



# 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 19, 2021



**CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR'S/EPIPHANY****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*

**Sunday, December 26, 2021 - Feast of Holy Family**

8:30 a.m. - Sunday Mass  
 10:30 a.m. - Sunday Mass

**Friday, December 31, 2021 - Mary, Mother of God**

*No 6:45 a.m. Mass today*  
 5:00 p.m. - Mass  
*No Saturday morning Mass today. As this day falls on a Saturday, there is no obligation to attend Mass.*

**Saturday, January 1, 2022 - Epiphany**

5:00 p.m. - Mass

**Sunday, January 2, 2022**

8:30 a.m. - Mass  
 10:30 a.m. - Mass

**SCRIPTURE READINGS****SUNDAY - December 26, 2021****THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH**

First Reading: 1 Samuel 1:20-22, 24-28  
 Second Reading: 1 John 3:1-2, 21-24  
 Gospel: Luke 2:41-52

**IN THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

Kathy Ruhmel

**MEMORIALS****Sanctuary Candle, Votive Candle, Eucharistic Hosts, Sacramental Wine:**

*In loving memory of Anna & Howard Minchin, Loretta Deats, and Warren & Florence Conklin - Warren & Jackie Conklin*

**IN OUR PARISH****Oplatki**

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

**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.

**Catholic Ministries Appeal**

As of December 8th, **179 families** have contributed **\$52,159.00** 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.

**CHRISTMAS FLOWERS****Evergreen Wreaths**

Merry Christmas, Dee Sherwood - love from the Frederick's

In memory of Rose Cieri - Patti & Tom Hinman  
 In memory of deceased loved ones - Bill & Patti Rosettie

Thanking God for our many blessings - Bill & Patti Rosettie

In memory of Daniel Woodard - wife, Peggy  
 In loving memory of Raymond Sherwood - wife, Deloris

In memory of deceased members of the Gronski family - Marybeth & Ed Gronski

In memory of deceased members of the Jenkins family - Marybeth & Ed Gronski

In memory of Bill Dominikoski - Bill's loving family  
 In memory of my wife, Judi - Ben Lynch

In memory of Judi Lynch - Michael & Karla Lynch  
 In memory of Judi Lynch - Brian & Debbie Lynch & family

In memory of Judi Lynch - Dave Raymond & Julie Lynch-Raymond & sons

In memory of Katherine & William Callahan - Barbara & Milt Simpson

In memory of Olive & Raymond Simpson - Barbara & Milt Simpson

In loving memory of Jack Denhoff - his wife, Ann  
 In loving memory of deceased members of the Yorio & Lese families - Deborah & Steven Lese

*(continued on next page)*

## Poinsettias

In memory of Katherine & Walter Chorney - Mark Chorney  
In memory of Vincent Chorney - Mark Chorney  
In memory of Raymond & Helen Hower - their daughters  
In memory of Andy & Dawn Andrewlavage - their family  
In memory of Ann Young - her family  
In memory of our son, Jimmy - Jim & Ann Ormiston  
In memory of our parents - Jansen family  
In memory of deceased Sonnekalb & Kuhnel family - Mary & Bob Kuhnel  
In memory of Don Zelko, Marian & John Kwasnowski - Mary & Bob Kuhnel  
In loving memory of my husband, Michael - Ann Bonsignore  
In memory of deceased Kosty & Ruocco families - Bob & Marianne Kosty  
In memory of Tracie Baravalle - Bob & Marianne Kosty  
In thanksgiving - Bob & Marianne Kosty  
Special Intention - Bob & Marianne Kosty  
In loving memory of our deceased family members - Mary & Jim Carr  
In thanksgiving - Mary & Jim Carr  
In memory of our parents, James & Mary House, Ken & Dorothy VanBurger - Barb & Bob VanBurger  
In thanksgiving for our many blessings - Irene & Norm Jarvis  
In memory of William LoVecchio - Marietta & family  
In memory of Robert & Rilla Jenkins - Marybeth & Ed Gronski  
In memory of Genevieve & Stephen Gronski Sr. - Ed & Marybeth Gronski  
In memory of Sue Beering - Fran Beering  
In memory of Christine & Matthias Beering - Fran Beering  
In memory of Angeline & Arthur Nenni - Fran Beering  
In memory of James Nenni - Fran Beering  
In memory of Rose Mary Beering - Fran Beering  
In memory of Stanley John Frederick - Deloris Sherwood  
In memory of Daniel Woodard - his girls  
In memory of John Kordyl - wife, Evie & family  
In memory of Mary & Warren Woodard - daughter, Evelyn & family  
In memory of Mamie Woodard - sister, Evelyn & family  
In loving memory of Anne & Charles Goodyear - Carol Sullivan & family  
In loving memory of the Art Sullivan family - Carol Sullivan & family  
In loving memory of Dick Sullivan - his wife, Carol & their children  
In memory of Arthur & Marie Maio - Suann, Arthur, Richard & Steve Maio  
In thanksgiving for my grandchildren - Anne & Joe Welch  
In memory of Helen M. & Edward J. Linsler - Father Chris Linsler

In memory of Daniel J. Linsler - Father Chris Linsler  
In memory of Chris E. McClory - Father Chris Linsler  
In memory of Milton "Bud" Skeels - Father Chris Linsler  
In memory of Kathleen, Leonard & Jean McClory - Father Chris Linsler  
In memory of Billie & Donald McClory - Father Chris Linsler  
In memory of J. Paul Linsler - Father Chris Linsler  
In memory of Eunice M. Linsler - Father Chris Linsler  
In memory of Stella & Chris McClory - Father Chris Linsler  
In memory of Mary & Edward Linsler - Father Chris Linsler  
In memory of Patricia McClory Clark - Father Chris Linsler  
In memory of Alice McClory Snyder - Father Chris Linsler  
In memory of Timothy McClory - Father Chris Linsler  
In memory of Allan Caldwell - Father Chris Linsler  
In memory of Michael Caldwell - Father Chris Linsler  
In memory of Dawn E. Reagan - Father Chris Linsler  
In memory of Jo & Tom Lasorda - Father Chris Linsler  
In memory of Sandra Scully - Father Chris Linsler  
In thanksgiving for all the blessings to our family during the past year - James & Barbara McClure  
In memory of Joseph, Marguerite & David Gwin - Sally Gwin  
In memory of Joseph, Marguerite & David Gwin - Sally Gwin  
In memory of Robert Mix - Dolores & daughters  
In memory of Mary Lou Mix Havens - her mother & sisters  
In memory of William & Almeda Mix - their granddaughters  
In memory of deceased family members - Ginny Pansero  
Special intention - Joy Anderson  
In memory of Jack Denhoff - Keith, Karen & Shawn  
In memory of Jack Denhoff - his grandchildren  
In loving memory of Craig Gorman - his wife, Ann & family  
In memory of deceased members of the Callahan family - Ann Gorman  
In memory of deceased Conz family members - William & Roberta Conz  
In memory of deceased Frawley family members - William & Roberta Conz



## EVERY DAY STEWARDSHIP

### Baby Jesus' Wish List

Odds are you've got a Christmas list going by now, gift ideas for everyone from your nephew to your goddaughter to your mailman. But what about the birthday boy? What's the gift Jesus gets from you this Christmas?

If you've ever read the Book of Leviticus, you know all about the sacrifices God asks of the Israelites, referred to in the reading from Hebrews today. Leviticus can be a chore to read, a little repetitive, a little intimidating. There's a lot of very specific actions that God asks His Chosen People to complete to make up for whatever they have done wrong. In essence, it's a bit of a wish list for gifts.

But it's a wish list that can really confuse you. What's God going to do with a cereal offering? The kidneys of an animal? If you look closely, what God is doing here is beautiful. He's customized His wish list to only those things He knows the Israelites can give. It's God saying, in what amounts to theological baby-talk for folks who barely know of Him and His ways, exactly how they could be stewards. "Do this, but don't do that. If you do that, do this and you will find My mercy."

Our guide to stewardship, the Gospels of Christ, is less precise because by the time of Christ, God's people have grown in understanding of love and mercy and relationship with the divine. Through Christ, we find out that God's real wish list didn't really consist of cereal offerings and the kidneys of various animals. It's far simpler, but luckily, it's something we still have on-hand. All He wants is our whole heart.

-Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS  
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## EPIPHANY

### Question:

Besides the Wise Men, what is significant about the Epiphany?

### Answer:

Epiphany means "manifestation," or public display. The feast is usually celebrated January 6. In the US, it is celebrated on the Sunday nearest to January 6. It originates from a story unique to Matthew (2:1-12). Magi from the East come to offer homage to the newborn King, presenting Him with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

This part of Matthew's infancy narrative differs from Luke's account of the birth of Jesus. In Luke there are no Magi, star, nor gifts. Luke has Jesus being born in a stable after Mary and Joseph's long travel from Nazareth to Bethlehem. Matthew seems to have the family living in a house in Bethlehem, where the Magi find them.

Why these differences? They stem from the needs and concerns of the audience the authors were addressing, as well as the theological stance of each author. Knowing the original intention helps get at the correct interpretation of the text.

Since Matthew was writing primarily to a Jewish community, his concern was to show that Jesus did not come just for Jews, but for Gentiles as well. From His very birth, Jesus not only manifests Himself to Jews, but also to Gentiles, who are prominently included in the manifestation, symbolized by the Magi and their journey. This is the most significant aspect of the feast of Epiphany. How do you manifest Jesus to all with whom you come into contact?

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## 4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT

St. Augustine tells us that a "Christian is a mind through which Christ thinks, a heart through which Christ loves, a voice through which Christ speaks and a hand through which Christ helps." As we look around and out at the world, we do not have to search too far before we come face to face with inequity and injustice. There is so much unfairness, prejudice, anger, hatred, violence, and want. The stories of human heartache, people being hurt, deprived of life's necessities, loneliness, and sickness are far too commonplace. For many of the world's ills, the vices of greed, lust, pride, gluttony, and jealousy are clearly among the more significant root causes.

Why doesn't God just step in and fix this mess? After all, God created this world, and one would hope that He would step up and take some measure of responsibility for it! Once we sit with this thinking for a while, we can begin to realize just how flawed it really is. God did take responsibility and God did fix the problem! God sent us Jesus Christ as the divine solution to the world's ills. It is not God who has shirked responsibility, we have. We are the ones who continually fail to set our own personal needs, wants, and securities aside so that One more powerful than us can use us.

Mary had to set her needs aside in order for the Son of God to come into the world. Put simply, Mary listened and believed. Having opened herself to being an instrument of the Divine, God could use her as His mind, heart, voice, and hand. She became God's vessel so that God's greatness could reach the ends of the earth and peace could come upon the world. God's fix for the world's difficulties is you and me. We are the ones who confess that Jesus Christ came into the world as the Son of God, the Prince of Peace, and herald of justice. All we have to do is believe, as did Mary, that what has been spoken to us by the Lord will be fulfilled. Then, we can step aside and be the Christians we claim to be. What a difference it would make if every person who professed to be Christian truly understood that their one and only vocation is to be God's instrument. What a beautiful, equitable, and just world it would be.

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**PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE**

Happy **Fourth Sunday of Advent** and **Merry Christmas!** I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your family a Blessed and Merry Christmas! I feel very blessed and fortunate in my ministry and as your pastor, to join you in thanking God for the many ways, even during these days of the pandemic, we are blessed as the parish community of St. Mary Our Mother!

I extend a warm welcome to all to join us for our Christmas liturgies. These liturgies will invite us to listen to the story of our salvation. The Christmas message is the story of God's unconditional love for us. As His followers we are called to fill this world with the many other stories that mirror and give witness to God's love for us. This is the meaning and wonder of the Incarnation.

The Christmas holidays can be particularly painful for those who have lost loved ones this past year. So many lives have been lost due to the coronavirus.

Through the years, I have enclosed the following in my Christmas greeting to friends who have lost a loved one. I thought it might be a timely poem as we look forward to Christmas this year.

**MY FIRST CHRISTMAS IN HEAVEN**

*I see countless Christmas trees around the world  
below; with tiny lights, like heaven's stars,  
reflecting on the snow.*

*The sight is so spectacular, please wipe away that  
tear, for I am spending Christmas with Jesus  
Christ this year.*

*I hear the many Christmas songs, the people hold so  
dear, but the sounds of music can't compare with  
the Christmas choir up here.*

*For I have no words to tell you, the joy their voices  
bring, for it is beyond description to hear an  
angel sing.*

*I can't tell you of the splendor, or the peace here in  
this place, can you just imagine Christmas with  
our Savior, face to face?*

*I'll ask him to light your spirit, as I tell him of your  
love, so then pray for one another, as you lift  
your eyes above.*

*Please let your hearts be joyful, and let your spirit  
sing, for I am spending Christmas in Heaven, and  
I'm walking with a King!*

*I know how much you miss me, I see the pain inside  
your heart, but I'm really not far away; we really  
aren't apart.*

**MASSES FOR THE WEEK**

**Monday, December 20 - Late Advent Weekday**

6:45 AM Phillip Amisano - his family

**Tuesday, December 21 - Late Advent Weekday**

6:45 AM Bill Dominikoski - Lynda Seeley

**Wednesday, December 22 - Late Advent Weekday**

6:45 AM Angie DeLaura - Patty Burdulis

**Thursday, December 23 - Late Advent Weekday**

6:45 AM Curtis Hadley - Judy Delgotto

**Friday, December 24 - Late Advent Weekday**

3:00 PM For the People of St. Mary Our Mother

5:00 PM For the People of St. Mary Our Mother

11:00 PM For the People of St. Mary Our Mother

**Saturday, December 25 - The Nativity of the Lord**

9:00 PM For the People of St. Mary Our Mother

**Sunday, December 26 - The Holy Family of Jesus,  
Mary and Joseph**

8:30 AM Fr. Robert MacNamara - Dobek family

10:30 AM Francis J. Mack, Jr. - his family

*So be happy for me, dear ones, you know I hold you  
dear, and be glad that I'm spending Christmas  
with Jesus Christ this year.*

*I send you each a special gift from my heavenly home  
above. I send you each a memory of my undying  
love.*

*And all "love" is the gift more precious than pure  
gold. It was almost most important in the stories  
Jesus told.*

*Please love and keep each other as my Father said to  
do, for I can't count the blessings of the love God  
has for you.*

*So have a Merry Christmas and wipe away that tear,  
remember I'm spending Christmas with Jesus  
Christ this year!*

*Author Unknown*

On behalf of the entire staffs of St. Mary Our Mother parish and school, we wish you, your family, and your loved ones a blessed, holy, and **Merry Christmas!**

Fr. L



**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.

**CHRISTMAS DINNER PRAYER**

Loving God and Father of us all,  
 we joyfully celebrate the birth of your Son,  
 the eternal Word who came to dwell with us  
 and is born this day of the Virgin Mary.  
 May the meal we share on this great feast  
 satisfy us not only with the good food  
 you give us,  
 but also grace us with the fullness of your love,  
 which you bestowed on our human nature  
 when your Son took on our very flesh.  
 May we come to share completely  
 in your divine life  
 through the coming of your Son among us.  
 May His self-giving love be made manifest  
 in our hearts so that the joy of  
 our Christmas feast may extend  
 beyond our family and home  
 to touch the lives of others  
 with the love that makes this day holy  
 and makes us all children  
 of one family in You

Amen.

**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 to 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 fourth week.

- 4th Sunday in Advent, Zechariah and Elizabeth, Luke 1:5-25
- Monday, Virgin Mary, Luke 1:26-38
- Tuesday, Magnificat, Luke 1:39-56
- Wednesday, Birth of John the Baptizer, Luke 1:57-80
- Thursday, Joseph the Nazareth, Matthew 1: 18-25
- Christmas Eve, The Birth of Jesus, Luke 2:1-20
- Christmas Day, Christ Our Lord, John 1: 1-18



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