



# ST. MARY OUR MOTHER CHURCH

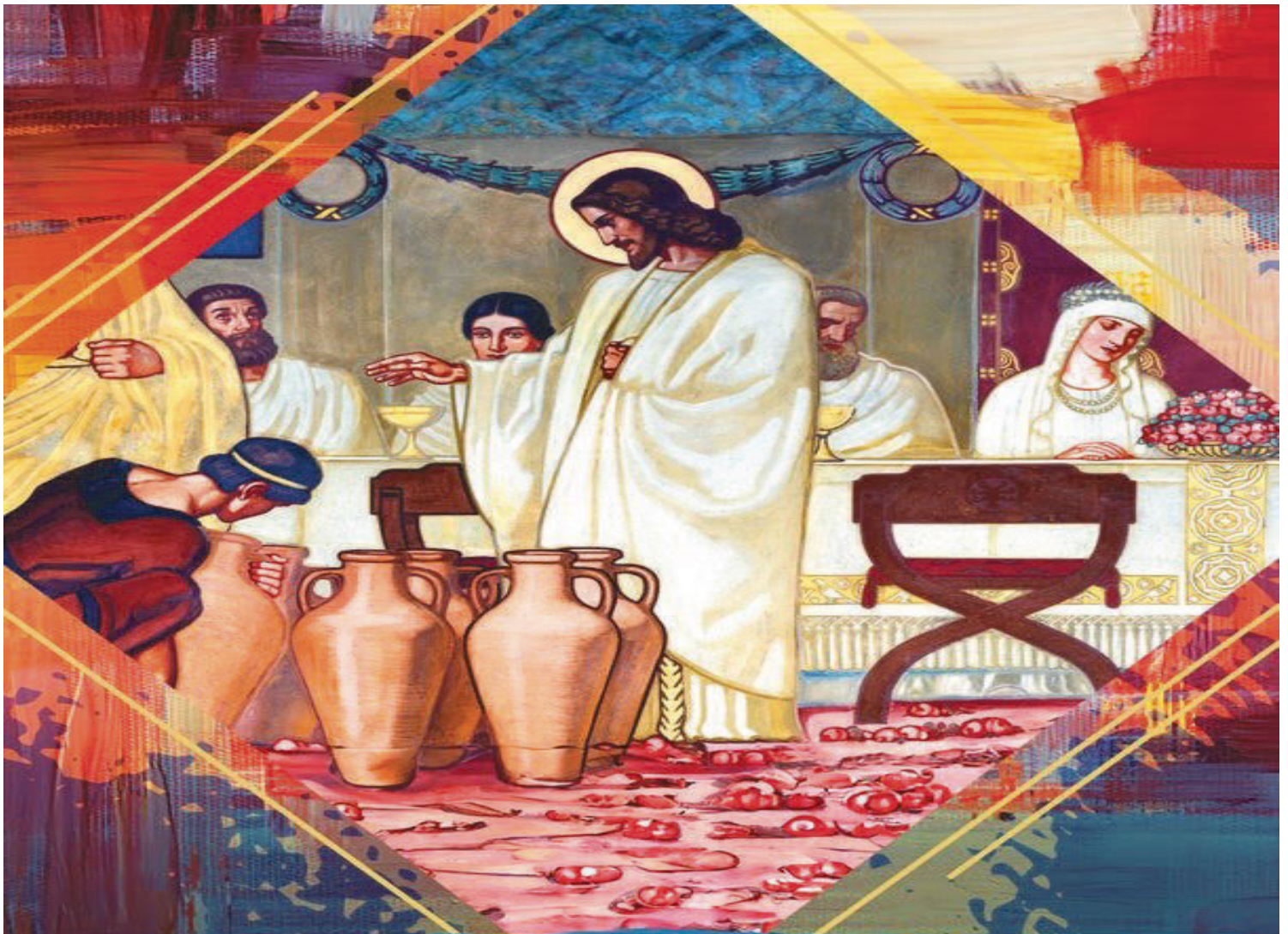
## *MISSION STATEMENT*

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 19, 2025



2ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

“They have no wine.”  
- Jn 2:3

**WEEKLY CALENDAR:****Monday, January 20**

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday.  
Parish offices are closed.

**Tuesday, January 21**

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

**Thursday, January 23,**

7:00 p.m. — No Adult Choir Rehearsal—church

**Saturday, January 25**

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

**Sunday, January 26**

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK BEGINS

**IN THE PEACE OF CHRIST:**

President Jimmy Carter

**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.

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**FROM THE DESK OF OUR SCHOOL PRINCIPAL:****Introducing Our St. Mary Our Mother School Student Council!**

We are proud to announce the dedicated students who have been elected to serve on our 2024-2025 Student Council. These young leaders exemplify the values of faith, kindness, and service that are at the heart of our Catholic school community.

The Student Council will play an important role in fostering school spirit, organizing service projects, and representing the student body in various initiatives throughout the year. Their efforts help us live out our mission of service and leadership inspired by Christ's teachings.

**2024-2025 Student Council Members:****Class Representatives:**

- \* **6th Grade:** Avaya Schuchardt & Max Adams
- \* **5th Grade:** Arya Ripley & Bryce Bill
- \* **4th Grade:** Riley McGinnis & Katie Johnson
- \* **3rd Grade:** Jasmine Sadik & Samuel Minier

**Teacher Representatives:**

- \* Mrs. Colleen Meehan
- \* Mrs. Kelly Koehler

Please join us in congratulating these students and praying for their success as they lead and serve our school community. Thank you for your continued support of Catholic education and the formation of our future leaders!

Blessings,  
Mrs. Heather Bill  
Principal, St. Mary Our Mother School

**A STEWARDSHIP MOMENT: Second Sunday in Ordinary time:**

In today's second reading, St. Paul makes a list of gifts dispensed to members of the Christian community by the Holy Spirit. Each gift bestowed has a specific purpose for the person for whom it is intended: wisdom, knowledge, faith, healing, mighty deeds, prophecy, discernment, tongues, and interpretation. Good stewards know these gifts are not meant to be kept hidden by the recipient but to be shared with the community and beyond. As we begin a new year, let us reflect on the gift the Holy Spirit has given to each of us. Do we recognize this gift? Are we being good stewards of this gift?

**PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE:**

This past Monday saw us return to the period in the Church's liturgical year known as Ordinary Time, which will continue to Ash Wednesday, the beginning of the season of Lent, which this year falls on March 5th. In addition, each year these middle weeks of January invite us to recall three distinct themes. Tomorrow's national holiday we are prayerfully remembering the legacy of **Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.** This past Saturday, we began the annual **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity**, when the Church invites us to pray for greater unity among all Christian churches. The third theme centers on a grater respect for all **human life**.

Ever since his death, we are reminded of the legacy of **Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.** Dr. King stood for the equality of all people, especially speaking of his "dream" when all would sit at one table, when all would be able to ride the same bus, when all would be looked upon and identified by their gifts and talents and not by the color of their skin. His tragic and violent death, like modern day terrorism, violence, and war are hard reminders that human nature can act in terrible and tragic ways. Dr. King's death, as well as any act of terrorism, violence or war, are sobering reminders that we have yet to achieve Dr. King's dream. Recalling the life of Dr. King each year affords us an opportunity to address any personal prejudice that we might have, and to recognize the common integrity of every human person.

The Supreme Court's decision of **Roe vs. Wade** fifty-two years ago to legalize abortion in the United States met its critical crisis in defending human life as beginning with natural birth, not at conception. If the child in the womb is a person, by American standards, that person has individual rights. The theology of the Roman Catholic Church defines human life as beginning at conception. While this definition has caused many painful decisions to be made on the part of parents, it is a starting point for conversation about the understanding of human life. Jesus' own life is defined from the moment of the Annunciation, when Mary said "yes" to the angel. Mary's own life began at the Immaculate Conception, as the sinless vessel of God. Though the Supreme Court recently overruled the decision of *Roe vs. Wade*, leaving the decision on the legalization of abortion to individual states, this anniversary serves as a reminder that we need to re-affirm our belief in human life as beginning with conception and ending with natural death.

Since the days of the Second Vatican Council, the Church has set aside eight days in January—specifically January 18th. through 25th. as a week of **Prayer for Christian Unity**. It is a time when we acknowledge our common bonds with our Christian sisters and brothers, as well as people of all faith traditions. We worship a common God, we find our religious foundations in common traditions. For the most part, we utilize the same scriptures for our prayer, worship, and faith formation. For many, our ritual of worship is somewhat similar, often using the

**MASSES FOR THE WEEK:**

<b>Monday,</b> 6:45 A.M.	<b>January 20—Weekday</b> Florence Holloway—Barbara Simpson
<b>Tuesday,</b> 6:45 A.M.	<b>January 21—St. Agnes Virgin/ Martyr</b> Our faithful departed
<b>Wednesday,</b> 6:45 A.M.	<b>January 22—Day of prayer for the legal protection of unborn children</b> Our faithful departed
<b>Thursday,</b> 6:45 A.M.	<b>January 23—Weekday</b> William Hollenbeck—Dan and Kelli Morsch
<b>Friday,</b> 6:45 A.M.	<b>January 24—St. Francis de Sales, Bishop and Doctor of the Church</b> Our faithful departed
<b>Saturday,</b> 5:00 P.M.	<b>January 25—Conversion of St. Paul, Apostle</b> James LeMark— family
<b>Sunday,</b> 8:30 A.M. 10:30 A.M.	<b>January 26—Third Sunday in Ordinary Time</b> Samantha Dobek—family Bishop Matthew H. Clark—John Gough family

**Pastor's Perspective continued:**

same hymns and prayers. This annual week of prayer for Christian Unity is our commitment to our Lord's prayer at the Last Supper, "*that all may be one.*" (John 17:21). Since the Second Vatican Council, which issued its own decree on Ecumenism, we have come to realize that our unity can be expressed in a variety of ways. An example of this locally is the annual Service of Lessons and Carols, held each December.

Is there a common bond which unites the violence in our world, to the observance of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday, to a greater awareness and respect for human life from the womb to the tomb, to the week of prayer for Christian Unity? It is the fact that we are a people of the same God. Each person has the responsibility to see others as sisters and brothers, offering respect and dignity to each other. It is this responsibility that enables us to address the issues such as life beginning at conception, those who live in the grip of poverty, those who find themselves in prison, those who are close to death. We need to acknowledge the common bond that unites us not only as the Church as the Body of Christ, but to realize that the presence of God resides and can be found in each and every person.

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.

**STEWARDSHIP SAINT FOR JANUARY: SAINT JOHN THE ALMSGIVER:**

Saint John the almsgiver earned the title “almsgiver” because of his passion for social justice and his stewardship of the poor and oppressed. Born at Amathus, Cyprus, around 560, the son of the governor of Cyprus, he was wealthy and of noble lineage. His wife and children died before John reached the age of 50.

A devout Christian, John sought to live a life of simplicity and in the spirit of poverty despite his wealth. He used his riches and position to help the poor. Despite being a layman, the Church at Alexandria petitioned to have John appointed bishop. He was consecrated Patriarch of Alexandria in 610. He pledged himself to practice “charity without limits” and placed several thousand needy persons under his personal, pastoral care. He always referred to the poor as his “lords and masters,” because of what he called “their mighty influence at the Court of the Most High.”

He divided the church treasury’s gold among hospitals and monasteries, and worked to establish an economic redistribution system whereby poor people received adequate money and means to support themselves. Refugees from neighboring territories were welcomed with open arms.

John was a reformer who established new hospitals and increased the number of churches in Alexandria from seven to seventy.

\* Continued in next column:

As bishop, John developed a reputation for kindness. Twice weekly, he made himself available to anyone, rich or destitute, who wished to speak with him. People lined up and waited patiently for their turn.

When asked about his passionate concern for the poor, it is said that John often recounted a youthful dream. In it, a beautiful young woman told him that she was “charity.” She told him: “I am the oldest daughter of the king. If you are devoted to me, I will lead you to Jesus. No one is as influential with him as I am. Remember, it was for me that he became a baby to redeem the world.” John used this story to persuade the rich to be generous.

When the Persians sacked Jerusalem in 614, John sent food and money to support the Christian refugees. Eventually, the Persians took over Alexandria, and John himself was forced to flee to his native Cyprus. John died peacefully on November 11, 619. His feast day is January 23.

**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

**PRACTICING CATHOLIC – DO WHATEVER HE TELLS YOU**

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Mini Reflection: Sometimes we forget, or even refuse, to bring small concerns and inconveniences to God because we think we should be able to handle them on our own. What a ridiculous attitude that is — as if we could handle anything on our own.

**Do Whatever He Tells You**

I once ran out of pizza at my kid’s birthday party.

Everyone told me it wasn’t a big deal but come on. It was a disaster. I had invited all these people over. They showed up with presents and sang “Happy Birthday” and stood around patiently while my kid ripped through his cache of gifts. The very least they were expecting was to be fed sufficiently.

I’ll tell you what, I sure could have used the Blessed Mother that night.

I love the story of the wedding at Cana because it’s such a silly little miracle. I don’t mean to be disrespectful — of course it’s an incredibly important moment in Christ’s public life. But it’s not healing a leper. It’s not raising the dead. It’s not even walking on water. It’s saving a young couple from embarrassment.

I think sometimes we forget, or even refuse, to bring small concerns and inconveniences to God because we think we should be able to handle them on our own. What a ridiculous attitude that is — as if we could handle anything on our own. It’s so fitting that Mary, ever the observant Mother, is the one to bring the matter to Jesus’ attention. He asks her what this problem has to do with him. She doesn’t answer him, because, between YOU and me, I don’t think he’s asking her. I think he’s asking us. All she does is tell the waiters what I consider to be the best piece of advice in all of Scripture: “Do whatever he tells you.”

I’m so quick to throw up my hands and feel sorry for myself when I encounter a barrier in my life. What I should be doing is taking the matter to God, and then doing whatever He tells me.



**WEEKLY READINGS AND OBSERVANCES - ENGAGE PARISHIONERS IN DAILY MASS AND PRAYER**

**Readings for the week of January 19, 2025**

Sunday: Is 62:1-5/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 7-8, 9-10 (3)/1 Cor 12:4-11/Jn 2:1-11  
Monday: Heb 5:1-10/Ps 110:1, 2, 3, 4/Mk 2:18-22  
Tuesday: Heb 6:10-20/Ps 111:1-2, 4-5, 9 and 10c/Mk 2:23-28  
Wednesday: Heb 7:1-3, 15-17/Ps 110:1, 2, 3, 4/Mk 3:1-6  
Thursday: Heb 7:25—8:6/Ps 40:7-8a, 8b-9, 10, 17/Mk 3:7-12  
Friday: Heb 8:6-13/Ps 85:8 and 10, 11-12, 13-14/Mk 3:13-19  
Saturday: Acts 22:3-16 or Acts 9:1-22/Ps 117:1bc, 2/Mk 16:15-18  
Next Sunday: Neh 8:2-4a, 5-6, 8-10/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15 (see Jn 6:63c)/  
1 Cor 12:12-30 or 12:12-14, 27/Lk 1:1-4; 4:14-21

**Observances for the week of January 19, 2025**

Sunday: 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Monday: St. Fabian, Pope and Martyr; St. Sebastian, Martyr; Martin Luther King Day  
Tuesday: St. Agnes, Virgin and Martyr

**“At what time of day was Adam created?”**



**“A little before Eve.”**

**FUN FACT!**  
In the book of Genesis, we read that God created Adam first, then from his side, God created Eve!

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