



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 5, 2020



EPIPHANY

WEEKLY CALENDAR**Monday, January 6**

5:00 PM Mary Queen of Peace - chapel
 5:00 PM Parish Life committee - rectory
 5:30 PM Stewardship committee meeting - rectory
 7:00 PM Knights of Columbus - school

Tuesday, January 7

3:45 PM Religious Education - school
 3:45 PM RCIA - school
 6:30 PM Social Ministry committee - rectory

Wednesday, January 8

5:30 PM Parish Pastoral Council - rectory

Thursday, January 9

2:45 PM Children's Choir - church
 6:30 PM Parent Association meeting - school

Saturday, January 11

3:30 PM Sacrament of Penance - church

Sunday, January 12

5:00 PM Youth Choir - church
 5:00 PM Regional Mass - St. Peter & Paul
 6:00 PM Confirmation candidate meeting - school
 6:00 PM RCIA - school
 7:00 PM Adult Choir - church

IN THE PEACE OF CHRIST

M. Joseph Danaher Dolores (Dee) DeMott
 Sharon Hakes-Shaver Dorothy Hughes
 Nancy Mulliner Gerald . Vasicek

MEMORIALS**Sanctuary Candle:**

In memory of Tom Keagle - a friend

FLOWER DONATIONS:**Chapel Candle Flowers:**

*In memory of my husband, Hugh - Sandra Hunt
 Happy New Year & thank you for the new year, God,
 Jesus, Holy Mother, St. Joseph & all family members -
 Suann Maio*

Blessed Mother – Church:

In memory of past Knights of Columbus - Dale Stanton

Blessed Mother – Chapel:

In memory of Raymond E. Benedict - wife, Mary Ellen

FLOWER SIGN UPS

Thank you for your many flower donations. There are new forms posted on the bulletin board for upcoming weeks. Please consider a flower donation to commemorate special events in your life.

SCRIPTURE READINGS**SUNDAY - January 12, 2020****THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD**

First Reading: Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7
 Second Reading: Act of the Apostles 10:34-38
 Gospel: Matthew 3:13-17

IN OUR PARISH**Parish Calendars**

The parish of St. Mary Our Mother is sincerely grateful to the Lynch Funeral Home for their donation of our 2020 parish calendars. Thank you!

Oplatki

Oplatki (Christmas wafers) are available on the table across from the church bulletin board. A free will offering is appreciated.

2020 E\$cape

Back by popular demand, St. Mary Our Mother School's 2020 E\$cape: Big Money Raffle & Trivia by Torgo Entertainment will be held on **Saturday, February 8th**. This event will be held at the Holiday Inn Riverview, Elmira; doors open at 6:00 p.m. Tickets are \$40.00/pair or \$25.00/single and includes dinner by Anthony's Restaurant and trivia. We encourage you to gather your friends to fill a table of eight!

Unable to attend and still want to support the event? Purchase a **Big Money Progressive Raffle Ticket** for \$100.00. Only 400 tickets will be sold. Tickets may be purchased in the school office between 8:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.. Also, during the month of January, parents will be selling tickets after all weekend Masses. If we reach our goal of 350 raffle ticket sales, the top payout will be \$10,000! A total of 4 monetary prizes will be awarded. Ticket purchasers need not be present to win. For additional information, please contact the school office at 607-739-9157. All proceeds from the event benefit St. Mary Our Mother School.

Mass Intentions

Any one of our regularly scheduled Masses may be offered for a specific intention - in memory of a deceased person, for a sick person's recovery, a special birthday, a special anniversary or other occasion.

Please call the parish office at 739-3817 to request your Mass.

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

(In Our Parish continued on Page 4, column 1...)

PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

The Christmas and New Year holidays for 2019 are now history! As a church and as a society, we spend so much time preparing for the major holidays and they pass ever so quickly! In a few days, we will begin packing Christmas decorations away for yet another year. The Christmas holidays are always special, and not one holiday goes by without each of us writing a new memory. Think for a moment - what was your favorite Christmas remembrance this year? If we try to remember everything, we will remember very little. When we focus on one event or incident, that moment becomes special and we wrap it in memory.

As a parish, we are grateful for so much! The numbers of people who filled our church for our Christmas Masses tells us that the faith is still alive and there are many, many people who share with us the belief that at one moment in time heaven and earth became one. The excitement of children, especially at the 3:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Family Mass, was a blessing to all. Many of the children were in constant motion, expecting Santa overnight, happy to be with family and friends, and dressed up in their Christmas finery. It was wonderful to share exciting moments with them. I also found it very touching to see the number of people who quietly knelt at the Christmas Crib after Mass, simply looking at each of the figures at the crèche and quietly praying. More than once, I thought that this is the real meaning of this day and was so glad that people took the time to remember this fact.

Another blessing that was so evident during the Advent/Christmas season was our parish Christmas basket and food program. At last count, our parish sponsored over 200 families this Christmas, a few more families from 2018. It was an edifying sight to see so many of our parishioners from all age ranges, taking a tag from the Christmas Giving trees, purchasing gifts, and bringing food each week for the Christmas baskets. Many gathered Friday evening to sort the food, and again on Saturday morning as the Christmas baskets were packed for pick up later Saturday afternoon and Sunday. By Sunday afternoon, all the baskets had been picked up or were on their way to their grateful recipients. While it is impossible to measure the generosity of those who were part of our Christmas basket program, the ranks of those who took part in this effort ranged from school age children to those of senior vintage. Thank you to the members of our **Social Ministry Committee** for yet another excellent job in coordinating this important annual parish outreach effort. Thank you one and all!

I also wish to take a moment to thank all who contributed to the beauty and solemnity of our Christmas liturgies. Thanks to our liturgical ministers for their generous ministry during Christmas. When we think of the term 'liturgical minister', we often think of our lectors, extraordinary ministers of the Eucharist, and acolytes. Another important ministry that is oftentimes overlooked is that of our ushers/greeters. Many of our regular parishioners, as well as our visitors are high in their commendation of our ushers and greeters. Very often, they are the first ones to greet people with a smile and a word of welcome when they come in the door. They are the ones who "set-the-stage" for people coming to Mass. I dare to think of the chaos that would reign, especially during our crowded Christmas Masses, if it were not for our usher's and greeter's hospitality expertise. I also wish to thank those who work quietly behind the scenes, those who serve as sacristans and all who helped decorate our church.

What would the Christmas season be without good Christmas music? I would like to thank the members of our Adult Choir, Youth Choir, Children's Choir, adult and youth instrumentalists, who spend countless hours rehearsing, and those rehearsals produced wonderful results. The dedicated spirit of those in our music ministry, including those of our Resurrection Choir who offer their music ministry at funerals,

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

Monday, January 6 - Christmas Weekday

6:45 AM Carol Wawrzusin - husband, Ray

Tuesday, January 7 - Christmas Weekday

6:45 AM Toni Haner - Ginny Pansero

Wednesday, January 8 - Christmas Weekday

6:45 AM Bridget Tierno - Chuck & Joan, Ann & George

10:00 AM (Maple Creek) Special Intention

Thursday, January 9 - Christmas Weekday

6:45 AM Stephanie Hartsock - Sue & David Giancoli

Friday, January 10 - Christmas Weekday

6:45 AM Jon McGinnis - Colleen & John Rich & family

Saturday, January 11 - Christmas Weekday

5:00 PM John Raplee, Jr. - Mom, Dad & Ryan

Sunday, January 12 - Baptism of the Lord

8:30 AM Claire Navone Pitts - her family

10:30 AM Angeline DiLaura - Mary, Queen of Peace Prayer Group

5:00 PM Regional Mass - Ss. Peter & Paul

help us lift our prayers to God. I wish to thank our music director, Cathy Peckham, for her commitment to excellence in our music ministry program.

A new year and decade is upon us. For some, 2019 was a very good year; for others, the year was challenging and difficult. We continue to remember those people throughout our world who continue to be the innocent victims of violence, terrorism, domestic and sexual abuse. It is providential that we cannot re-live or re-visit the past. Time moves on, and 2020 will have its challenges as well. We enter a new year as people of faith and fortitude, people who can dream and create, people who have God walking with us. We enter 2020 confident that God works through people and events in our lives. Our lives hold great potential.

As we celebrate the **Epiphany of the Lord** today, we are asked to keep the light of our faith burning brightly. We are reminded that Christ came to redeem all humanity and to work through all people. We rejoice today that even in the dark days of winter and in the face of any challenges we experience, the lights of Christmas continue to burn strongly. The Church, though imperfect, at times very fractured and struggling, continues to live on in and through us.

May many blessings come to you and your family during 2020. Happy New Year!

Fr. L.

REGIONAL EVENTS

March for Life

It's not too late! Travel by bus to Washington, DC for the **January 18th** March For Life. Cost is \$60.00; scholarships are available. School kids, 4th grade and up to adults are welcome. Don't miss it. Call Steve at 739-9282 for further information or to reserve your seat, or to sponsor a rider.

REGIONAL EVENTS

The Wounded Healers' Bereavement Support Group

The Wounded Healers' Bereavement Support Group will hold its Annual Memorial Service on **Tuesday, January 14, 2020** from 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at St. Mary Our Mother School. Please feel free to bring pictures of your loved ones to this service. There is **no charge** for the monthly meetings. For more information, please call 796-2795. All are welcome.

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 adult 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.

PRAYER FOR EPIPHANY

Dear Jesus,
though a newborn, the wise men
knew your greatness.
On a hint from the heavens,
they traveled far from their places of comfort
so that they could honor you.
From their belief in your divinity,
they gave amazing gifts,
offerings that symbolized
your life, power, and even your death.
And because of a dream in the night,
they altered their well-laid plans to return home
in order to protect you.
May we be so willing to honor, sacrifice, and obey,
all for love of you,
as we meditate on the meaning of this day.

Amen.

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

EVERY DAY STEWARDSHIP
Recognize God in Your Ordinary Moments

*God's glory, now, is kindled gentler
than candlelight
under the rafters of a barn: Eternal Peace
is sleeping in the hay,
And Wisdom's born in secret
in a straw-roofed stable.**

When I was younger, I wrote music to and recorded Thomas Merton's poem, "Epiphany Carol." If you have never read it, search it out on the internet. Merton's words are profound and paint a picture of the awesomeness of Jesus, the newborn King of Kings, lying in a simple straw bed. The shepherds and Wise Men are drawn to pay homage to the One who has been born above all others and brings with him hope for a broken world.

As Merton correctly points out, the gifts we are called to bring to this baby and lay at his feet are our prayers and penances, next to those gifts of worldly wealth. What is it that you have to bring to the stable on this feast of the Epiphany of the Lord? Unless those prayers and penances lead to a new way of living, our gifts will be void of meaning. What we lay before him speaks to the change in us that he has given to us by his birth.

Our daily stewardship is resembled in those gifts. If we are to truly echo the kingdom of God in our lives and actions, what we ultimately offer to him is no less than our entire selves. This baby will give his entire self for us, and his work must continue through our hands and feet.

*While we unnumbered children of
the wicked centuries
Come after with our penances and prayers,
And lay them down in
the sweet-smelling hay
Beside the wise men's golden jars.**

**Excerpts from "Epiphany Carol" by Thomas Merton*

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS
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