



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.



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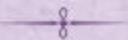
November 29, 2020

WORSHIP & MEDITATION



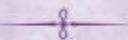
FIRST READING

Oh, that you would rend the heavens
and come down,
with the mountains quaking before you. (Is 63:19b)



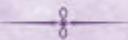
PSALM

Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face
and we shall be saved. (Ps 80)



SECOND READING

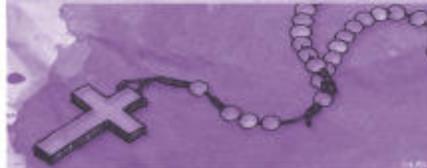
God is faithful,
and by him you were called to fellowship
with his Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord. (1 Cor 1:9)



GOSPEL

"Watch, therefore;
you do not know when the lord
of the house is coming,
whether in the evening, or at midnight,
or at cockcrow, or in the morning." (Mk 13:35)

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD. The English translation of Psalm Responses from Lectionary for Mass © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.



GOSPEL MEDITATION

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

You are at the eye doctor and it's time for the peripheral vision test. You know the one. It's where you put your head up to a contraption and have to click a switch every time you see a squiggly line. If you don't concentrate and maintain optimal focus, you will miss them and skew the outcome of the test. You can easily find yourself with a diagnosis that really isn't accurate! Concentration and focus are key to succeeding with this evaluation. They are also key to developing a healthy, vibrant spiritual life. If we do not bring our full consciousness to the task, concentrate with all our might, be watchful and vigilant, we are not going to see God's loving presence flashing before our eyes!

That's why we need Advent. Let's face it. We can easily get distracted, focus on nonessential and superficial things and lose touch with what really matters. Our attentions wander. We daydream and even become a bit overwhelmed and tired. All of the stresses and demands of life consume us and we find ourselves constantly trying to play catch up rather than relishing the moment of the now. "Now" moments are so fleeting. They flash before us like those squiggly lines on a screen. Present moments go as quickly as they come but it is important to discover them and rest in them as often as we can. Though gone in a flash, these now moments of encounter with God teach powerful lessons and offer a grounding in truth that can be found nowhere else. It's the grace of Advent to become watchful and attentive because we are never sure when God will surprise us.

God loves surprises and love thrives on them! God's now moments of surprises come as tender instants of intimate connection where I find profound peace, experience joy, and rest in love. These are Advent times reflective of the now moments when Christ first was born, when God surprises us during every time we care to watch and when the great surprise of Christ's second coming dawns upon us all. But, to discover the grandeur and experience the awe of these now times, we have to be ready. We have to want to be there. We have to believe. And, we have to have the desire to soak in as much as we can in the time we have before us.

GUIDELINES FOR MASS ATTENDANCE

We ask that you register each week for the Mass you will be attending, as we need to limit the size of the congregation. Please call the parish office or email smomc@stny.rr.com no later than **Thursday at 4:00 p.m.** Also, please remember that the obligation to attend Sunday Mass has been suspended until further notice.

To prepare to attend:

Wash your hands before you leave home;
bring a mask; masks are required from the time you exit your car in the parking lot until you return to your car. (This also applies to private prayer in church);
bring your own hand sanitizer to use before receiving Communion;
bring your own worship materials, as no hymnals or missalettes are available;
please do not congregate in the church building or anywhere on the parish grounds;
one restroom is available, but do not congregate around it.

When you arrive:

Please plan to arrive 10-15 minutes before Mass, and check with the person at the registration table; ushers will be available to help you;
please deposit your offering envelope in the receptacle near the doors when you arrive as there will not be a collection at the offertory;
please sanitize your hands as you enter church;
you will be directed to a seat in church, with seating beginning in the front to the back.
The chapel remains closed at this time.

During Mass:

Generally, there will be little congregational singing, as masks must **always** be worn throughout Mass.

There will be no altar servers or choir, one lector, one Eucharistic Minister, one cantor, when needed. There is to be no physical contact during the Lord's Prayer or at the Sign of Peace.

When approaching to receive Communion, please follow the directions of the ushers or volunteers present. Remain six feet apart from others, observing the markings on the floor.

As you receive Communion, receive Communion in your hands (there is no safe or hygienic manner to receive Communion on the tongue during the pandemic), walk at least six feet away from the minister before lowering your mask to receive the host, replace your mask, and return to your seat. The Eucharist will only be offered in the form of the Body of Christ.

You are not obliged to receive Communion at Mass if you are uncomfortable doing so. If you are not receiving Communion, simply step out of your seat and back away to allow others to return to their seat with minimal contact.

Going forth:

At the end of Mass, the ushers will direct you to exit from the church building, beginning with the last pew first.

Private prayer is not available after Mass as to facilitate immediate cleaning and sanitizing of the pews and restrooms.

Please go directly to your vehicle when you leave church.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation as we work our way through this process. We thank you for your suggestions as we move forward!

FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Tax Advantaged Donation Strategies

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

If you are over age 72 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. This is a nice tax benefit that allows you to reduce your taxable income for charitable giving, regardless of whether you are otherwise eligible to deduct charitable contributions on your tax return. To use the QCD election, you will need to sign a form provided by your IRA account custodian. On the form you will elect to make the payment payable directly to "St. Mary Our Mother" and you will enter the address as: 816 West Broad Street, Horseheads, NY 14845.

If 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 stocks, bonds, mutual funds or exchange traded funds (ETF) positions that have appreciated in value directly to our investment account. We can sell the positions 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 tax 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.

If you have any questions, or need any 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!

PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

An early publication deadline for this week's bulletin finds me writing this column on November 16th, nearly two weeks before you will read it. At this time, as per the New York State Governor's Office, our county continues its designation as a "orange zone," for the Covid-19 virus, which has resulted in the suspension of all public Sunday Masses since the end of October. Despite the changes that have been imposed on us since last March due to the coronavirus, I hope you were able to enjoy a Happy Thanksgiving.

Today is the **First Sunday of Advent**, and the beginning of a new liturgical year. This season of anticipation arrives with all the natural signs that surround it. The days are darker and shorter, tending to make us quieter and more reflective. We are in the final hours of the Thanksgiving holiday weekend, and it is no secret that Christmas is coming. Even in the midst of this worldwide pandemic, we have seen the advertisements, outdoor Christmas lights have been put in place, including the lights of our church's outdoor Advent candles. Christmas preparations are well on the way. In addition, the Advent scriptures have a tone of their own. No longer is our attention focused on an adult Christ, but the scriptures speak of a prophecy, anticipation, and begin to read the infancy narratives. The Advent season is a time when we are invited to step back and remember why we do what we do during this season. Advent is a time when we are invited to avoid the commercialism that surrounds a secular holiday season and embrace the true meaning of "*Emmanuel: God is with us.*"

During more normal times, this weekend would be an opportunity to remind you of the special opportunities that are so much a part of parish life during Advent, but will be missing this year. I am thinking of the Service of Lessons and Carols, which we would have on the first or second Sunday of Advent. It is always a wonderful service, an opportunity which I hope will return next year, or whenever this pandemic ends. Another opportunity that will be missing this year is our annual Christmas basket program, directed by our parish's Social Ministry Committee, where we provide Christmas food baskets and gifts for, in some years, 250 families. Due to a number of logistics associated with the restrictions due to the Coronavirus, we are unable to do this outreach this year. Hopefully, this outreach can resume next year.

While some of the traditional Advents practices in the parish cannot occur this year, we can use this Advent time for prayer and reflection. As we have done in previous years, we have two publications that you are familiar with. The first is "*The Word Among Us*," which offers a complete guide to the Advent season, including Advent scripture readings, meditations, and Mass prayers for each day. The second publication is entitled, "*The Little Blue Book*," for the Advent/Christmas season. These booklets, based on the writings of the late Bishop Ken Untener and published by the Diocese of Saginaw, Michigan, provide a brief reflection for each day of the season, including scripture, an historical note, a suggested good work, and finally ending with the words, "Spend some quiet time with the Lord."

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

Monday, November 30 - St. Andrew, Apostle

6:45 AM Christine Saxenian - Robert & Dawn Fischer

Tuesday, December 1 - Advent Weekday

6:45 AM Bill Dominikoski - Gerry & Judy Youmans

Wednesday, December 2 - Advent Weekday

6:45 AM For the Faithful Departed

Thursday, December 3 - St. Francis Xavier, Priest

6:45 AM Eileen Lynam - Raymond Wawrzusin

Friday, December 4 - Advent Weekday

6:45 AM No Mass

Saturday, December 5 - Advent Weekday

5:00 PM Rosemary Beering - her family

Sunday, December 6 - Second Sunday of Advent

8:30 AM Sandy Mentuck - Azzarelli family

10:30 AM Richard Miller - Ann LeMark

We also have Today's Missal. These words are the essence of the season. The time not only allows us to relax but also helps us understand how God continues to be present among us, even in the most challenging and stressful time of this pandemic.

This Advent season is meant to offer us a time of quiet waiting, reflective living, and discovering the Christ present in our lives. Advent invites us to do the ordinary things in life with renewed anticipation that Christ is present and working in our lives. If we make kind of an effort this season, then Christmas will take on a much greater meaning, as we have been brought closer to God and to one another.

Enjoy this first week of Advent with the special blessing and peace it has to offer. Continue to take care of yourself and each other.

Fr. L.

IN THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Alva Huntley

Frances Rogozinski

Renee Smith

MEMORIALS

Sanctuary Candle:

In memory of Bob Sparrow - Bob & Lois Lantzy

CHURCH CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS

Would you like to see our Church beautifully decorated for the Christmas Masses - even though we might not all be able to be present?

If you would like to have a poinsettia or a wreath at the Church to remember a loved one or for a special occasion, please call the parish office at 739-3817 with your intentions.

IN OUR PARISH

Social Ministry Christmas Baskets

Due to the covid-19 pandemic, there are many issues that the Social Ministry Committee needed to address with regard to our Christmas Basket event. We work with the Horseheads Food Pantry to meet with families and St. Mary Our Mother School to sort, pack and distribute the food and gifts. For various reasons neither of these locations were viable options this year. Also, the health and safety of our members and the many wonderful volunteers are upmost in our minds. What we have knowledge of at this time and not knowing what is ahead of us, we feel our customary plan for this event is not possible. Please consider making a donation to a charitable organization in our area to help them in their efforts this holiday season.

Hands of Christ Award 2021

The **Hands of Christ** is a recognition program to assist parishes in affirming their high school seniors who have been the “Hands of Christ” in their church, home, school, and greater community. You are invited to nominate a high school senior of the class of 2021 for the Hands of Christ recognition.

A nominated high school senior must meet the following criteria:

- Consistently demonstrates a Christian attitude by word and example;*
- is actively involved in their parish as well as their school community;*
- is a positive role model for peers and younger children;*
- is a participating member of St. Mary Our Mother parish.*

To nominate a senior, please stop at the parish office for a registration form, complete the registration form including the nominee’s name, address, telephone number, and high school. These registration forms will be reviewed by Father Linsler for approval as pastor and then the nominee will be contacted for further information. The nominations are due in the parish office by December 18, 2020.

Advent/Christmas Booklets

As we are all aware, the parish is unable to have printed materials available in the Church during these months of a pandemic.

The “*Word Among Us*,” “*Today’s Missal*,” and “*The Little Blue Book*” for Advent and Christmas 2020 have arrived at the parish office.

If you would like to have copies of these booklets, please call the office at 739-3817 to make arrangements.....always remembering that masks are required when stopping at the office.

Live Stream Masses

Please check our parish website for a listing of Masses at www.StMaryOurMother.com. There are also resources available at the diocesan website, dor.org.

A STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

The season of Advent is upon us, and in today’s Gospel Jesus delivers a simple message through the pen of St. Mark: “Be watchful! Be alert!” Christian stewards understand what Jesus meant when he said “It’s like a man going away: He leaves his house and puts his servants in charge, each with his assigned task.” Good stewards realize that to each one a task is assigned by god. They have been set in a particular place and station in life, and have been gifted with unique relationships. How do we respond to the tasks or cultivate our relationships in a way that keeps us alert for the return of Christ?

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
- Mr. Roger Williams**, 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

American Red Cross

The American Red Cross is urging donors who are healthy and feeling well to make an appointment to give blood to maintain the blood supply for patients who rely on lifesaving transfusions. Blood donors are needed now to ensure hospitals have the blood needed to save lives. The Red Cross is testing all blood donations for Covid-19 antibodies, providing donors insight into whether they have been exposed to this coronavirus. How can you help? Please call 1-800-REDCROSS or contact red-cross.org for information.

CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL

The Catholic Ministries Appeal provides funding for important programs, services, and ministries that strengthen our entire Church. In order to reach our parish goal of \$112,209.00, we need the support of all. In the spirit of generosity, please prayerfully consider your gift to this year's Catholic Ministries Appeal. We would like to thank the 138 parishioners from St. Mary Our Mother who have responded to this drive. Their pledges and contributions of \$40,801.00 have enabled us to achieve 36.36% of our goal. If it is easier, you can make your gift by going to www.dor.org. Additional pledge forms are available in the vestibule, and can be returned in the collection or mailed directly to the diocese, and available in the vestibule.

WEEKLY READINGS AND OBSERVANCES - ENGAGE PARISHIONERS IN DAILY MASS AND PRAYER

Readings for the week of November 29, 2020

Sunday: Is 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7/Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 [4]/1 Cor 1:3-9/Mk 13:33-37
Monday: Rom 10:9-18/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11 [10]/Mt 4:18-22
Tuesday: Is 11:1-10/ Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17 [cf. 7]/Lk 10:21-24
Wednesday: Is 25:6-10a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 [6cd]/Mt 15:29-37
Thursday: Is 26:1-6/Ps 118:1 and 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a [26a]/Mt 7:21, 24-27
Friday: Is 29:17-24/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14 [1a]/Mt 9:27-31
Saturday: Is 30:19-21, 23-26/Ps 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 [cf. Is 30:18d]/Mt 9:35-10:1, 5a, 6-8
Next Sunday: Is 40:1-5, 9-11/Ps 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14 [8]/2 Pt 3:8-14/Mk 1:1-8

Observances for the week of November 29, 2020

Sunday: 1st Sunday of Advent
Monday: St. Andrew, Apostle
Tuesday:
Wednesday:
Thursday: St. Francis Xavier, Priest
Friday:
Saturday:
Next Sunday: 2nd Sunday of Advent

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