



# 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 8, 2019

## ADVENT/CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

### SACRAMENT OF PENANCE

3:30 p.m. - Saturday

### ST. MARY OUR MOTHER SCHOOL CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

7:00 p.m. - Wednesday, December 18th

10:00 a.m. - Thursday, December 19th

### CHRISTMAS MASSES

#### Tuesday, December 24, 2019

3:00 p.m. - Christmas Family Mass

5:00 p.m. - Christmas Vigil Mass

10:30 p.m. - Adult Choir Choral Concert

11:00 p.m. - Christmas Mass during the Night

#### Wednesday, December 25, 2019

9:00 a.m. - Christmas Mass

11:00 a.m. - Christmas Mass

*Blessing of Christmas gifts at each morning Mass*

## 2nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT

What does it mean to be worthy? There are a few different ways to approach this question. Today's Gospel highlights two: the way of the Pharisees and the way of John the Baptist. Our faith values good works and discipleship. Perhaps, then, we "earn" our worth by adhering to the right doctrines and following the right pious practice. The Pharisees thought they were worthy. Due to their religious pedigree and proper procedures, they were self-satisfied. John the Baptist's words to them are strong. *"Do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.'" Of course, Jesus (and John) don't omit the responsibility for moral behavior. John gives the Pharisees quite a strong warning in that regard. "Produce good fruit as evidence of your repentance ... every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire."*

It's a question of attitude. Of disposition. It's a matter of the heart. If anyone would be worthy in this scenario, it's John the Baptist. Jesus himself will name him the greatest of prophets and a great man. John, however, recognizes his own lowly place in the grand scheme of things. *"The one who is coming after me is mightier than I. I am not worthy to carry his sandals."* The Pharisees take pride in being "better" than others. John embraces humility in Christ being "better" than him. We don't self-generate our own worthiness. We receive it as a gift from God.

In a few short weeks, we'll celebrate the birth of Christ. Bishop Ven. Fulton Sheen wrote about the Nativity in his "Life of Christ": "Because [Jesus] was born in a cave, all who wish to see Him must stoop. To stoop is the mark of humility. The proud refuse to stoop and, therefore, they miss divinity." God invites us to prepare our hearts this Advent. When you consider your own life, where are you looking for your worth? This Christmas, are you prepared to stoop?

*Liturgical Publications, Inc.*



**WEEKLY CALENDAR****Monday, December 9**

5:00 PM Mary Queen of Peace - chapel

5:00 PM Finance Council - rectory

**Tuesday, December 10**

3:45 PM Religious Education - school

3:45 PM RCIA - school

7:00 PM Wounded Healers - school

**Thursday, December 12**

2:45 PM Children's Choir - church

**Saturday, December 14**

3:30 PM Sacrament of Penance - church

6:00 PM Youth Group meeting - school

**Sunday, December**

5:00 PM Youth Choir - church

5:00 PM Regional Mass - St. Patrick

6:00 PM Confirmation candidate meeting - school

7:00 PM Adult Choir - church

**MEMORIALS****Advent Candles:***In loving memory of Ann Ponzi - her husband, Phil and family***FLOWER DONATIONS:****Main Altar Arrangement:***In loving memory of Annamae Biancavilla – Tina Morales**In loving memory of our mother, Ann Barcomb – her children***Chapel flowers:***In loving memory of our mother, Ann Barcomb – her children**In memory of Raymond E. Benedict – his wife, Mary Ellen***Blessed Mother – Church:***In loving memory of our mother, Ann Barcomb – her children***Blessed Mother – Chapel:***In loving memory of our mother, Ann Barcomb – her children***ALTAR MEMORIALS**

When Masses are not available for a particular day, Altar Memorials are a special way you can remember those who have died and those intentions you may wish to remember for the living.

Our Altar Memorials are available each week during the year. Donation for the week is as follows:

Sanctuary candle	\$10.00
Icon candle	\$10.00
Sacramental wine	\$15.00
Eucharistic bread (hosts)	\$10.00

**SCRIPTURE READINGS****SUNDAY - December 15, 2019****THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

First Reading: Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10

Second Reading: James 5:7-10

Gospel: Matthew 11:2-11

**IN OUR PARISH****BREAKFAST WITH SANTA**

Today, **December 8th**, our Parish Life Committee will hold a *“Breakfast with Santa”*, following the 8:30 a.m. Mass. Everyone is invited. Bring your family, your wish lists for Santa and your cameras. The breakfast will consist of pancakes, sausage, orange juice, and coffee/tea/milk. The cost of the breakfast is \$5.00 for adults; \$12.00 for families. In keeping with the Advent season and the Christmas spirit, we ask that each person bring a non-perishable food item for our parish Social Ministry Committee's Christmas basket efforts. This has been a wonderful event for our parish in past years, so you won't want to miss it! If you are interested in volunteering to help with *“Breakfast with Santa”*, please contact Wilma Sullivan at 731-8085.

**Christmas Food Baskets**

In anticipation of the needs of families in our area, our Social Ministry Committee is collecting food for the Christmas food baskets. Only **food** items are needed and the following are staple items that we include in each box: peanut butter, jelly, spaghetti sauce/marinara, spaghetti or other pasta, tuna fish or canned meat, canned or dried soup, canned fruit, canned vegetables, cereal, oatmeal, cake mixes, frosting, cookie and muffin mixes, jello or pudding, pancake mix, rice, dried potatoes, stuffing mix, baby food, baby cereal and baby drinks, and hot chocolate mix.

**PLEASE - FOOD ONLY - NO COFFEE OR JUICE, NO PAPER PRODUCTS, CLEANERS OR TOILETRIES ARE NEEDED.**

Your generous donations are appreciated and may be placed in the cart near the front entrance of the church. Shopping lists are located on the table near the food cart to help when purchasing food items at the store.

**Christmas Basket Gift and Turkey Tags**

Christmas trees are up and turkey and gift tags have been placed on the trees by the coordinators. Both turkey and gift tags have a top and bottom tag. Sign your name and phone number on the bottom tag, detach and place it in the box. Take the top tag home and call the coordinator. Take the turkey tag with you when purchasing the turkey. It will be attached to the turkey and placed in the freezer of the store until the date of pickup. Attach the gift tag to the child's gift before placing it under the tree.

*(In Our Parish continued on page 4...)*

**PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE**

We begin the **second week** of the season of Advent. This season always presents us with an invitation and challenge to take some time out of these extremely busy and hectic December days to slow down and to be more aware of the presence of God among us. Years ago, John the Baptist preached this message and encouraged people to listen to his message as he proclaimed and prepared for Jesus' coming. Advent is a season of anticipation and joy that comes from knowing that God is in our midst. This Advent, I encourage you to allow God to comfort you and take away any anxiety you may have that prevents you from fully entering into the joy of this time of year.

Advent is traditionally a time of quiet reflection, prayerful growth, and powerful affirmation. Amidst the hustle and bustle of this time of year, the Church invites you daily to step aside for a while, if only for a few moments. You may find some time to read the Advent scriptures, one of the Advent books provided for you, or just spend some time in the quiet of your own heart. It is in these moments that we can realize how God is present to us, where we can experience the grace that only God can give, a grace that binds us to one another and through the Church to God. See in all the Christmas finery, parties and gathering, the fine clothes and the wrapped gifts, deep signs of acceptance, community, companionship and love. If there is one message that needs to be sent through Advent, it is a message that we are loved unconditionally by our God.

As you journey through this Advent season, take a few moments to think what you do and why you do it during this season. It is to show love, to allow those closest to us to know how important they are and to tell others more by gestures than by word this is a special time of year. It is your chance to remind the important people in your life how important they are. Advent will lead to Christmas, and Christmas reminds us of the special relationship we share with God. This relationship helps us understand that throughout the year, the goodness we share with each other serves as a reminder of the present of God in each of our lives.

Many of you may remember the late **Father Joseph F. Hogan**. Father Hogan served as the pastor of **St. Vincent de Paul Church** in **Corning** from 1964-1983. He also served as the first chaplain at **Notre Dame High School** from 1955-1961. Upon his retirement, Father Hogan came to live at **St. Patrick Church, Elmira**, with the then pastor, **Father Daniel F. Holland** and me. When he was assigned to be the homilist for the weekend Masses during the season of Advent, St. Patrick had four weekend Masses, (all parishes in Chemung County had 4-5 weekend Masses in those days). Father Hogan would include the following poem in his homily. I am not sure of the author, but it is entitled, ***Promise, My Christmas Pledge***:

1. *I promise to make my Christmas a holy day with Christ - not a holy day without Him.*
2. *I promise to observe Christmas as the birthday of Christ - not a day to give and receive just material gifts.*

**MASSES FOR THE WEEK****Monday, December 9 - The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

6:45 AM William Dunn - Spaulding family

**Tuesday, December 10 - Advent Weekday**

6:45 AM Anna Garrison - Mary Suffern

**Wednesday, December 11 - Advent Weekday**

6:45 AM Charles & Doris Dickinson - their family

**Thursday, December 12 - Our Lady of Guadalupe**

6:45 AM Teri Guardi - her family

**Friday, December 13 - St. Lucy, Virgin & Martyr**

6:45 AM Charly Graves - his wife, Jan

**Saturday, December 14 - St. John of the Cross, Priest & Doctor of the Church**

5:00 PM John Santone - Mr. & Mrs. N. Santone

**Sunday, December 16 - Third Sunday of Advent**

8:30 AM Henry & Josephine Ryan - Mary & Jim Carr & family

10:30 AM Gloria Novak - Gloria & John Raplee

5:00 PM Regional Mass - St. Patrick

3. *I promise to remember that the real symbols of Christmas are the Star, the Stable, and the Crib - not Santa and his reindeer.*
4. *I promise to teach my children that "Santa Claus" is the nickname for Saint Nicholas, who gave to the poor, in honor of Christ.*
5. *I promise to help one poor family - in honor of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, the poor and homeless family of Bethlehem.*
6. *I promise to send Christmas cards remindful of Jesus, the infant Savior - not decorated with candy canes, ribbon and wreaths.*
7. *I promise to make room in my home for Christ - with a Christmas Crib - to remind me that He was born in a stable.*
8. *I promise during this season, in a special way, to honor Mary, his mother - who kept the first Christmas vigil beside the manger.*
9. *I promise to begin this day, by leading my family to Church and to God's table - to receive the Bread of Life.*
10. *I promise today and every day to give "Glory to God in the highest" - and to work and pray for "Peace on earth to all of good will".*

Have a blessed second week of Advent. See you in church!

Fr. L.

**IN OUR PARISH CONTINUED....**

**Christmas Basket Dates**

Following are the important dates to keep in mind for our Christmas Basket event:

**Thursday, December 12th** - All gifts must be under the trees.

**Friday, December 13th** - Coordination of gifts under the trees by family number.

**Friday, December 13th, 6:00 p.m.** - Sort food

**Saturday, December 14th, 8:00 a.m.** - Pack food

**Saturday, December 14th, 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.** - Basket pickup (please note this is a change in date and time)

**From the Finance Council**

In addition to donating cash or checks, there are other tax beneficial ways that you can donate to St. Mary Our Mother School or Parish.

**If you are over age 70-1/2 and you have an IRA retirement account**, you may be eligible for a tax benefit called a **Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD)**. This provision in the tax law allows you to make a distribution from your IRA directly to St. Mary Our Mother. Using the QCD option, you can transfer up to \$100,000 per year to charity and exclude the entire distribution from your gross income for tax purposes. In addition, the distribution can be counted toward your annual Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) that must be withdrawn from your account anyway. This is a nice tax benefit that allows you to reduce your taxable income, regardless of whether you are otherwise eligible to deduct charitable contributions on your tax return. To use the QCD election you will just need to sign a form provided by your IRA account custodian.

**In you have appreciated securities, you may be able to save money on capital gains taxes** by donating shares to St. Mary Our Mother. You can transfer a stock, bond, mutual fund or exchange traded fund (ETF) position that has appreciated in value, directly to our investment account. We can sell the position for you and use the proceeds. We do not owe capital gains tax on the sale, since we are a qualified non-profit organization. In addition to avoiding capital gains on selling the position, you may also be able to deduct the value of the security that you donate, as a charitable contribution.

If you hold the appreciated security in a brokerage account, your custodian can provide you with the forms to sign to make the transfer. Please call our parish office for any additional instructions at 607-739-3817.

If you have any questions, or need clarification, please let us know. We will do everything we can to accommodate and make the donation as easy as possible.

Thank you for your gifts and for all your contributions to St. Mary Our Mother!

**REGIONAL EVENTS**

**Christmas Cookie Sale**

St. Charles Borromeo Church, 130 Oakwood Avenue, Elmira Heights will hold a Christmas Cookie Sale on **Wednesday, December 11th** from 4:00 to 5:30 p.m. All the cookies are homemade, including traditional and old world selections; cash sales only. Please use the entrance in the back of the church.

**The Wounded Healers' Bereavement Support Group**

The Wounded Healers' Bereavement Support Group will hold its monthly meeting on **Tuesday, December 10th** from 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at St. Mary Our Mother School. This month's topic is "*Winter Coping*". There is **no charge** for the monthly meetings. For more information, please call 796-2795. All are welcome.

**MINISTERIAL STAFF**

- Rev. Christopher E. Linsler**, Pastor
- Rev. Richard F. Kajiru**, In Residence
- Mrs. Barbara Matterazzo**, Coordinator of Faith Formation
- Mrs. Cathy Peckham**, Director of Music
- Mrs. Jean Yorio**, School Principal
- Mr. Richard O'Lenick**, Business Manager
- Mrs. Elizabeth Berliner**, RCIA Coordinator
- Mrs. Joyce Pirozzolo**, Parish Secretary
- Mrs. Jeanne Carney**, Facilities Coordinator
- Mrs. Maribeth Leipold**, Faith Formation Secretary
- Mrs. Amy Barr**, Faith Formation Associate
- Mrs. Sue Wood**, Bulletin Editor
- Mr. Doug Johnson**, Cemetery Manager
- Mrs. Kim Roemmelt**, School Secretary
- Ms. Jenna Crandall**, 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@stny.rr.com
- 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
- E-mail..... smomfaithformation@gmail.com

### JESSE TREE

Advent is a season of preparation before Christmas. The word Advent means "coming" and refers to the coming of Jesus. The season emphasizes a three fold coming, the coming in the flesh at Bethlehem, in grace through word and sacrament, and in glory on the day of judgment.

Many people go to great lengths to prepare for Christmas, yet fail to appreciate the true meaning of Advent. Advent, when properly observed, helps you realize more fully the coming of Christ and its meaning for you.

Advent begins four Sundays before Christmas and lasts until Christmas Eve. The lessons read in church each Sunday of the season picture some of the people and events that are significant in the heritage of Jesus.

The Jesse tree has the same purpose, but it expands it by presenting an appropriate story in picture for each day of the season. The Jesse tree is a small tree decorated with symbols portraying the spiritual heritage of Jesus. It is a kind of family tree that was suggested by Isaiah's prophet: "a shoot shall come out of the stump of Jesse" (Isaiah 11:1).

Our Jesse tree is located in the seasonal shrine. Each day a different symbol of Jesus' heritage will be placed on the tree. We welcome you to step into the shrine and turn over the corresponding scripture for the second week.

2nd Sunday in Advent, Symbol of Prophecy,  
Isaiah 9:2-7

Monday, Joseph and his Coat, Genesis 37:1-36

Tuesday, Moses and the Law, Exodus 20:1-17

Wednesday, The Blessing of Aaron, Numbers  
6:22-27

Thursday, Samuel and the Word of the Lord, 1  
Samuel 3: 1-21

Friday, David, 1 Samuel 16:14-23

Saturday, Symbol of Shepherds, Psalm 23



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