



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

February 16, 2020

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

People are not property. We cannot exchange them at will or simply use them for our own designs and purposes. What does the word “commitment” mean to you? We can begin to understand its meaning by looking at some synonyms: dedication, devotion, allegiance, loyalty, faithfulness, fidelity, and bond. Commitment is primarily about relationship, and Jesus is all about relationships. How our lives affect others, how we treat our brothers and sisters, how we resolve conflict, and how we view the vows of marriage. Jesus’ teachings on obeying the commandments, murder, reconciliation, marriage, divorce, and adultery all stem from the sacredness of commitment. All of this has a God connection.

We can easily see one another as interchangeable and dispensable. We treat so much of our lives this way. What works today may not be what I want tomorrow. We search and search for the right thing only to find our hearts still restless in the end. Is real happiness achievable this side of the grave? Sometimes we expect too much out of others and want our relationships to fill a hole that we must figure out how to fill ourselves. Any seasoned married couple will tell you that their love for one another changes as time passes. Even though the understanding of romance changes as life changes, the dedication, devotion, allegiance, loyalty, faithfulness, and fidelity all remain and even deepen.

Some relationships can be hurtful, and God does not want us to live with abuse or pain. Also, how a relationship develops is sometimes out of our control, and we become the victim of someone else’s decision. But we can’t be self-focused in our relationships and see them exclusively as self-fulfilling ends. We are companions on life’s journey with varying depths of relationships being enjoyed by all who are with us along the way. We have the freedom to choose. God asks us to do so wisely, with right judgment and thinking.

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COMMUNION PROCEDURES

According to statistics from the National Center for Disease Control, New York State is one state which has experienced an increase in the number of reported cases of the flu. Therefore, we will suspend offering Communion from the cup until further notice. Thank you for your understanding in this matter.

ST. MARY OUR MOTHER SCHOOL REGISTRATION

St. Mary Our Mother School is accepting student registrations for grades pre-k 3 through grade six. Openings will be filled on a first-come, first-serve basis. Parents or guardians who are new to St. Mary Our Mother School will need: student’s birth certificate, baptismal certificate, immunization records and a completed parish commitment form for members of the parish. The non-refundable registration fee is \$150 per family. Both before and after school care are available. For further information, call St. Mary Our Mother School at 739-9157.

REFLECTION

Again you have heard that it was said to your ancestors, “Do not take a false oath, but make good to the Lord all that you vow.” But I say to you, do not swear at all. Let your ‘Yes’ mean ‘Yes’ and your ‘No’ mean ‘No’.”

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PARISH OFFICES CLOSED

The Parish offices will be closed on **Monday, February 17th** in observance of the Presidents Holiday Weekend. The offices will open on **Tuesday, February 18th** at **9:00 a.m.**

WEEKLY CALENDAR**Monday, February 17**

5:00 PM Mary Queen of Peace - chapel

7:00 PM Knights of Columbus - school

Thursday, February 20

2:45 PM Children's Choir - church

Friday, February 21

9:30 AM Prayer group - rectory

Saturday, February 22

3:30 PM Sacrament of Penance - church

Sunday, February 23

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

Tracie Baravalle

Lois Chorney

Mary Catherine Keagle

Mary Helen Keating

Madelyn Nalbach

James Stewart

MEMORIALS**Sanctuary Candle:***In memory of Tina Fae` - Franca & George Lazzaris***Eucharistic Hosts:***In loving memory of Florence Stuck - nephews, Alan & Sheldon***Sacramental Wine:***In memory of Henry & Josephine Ryan - Mary & Jim Carr***FLOWER DONATIONS:****Main Altar Arrangement:***In memory of parents William and Antoinette Haner –**Anne Haner-Uncapher**In memory of my brother Edward D. Gustina – Ann**Brouse***Chapel Candle Arrangements:***In thanksgiving for many blessings – Bill and Patti**Rosettie**In loving memory of Dad and Papa, Al Mallette, Jr. –**Linda Gardner and family***Blessed Mother – Church:***In thanks for our family's many blessings this year – Tyler and Ellen Kent***Blessed Mother – Chapel:***Thank you, God for health, happiness and abundant faith in You – Suann Maio***SCRIPTURE READINGS****SUNDAY - February 23 2020****SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

First Reading: Leviticus 19:1-2, 17-18

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 3:16-23

Gospel: Matthew 5:38-48

IN OUR PARISH**Lenten Soup Supper**

Our Parish Life committee will host a Lenten Soup Supper immediately following the 5:30 p.m. Ash Wednesday Mass on February 26th. The committee is in need of volunteers to donate a crock pot of any type of vegetarian soup for the supper; and please share a copy of your recipe. The soup can be delivered either to the parish office on the 26th or to O'Brien Hall before the supper. For further information, please call Wilma Sullivan at 731-8085.

Children's Liturgy of the Word

Children's Liturgy of the Word is provided for all children in grade Pre K-4 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 to teach your child about our faith.

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.

For further information or questions please contact the Faith Formation Office at 739-8214 or email at smomfaithformation@gmail.com.

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

PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

On Sunday, January 26th, the entire world was shocked to learn of the tragic news of the passing of **Kobe Bryant**, his daughter, **Gianna**, and seven others in a helicopter crash in Calabasas, California. A few days after the accident, I found the following article written on January 29th by Jeanne Leonardi about Kobe Bryant, which I would like to share with you.

GOD'S HALL OF FAME

On January 26th, Kobe Bryant, considered one of the greatest basketball players of all time, died in a helicopter crash, along with his daughter Gianna and seven others. Everyone was saddened to hear of his passing and are curious to know more about who this man really was.

While most of his fans know all about his record breaking stats, not many people know about the role his Catholic faith played in helping him deal with challenging people in his life. He was a husband and a father of four. Bryant was at the top of his game and everything seemed to be going well for him.

Bryant said it was a priest who helped him to make some personal realizations during the darkest moments of his life. Describing his fear of being sent to jail for a crime he didn't commit, he said, "the one thing that really helped me during that time was talking to that priest." Bryant also had connected his Catholic faith to a family commitment to help the poor through the Kobe and Vanessa Bryant Foundation. The focus is on helping homeless young people in need. Asked about his commitment, his answer would have pleased Pope Francis.

"At the end of my career, I don't want to look back and say, well, I had a successful career because I won so many championships and scored so many points. There's something else you have to do with that. It's easy to point the blame at those who are homeless and say, 'well, you made a bad decision. It's your fault.' In life we all make mistakes and to stand back and wash your hands of it...that's not right."

Bryant realized that fame and fortune were nothing compared to the importance of faith and family. He had his priorities right. God came first. He received Communion before he got on that plane last Sunday. Shortly after Kobe won the greatest award of all...his name is now inscribed in God's Hall of Fame.

Have a great week, and enjoy the Presidents' Holiday weekend. See you in church!

Fr. L.

MASSES FOR THE WEEK**Monday, February 17 - Weekday**

6:45 AM Jennie Joy - husband, Roger

Tuesday, February 18 - Weekday

6:45 AM Sharon Levanduski - Stephen & JoAnn Cowulich

Wednesday, February 19 - Weekday

6:45 AM Louis Tarantelli - Leipold family

Thursday, February 20 - Weekday

6:45 AM For the Faithful Departed

Friday, February 21 - Weekday

6:45 AM Pablo & Elisea Atienza - Macapinlac family

Saturday, February 22 - The Chair of St. Peter

5:00 PM Betty & Hank Margeit - their children

Sunday, February 23 - Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:30 AM Lillian Henry - Barbara Mann & Bernie

10:30 AM Eleanor Curbeau - Donna & Carl Hammond

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

EVERY DAY STEWARDSHIP

One day, my son was explaining to his mother that he felt she had lied to him. It was nothing very important, but he wanted to take this opportunity to share how important telling the truth is to him. He explained that he simply tells it like it is in all aspects of his life. But an hour later, we caught him in a lie! Again, it was not about a matter of life and death, but it was a lie. When confronted with his own previous words on how important telling the truth was to him, he just smiled. Yes, the guilty often have no words of defense.

Jesus said it best in Matthew 5: "Let your 'yes' mean 'yes' and your 'no' mean 'no.'" He was warning his disciples about false oaths and then instructing them on the fullness of the Hebrew laws. We may try to do what we say and say what we mean, but it can be all too easy to fall short. We call ourselves disciples yet provide evidence to the contrary by our actions (or lack of them).

Even if we feel that we have lied to no one, we may have lied to ourselves. We portray ourselves as generous, thankful, and loving people, yet fail to answer God's call in a situation because we perceive the cost to be too great. Jesus did not simply mean for his message to be about two words. He also meant that when you say you are a disciple, make sure you are a disciple as well.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS
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**IN OUR PARISH CONTINUED...
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.

REGIONAL EVENTS

40 Days for Life

Do you think you can do more to end the scourge of abortion? One of the most proven, effective means to decrease abortion is 40 Days for Life. Since its inception, over 16,700 babies have been saved from abortion! Take part in the "40 Days for Life" Rochester Campaign from **February 26th** through **April 5th**. Through prayer and fasting embrace human life and promote the end of abortion. Volunteer to pray with your friends, in a peaceful vigil, outside of Planned Parenthood at 114 University Avenue. For info visit www.40daysforlife.com/Rochester or to sign up for prayer vigil times. For further information, contact Rick Paoletti at 585-489-9555 or Roc40DFL@gmail.com.

Help Maintain the Ban on Surrogacy

Governor Andrew Cuomo has included language in his state budget proposal to repeal New York's current ban on surrogate motherhood for profit. He is committed to undoing the ban, which was signed into law by his father (the late former governor Mario Cuomo). His budget language would enable the buying and selling of children and the exploitation of women for their eggs and wombs.

Please urge your elected officials to remove this language from the budget and to oppose any other legislation to legalize commercial surrogacy.

Governor Cuomo (518-474-8390)
Senator Tom O'Mara (735-9671)
Chris Friend (301-0302)
Or online at www.nyscatholic.org

Caring for God's Creation

A few ideas to help us care for each other and our common home - the earth:

- ~ Bring your own container for leftovers when You eat out.
- ~ Use back and front of paper and when completely filled, recycle it.
- ~ Take a reusable bag every time you shop.

HUD-Approved Financial Fitness Counseling Services

Call Catholic Charities at 734-9784, ext. 2127 to schedule an appointment for free, confidential financial fitness counseling services. Catholic Charities housing counselor will help you assess your income and spending patterns, explore financial goals, set new priorities, and establish savings.

HUD-Approved Mortgage Foreclosure Prevention Services

Call Catholic Charities at 734-9784, ext. 2132 to schedule an appointment for free, confidential mortgage foreclosure prevention counseling services. A HUD-certified housing counselor will help you explore the alternatives to foreclosure to avoid the lost of your home.

Horseheads Food Pantry

Non-perishable food and grocery items are being collected for the Horseheads Food Pantry this month. The Horseheads Food Pantry is in need of all food items and especially asks for broth or gravy for the month of February. For your convenience, please place all donations in the cart located across from the bulletin board. Thank you for your generosity!

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

REGIONAL EVENTS CONTINUED...

Funding for Energy Efficiency and Critical Capital Needs in Catholic Schools

Next to salary and benefits for personnel, the costs for energy and facility maintenance/repair are among the largest portions of school budgets. But unlike public school counterparts, religious and independent schools do not receive state building aid, nor do they have the authority to levy taxes or issue bonds to finance energy efficiency or other important capital projects. Although energy-saving improvements can pay for themselves over time, the up-front costs are often out of reach for cash-strapped schools. Maintaining Catholic Schools is not only good for the students and their families, it saves taxpayers the cost of educating those students.

The Diocese of Rochester with the NYS Catholic Conference urges a \$200 million appropriation in the next state budget for critical projects at religious and independent schools and an energy efficient grant/loan program (\$75 million) to provide seed money for energy efficiency projects. Those schools utilizing the loan fund would repay the grants with the savings they achieve in energy efficiency.

This initiative is consistent with the Diocese of Rochester's action/advocacy to respond to the call of Pope Francis in his encyclical, *Laudata Si: On Care For Our Common Home*, and is consistent with the New York State renewable energy and conservation goals to address climate change.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

Diocesan Creating a Safe Environment Newsletter

The winter 2020 quarterly diocesan CaSE newsletter is available online at www.dor.org/protecting-our-children/newsletter/. There are also copies available in the front vestibule of the church by the bulletin board.

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