



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 3, 2021

Epiphany OF THE LORD



They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

- Mt 2:10-11

SCRIPTURE READINGS**SUNDAY - January 10, 2021****THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD**

First Reading: Isaiah 55:1-11

Second Reading: 1 John 5:1-9

Gospel: Mark 1:7-11

IN THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Bishop Anthony J. Banzi Rita Burke

Rev. Frank Falletta Michael Kent

Jeanne Lyden

IN OUR PARISH**Oplatki**

Oplatki (Christmas wafers) are available at the parish office. Please stop by at your convenience for your Christmas tradition!

Parish Calendars

The parish of St. Mary Our Mother is sincerely grateful to the Lynch Funeral Home for their donation of our 2021 parish calendars. **THANK YOU!** (At this time, our parish calendars are available at the parish office.)

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

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!

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 178 parishioners from St. Mary Our Mother who have responded to this drive. Their pledges and contributions of \$53,647.00 have enabled us to achieve 48% 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.

PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

Due to early bulletin deadlines for the past five weeks, I am preparing this bulletin article on December 19th, six days before the celebration of Christmas. As we continue to deal with the worldwide pandemic of the covid-19 virus, we anticipate that Christmas 2020 will be quite different from our Christmas celebration of recent memory. In whatever way you celebrate Christmas this year, I hope your Christmas allowed you to prayerfully remember the wonderful gift of God's love humanity received on that first Christmas, the birth of Jesus Christ.

This weekend we celebrate the **Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord**. It is a day when we acknowledge that Jesus Christ came to offer salvation for all people. Just as the Magi of the East, led by a star, made their way in search of the truth that came from the Christ child, so people today follow the lights of our world in search of the Word made Flesh.

This great mystery of the Incarnation invites us to continue in the way of Christ by the way we live, love, and care for all who share this world with us. During these difficult months as we have dealt with the coronavirus, we have seen countless examples of people extending a helping hand to people in need. We are called to be the light of Christ for others even in these most challenging of times. Oftentimes, this may seem rather daunting, but the good news is that we do not take this initiative alone, we do so in the company of each other, and with the grace, direction and strength of the Holy Spirit.

I hope this Christmas time, with all its challenges and hurdles, has been a time of grace and peace for you. As we journey through this Christmas season, I offer this prayer for your reflection:

A PRAYER FOR EPIPHANY

Dear Jesus,

*Though a newborn, the wise men,
knew your greatness.*

*On a hint from the heaven,
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, your 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 your,
as we meditate on the meaning of this day.*

Amen

Have a great first week of 2021. Please continued to take care of yourself and one another.

Fr. L.

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

Monday, January 4 - St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious

6:45 AM Mary & Murl Eaton & their daughters - the Farr family

Tuesday, January 5 - St. John Neumann, Bishop

6:45 AM Howard Coddington - Michele Bennett & family

Wednesday, January 6 - Christmas Weekday

6:45 AM Carol Wawrzusin - husband, Ray

Thursday, January 7 - Christmas Weekday

6:45 AM For the Faithful Departed

Friday, January 8 - Christmas Weekday

6:45 AM No Mass

Saturday, January 9 - Christmas Weekday

5:00 PM Claire Navone Pitts - Mom & family

Sunday, January 10 - Baptism of the Lord

8:30 AM Thomas Rogan - Paul & Mary Jo Minch

10:30 AM John Gough - Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Gizzi

WEEKLY READINGS AND OBSERVANCES - ENGAGE PARISHIONERS IN DAILY MASS AND PRAYER**Readings for the week of January 3, 2021**

Sunday: Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13

[cf. 11]/ Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12

Monday: 1 Jn 3:22—4:6/Ps 2:7bc-8, 10-12a [8ab]/

Mt 4:12-17, 23-25

Tuesday: 1 Jn 4:7-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4, 7-8 [cf. 11]/

Mk 6:34-44

Wednesday: 1 Jn 4:11-18/Ps 72:1-2, 10, 12-13 [cf.

11]/Mk 6:45-52

Thursday: 1 Jn 4:19—5:4/Ps 72:1-2, 14 and 15bc,

17 [cf. 11]/Lk 4:14-22a

Friday: 1 Jn 5:5-13/Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20

[12a]/Lk 5:12-16

Saturday: 1 Jn 5:14-21/Ps 149:1-2, 3-4, 5 and 6a

and 9b [cf. 4a]/Jn 3:22-30

Next Sunday: Is 42:1-4, 6-7/Ps 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10

[11b]/Acts 10:34-38/Mk 1:7-11 or Is

55:1-11/Is 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6 [3]/1 Jn

5:1-9/Mk 1:7-11

Observances for the week of January 3, 2021

Sunday: The Epiphany of the Lord; National Migration Week

Monday: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious

Tuesday: St. John Neumann, Bishop

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

“Where is that thing?” mumbled Bob as he searched frantically on his dimly lit desk for the current electric bill. “I know I put it right on top of these papers this morning!” Growing in frustration and bordering on anger, he flies stuff around, moves books and opines why simple tasks need to be so hard. Enter his wife, who calmly says, “Maybe it would help if you put the light on, dear.” The desk light goes on and lo and behold, there is the electric bill right where Bob left it earlier. All it took was a little light!

We stubbornly refuse to turn on the lights! Either we are distracted, determined, disinterested, preoccupied, stubborn, apprehensive, or all of the above. Or perhaps, we fail to do the obvious. We would rather live our lives with the dimmest of lights or even in total darkness. Why are we afraid to do something so that we can actually see? It might help us to find quicker and better answers to problems, the meaning of life, relationships, happiness, and what is ultimate truth. Yet, we stumble along, moving things from one side to the other, getting angry, feeling cheated, being unsettled, resigning ourselves to the agony of defeat once again.

“And behold, the star that they had seen at its rising preceded them, until it came and stopped over the place where the child was.” The light has come into the world in the person of Jesus Christ! We no longer have to fumble in the darkness. We have been gifted with the illumination we need to see our way through things and find what we really are looking for. All these years later, however, so many are still reluctant to accept him. Perhaps they are unconvinced, disinterested, preoccupied, stubborn, apprehensive, or all of the above. Everyone has their own reason for not wanting to turn on the switch.

But there are so many answers to so many of our problems in this humble Child of Nazareth. A simple birth teaches us about God’s tender wedded relationship with humanity. It speaks to the expanse of God’s salvation across the globe, and the incarnate Divine wonders and blessings that are a part of our life moment to moment. It calls us to understand the design of world order God intended as found in the Beatitudes, the sacredness of every human life and all of creation and the meaning of things we struggle with most, like suffering and death. We have a lot of Good News to share, not just with a privileged few but with all the world. All races and creeds can receive God’s healing word. God continues to manifest himself even now! Use the light to find what you are really looking for!

©LPi



REGIONAL EVENTS

Stand Up for the Unborn and Their Mothers

Put your faith into action! Command “Stand For Life” in an hour of prayer and witness on **January 24th**, from 2-3:00 p.m., in downtown Elmira at Church and Water Streets. Bring pro-life signs and banners, or we will have ones you can use. Social distancing will be followed and all are asked to wear a mask when coming and going. Call Steve at 739-9282 for further information.. Pro-life hats will be available for a donation, and donations will be accepted for next year’s bus trip to the March for Life 2022 in Washington, D.C.

Notre Dame High School Admission/Enrollment

Notre Dame High School, grades 7-12, is now holding virtual admissions and enrollment sessions on Thursday evenings via Zoom from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. Interested students and their families can join the link, at www.notredamehighschool.com on the Notre Dame website. For more information, please call (607)-734-2267.

MINISTERIAL STAFF

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- Mrs. Cathy Peckham**, Director of Music
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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

"The Story of the Other Wise Man" by Henry Van Dyke was first published in 1895. It tells the fictional story of Artaban, a fourth wise man who began a journey to visit Jesus, the newborn King. Unlike his fellow Magi, he failed to make it there for the birth of Jesus because he kept pausing to help various people in need. In fact, it took him about 33 years of searching before his quest comes to an abrupt end when he is hit in the head with a falling roof shingle. His final breath takes place in Jerusalem near the place where Jesus is being crucified. As he lies dying, he hears the voice of Jesus telling him that the gifts he has given all along the way to "the least of these" he has actually given to Jesus himself.

If you have never read this story or seen the made-for-television movie based on the tale, you really should seek it out. It is a story that reminds us of a profound truth: Jesus himself rests in the lives of all those around us in need. In the story, it was the wise man's constant response to a stewardship call that prevented him from getting where he wanted to go. In the end, where he needed to go was more significant than where he thought he should go.

If we live lives of generosity and graciousness, we may find ourselves on constant detours from the road on which we are traveling. It is in the detours and the unexpected circumstances of our journey that often times we find our true purpose in life. We think God is somewhere we must travel to, when in reality, God is closer than we think in the least likely of places. - Tracy Earl Welliver

EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

The song "We Three Kings" details the gifts of the Magi, but do you know what you're singing? "Born a king on Bethlehem's plain, gold I bring to crown Him again." This one is the most straightforward - gold symbolizes the Kingship of Christ.

"Myrrh is mine: its bitter perfume breathes a life of gathering gloom." Myrrh is an embalming spice. Already at Christ's birth, we have the symbolic reminder of His death.

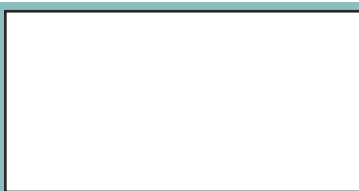
"Frankincense to offer have I. Incense owns a deity nigh." In many religious traditions, incense symbolizes prayers rising to heaven. In some pagan traditions, it is thought to help "call down" the deity. The gift of frankincense symbolizes Jesus' role as the Great High Priest, sanctifying the world through his sacrifice.

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