



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

December 5, 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



SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

St. Ambrose shares some wisdom on our need to prepare the way and open the door for Christ. "You see that when the Word of God knocks hardest on your door, it is when His hair is wet with the dew of the night. In fact, He chooses to visit those who are in tribulation and trial, lest one of them be overwhelmed by distress. So, His head is covered with dew, with drops, when His body is laboring hard. It is important to keep watch so that when the Bridegroom comes, He is not shut out. If you are asleep and your heart is not keeping watch, He will go away without knocking; but if your heart is alert for His coming, He knocks and asks for the door to be opened to Him." When life gets overwhelming and difficult and we find ourselves feeling a bit downhearted and miserable, these words can bring great comfort.

We sometimes choose to remain stuck in our uncomfortable darkness and being stuck becomes our norm. In this time of self-focus our hearts are closed to the graces and life God desires to give us. Wrapped in the robe of mourning and misery, we fail to see the mercy, justice, and love the Bridegroom wants to bring. If we take seriously the need to prepare the way for Christ and open our hearts in preparation for His visit, we can hear God's gentle voice calling us deep within. It beckons us to seek out its source and discover the inner calm and peace that can prevail over the darkness of despair. Sometimes our darkness is so dark that it may seem unsurmountable. Trusting in the spiritual friends who journey with us, and God's promise may bring a glimmer of light even when it is most difficult to keep our hearts' doors open. Sometimes, the only light in the darkness is found in trusting the faith of others both past and present.

We have to trust that God has already begun the accomplishment of good work in us and that humanity is on an incredible journey to something wonderful and awesome. God is not done. When we open the doors of our hearts, straighten the paths of our lives, and prepare the way, Jesus can come with God's simple gifts of peace, grace, and joy. Life throws a great deal at us. It is easy to get tired and confused. We have to train our hearts to keep watch, discern what is of value, and forge ahead. Not allowing ourselves to become so weighed down by things and brought out of focus is a tremendous goal to achieve this Advent season. God is knocking. Answer the door. You will see and understand life in ways you never thought possible before.

CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL

As of November 24th, **165 families** have contributed **\$45,054.00** 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.

SCRIPTURE READINGS**SUNDAY - December 12, 2021****THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

First Reading: Zephaniah 3:14-18a
 Second Reading: Philippians 4:4-7
 Gospel: Luke 3:10-18

IN THE PEACE OF CHRIST

John Kaysa Phyllis Kravec
 Larry Lawrence Maria Margeson

IN OUR PARISH**Oplatki**

Oplatki (Christmas wafers) are available at the parish office.

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:**

For God will show all the earth your splendor: you will be named by God forever the peace of justice, the glory of God's worship. (Bar 5:4)

Psalm:

The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy. (Ps 126)

Second Reading:

And this is my prayer: that your love may increase ever more and more in knowledge and every kind of perception, to discern what is of value, so that you may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ. (Phil 1:9-10)

Gospel:

The winding roads shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God. (Mk 7:37)

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WEEKLY READINGS AND OBSERVANCES**Readings for the week of December 5, 2021**

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
 Monday: Is 35:1-10/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14 [cf. Is 35:4f]/Lk 5:17-26
 Tuesday: Is 40:1-11/Ps 96:1-2, 3 and 10ac, 11-12, 13 [cf. Is 40:10ab]/Mt 18:12-14
 Wednesday: Gn 3:9-15, 20/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4 [1]/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38
 Thursday: Is 41:13-20/Ps 145:1 and 9, 10-11, 12-13ab [8]/Mt 11:11-15
 Friday: Is 48:17-19/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6 [cf. Jn 8:12]/Mt 11:16-19
 Saturday: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Ps 80:2ac and 3b, 15-16, 18-19 [4]/Mt 17:9a, 10-13
 Next Sunday: Zep 3:14-18a/Is12:2-3, 4, 5-6 [6]/Phil 4:4-7/Lk 3:10-18

Observances for the week of December 5, 2021

Sunday: 2nd Sunday of Advent
 Monday: St. Nicholas, Bishop
 Tuesday: St. Ambrose, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
 Wednesday: The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
 Thursday: St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatotzin
 Friday: Our Lady of Loreto
 Saturday: St. Damasus I, Pope
 Next Sunday: 3rd Sunday of Advent

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PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

We have arrived at the **second week** of the **season of Advent**. Each year, Advent presents us with an invitation and challenge to take some time during these extremely busy and hectic December days to slow down and to be more aware of God's presence among us. Years ago, **St. John the Baptist** preached this message and encouraged people to listen to his message as he proclaimed and prepared the people of his time for the coming of Jesus. Advent is a season of anticipation, joy, and hope that comes from knowing that God is in our midst. During these Advent days, I would encourage you to allow God to comfort you and to help relieve any anxiety that you might be experiencing that prevents you from fully entering into the joy of this time of year.

Many of you may remember the late **Father Joseph F. Hogan**. Father Hogan served as the pastor of **St. Vincent de Paul Church** in **Corning** from 1964-1983. Father Hogan also served as the first chaplain at **Notre Dame High School** from 1955-1961. Upon his retirement, Father Hogan came to live at **St. Patrick Church, Elmira**, with the then pastor, **Father Daniel F. Holland** and myself. When he was assigned to be the homilist for the weekend Masses during the season of Advent, St. Patrick had four weekend Masses, (all parishes in Chemung County had 4-5 weekend Masses in those days), Father Hogan would include the following poem in his homily. I am not sure of the author, but it is entitled, ***Promise, My Christmas Pledge***:

1. *I promise to make my Christmas a holy day with Christ - not a holy day without Him.*
2. *I promise to observe Christmas as the birthday of Christ - not a day to give and receive just material gifts.*
3. *I promise to remember that the real symbols of Christmas are the Star, the Stable, and the Crib - not Santa and his reindeer.*
4. *I promise to teach my children that "Santa Claus" is the nickname for Saint Nicholas, who gave to the poor, in honor of Christ.*
5. *I promise to help one poor family - in honor of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, the poor and homeless family of Bethlehem.*
6. *I promise to send Christmas cards remindful of Jesus, the Infant Savior - not decorated only with candy canes, ribbons and wreaths.*
7. *I promise to make room in my home for Christ - with a Christmas Crib - to remind me that He was born in a stable.*
8. *I promise during this season, in a special way, to honor Mary, His mother - who kept the first Christmas vigil beside the manger.*
9. *I promise to begin this day, by leading my family to Church and to God's table - to receive the Bread of Life.*
10. *I promise today and every day to give "Glory to God in the highest" - and to work and pray for "Peace on earth to all of good will."*

Have a blessed second week of Advent. Please continue to take care of yourself and each other!

Fr. L.

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

Monday, December 6 - Advent Weekday

6:45 AM John Kordyl - wife, Evelyn & family

Tuesday, December 7 - St. Ambrose

6:45 AM Peter & Dick Burdulis - DeeDee & Dan Cardone

Wednesday, December 8 - The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

6:45 AM Pablo & Elisea Atienza - Macapinlac Family

5:30 PM Jennie Joy - Roger

Thursday, December 9 - Advent Weekday

6:45 AM Anna Garrison - Mary Suffern

Friday, December 10 - Advent Weekday

6:45 AM Dennis Graumann - 6:45 a.m. Mass friends

Saturday, December 11 - Advent Weekday

5:00 PM Rose Mary Beering - family

Sunday, December 12 - Third Sunday of Advent

8:30 AM Henry & Josephine Ryan - Mary & Jim Carr

10:30 AM Douglas J. Madison - his family

FROM THE FINANCE COUNCIL

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...

Thank You, Rice Bowl Participants

For our 2021 Rice Bowl Lenten almsgiving program, our parish collected and donated over \$2,300 to Catholic Relief Services. Seventy-five percent of this will be used by CRS to fund their development projects to help the needy in impoverished countries. Twenty-five percent of our donation, which was \$587, was returned to the area to be used by the Horseheads Food Pantry to help fund their assistance to our local people. We thank the generous people of St. Mary Our Mother who participated in the Rice Bowl program this past Lent.

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 turkeys 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 money 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.

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 second week.

2nd Sunday in Advent, Symbol of Prophecy, Isaiah 9:2-7

Monday, Joseph and his Coat, Genesis 37:1-36

Tuesday, Moses and the Law, Exodus 20:1-17

Wednesday, The Blessing of Aaron, Numbers 6:22-27

Thursday, Samuel and the Word of the Lord, 1 Samuel 3: 1-21

Friday, David, 1 Samuel 16:14-23

Saturday, Symbol of Shepherds, Psalm 23




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