hope, the appearance of the glory of our great God and savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to deliver us from all lawlessness and to cleanse for himself a people as his own, eager to do what is good.

When the kindness and generous love of God our savior appeared, not because of any righteous deeds we had done but because of His mercy, He saved us through the bath of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom He richly poured out on us through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that we might be justified by His grace and become heirs in hope of eternal life.

**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**, School 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
- Religious Education Office**
- 816 West Broad Street ..... (607)-739-8214

**January 12, 2025**  
**The Baptism of the Lord**  
**Luke 3:15-16, 21-22**

In my second year of theology studies, I went to confession to a priest visiting the seminary for a three-day retreat. My heart wasn't in it. I was going through the motions. I confessed my sins and waited for his response. The priest said, "For your penance, I'd like you to go into the chapel and repeat the words '**You are my beloved Son, with you I am well pleased**' (Luke 3:22) until they mean something to you." Easy penance, I thought.

But to my surprise, I struggled to say those words. I sensed a strong interior resistance blocking them. How could God be well-pleased with *me*? He couldn't be, I thought. A battle within me ensued. Two hours later, the resistance vanished, and I found myself able to speak, and claim as my own, those marvelous words. I emerged from the chapel with a new, deep, peaceful conviction that I was indeed God's beloved son.

Those words are a precious gift from heaven to all of us. Jesus' baptism, which we celebrate this week, offers them to us. Are we willing to receive these words anew? Many things can block this deepening of our baptismal identity: failings, sins, disappointments, traumas, problems, and so on. Yet God's love is always greater. This week I challenge you to prayerfully repeat these words over yourself — or perhaps over someone you're struggling to love — until those words find a home in your heart.

— *Father John Muir*



**PRACTICING) CATHOLIC – BENEATH THE SURFACE** By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

**Mini Reflection:**

It makes perfect sense that everyone thought John the Baptist was the Messiah. He was the guy pouring the water. But the Messiah was the man who came to be baptized. He was the one who descended into the waters, submerging himself in our experience of death and pain and sorrow.

**Beneath the Surface:**

When I was seventeen, I wasn't sure that I wanted to be confirmed. It was a rough period in my life, and I was having some intense questions and doubts. It upset my mother, understandably. She knew that, at such a pivotal and difficult moment, I needed the grace of the sacrament more than ever. So, she called our priest and asked him to talk to me.

After that meeting, I made the decision to be confirmed. To be honest, I can't remember anything he said to me. All I remember is that he sat with me. He listened to me. He let me talk and talk and talk (and cry). And when he said whatever he said, whatever it is that I cannot remember, it was obvious that he had listened to me.

Reading today's Gospel, it makes perfect sense that everyone thought John the Baptist was the Messiah. He was the guy pouring the water. Of course it seemed natural that he would be "the one." The one they were all waiting for.

But instead, the Messiah was the man who came to be baptized. He was the one who descended into the waters, submerging Himself in our experience of death and pain and sorrow — and in doing so, He sanctified it. He made it a means of redemption.

Jesus is our Savior, yes. When we dig ourselves a hole of sin and confusion and we can't climb out, He is the one who brings us back to the surface. But He doesn't pull us out; He lifts us. He jumps down into the pit. He looks around. He offers His hand, gives us a leg up, and by His strength and not our own, we are brought back into the light.



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