



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

January 15, 2023

TESTIFY



“Now I have seen and testified that he is the Son of God.”

JOHN 1:34

WEEKLY CALENDAR:**Tuesday, January 17**

3:45 p.m.—Religious Education—school

Saturday, January 21

3:30 p.m. —Sacrament of Penance—church

IN THE PEACE OF CHRIST:

Margaret Bellizia
 Pope Emeritus Benedict
 Marian Reynolds

**MEMORIAL:**

The Sacramental wine, Eucharistic hosts, sanctuary candle and the icon candle for the week of January 15-21, 2023 have been donated in loving memory of Raymond Sherwood by his wife, Deloris and the Alsworth's.

MASS INTENTIONS:

Any one of our regular scheduled Masses may be offered for a specific intention—in memory of a deceased person, for a sick person's recovery, a special birthday, a special anniversary or other occasions.

Please call the parish office at 739-3817 to request your Mass.

2023 CALENDARS:

Our parish is sincerely grateful to the Lynch Funeral Home for the donations of our 2023 calendars. Thank you Jim and Heather!

QR CODE GIVING:

Want to make a donation to St. Mary Our Mother directly from your smart phone? Use your photo app, or your QR reader app to scan the image below and it will bring you to our online donation website. Once your account is setup, future donations require just a few clicks to complete.

**PARISH OFFICE CLOSED:**

The parish offices will be closed on **Monday, January 16th** in observance of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday. The offices will re-open on **Tuesday, January 17th at 9:00 a.m.**

WEEKLY READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 15, 2022:

Sunday: Is 49:3, 5-6/Ps 40:2, 4, 7-8, 8-9, 10/1 Cor 1:1-3/Jn 1:29-34
Monday: Heb 5:1-10/Ps 110:1, 2, 3, 4/Mk 2:18-22
Tuesday: Heb 6:10-20/Ps 111:1-2, 4-5, 9 and 10c/Mk 2:23-28
Wednesday: Heb 7:1-3, 15-17/Ps 110:1, 2, 3, 4/Mk 3:1-6
Thursday: Heb 7:25—8:6/Ps 40:7-8a, 8b-9, 10, 17/Mk 3:7-12
Friday: Heb 8:6-13/Ps 85:8 and 10, 11-12, 13-14/Mk 3:13-19
Saturday: Heb 9:2-3, 11-14/Ps 47:2-3, 6-7, 8-9/Mk 3:20-21
Next Sunday: Is 8:23—9:3/Ps 27:1,4, 13-14 (1a)/1 Cor 1:10-13, 17/Mt 4:12-23 or 4:12-17

OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 15, 2023:

Sunday: 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
Monday: Martin Luther King Day
Tuesday: St. Anthony, Abbot
Wednesday: January 18-25 is the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
Thursday:
Friday: St. Fabian, Pope and Martyr; St. Sebastian, Martyr
Saturday: St. Agnes, Virgin and Martyr
Next Sunday: 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

GOSPEL MEDITATION:

When I was a kid, I remember the priest at Mass announcing, "The Lamb of God!" Frankly, it struck me as nonsense. I thought: Why in the world does God have a lamb? And where is this lamb?

John the Baptist sees Jesus coming toward him and announces, "Behold the lamb of God." His Jewish listeners knew what he meant. God's lamb is the thing that is sacrificed at the Jewish Passover and consumed by the participants. For almost a thousand years, lambs were ritually slaughtered and eaten in Jerusalem at Passover. The lamb meant sacrifice, freedom from sin, and communion with God. The Baptist is saying in effect, "This man will be ritually sacrificed and consumed so that God's people may be free from sin and united to God."

It's crucial to relate to Jesus as a friend, brother, teacher, and Lord of our lives. But we should also learn to interact with Him as our lamb of God. That means we intentionally place on Him our sins, sadness's, and hopes, and offer Him to God. Then we consume Him to make us free. This is what we do at every Mass. That's why He is the Lamb of God.— Father John Muir

PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE:

This weekend finds us returning to the Sundays of Ordinary Time, which will continue until Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent, which this year falls on February 22nd. This weekend also invites us to prayerfully remember the legacy of **Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**, whose memory we honor this coming Monday. In addition, we will begin the annual **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity**, when the Church invites us to pray for greater unity among all Christian churches, as well as greater respect for all **human life**.

Ever since his death, we are reminded of the legacy of **Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.** Dr. King stood for the equality of all people, especially speaking of his "dream" when all would sit at one table, when all would be able to ride the same bus, when all would be looked upon and identified by their gifts and talents and not by the color of their skin. His tragic and violent death, like modern day terrorism and violence, are hard reminders that human nature can act in terrible and tragic ways. Dr. King's death, as well as any act of violence and terrorism, are sobering reminders that we have yet to achieve Dr. King's dream. This weekend affords us an opportunity to address any personal prejudice that we might have, and to recognize the common integrity of every human person.

The Supreme Court's decision of **Roe vs. Wade** fifty years ago to legalize abortion in the United States met its critical crisis in defending human life as beginning with natural birth, not at conception. If the child in the womb is a person, by American standards, that person has individual rights. The theology of the Roman Catholic Church defines human life as beginning at conception. While this definition has caused many painful decisions to be made on the part of parents, it is a starting point for conversation about the understanding of human life. Jesus' own life is defined from the moment of the Annunciation, when Mary said "yes" to the angel. Mary's own life began at the Immaculate Conception, as the sinless vessel of God. Though the Supreme Court recently overruled the decision of *Roe vs. Wade*, leaving the decision on the legalization of abortion to individual states, this anniversary serves as a reminder that we need to re-affirm our belief of human life as beginning at conception and ends with natural death.

Since the days of the Second Vatican Council, the Church has set aside eight days in January—specifically January 18 through 25—as a **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity**. It is a time when we acknowledge our common bonds with our Christian sisters and brothers, as well as people of all faith traditions. We worship a common God, we find our religious foundations in common traditions. For the most part, we utilize the same scriptures for our prayer, worship, and faith formation. For many, our ritual of worship is somewhat similar, often using the same hymns and prayers.

MASSES FOR THE WEEK:

Monday, 6:45 A.M.	January 16—Weekday Charly Graves—wife, Jan
Tuesday, 6:45 A.M.	January 17— St. Antony, Abbot Jeannette Barretta—Sharon and Dennis Taets
Wednesday, 6:45 A.M.	January 18—Weekday Bill Dominikoski— Bob and Becky Corcoran
Thursday, 6:45 A.M.	January 19—Weekday Rita Wayne—Dailey family
Friday, 6:45 A.M.	January 20—Weekday Faithful Departed
Saturday, 5:00 P.M.	January 2St. Agnes, Virgin & Martyr— Rocco and Theresa Giammichele— their family
Sunday, 8:30 A.M. 10:30 A.M.	January 22, 3rd Sunday-Ordinary Time Samantha Dobek—her family Edward J. Linsler

PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE CONTINUED:

. This annual week of prayer for Christian Unity is our commitment to our Lord's prayer at the Last Supper, "*that all may be one.*" (John 17:21). Since the Second Vatican Council, which issued a decree on Ecumenism, we have come to realize that our unity can be expressed in a variety of ways. An example of this locally is the annual Service of Lessons and Carols, held each December.

Is there a common bond which unites the violence in our world, to the observance of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday, to a greater awareness of human life from the womb to the tomb, to the week of Prayer for Christian Unity? It is the fact that we are a people of the same God. Each person has a responsibility to see others as sisters and brothers, offering respect and dignity to each other. It is this responsibility that enables us to address the issues such as human life beginning at conception, those who live in the grip of poverty, those who find themselves in prison, those who are close to death. We need to acknowledge the common bond that unites us—the Church, the Body of Christ.

Have a great week, and enjoy the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday weekend. Please continue to take care of yourself and each other.

Fr. L.

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

We are in the process of updating the names of those who have served as Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist prior to Covid-19. If you have previously served as a Eucharistic Minister, either in Church or to nursing and private homes, and wish to resume this ministry, please contact the parish office. (607-739-3817)



A STEWARDSHIP MOMENT:

As the prophet Isaiah proclaims in the first reading, the Lord continues to remind us that we are His servants. Imagine the Lord speaking these words to you personally: “You are my servant. Through you I show my glory. I formed you as my servant from your mother’s womb. I will make you a light so that you may shine the light of my salvation everywhere you go, and reveal my glory to everyone you encounter. I will give you the strength to do this. I will give you confidence. Heed my words, for I have spoken to you.” What would your response be to the Lord? Would it be different from the response you give the Lord now?

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME:

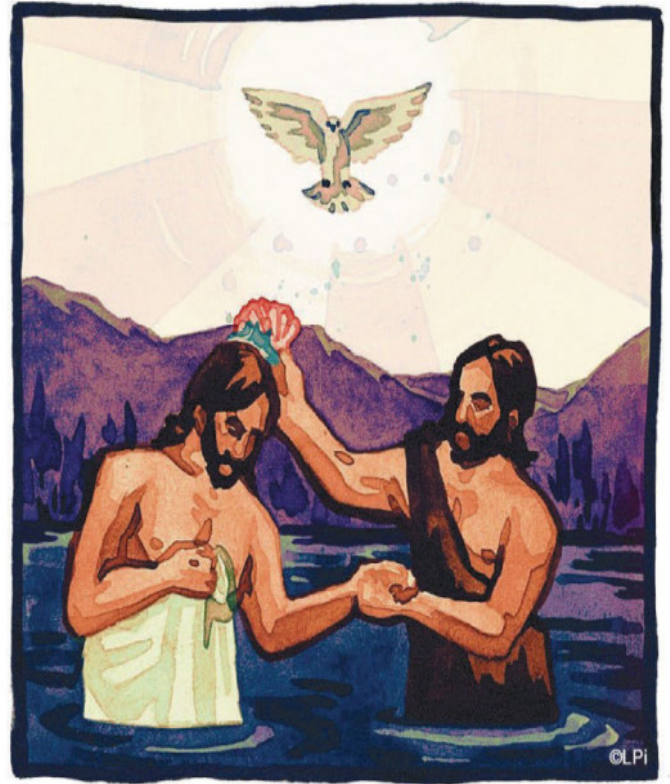
“Now I have seen and testified that He is the Son of God.” John the Baptist had an important message to impart. He was called by God to prepare the people of Israel to recognize Jesus’ true identity. In a sense, he helped establish credibility for Christ by confirming that He was in fact the Messiah. Jesus didn’t just have to claim it on His own; John also “testified” to the fact. We, of course, also benefit from the witness of John the Baptist recorded for us in the Gospels. And we have additional witnesses from the rest of the people throughout the Gospels who knew and recognized Jesus as the Son of God. But we also have the benefit of two thousand years of Church history! We have countless testimonies of saints and believers throughout the centuries who have known Jesus in their own lives and acted accordingly.

This raises two questions. First, are we willing to believe these testimonies from those who have gone before us? Consider how much credence we give to the experiences and the stories of our forefathers and foremothers in the faith, whether these are blood relatives or members of the larger communion of saints. Sometimes these personal accounts of coming to know the Lord are much more powerful than any “proof” of intellectual proposal about Christianity. They do require a degree of faith and trust, but they nonetheless provide us with real evidence about the impact of being close to Christ.

Secondly, let us consider whether or not we are willing to give testimony to who Christ is to us? It’s one thing to believe in Jesus; it’s another thing to share that faith with others. But like John the Baptist, we are called to share the truth so that others may come to believe.

REFLECTION:

John testified further, saying, “I saw the Spirit come down like a dove from heaven and remain upon Him. I did not know Him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water told me, “On whomever you see the Spirit come down and remain, He is the one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.” Jn 1:32-34



MINISTERIAL STAFF

- Rev. Christopher E. Linsler**, Pastor
- Rev. Richard F. Kajiru**, In Residence
- Mrs. Amanda Reeves**, Coordinator of Faith Formation
- Miss Lily Barr**, Faith Formation Assistant
- 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
- Ms. Wendy Slater**, Office Assistant
- Mr. Doug Johnson**, Cemetery Manager
- 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

- 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

JANUARY IS POVERTY AWARENESS MONTH IN THE UNITED STATES

Today, Chemung County has 11,136 of its current population of 80,273 people, living in poverty. This gives our county a poverty rate of 13.9% This is a poverty rate equal to the rate of poverty in NYS. It exceeds the national poverty rate, which stands at 12.8%. Of the 36,918 employed persons in Chemung County, 2,412 of them are living in poverty.

Your support of the Horseheads Food Pantry which serves the needy of Chemung County is a great way to help relieve poverty in our county. Your generous response, as a parish to the Christmas Caring Program, offered much needed assistance to the Pantry in a time of critical need. Poverty does not fade away with the end of the holiday season; the need for support remains, especially during these cold winter months ahead. Please continue your generous food donations to the pantry cart in our church vestibule.

Secondly, and equally important is your advocacy and support of programs and legislation that address issues that have a disproportionate impact on those living in poverty. They are in the areas of health care, labor rights and wages, environmental safeguards, and housing.

Consider the words of Pope Francis addressing poverty:

“Solidarity means much more than engaging in sporadic acts of generosity. It means thinking and acting in terms of community. It means that the lives of all are prior to the appropriation of goods by a few. It also means combatting the structural causes of poverty: inequality, the lack of work, land and housing, the denial of social and labor rights.”

Pope Francis, Fratelli Tutti, no. 116, quoting World Meeting for Popular Movements.




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