



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 18, 2022

Fourth Sunday of **ADVENT**



WEEKLY CALENDAR:**Tuesday, December 20**

3:45 p.m.—Religious Education—school

Wednesday, December 21

6:30 pm—School Christmas Program—church

Thursday, December 22

9:00 a.m.—School Christmas Program—church

MEMORIAL:

The Eucharistic Hosts for the week of December 11-17, 2022 have been donated in memory of Henry Ryan by Mary and Jim Carr.

IN THE PEACE OF CHRIST:

Donald Blide, Sr.
Dorothy Foray
Charles (Pudgie) Cleary
Joanne Garrity
Maria Regina Miller
Robert Van Burger
Connie Goff Young

**ADVENT/CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE:****Sacrament of Penance**

Saturday: 3:30

St. Mary Our Mother School Children's Christmas Program

6:30—Wednesday, December 21

9:00 —Thursday, December 22

Christmas Masses**Saturday, December 24, 2022**

3:00 p.m.—Christmas Family Mass

5:00 p.m.—Christmas Mass

9:30 p.m.—Adult Choir Choral Concert

10:p.m.— Christmas Mass during the Night
(formerly known as "Midnight Mass")**Sunday, December 25, 2022**

9:00 a.m.—Christmas Mass

*Blessing of Christmas gifts at Christmas Morning Mass***PARISH OFFICES CLOSED:**

The parish offices will be closed on Friday, December 23rd and on Monday, December 26th in observance of Christmas. The offices will re-open on Tuesday, December 27 at 9:00 a.m. We offer our best wishes to all for a Blessed and Merry Christmas!

WEEKLY READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 18, 2022:**Sunday :** Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 7c, 10b/Rom 1-7/Mt 1:18-24**Monday:** Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17/Lk 1:5-25**Tuesday:** Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6/Lk 1:26-38**Wednesday:** Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21/Lk 1:39-45**Thursday:** Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7,8, Lk 1:46-56**Friday:** Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8,9,10 and 14/Lk 1:57-66**Saturday:** Morning: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2 3, 4-5, 27 and 29/Lk 1:67-79**Next Sunday: Vigil:** Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-7, 27, 29 (2a)/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25**Night:** Is 9:1-6/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14**Dawn:** Is 62:11-12/Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12/Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20, Is 52:7-10/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5 -6 [3])/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14**OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 18, 2022****Sunday:** 4th Sunday of Advent**Monday:****Tuesday:****Wednesday:** St. Peter Canisius, Priest and Doctor**Thursday:****Friday:** St. John of Kanty, Priest**Saturday:** Christmas Eve**Next Sunday:** The Nativity of the Lord**ON THE LIGHTER SIDE:**

1. What do you call Santa when he stops moving?
2. What did the gingerbread man put on his bed?
3. What is Santa's favorite track and field event?
4. Which Christmas carol do parents love the most?
5. How many gifts can Santa put in an empty stocking?

Answers

Santa Pause, 2. A cookie sheet, 3. North Pole-vaulting, 4. Silent Night, 5. One— because after that it isn't empty anymore.



PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE:

We arrive today at the **Fourth Sunday of Advent**. We begin the final week of this joyous and hope filled season. We also see somewhat of a shift of emphasis from the prophetic writings and people like John the Baptist who announced the coming of the Lord, to how God accomplishes His plan of salvation through the life of Mary, the Mother of God, but of so many others who are open to God's call and obedient to his word.

I recently came across this reflection which emphasizes the openness to God's call through the lives of two important people of this Advent season—Mary, and Elizabeth, the mother of John the Baptist. These are wonderful words to ponder as we journey through these final days of Advent.

*Mary responding to God's call
without hesitation.*

*God, understanding the need all women have for
relationship and community with other
women, chose Elizabeth to also have a son.*

*And Mary hurried to Elizabeth
to fill her heart with companionship,
Courage and wisdom.*

*Mary and Elizabeth,
kinswomen blessed by God,
rejoiced together
strengthened in their role
in our salvation.*

*Spiritually bound,
Mary and Elizabeth
raised their sons,
rejoicing in the cousins'
love for one another.*

*Watching their struggles.
Encouraging their ministries.
Bearing their losses.
Wiping each other's tears,
reveling in the fulfillment
of God's glory.*

*Mary and Elizabeth,
both chosen by God,
both accepting His call,
both bearing sons,
both loving and strengthened
by their shared lineage and destiny.*

*Christianity born through
their loving bonds of faith.*

E. Jane Rutter

MASSES FOR THE WEEK:

Monday, 6:45 AM	December 19--Late Advent Weekday Phillip Amisano—his family
Tuesday, 6:45 AM	December 20-- Late Advent Weekday George Cites (birthday)—Cites family
Wednesday, 6:45 AM	December 21-Late Advent Weekday Mary Amisano—6:45 Mass friends
Thursday, 6:45 AM	December 22-Late Advent Weekday James LeMark—his wife, Ann
Friday, 6:45 AM	December 23-Late Advent Weekday Charly Graves—wife, Jan
Saturday, 3:00 PM	December 24-- Late Advent Weekday For the people of St. Mary Our Mother
5:00 PM	For the people of St. Mary Our Mother
10:00 PM	For the people of St. Mary Our Mother
Sunday, 9:00 AM	December-25-Nativity of the Lord- Christmas For the people of St. Mary Our Mother

PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE CONTINUED:

I extend to all an invitation to our Christmas liturgies. These liturgies invite us to listen to the story of our salvation. The Christmas message is the story of God's unconditional love for us. As followers of Jesus, each of us is called to fill our world with the many other stories that mirror and offer witness to God's love for us. This is the meaning and wonder of Christmas. I look forward to joining you for our Christmas liturgies.

Enjoy this final, full week of Advent. Please continue to take care of yourself and each other!

Fr. L

FORTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT—GOSPEL REFLECTION:

“Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled.”— Luke 1: 45

In the first reading this Sunday, the Prophet Micah proclaims, “You, Bethlehem-Ephrathah, too small to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me, one who is to be ruler in Israel, His greatness shall reach to the ends of the earth; He shall be peace.”

In the Gospel, we hear of the interaction between two women who miraculously find themselves with child—Elizabeth, who was advanced in years and Mary, who was unwed. They marvel at God's work in their lives.

In reading their story, we can also marvel at the humble way God chose to come into our world. It speaks to one of the deepest truths of the Christian faith: that God values and lifts that which the world considered worthless, sees those who are obscure, empowers those who are powerless.

Continued on page 4

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS:

St. Joseph the Steward

St. Joseph is one of the greatest examples of stewardship we have in the Gospels. Here is a man who understands care and reverence for the property of God, a man chosen to be steward over the very life and breath of God's Son and Spouse.

Joseph was mindful. He recognized what belonged to God. When he understood that Mary was to be the mother of God, he was not jealous or bitter. He did not presume to claim ownership over her.

Joseph was prayerful. He accepted the opportunity to be in relationship with God, even if it was in a radical and unexpected way. How many of us would trust a crazy dream we have where an angel tells us our fiancée she is carrying the Son of God? Well, those of us who are already profoundly connected to God through prayer. Joseph was open to receiving God, and so he was open to the truth in a way many of us would not have been.

Joseph was gracious. Even before he had full understanding of the situation, he was unwilling to expose Mary to shame. He did not give himself over to feelings of betrayal.

Joseph was committed. He persevered. The Lord had no shortage of strange and even dangerous-sounding tasks for Joseph, but he submitted to each one.

Joseph was accountable. When he awoke from his dream, "he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him, and took his wife into his home."

Joseph was a man entrusted with many gifts, and he gave of them wisely. Let us pray that we have the grace to follow in his example.

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Gospel reflection continued from page 3

As we conclude Advent and prepare to celebrate Christmas, we are invited through the story of Christ's miraculous and humble birth to have hope amidst our overwhelming challenges.

In many ways, by saying, 'Yes' Mary realized her decision to assume the presence of Christ within herself affected more than just her, but also the millions of people who have been born since then. When she shared the good news with Elizabeth, Mary created a communion of joy between herself and Elizabeth. We have the opportunity to use Mary's example daily by being a witness to God in whatever ways God is calling us.

By sharing Christ with others just as Mary did with Elizabeth, there is an opportunity to allow new life to flourish. We never know what good may come from the smallest of our actions, whether it be a nod of acknowledgment, a short conversation, a kind deed or word, or even just a smile.



MINISTERIAL STAFF

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- Mrs. Barbara Matterazzo**, Bulletin Editor
- Ms. Jenna Crandall**, Maintenance
- Mr. Roger Williams**, Maintenance

PASTORAL COUNCIL

- Mr. Vincent Moschetti**, Chairperson
- Mrs. Richelle Riina**, Recording Secretary

CONTACT INFORMATION

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- 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

REFLECTION ON OUR ADVENT TRIVIA QUIZ:

1. Which of these events does Advent NOT anticipate?
Answer—the Resurrection

The term “Advent” comes from the Latin “adventus”, which means coming or arrival. In liturgical Christianity, it is a season of anticipation as Christians await three types of comings or arrivals: the physical birth of Christ (Nativity), the believers reception of Christ into his or her heart, and the second coming of Christ.

2. How many purple candles will you typically find in the Advent wreath? Answer: three (3)

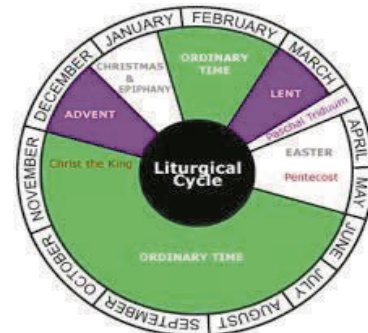
According to Teddy Colbert, the author of the book “The Living Wreath”, the tradition of the advent wreath originated among German Lutherans in the 16th century. It is now a practice in several western liturgical churches. Traditionally, the Advent wreath consists of four candles. Three of the candles are purple, and one is rose colored. Sometimes an optional fifth, white candle is included in the center of the wreath, this is known as the “Christ Candle”. At St. Mary Our Mother the large white candle is placed in the center of the wreath on Christmas Day to announce the birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ..

3. What is the last day of Advent?
Answer: Christmas Eve

Although the start date of Advent varies from year to year (depending on which day is the fourth Sunday before Christmas) Advent always ends on Christmas Eve. The Christmas season begins on December 25, and the twelve days of Christmas last until Epiphany on January 6.

4. The liturgical church year begins with **Advent**.

In the liturgical church calendar, the first Sunday in Advent marks the beginning of the Christian new year. The Advent season is followed by the Christmas season (also called Christmastide), Ordinary time (or the time after Epiphany), Lent, Easter, and the longer period of Ordinary Time (or the time after Pentecost).




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