



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

November 30, 2025

First Sunday of **ADVENT**



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WEEKLY CALENDAR:

Tuesday, December 2

4:00 p.m. — Faith Formation Classes—school

Thursday, December 4

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

Saturday, December 6

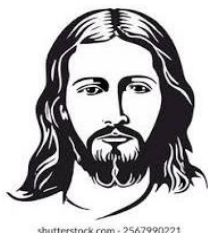
3.30 p.m. —Sacrament of Penance—church

Sunday, December 7

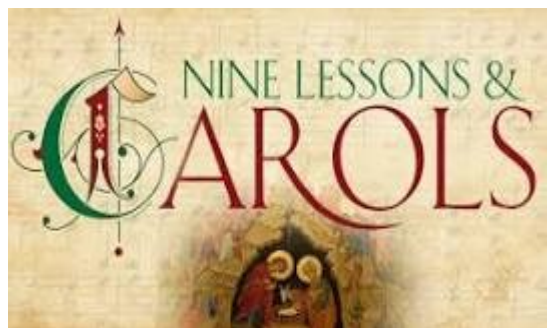
5:00 p.m.—Service of Lessons & Carols, First United Methodist Church, 1034 West Broad Street, Horseheads.

IN THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Suzanne Kordyl
Jon Poteat
Dwight Sands



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SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS:

THE 36TH ANNUAL Advent Service of Lessons & Carols will be held at the **First United Methodist Church** on **Sunday, December 7th at 5:00 p.m.** The church address is 1034 West Broad Street. Once again our choirs and guests from other area churches will be joining together to present a wonderful experience of scripture readings, carols and songs. This service is guaranteed to put your heart and soul into the right place for Christmas. Mark your calendars and plan to spend time reveling in the joy of the Advent/Christmas season.

ADVENT/CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

SERVICE OF LESSONS & CAROLS

SUNDAY, December 7, 2025

5:00 p.m.—First United Methodist Church
1034 West Broad Street

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE:

Saturday: 3:30 p.m.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Monday, December 8, 2025

6:45 a.m.—Mass
9:00 a.m.—Mass
5:30 p.m.—Mass

SAINT MARY OUR MOTHER SCHOOL CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

6:30 p.m. Wednesday, December 17th
9:00 a.m. Thursday, December 18th

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT MASSES

Saturday, December 20

5:00 p.m.— Mass —Fourth Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 21

8:30 a.m.—Mass— Fourth Sunday of Advent
10:30 a.m.—Mass—Fourth Sunday of Advent

CHRISTMAS MASSES

Wednesday, December 24, 2025

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”)

Thursday, December 25, 2025

9:00 a.m.—Christmas Mass

Blessing of Christmas gifts at the Christmas morning Mass.

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

On this first Sunday of Advent Jesus urges His disciples to stay awake and prepare themselves for the Lord's coming. Good stewards prepare themselves and await Christ's judgment in joyous expectation. This attitude requires genuine spiritual maturity, of course; the kind that is cultivated by prayer, participation in the sacraments, loving attention to family and one's communion of faith, and love for one's neighbor. Are we prepared for the Lord's second coming? Are we ready to look joyously for Christ's judgment?

PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE:

An early bulletin deadline because of the Thanksgiving holiday weekend, finds me writing this column on Friday, November 14th, 13 days before the Thanksgiving holiday. One of the liturgies I look forward to each year is the Mass on Thanksgiving Day. It is a wonderful time for many to come together to offer their personal gratitude to God for the many blessings we enjoy. I hope you and your family enjoyed a blessed Thanksgiving!

Advent 2025 has arrived! This season of anticipation arrives with all the natural signs that surround it. The days are darker and shorter, tending to make us quieter and more reflective. We are in the final hours of the Thanksgiving holiday weekend, and it is no secret that Christmas is coming. We have seen the advertisements, outdoor lighting is in place, including the lights of our church's outdoor Advent wreath. Christmas preparations are underway, cards need to be prepared, Christmas cooking and gatherings are in their planning stages. In addition, the Advent scriptures have a tone of their own. No longer is our attention focused on an adult Christ, but we hear of prophecy, anticipation as we begin to read the infancy narratives. Advent is that special time of year when we are invited to step back and remember the reason behind why we do what we do during this season. Advent invites us to avoid the commercialism that surrounds a secular holiday season, but to embrace the season's true meaning, **"God is with us!"**

There are several opportunities during Advent to reflect on that theme **"God is with us."** There are opportunities for prayer, the greatest being the celebration of the Eucharist. For your Advent reading and devotion, we have made available publications of **"The Word Among Us"** as well as **"The Little Blue Book."** **"The Word Among Us"** offers a complete guide for the Advent/Christmas season, including scripture readings, meditations, and Mass texts for each day. **"The Little Blue Book"** provides a brief reflection for each day, including scripture and an historical note, a suggested good work, and concludes each day with the invitation, "Spend some time with the Lord." Later in the season, we will offer three publications from the Dynamic Catholic Publication entitled **"Slowing Down to the Speed of Joy," "The Seven Pillars of Catholic Spirituality,"** and **"The Forgotten Way: The Saint James Master Plan."** All three of these publications have been written by Father Matthew Kelly.

For the fifth consecutive year in lieu of a formal Christmas basket program, our Social Ministry Committee is teaming in a Christmas giving program with the Horseheads Food Pantry. In addition to our weekly collection of food, you are invited to make a monetary donation to the parish, which will be forwarded to the pantry for the purchase of meat for the pantry's Christmas outreach efforts. You are also invited to donate a Christmas ornament for the Christmas trees in the narthex, as well as a book for a young child. Envelopes for your donations

MASSES FOR THE WEEK:

Monday, 6:45 A.M.	December 1—Advent Weekday Faithful Departed
Tuesday, 6:45 A.M.	December 2—Advent Weekday Judy Delgotto—Maureen & John Curtin
Wednesday, 6:45 A.M.	December 3—St. Francis, Xavier Eileen Lynam—Ray Wawrzusin
Thursday, 6:45 A.M.	December 4—Advent Weekday Rick Canali—his wife, Mary
Friday, 6:45 A.M.	December 5—Advent Weekday Dell Dalton—Anita and Jim Osborn
Saturday, 5:00 P.M.	December 6—Advent Weekday John Kordyl—wife, Evie and family
Sunday 8:30 A.M.	December 7—Second Sunday of Advent Josephine & Henry Ryan—Mary and Jim Carr
10:30 A.M.	December 7—Second Sunday of Advent Joy and Joe Amisano—Guy Amisano

Pastor's Perspective continued:

are available on the vestibule table, or you can use an ordinary envelope, marking on the envelop what it is for. All checks should be made payable to St. Mary Our Mother, and all donations need to be received by December 13th-14th.

One of the Advent traditions we have each year is the annual **"Service of Lessons & Carols."** This ecumenical service is an opportunity to gather with our sisters and brothers of other Christian traditions to reflect on the Advent/Christmas season. The **Service of Lessons & Carols** will be held next **Sunday, December 7th, at 5:00 p.m.,** at the First United Methodist Church in Horseheads. This service will feature our Adult Choir, as well as choirs from the various churches throughout our area. If you have never attended this service, I highly encourage you to do so. This is a wonderful opportunity to spiritually prepare for Christmas.

The Advent season offers us a time for quiet waiting, reflective living, and discovering the presence of Christ in our lives. This season invites us to do the ordinary things in life with renewed anticipation that Christ is present and working in our lives. If we make a special effort this Advent season, then Christmas will mean more to us, as we have been brought closer to Christ and to one another.



ST. MARY OUR MOTHER SCHOOL

On Monday, December 8th, our 4th grade students will joyfully lead the school in a special **Immaculate Conception Mass**. This beloved tradition at St. Mary Our Mother School gives our students a unique opportunity to share the story of the birth of Jesus and guide the school community in prayer, reflection, and celebration of our Catholic faith.

During this Mass our 4th graders will also receive their Bibles, a cherished milestone in their faith journey and a symbol of God's Word as a guiding light in their lives. We are grateful for the chance to witness these moments of spiritual growth and for the support of our parish community whose encouragement makes these experiences possible.

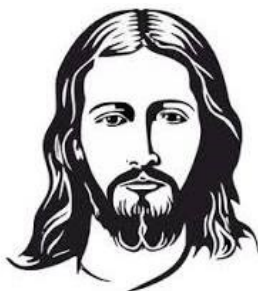
All families and parishioners are warmly invited to join us as we celebrate the Immaculate Conception and honor this special tradition, sharing in the joy, faith, and blessings of our student's journey in Christ.

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



CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL:

As of 11/18/2025, 148 families have contributed \$54,179.00, 55.28% toward our Parish goal of \$98,000.00 to Catholic Ministries Appeal. We thank those who have given generously and ask all who have not given to prayerfully consider doing so. The CMA helps our Church and our parish in many ways. Please consider all the ways that God has blessed you and your family, and how the Church has brought goodness into your lives. Join our appeal and give back what you can so that we remain strong and able to do God's great work.



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NOTRE DAME RETREAT HOUSE:

December 15— Preparing the Way...Single Day in Silence and prayer, Sacrament of Reconciliation and Mass. Hospitality and lunch 8:30 — 3:00 p.m. \$35.00, \$70.00 if you would like a bedroom for the day.

DAY OF RETREAT: "Blessed are they that Hope in the Lord: Advent meditations on the Virtue of Hope" with Deacon Ed Knauf. December 13th, 8:30 a.m.—3:00 p.m. Fee: \$60.00

December 19th —Free Senior luncheons

Register: 585-394-5700 or info@notredameretreat.org

For more information on day and presenter:
www.notredameretreat.org



MINISTERIAL STAFF

Rev. Christopher E. Linsler, Pastor
Rev. Peter T. Singano, in Residence
Miss Lily Barr, Faith Formation Coordinator
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

HANDS OF CHRIST AWARD 2026

The **Hands of Christ** is a recognition instrument to assist parishes in affirming high school seniors who have been the "Hands of Christ" in their church, home, school, and greater community. You are invited to nominate a high school senior from the class of 2026 for the Hands of Christ recognition.

A nominated high school senior must meet the following criteria:

-Consistently demonstrates a Christian attitude by word and example;

-Is actively involved in their parish as well as their school community;

-Is a positive role model for peers and younger children;

-Is a participating member of St. Mary Our Mother.

To nominate a senior, please stop at the parish office for a registration form, complete the registration form, including the nominee's name, address, telephone number, and high school along with examples of the above mentioned criteria. All forms will be reviewed by Father Linsler for approval as pastor.



CHRISTMAS CARING PROGRAM:

As the Christmas season of giving and caring approaches, the Social Ministry committee invites you to participate in our Christmas Caring Program. As in the past years, we will be doing this in partnership with the Horseheads Food Pantry, which supplies food assistance to needy families in Chemung County outside the city of Elmira. This year, as well as in past years, our school children and their families will be assisting us with food collection.

We invite you to participate in this local outreach in one or more of the following ways:

Making a monetary donation so the pantry can supply meat and fresh food for the Christmas meal and the holiday week. Envelopes will be provided for this purpose on the tables near the doors of the church. The special envelopes can then be placed in the regular collection baskets or brought to the parish office.

Increasing our donations of canned and dried food to the vestibule food cart so the pantry clients have healthy and adequate food for the Christmas holidays.

Bringing a Christmas ornament that you offer to a needy family. You would hang the ornament on our Christmas Caring tree in the back of the church. The ornaments will be taken each week to the pantry so the families and children can choose an ornament as a reminder of our care for them.

Purchasing a book for a child (toddler through grade 5). Books should be placed in the bookbag by the wall near the trees or in the bag in the vestibule of the church.

This program will kick off this weekend of November 22-23 when donations envelopes will be available in the vestibule, and the Christmas Caring tree will be standing proudly in the back of the church awaiting your ornaments. The program will conclude the weekend of December 13-14.

In this time when so many families are facing financial insecurity, please join us in spreading joy and showing love and concern for our neighbors in need. We thank you for your consideration.





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