



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 12, 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



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

"From silly devotions and sour-faced saints, good Lord, deliver us!" St. Teresa of Avila

We've all heard the adage, "Laughter is the best medicine." In many ways, it really is. When was the last time you really laughed? The gift of imagination allows us to see possible things that are yet to be. Imagine a world filled with laughter. We take life too seriously sometimes. Fear, uncertainty, pressure, negativity, disappointment, and myriad other human experiences can rob us of the joy needed for laughter. God never promised us an easy road, and we do have to take the course of our lives seriously. However, there is a balance to be sought and a possible joy that can be brought even to the darkest and most challenging of encounters.

St. Therese of Lisieux reminds us that, "Joy is not found in the material objects surrounding us but in the inner recesses of the soul. One can possess joy in a prison cell as well as in a palace." Falling in love with God, who is present in all of creation, allows us to bring a depth of understanding to everything we do and experience. We can more easily see above and beyond things while pursuing the only One who can truly satisfy our hearts. When we realize that God, the king of Israel, is in our midst and with us, there is no further misfortune to fear. We can celebrate the wonder and beauty of God's gift of joy. It is no wonder that many saints radiate joy and have no reservations expressing laughter. They are happy because they have found a pearl of great price.

We celebrate with joy today with hearts filled with expectation, wonder, awe, and beauty as we ready ourselves, even more excitedly, for the coming of our Savior. Do not fear and do not be discouraged. If you haven't laughed in a while, why? Something is preventing you from expressing the magnificence of your soul and the presence of God who dwells within. God's power and presence within us assures us that we are loved and kept in that presence. What more is really needed? Rejoice and laugh in the presence of God! It really is the best medicine and a most perfect way to convince others that God is really with us. "Go ahead, laugh! Live your life with joy and serve the Lord with laughter! Joy, with peace, is the sister of charity. Serve the Lord with laughter." (St. Padre Pio of Pietrelcina) ©LPi

CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL

As of December 3rd, **177 families** have contributed **\$50,059.00** 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 19, 2021****FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

First Reading: Micah 5:1-4a

Second Reading: Hebrews 10:5-10

Gospel: Luke 1:39-45

IN THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Rita Acker

Darlene Ike

Corinne Fargo Makovitch

Mary Solometo

MEMORIALS**Eucharistic Hosts:***In loving memory of Henry & Josephine Ryan - Mary & James Carr***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.

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:**

The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a mighty savior; He will rejoice over you with gladness. (Zep 3:17)

Psalm:

Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel. (Is 12:6)

Second Reading:

The Lord is near. Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God. (Phil 4:6)

Gospel:

The crowds asked John the Baptist, "What should we do?" (Lk 3:10)

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WEEKLY READINGS AND OBSERVANCES**Readings for the week of December 12, 2021**

Sunday: Zep 3:14-18a/Is12:2-3, 4, 5-6 [6]/Phil 4:4-7/Lk 3:10-18

Monday: Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a/Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9 [4]/Mt 21:23-27

Tuesday: Zep 3:1-2, 9-13/Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-18, 19 and 23 [7a]/Mt 21:28-32

Wednesday: Is 45:6b-8, 18, 21c-25/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14 [Is 45:8]/Lk 7:18b-23

Thursday: Is 54:1-10/Ps 30:2 and 4, 5-6, 11-12a, and 13b [2a]/Lk 7:24-30

Friday: Gn 49:2, 8-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17 [cf. 7]/Mt 1:1-17

Saturday: Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19 [cf. 7]/Mt 1:18-25

Next Sunday: Mi 5:1-4a/Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 [4]/Heb 10:5-10/Lk 1:39-45

Observances for the week of December 12, 2021

Sunday: 3rd Sunday of Advent

Monday: St. Lucy, Virgin and Martyr

Tuesday: St. John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church

Wednesday:

Thursday:

Friday:

Saturday:

Next Sunday: 4th Sunday of Advent

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PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

Today we arrive at the **Third Sunday of Advent**, oftentimes referred to as **Gaudete**, or **Rejoice Sunday**. Arriving at this mid-point of this season reminds us of the two-fold nature of Advent as a season of the already experienced, and the yet to be experienced of God coming among us. There is still enough time of Advent to rejoice as we continue our preparations for Christmas.

The month of December can be a very busy and hectic time of the year as we find ourselves in the throes of Christmas preparation. Such busyness can cause us to lose sight of the spiritual importance of the Advent/Christmas season. Every year, the **International Catholic Stewardship Council** offers insights that can help us to keep Christ in Christmas. You may already find yourself doing some of these suggestions:

Give God a very special gift this year: *Let His gift be something personal that no one else needs to know about, and let it be a sacrifice. Perhaps your gift will be to commit more time with God daily. Perhaps there is a habit you know you should give up. Why wait for a New Year's resolution? Start now.*

Celebrate the season of Advent: *Light the Advent wreath candles each evening before dinner. If you have children, let them offer their own prayers to the Christ child for whom we are waiting.*

Read the Christmas story in the Gospel of Luke 1:5-56 through 2:1-20: *Consider reading this account with your family and discussing it together.*

Put up a crèche in your home: *Consider having one set that is "kid-proof" which your children are allowed to handle. Kids love to make the Nativity story their own, and they especially love angels!*

Plan a project to help someone at Christmas: *Identify someone with a genuine need, involve your whole family and see how happy you can make someone this Christmas. Participate in our parish's Christmas giving program. Make sure your children take part in shopping for a family who needs extra help and make them aware of the needs in our community.*

Give a surprise gift of service to each member of your family: *The idea of giving an unexpected gift of service to members of your family reveals your own love and concern for them. You might consider giving your spouse a day away, running an errand for your brother, or cleaning out a closet for your mother. Make it personal and meaningful!*

Send Christmas cards and thank you notes that convey a spiritual message: *This is an easy way to share your faith during the Advent season. Don't just sign your name but include a special message with each card. Set aside time after Christmas to write thank you notes and help your children write thank you notes for the gifts they receive. This is a wonderful habit for a lifetime, and a good way to foster gratitude for all gifts.*

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

Monday, December 13 - St. Lucy, Virgin & Martyr

6:45 AM John Pirozzolo - 6:45 a.m. Mass friends

Tuesday, December 14 - St. John of the Cross, Priest & Doctor of the Church

6:45 AM Daniel Linsler - Doug Madison family

Wednesday, December 15 - Advent Weekday

6:45 AM For the Faithful Departed

Thursday, December 16 - Advent Weekday

6:45 AM Deceased members of the Curtin family - family

Friday, December 17 - Late Advent Weekday

6:45 AM No Mass

Saturday, December 18 - Late Advent Weekday

5:00 PM Joseph O'Rourke - Ed & MaryLee Fairbrother

Sunday, December 19 - Fourth Sunday of Advent

8:30 AM Teri Guardi - husband, Bob

10:30 AM Eddie Jadoski - family

Write a Christmas letter to someone who is away from home for Christmas, someone in the military or someone working or ministering in a foreign land: *It has been said that receiving a letter when you are far away from home is like opening a priceless gift on Christmas morning, no matter what day of the year! Many people are unable to travel home for the holidays, so it can be a very lonely time for them. Write a special Christmas letter to someone of your choice.*

Enjoy an eco-friendly Christmas: *Christmas is a time when a large number of people enjoy excess and extravaganza, but the environmental cost can be quite dramatic. Arguably, a million miles of unrecyclable wrapping paper is thrown in the trash every year. Look for simple ways to cut down on waste this festive period. Where possible, use recyclable gift wrap.*

And most importantly.....

Attend Christmas Mass together with your family: *Make Christmas Mass an important part of your family's Christmas celebration. It is a wonderful way of 'keeping Christ in Christmas!' If you haven't been to Mass in sometime because of the pandemic, Christmas might be a good time to start attending Mass again. If you are alone this Christmas or don't have family near you, invite a friend or neighbor to join you for Christmas Mass.*

Have a great Advent week. Please continue to take care of yourself and each other.

Fr. L.

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.

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!

REGIONAL EVENTS

March for Life

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. Call Steve at 607-739-9282 for information or to reserve your seat.

Wounded Healers

The Wounded Healers will meet on **Tuesday, December 14th** on Zoom, hosted by Christ Lloyd, LCSW-R. All are welcome to touch base with each other about your own personal grief experiences and concerns. You can access the meeting by going to www.zoom.com and use the meeting ID# 811 6957 3946. If you have any difficulty, call 607-796-2795.

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 in 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 third week.

- 3rd Sunday in Advent, The Wisdom of Solomon, 1Kings 3: 3-28
- Monday, Elijah and the Raven, 1 Kings 17:1-16
- Tuesday, Elisha and Healing, 2 Kings 5:1-27
- Wednesday, Isaiah, Isaiah 6:1-8
- Thursday, Jeremiah 31:31-34
- Friday, Nehemiah the Builder, Nehemiah 13:10-22
- Saturday, Angels, Hebrews 1:1-14




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