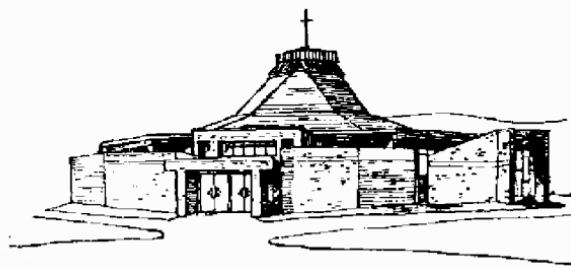




ST. MARY OUR MOTHER CHURCH

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 14, 2025

Third Sunday of **ADVENT**



WEEKLY CALENDAR:**Tuesday, December 16th**

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

Wednesday, December 17th

6:30 p.m. St. Mary Our Mother School Christmas Program—church

Thursday, December 18th

9:00 a.m. — St. Mary Our Mother School Christmas Program—church

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

Saturday, December 20th

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

MEMORIALS:

The Eucharistic Breads or Hosts for the week of Dec. 14—20 have been donated in memory of Josephine & Henry Ryan by Mary & Jim Carr.

The Votive light before the Icon is burning for the week of December 14—20, 2025 in memory of Josephine and Henry Ryan by Mary and Jim Carr

IN THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Susan Carne
Tony Worth

**FOLK GROUP**

An interest in starting up a folk group here at St. Mary Our Mother has been expressed by one of our parishioners who has a background playing bass with a folk group. There would be a need for acoustic guitar players and willing singers in order to create this new ensemble. If you are interested, please call the parish office at 607-739-3817 and leave your name and phone number, or see Cathy Peckham after mass. You will be contacted.

ADVENT/CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE**SACRAMENT OF PENANCE:**

Saturday: 3:30 p.m.

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.



PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE:

Today we arrive at the Third Sunday of Advent, often times referred to as **Gaudete**, or **Rejoice Sunday**. Arriving at this mid-point of Advent reminds us of the two-fold nature of the Advent season as a time of the already experienced and the yet to be experienced of God coming among us. There is still enough time of Advent to rejoice as we continue our preparations for Christmas.

The month of December can be a very busy and hectic time of the year as we find ourselves in the throes of Christmas preparation. This busyness can cause us to lose sight of the spiritual importance of the Advent/Christmas season. Each December, the International Catholic Stewardship Council offers suggestions that can help us to keep Christ in Christmas. You may already find yourself doing some of these suggestions:

Give God a very special gift this year: *Let this gift be something personal that no one else needs to know about, and let it be a sacrifice. Perhaps your gift will be to commit more time with God daily or a habit you know you should give up. Why wait for a New Year's resolution? Start Now!*

Celebrate the Advent season: *Light the Advent wreath candles each evening before dinner. If you have children, let them offer their own prayers to the Christ child for whom we are waiting.*

Read the Christmas story in the Gospel of Luke 1: 5-56 through 2: 1-20: *Consider reading this account with your family and discussing it together.*

Put a creche in your home: *Consider having one set that is "child-proof" which your children are allowed to handle. Children love to make the Nativity story their own, and they especially love angels!*

Plan a project to help someone at Christmas: *Identify someone with a genuine need, involve your whole family and see how happy you can make someone this Christmas. Many of you did this through our parish's Christmas Caring efforts. If you didn't, there is still time. Make sure that your children are involved to make them aware of the needs of our greater community.*

Give a surprise gift of service to each member of your family: *The idea of giving an unexpected gift of service to members of your family reveals your own love and concern for them. You might consider giving your spouse a day away, running an errand for your brother, or cleaning out your closet for your mother. Make it personal and meaningful!*

Continued on page 4

MASSES FOR THE WEEK:

Monday, 6:45 A.M.	December 15—Advent Weekday Suzanne Kordyl—Mom, Jack, Chris, and family
Tuesday, 6:45 A.M.	December 16—Advent Weekday Faithful Departed
Wednesday, 6:45 A.M.	December 17—Advent Weekday Living & deceased Amisano & Lanahan families
Thursday, 6:45 A.M.	December 18—Advent Weekday Faithful departed
Friday, 6:45 A.M.	December 19—Advent Weekday Faithful departed
Saturday, 5:00 P.M.	December 20—Fourth Sunday of Advent Warren Woodard—daughter, Evelyn & family
Sunday, 8:30 A.M. 10:30 A.M.	December 21—Fourth Sunday of Advent Deceased Curtin family Phillip Amisano—his family

GOSPEL MEDITATION -

When I was 11, I was riding my bike on a Friday night in Scottsdale, Arizona. I saw giant spotlights swirling in the sky. Something amazing had to be happening. I pedaled after them with excitement. Sweaty and tired, I arrived, only to find a used car lot. Bright lights, flapping banners, inflatable balloon men swaying wildly in the wind. I stood there, heart sinking. All that spectacle, and all my effort ... for this?

As life proceeds, we learn what it is like to pursue promising but fruitless searches. This week we hear Jesus ask the crowds regarding John the Baptist: "What did you go out to the desert to see? A reed swayed by the wind?" (Matthew 11:7). He's not just describing the crowd's mis-aimed pursuit. He's naming our tendency to chase after what's flashy but flimsy.

What are our swaying reeds? For me, it is endless video reels on my phone, worldly pleasures, entertainment in sports, and the good opinion of others, inflated distractions that bend whichever way the wind blows. But they can't satisfy my soul. What are your flimsy reeds?

John the Baptist wasn't a swaying reed. He was rooted, grounded, unafraid to speak the solid truth. The people went to see him because, deep down, they were starving for something real.

This Advent, the Church asks us to reassess: What are we really looking for? Christ?

PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE continued:

Send Christmas cards and thank you notes that convey a spiritual message: *This is an easy way to share your faith during the Advent season. Don't just sign your name, but include a special message with each card. Set aside time after Christmas to write thank you notes and help your children write thank you notes for the gifts they receive. This is a wonderful habit for a lifetime, and a good way to foster gratitude for all gifts.*

Write a Christmas letter to someone who is away from home for Christmas, someone in the military or someone working or ministering in a foreign land. *It has been said that receiving a letter when you are far away from home is like opening a priceless gift on Christmas morning, no matter what day of the year! Many people are unable to travel home for the holidays, so it can be a very lonely time for them. Write a special Christmas letter to someone of your choice..*

Enjoy an eco-friendly Christmas: *Christmas is a time when a large number of people enjoy excess and extravagance, but the environmental cost can be quite dramatic. Arguably, million miles of nonrecyclable wrapping paper is thrown into the trash each year. Look for simple ways to cut down on the waste over this festive period. Where possible, use recyclable gift wrap.*

And most importantly...

Attend Christmas Mass together with your family. *Make Christmas Mass an important part of your family's Christmas celebration. It is a wonderful way of "keeping Christ in Christmas! If you haven't been to Mass in some-time, Christmas might be a good time to start attending Mass again on a regular basis. You are always welcome! If you are alone this Christmas, or you don't have family near you, invite a friend or neighbor to join us at the Christmas Mass.*

Have a great Third Week Of Advent. Please continue to take care of yourself and each other!

Fr. L

CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL:

As of 11/24/2025, 171 families have contributed \$65,754.00, 67.10% to 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.

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - Facebook, Twitter, and other forms of social media can be powerful tools of communication. They allow people to stay in touch. They provide an avenue for fresh ideas. People can be engaged in conversations and be exposed to issues of the day in ways few could have dreamed of just a few decades ago. But social media can also give the false sense of really knowing someone, when only the surface has been scratched about who a person is in reality. You don't really know someone just because you know a lot about him or her and are linked to a profile online. Unfortunately, people develop emotional attachments to the idea of a person all the time. If they do find themselves fortunate enough to meet the person face-to-face one day, they can often find out they never really knew the person in the first place. There are people who believe they know Jesus so very well. They can readily share their view of what Jesus would do or wouldn't do in a given situation. They own items like crosses and Bibles that seem to provide evidence of this person they know so well. Sometimes, they even strongly admonish others because their view of Jesus is certainly not in line with their own, but in Luke 13, Jesus speaks about those who claim to know him, but they really do not belong to him at all. They make claims based upon what they have seen and heard, but they have never allowed Jesus to truly change them. They are like Facebook followers; seemingly close, but with no real relationship at all.

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

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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
Religious Education Office
 816 West Broad Street (607)-739-8214

ST. MARY OUR MOTHER SCHOOL:

St. Mary Our Mother School warmly invites our parish community to join us for our annual Christmas Program on Wednesday, **December 17th at 6:30 p.m.** This beloved tradition brings together students from **prek 3 through 6th grade**, filling the church with music, joy, and the true spirit of the season.

This year's performance, titled ***Just Believe***, highlights the talents of our **6th grade students**, who take on the lead roles in the production. The remaining grade levels come together as our angelic choir, offering beautiful voices and heartfelt songs that remind us of the wonder and hope of Christmas.

The program is led by our dedicated music teacher, Mrs. Katy Piet, and 6th grade teacher, Mrs. Colleen Meehan, whose creativity and guidance help make this cherished event possible each year. If you are unable to attend the evening performance, we will offer a morning reprise on Thursday, December 18th at 9:00 a.m.

This is a joyful celebration that is sure to lift your spirits, strengthen our sense of community, and prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ. All are welcome!

Peace and Blessings,
Mrs. Heather Bill
Principal, St. Mary our Mother School

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. 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 are 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 kicked off on November 22-23. Donations envelopes are available in the vestibule, and the Christmas Caring tree is standing proudly in the back of the church awaiting your ornaments. The program will conclude this weekend.

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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