



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 15, 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



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Who did you come to see? A version of this question is posed by Jesus many times in the Gospels. He asks it of Andrew and John when they begin to follow him. He asks it of Mary Magdalene in the garden of the resurrection. He asks it in today's Gospel. "*What did you go out to the desert to see?*" There is something innately human about "seeing." Animals have eyes — some with much more powerful vision than our own — but that's not the kind of seeing Jesus is talking about. We could phrase the question several other ways. "What are you looking for?" "What are you longing for?" "Whom do you seek?"

It is in seeing for ourselves that our suspicions or hypotheses are confirmed, that our desires discover their fulfillment, and that we can rest for a moment in certainty. John the Baptist sought certainty of Jesus' identity. "*Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?*" Jesus sends word to him based on the testimony of sight, observations of the mighty deeds Jesus has begun to work. "*Go and tell John what you hear and see.*"

God recognizes our desire to *see*. In the Incarnation, the Word is made flesh. The invisible is made visible. The supernatural is made manifest in an infant who can do little more than the most natural of movements as he feeds, cries, sleeps. We don't need to wait for Christmas to see God. The work of God is all around us. Those blinded by sin "*regain their sight.*" People overcome backgrounds of poverty and violence to make world-changing contributions. Addicts grow and heal. Truth is spoken, and people listen. Let's pray for the grace to see God's movement in our lives this week. How have you seen the work of God?

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WEEKLY CALENDAR**Monday, December 16**

5:00 PM Mary Queen of Peace - chapel

7:00 PM Knights of Columbus - school

Tuesday, December 17

3:45 PM Religious Education - school

3:45 PM RCIA - school

Wednesday, December 18

7:00 PM Christmas Program - church

Thursday, December 19

10:00 AM Christmas Program - church

2:45 PM Children's Choir - church

Friday, December 20

9:30 AM Ladies Prayer group - rectory

Saturday, December 21

3:30 PM Sacrament of Penance - church

Sunday, December 22

5:00 PM Youth Choir - church

5:00 PM Regional Mass - St. Patrick

7:00 PM Adult Choir - church

IN THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Jacqueline Andrade

James Danaher

Annie Friel

Florence Gustin

Sally Santulli

MEMORIALS**Advent Candles:***In loving memory of Ann Ponzi - her husband, Phil & family***Sanctuary Candle:***In loving memory of Henry & Josephine Ryan - Mary & Jim Carr and family***FLOWER DONATIONS:****Main Altar Arrangement:***In loving memory of parents, Mary and Danny Jenkins - Gail M. Lampman**In thanksgiving - King and Teresa Fitzpatrick***Chapel flowers:***(2) In memory of our son, Phillip - Richard and Maryanne Amisano***Blessed Mother - Church:***In memory of John and Jean Brazell - Judy Hambruch***Blessed Mother - Chapel:***For the deceased members of our family - Bill and Pam Kiefer***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 22, 2019****FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

First Reading: Isaiah 7:10-14

Second Reading: Romans 1:1-7

Gospel: Matthew 1:18-24

IN OUR PARISH**2020 E\$cape**

Have you started decking the halls? Looking for fun gift ideas? Give the gift of a fun night out and show your support for St. Mary Our Mother School and consider purchasing event tickets to the annual 2020 E\$cape: Big Money Raffle & Trivia by Torgo! 2020 E\$cape will be held on **Saturday, February 8th** at the Holiday Inn Riverview in Elmira. Doors open at 6 p.m. Enjoy dinner by Anthony's Restaurant, trivia by Torgo, an exciting live auction, a fantastic St. Mary Our Mother School art auction (featuring hand-made art by our students) and Mega Madness Raffle. Would you rather give the gift of "chance"? Consider purchasing one of our Big Money Raffle tickets. Dinner/trivia tickets are \$25.00 each or \$40 per pair and Big Money Raffle tickets are \$100.00 each.. The Big Money Raffle will be drawn at 10:00 p.m. All proceeds from the event will benefit St. Mary Our Mother School.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS**Children's Liturgy of the Word**

Children's Liturgy of the Word is provided for all children in grades pre-k through 5th grade most Sundays at 10:30 a.m. Mass, from mid-September to mid-June.

There is no charge for this program and no registration is required. Children's Liturgy of the Word is ritual centered on the proclamation and breaking open of the Sunday scriptures. The children do what the rest of the community is doing only it is more appropriate to their level of understanding. Because it is a liturgical celebration, all the principles of liturgy (active participation, clear symbols, etc.) apply.

We also provide a weekly pamphlet, "*Explaining God's Word*," a take home resource that includes a reflection on the weekly Gospel, activities to enhance understanding, as well as a family page to help you in your efforts in teaching your child.

If your child is hesitant to participate and you wish to accompany them until they are comfortable attending, we invite you to do so. The children rejoin the assembly for the Liturgy Celebration of the Eucharist.

We invite adults to consider volunteering in this ministry. It is a minimal commitment and training is provided. We are also looking for some committed students, 6th grade and up, to join our team as assistants for the adult liturgists. Teens help lead the children into the school and assure they are all returned to their parents after the program as well as help meet the needs of the children while in the care of adults liturgists. All liturgists are CASE (Creating a Safe Environment) trained. For more information or questions, please contact the Faith Formation Office at 739-8214 or email smomfaithformation@gmail.com.

PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

Today we arrive at the **Third Sunday of Advent**, oftentimes referred to as **Gaudete**, or "**Rejoice Sunday**". Arriving at this mid-point of the Advent season serves as a reminder of the two-fold nature of Advent as a season of the already experienced and the yet to be experienced of God coming among us. This year, though Advent encompasses only about three and a half weeks, there is still enough Advent time to rejoice and prepare to celebrate the birth of Christ at Christmas.

The month of December can be a very busy and hectic time of year, finding many of us in the throes of Christmas preparation. Such busyness can cause us to lose sight of the profound spiritual importance of the Advent Christmas season. Recently, the International Catholic Stewardship Council offered some insights for us to help keep Christ in Christmas. You may find that you are already doing some of the following suggestions:

Give God a very special gift this year: *Let His 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. Perhaps there is a habit you know you should give up. Why wait for a New Year's resolution? Start now.*

Celebrate the season of Advent: *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.*

Set aside some special time to read the Christmas story in the gospel of St. Luke 1:5-56 through 2:1-20: *Consider reading this account with your family and discussing it together.*

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

Plan a project to help someone this Christmas: *Identify someone with a genuine need, involve your whole family and see how happy you can make someone this Christmas*

Take a group Christmas caroling to a nursing home or hospital: *Get people together. Make it festive. Bring the gifts of your joyful smiles and voices to those who need these gifts.*

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 a closet for your mother. Make it personal and meaningful.*

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! Include a personal message with each card. Set aside some time after Christmas day to write thank you notes and help your children to 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.*

MASSES FOR THE WEEK**Monday, December 16 - Advent weekday**

6:45 AM Donna Mathew - husband, Bob

Tuesday, December 17 - Late Advent Weekday

6:45 AM Deceased members of the Mills family - family

Wednesday, December 18 - Late Advent Weekday

6:45 AM Jenny Joy - husband, Roger

Thursday, December 19 - Late Advent Weekday

6:45 AM Special intention of the 6:45 a.m. Mass family

Friday, December 20 - Late Advent Weekday

6:45 AM Phillip Amisano - Mom & Dad and family

Saturday, December 21 - Late Advent Weekday

5:00 PM Jim LeMark - Ann & family

Sunday, December 22 - Fourth Sunday of Advent

8:30 AM Teri Guardi - her family

10:30 AM Eddie Jadoski - his loving family

5:00 PM Regional Mass - St.Patrick

Write a Christmas letter to someone far away such as someone in the military, or perhaps someone working or ministering in a foreign country: *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.*

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 don't already do so, perhaps you could start a new family tradition of attending Mass each Sunday together as a family. If you are alone this Christmas or don't have family near you, invite a friend or neighbor to join you for Christmas Mass.*

Have a great Advent week. See you in church!

Fr. L.

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REFLECTION

“This is the one about whom it is written: Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare your way before you.

Amen, I say to you, among those born of women there has been none greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.” - Mt 11:10-11

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

REGIONAL EVENTS

March for Life

Speak out for life!! Plan now to travel with us to Washington, DC on **January 24, 2020**. The cost is \$60.00. Scholarships are available, so don’t let cost prevent your attendance. Adults and school age children are welcome. Call now, don’t miss a memorable experience of faith and democracy in action. Call Steve at 739-9282 for information or to reserve your seat.

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 in 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 third week.

- 3rd Sunday in Advent, The Wisdom of Solomon, 1Kings 3: 3-28
- Monday, Elijah and the Raven, 1 Kings 17:1-16
- Tuesday, Elisha and Healing, 2 Kings 5:1-27
- Wednesday, Isaiah, Isaiah 6:1-8
- Thursday, Jeremiah 31:31-34
- Friday, Nehemiah the Builder, Nehemiah 13:10-22
- Saturday, Angels, Hebrews 1:1-14



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