



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

November 28, 2021

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

CHRISTMAS MASSES

Friday, December 24, 2021

3:00 p.m. - Christmas Mass

5:00 p.m. - Christmas Mass

11:00 p.m. - Christmas Mass during the
Night (formerly known as
"Midnight Mass")

Saturday, December 25, 2021

9:00 a.m. - Christmas Mass

No 5:00 p.m. Mass today



FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Staying awake can often be a challenge, especially when we are exhausted. Life's demands have a way of zapping every last bit of energy out of us. When we are tired it affects us not only physically, but psychologically and spiritually as well. All of our senses are dulled and diminished. We can overlook details, become disinterested, lethargic and apathetic, and detached. Getting sufficient physical rest only helps so much. We need to be rejuvenated, refreshed, and reenergized in other ways. If we are psychologically exhausted, we need to understand what is draining our emotions and taxing our relationships. If we are spiritually tired, we need to find the necessary "shot in the arm" to put us back in touch with God. Unfortunately, exhaustion is seldom limited to just one part of who we are. When we lack energy and zeal it is usually the case that everything suffers. We not only are affected physically, but psychologically and spiritually as well.

And yet, our Lord's directive is clear, "Be vigilant at all times." Even Jesus knew what "the anxieties of daily life" can do to us. One day pours into another and time quickly flies by. Any one of us can take a moment and reflect on how many wonderful, creative opportunities we miss because there is always so much "stuff" to do and so little time to do it. Usually these are missed moments of love, and if we are missing love encounters we are also missing God. Sleepwalking through life, we check the boxes next to our list of "must and have to dos" and justify it all by convincing ourselves that tomorrow is another day and there'll be more time. It may surprise us, but tomorrow is here, and time is running out. While we may like to believe that we have an "eternity" of time to do all those things that require the focus, energy, and desire we do not currently have, we don't. We're on a limited ride and time is short.

Jesus is also clear on another point. "That day [will] catch you by surprise like a trap." If we are going to be judged on love and so easily justify not having all that much time to do so, then it seems we must shift focus a bit. St. Teresa of Calcutta tells us, "We desire to be able to welcome Jesus at Christmas-time, not in a cold manger of our heart, but in a heart full of love and humility, a heart so pure, so immaculate, so warm with love for one another." Getting to this place doesn't "just happen." It requires vigilance and discipline both with a knowledge of what is really of importance and what really needs to be the focus of our energy and time. Pray, starting now and not tomorrow, that we can stay alert, be strengthened in our faith, and prepared for whatever will come. Don't miss another opportunity to love.

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ST. MARY OUR MOTHER SCHOOL REGISTRATION

St. Mary Our Mother School is accepting student registrations for the 2021/2022 school year 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: 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.

SCRIPTURE READINGS**SUNDAY - December 5, 2021****SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

First Reading: Baruch 5:1-9
 Second Reading: Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11
 Gospel: Luke 3:1-6

IN THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Carl Gross Stephen O'Mara

MEMORIALS**Sanctuary Candle:**

In memory of our friends, William Watson, John Clemens, Roger Dewey and Robert Hancock - Pat & Ed Baker

FLOWER DONATIONS**Main Altar Arrangements:**

In memory of Francis J. Mack, Jr. - Martha & family

IN OUR PARISH**Liturgical Ministers**

With the outbreak of the Coronavirus in March 2020, many of our liturgical ministries involving our acolytes, lectors and Eucharistic ministers were suspended. While we await permission to resume these ministries, we would like to be ready when that permission is received. If you previously served in one of these liturgical ministries and would like to resume serving, please call the parish office. If you have not previously served but would like to serve in one of these ministries, please call the parish office. Appropriate training will be provided. Thank you.

Church Christmas Decorations

If you would like to have a poinsettia or a wreath in the Church this Christmas, please call the parish office at 607-739-3817.

All flowers for Christmas must be ordered by **December 8th**.

Advent/Christmas Booklets

As we are all aware, the parish is unable to have printed materials available in the Church during this time. The "Word Among Us," "Today's Missal" and "The Little Blue Book" for Advent and Christmas 2021 have arrived at the parish office.

If you would like to have copies of these booklets, please call the office at 607-739-3817.

Prayers and Squares Quilting Group

The Prayers and Squares Quilting Group has blessed lap quilts available for anyone who is ill. If you know anyone who would appreciate receiving a quilt, please contact 738-3699 (Maribeth) or 731-8085 (Wilma) to make arrangements to stop at the parish office for your quilt.

(In Our Parish continued on page 4...)

SUNDAY'S READINGS**First Reading:**

I will raise up for David a just shoot; he shall do what is right and just in the land. (Jer 33:15)

Psalm:

To you, O Lord, I lift my soul. (Ps 25)

Second Reading:

Strengthen your hearts, to be blameless in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his holy ones. (1 Thes 3:13)

Gospel:

Stand erect and raise your heads because your redemption is at hand. (Lk 21:28)

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WEEKLY READINGS AND OBSERVANCES**Readings for the week of November 28, 2021**

Sunday: Jer 33:14-16/1 Thes 3:12—4:2/Ps 25:4-5, 8-9, 10, 14 [1b]/Lk 21:25-28, 34-36
 Monday: Is 2:1-5/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4b, 4cd-5, 6-7, 8-9/Mt 8:5-11
 Tuesday: Rom 10:9-18/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11 [10]/Mt 4:18-22
 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: Bar 5:1-9/Ps 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6 [3]/Phil 1:4-6, 8-11/Lk 3:1-6

Observances for the week of November 28, 2021

Sunday: 1st Sunday of Advent
 Monday:
 Tuesday: St. Andrew, Apostle
 Wednesday:
 Thursday:
 Friday: St. Francis Xavier, Priest
 Saturday: St. John Damascene, Priest and Doctor of the Church
 Next Sunday: 2nd Sunday of Advent

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PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

Due to an early bulletin deadline because of the Thanksgiving holiday weekend, I am writing this column on Friday, November 12th, nearly two weeks before Thanksgiving Day. Through the years, one of the liturgies I have enjoyed the most is that of Thanksgiving Day. It is a wonderful time for us to gather to offer our personal gratitude to God for the many blessings we enjoy. I hope you and your family enjoyed a wonderful Thanksgiving!

Today the season of **Advent** 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's no secret that Christmas is coming. We have seen the advertisements, outdoor lights have been hung. Christmas preparations are well underway. In addition, the Advent scriptures have a tone of their own. No longer is our attention focused on an adult Christ, but we hear prophecy, anticipation and begin to read the infancy narratives. Advent is that special time of year when we are invited to step back and remember why we do what we do during this season. Advent invites us not to embrace the commercialism that surrounds a secular holiday season, but to embrace the true meaning of "*Emmanuel: God is with us.*"

While some of our normal Advent practices, such as the annual Service of Lessons and Carols, and our annual Christmas basket efforts, organized by our Social Ministry Committee, cannot occur this year as we continue to forge ahead during this pandemic. As we have done in previous years, we have two publications available for you in the parish office. The first is "*The Word Among Us,*" which offer a complete guide to the Advent season, including Advent scripture readings, meditation, and prayer for each day. The second publication is entitled "*The Little Blue Book: Advent & Christmas seasons 2021-2022.*" 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 recommendation, "spend some quiet time with the Lord." These words are the essence of the season. Quiet time not only allows us to relax but also helps us understand how God works through our gifts and talents. This Advent quiet time will help add greater meaning and wholeness to everything we do this season. In lieu of our Christmas program this year, our Social Ministry Committee is inviting us to make a monetary gift to the parish, which will be forwarded to the Horseheads Food Pantry to purchase Christmas hams in their Christmas outreach effort. Envelopes for this cause are available on the table in the vestibule, or you can use an ordinary envelope if you so choose, clearly marking on the envelope what it is for. All checks should be made payable to St. Mary Our Mother, and all donations need to be received by **December 10th.**

The Advent season is meant to offer us a time of quiet waiting, reflective listening and 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 that special effort this season, then Christmas will take on much greater meaning, as have been brought closer to God and to one another.

This year, the season of Advent is 27 days. Enjoy this first week of Advent with the special blessings it offers. Continue to take care of yourself and each other.

Fr. L.

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

Monday, November 29 - Advent Weekday

6:45 AM Elizabeth & George Bartosch

Tuesday, November 30 - St. Andrew, Apostle

6:45 AM Mary Amisano - 6:45 a.m. Mass friends

Wednesday, December 1 - Advent Weekday

6:45 AM Mass of thanksgiving on the 58th wedding anniversary of Ed & Pat Baker

Thursday, December 2 - Advent Weekday

6:45 AM Eileen Lynam - Raymond Wawrzusin

Friday, December 3 - St. Francis Xavier, Priest

6:45 AM George Gresock - Tom & Mary Sweet

Saturday, December 4 - Advent Weekday

5:00 PM Dorothy & Gerson Pfaff - their family

Sunday, December 5 - Second Sunday of Advent

8:30 AM Lindy VanBrunt - Joe & Mary Sue Skelly

10:30 AM Norma Conz - Linda Adams

FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Tax Advantaged Donation Strategies

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

If you are over age 70-1/2 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!

IN OUR PARISH CONTINUED...

Updated Covid-19 Protocol

Due to the Covid-19 cases in our area, we are exercising extra caution to keep our parishioners safe, especially those who are not vaccinated. **Until further notice, masks are required whenever you are in a church building, including when attending Mass.** This applies to everyone old enough to safely wear a mask, regardless of vaccination status. We are not at this time implementing any additional registration, social distancing, nor extra sanitizing procedures.

One half of the church seating will continue to be "open seating" with all rows open. The other half will be blocked off at every other row, for those more comfortable with social distancing. When you enter a pew row, please move to the furthest open seating area, so that others can fill in the row behind you. Thank you.

Social Ministry Thanksgiving/Updated Christmas Plans - 2021

Due to the continuing covid-19 pandemic, our Social Ministry Committee believes it is best for our parish to work through the Horseheads Food Pantry in providing assistance to needy families during the holiday season. The pantry already has safety precautions in place for food distribution to the needy.

For Thanksgiving, the Food Bank of the Southern Tier will be supplying the Horseheads Food Pantry with turkey and food to complete the holiday meal for the less fortunate families in our area. We will continue our food donations, as usual, with an emphasis on canned vegetables, such as corn and beans.

Christmas plans have been finalized. We will be donating to the Food Pantry to allow them to purchase a ham for each family. There will be envelopes on the table in the vestibule of the church for your donation if you wish to help us this year. Checks may be made out to St. Mary Our Mother Church. You may place the envelopes in the collection boxes at the entrances of the Church. You may also mail your donation to the parish office. Donations must be in no later than **December 10th.**

We are grateful to the many caring people in our parish who have supported our Christmas Basket program in the past. We hope that we can continue to depend on your generosity for our revised plans for the upcoming holiday season.

Catholic Ministries Appeal

As of November 17th, **146 families** have contributed **\$41,329.00** toward our parish goal of **\$106,251.00.** We thank those who have given generously to the CMA and ask that all who have not yet given to this appeal to prayerfully consider doing so. Please consider all the ways God has blessed you and your family and how the Church has brought joy and goodness in our lives. The CMA is one way we can give back to God for the many blessings God has shared with us.

REGIONAL EVENTS

March for Life

Be a voice for the voiceless! Plan now to travel with us to Washington, DC for the **January 21, 2022 March for Life.** We will travel by bus leaving at about 11:30 p.m. on January 20th, arrive in Washington in time for food and Mass. Then we will visit the offices of our Congressman and Senators, see Capitol Hill, attend the Rally for Life on the National Mall, and then **March for Life** to the Supreme Court Building. Buses arrive home at about 11:00 p.m. on January 21st.

The cost is \$40.00 per person, if paid before December 15th; \$50.00 after that date. "Scholarships" are available. Adults and school age children are welcome.

It is a great experience! Plan now. Call Steve at 607-739-9282 for information or to reserve your seat. Individuals or groups who would like to donate to defray costs or sponsor people to ride are invited to call also.

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. Heather Bill**, School Principal
- Mrs. Adriana Enright**, School Secretary
- Ms. Terri Orbin**, Business Manager
- Mrs. Joyce Pirozzolo**, Parish Secretary
- Mrs. Maribeth Leipold**, Faith Formation Secretary
- Mrs. Amy Barr**, Faith Formation Associate
- Mrs. Sue Wood**, Bulletin Editor
- Ms. Wendy Slater**, Office Assistant
- Mr. Doug Johnson**, Cemetery Manager
- 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@dor.org
- 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 on 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 first week.

- 1st Sunday in Advent, The Jesse Tree, I Samuel 16:1-13
- Monday, The Birth of Life, Genesis 1: 24-28
- Tuesday, Adam and Eve, Genesis 3:1-24
- Wednesday, Noah and the Flood, Genesis 6:11-22; 8: 6-12
- Thursday, Father Abraham, Genesis 12:1-7; 13: 2-18
- Friday, Isaac and the Ram, Genesis 22: 1-14
- Saturday, Jacob and His Dream, Genesis 27:41; 28: 22



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