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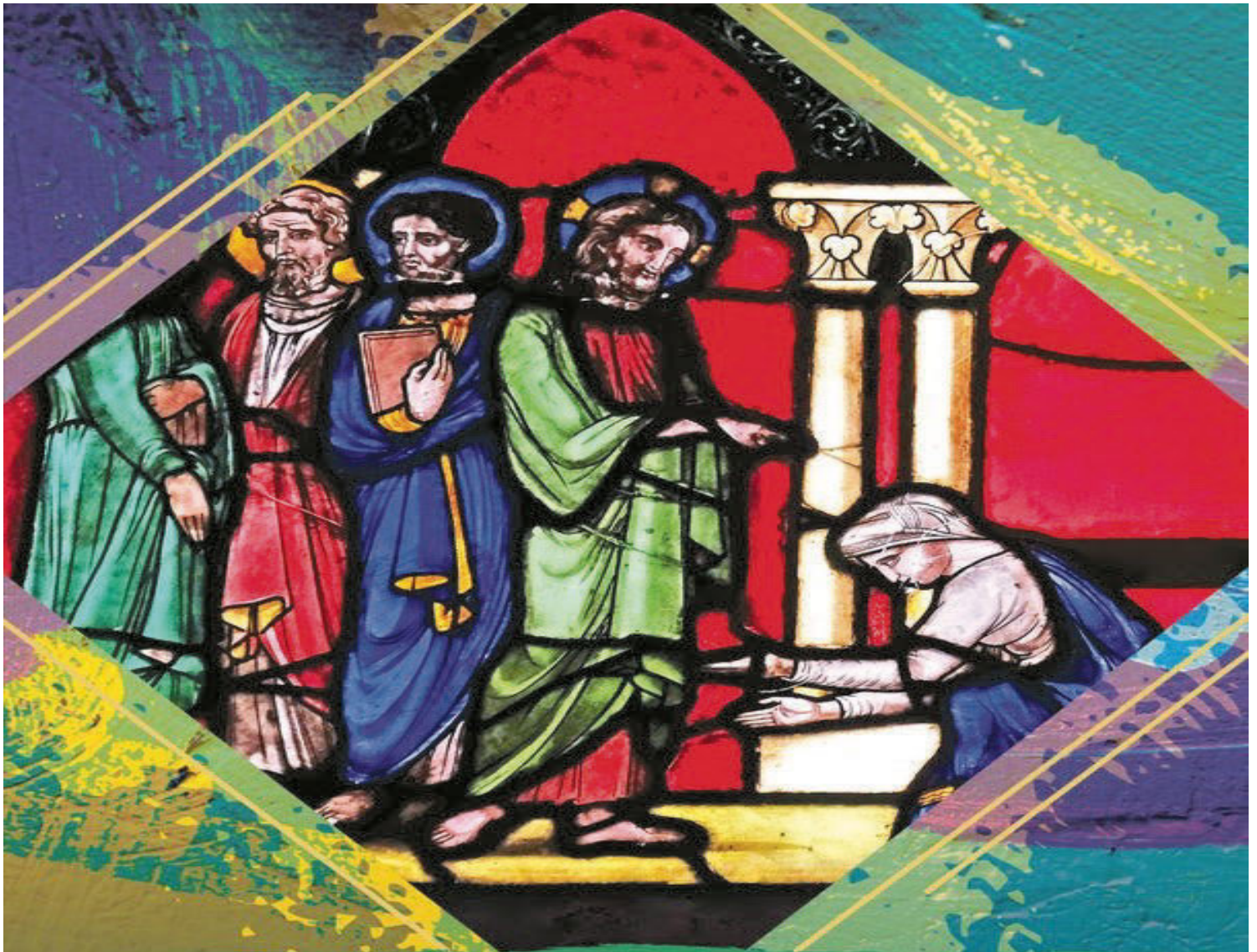
MISSION STATEMENT

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

August 20, 2023



20TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

The woman came and did Jesus homage, saying,
"Lord, help me." - Mt 15:25

WEEKLY CALENDAR:**Saturday, August 19, 2023:**

3:30 p.m.—Sacrament of Penance—church

FLOWER DONATION:

The main altar flowers for the week of August 20—26, have been donated in loving memory of Judi Lynch by her husband, Ben.

MEMORIALS:

The Eucharistic Hosts and the Sacramental Wine for the week of August 20—26, have been donated in memory of Robert and Mary Lou Tremaine by Joan and Barry Sawester.

The sanctuary candle and the icon candle for the week of August 20—26, have been donated in loving memory of Judi Lynch by her children and grandchildren.

IN THE PEACE OF CHRIST:

Gertrude Barnstead
Joanne Bruse



**A STEWARDSHIP MOMENT:
20th Sunday in Ordinary Time:**

In today's first reading, the Lord speaks through the prophet Isaiah during a time of political dissolution and moral decline. The prophet had warned God's judgment against people for the feelings of self-importance they found in their possessions, and condemned them for various forms of economic injustice such as exploiting the poor and immigrants. Good stewards know that Isaiah's message is as compelling today as it was in the time of the kingdom of Judah: Do the right thing. Offer justice and compassion towards others. Be honest in all your dealings. And remember to observe the day of the Lord.

WEEKLY READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF AUGUST 20, 2023:

- Sunday:** Is 56:1, 6-7/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 (4)/Rom 11:13-S15, 29-32/Mt 15:21-28
- Monday:** Jgs 2:11-19/Ps 106:34-35, 36-37, 39-40, 43ab and 44/Mt 19:16-22
- Tuesday:** Jgs 6:11-24a/Ps 85:9, 11-12, 13-14/Mt 19:23-30
- Wednesday:** Jgs 9:6-15/Ps 21:2-3, 4-5, 6-7/Mt 20:1-16
- Thursday:** Rv 21:9b-14/Ps 145:10-11, 12-13, 17-18/Jn 1:45-51
- Friday:** Ru 1:1, 3-6, 14b-16, 22/Ps 146:5-6ab, 6c-8-9a, 9bc-10/Mt 22:34-40
- Saturday:** Ru 2:1-3, 8-11; 4:13-17/Ps 128:1b-2, 3, 4, 5/Mt 23:1-12
- Next Sunday:** Is 22:19-23/Ps 138:1-2, 2-3, 6, 8 (8bc)/Rom 11:33-36/Mt 16:13-20

The Prayers God Will Always Answers

When I was a child, my mother bought a book called "The Prayers God Will Always Answer." I remember my anticipation as I cracked the spine and turned to the first page.

I had been spending much time asking God — begging God — over and over again for some specific things that were not materializing. Frankly, it was beginning to feel a lot like that time I asked Santa Claus for a new house, only to wake up on Christmas morning to find ordinary, non-house-shaped presents under the tree — and a growing sense of suspicion that my faith had been ill-placed.

To the great disappointment of my pre-teen heart, my mother's book was not a directory of magical phrases God is compelled to obey. It was a list that included things like "Forgive me" and "Help me." I tossed it aside, disappointed.

I marvel at the wisdom and the confidence of the Canaanite woman who persists in begging Jesus to heal her daughter. She is ignored, and still, she will not be deterred. The disciples try to dismiss her — still, she presses on. Christ himself challenges her, and her faith makes her ready with a reply.

Somehow, I am sure that even if Christ had said, "No, it cannot be done for you as you wish," she would have still dropped to her knees and worshiped Him because she knew what I did not: God is not a vending machine, and He's not the genie from "Aladdin." Prayer is not a negotiation, but a relationship.

The Canaanite woman's story is not about how to get God to give you what you want. It is a story about the prayers God always answers.

"Then Jesus said to her in reply, 'O woman, great is your faith!'" — Matthew 15:28

PRAY

PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE:

The following article was printed in the July 2023 newsletter published by the **International Catholic Stewardship Conference**. It is the first of a four-part series by the **Reverend Joseph D. Creedon** from his 2018 book, *Stewardship: A Life-Giving Spirituality*.

Baptism makes us disciples with a mission and a ministry; Confirmation seals us with the seven-fold gifts of the Holy Spirit. Eucharist feeds our body, mind, and spirit to help us live our faith to its fullness. We eat the bread and drink the wine to make sure that we do not forget the love that motivated Jesus to suffer and die for us; to make sure that we never forget that His love was rewarded when His father called Him back to life and changed human history forever! Eucharist is the Stewardship sacrament par excellence.

Without grateful hearts Eucharist can never be fully experienced. As all of us are painfully aware, attendance at Mass is at an all-time low. The explanations for the decline in Mass attendance are many, and it is doubtful that any one explanation can explain fully why participation in the Eucharist on Sunday fails to motivate so many people.

There are some who believe that when the liturgy was no longer celebrated in Latin that we lost our sense of mystery. Once the mystery was gone, people began to drift away. While it cannot be disputed that the beginning of the drop in attendance at Sunday Mass began about the time that English was introduced, most would agree that the relationship is coincidental rather than casual.

Others believe that the drop in Mass attendance is the result of secularism. When I was a young boy all of Sunday, but especially Sunday morning, was reserved for Church. There was no shopping because all of the shops were closed. There were no Sunday morning road races, no soccer matches, and no football games. Sunday morning was for Church. Obviously, this is no longer the case. For too many people Sunday is the only day they do not work. Sunday is now seen as personal time for those who work too long and too hard. Religion now has to compete with an ever-increasing number of opportunities on Sunday, and we are not winning the battle.

Some people were driven away from Church as a reaction to the sexual abuse scandal that is ongoing in our Church. Some think that as believers are better educated, their need for church wanes. Still others insist that the new English translation of the Mass, which is certainly new but certainly not English, has added to the problem of declining participation in Sunday Mass. In addition to all these contributing factors is the reality that more and more people do not believe that missing Mass on Sunday is a sin. (Continued in next column)

MASSES FOR THE WEEK:

Monday: 6:45 Mass	Aug. 21—St. Pius X, Pope Communion Service
Tuesday: 6:45 A.M.	Aug. 22—The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary Teri Guardi—Bob
Wednesday: 6:45 A.M.	Aug. 23—Weekday Bryan Lanahan—his family
Thursday: 6:45 A.M.	Aug. 24—St. Bartholomew, Apostle Henry and Josephine Ryan—Mary and Jim Carr
Friday: 6:45 A.M.	Aug. 25—Weekday Pablo and Elisea Atienza—Macapinlac family
Saturday: 5:00 P.M.	Aug. 26 —Weekday Bill Cotterill—Elston family
Sunday: 8:30 A.M. 10:30 A.M.	Aug. 27—Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time Carol and Tom Webster—the Leipolds John Gough—wife, Ellie and family.

(pastors perspective continued)

Whatever the real reason or reasons, no one can deny that we have a problem and we need to find a solution. I firmly believe, though, that the spirituality of stewardship is the best solution to the problem of declining Sunday Mass attendance.

Part II, which appeared in the August 2023 edition of the International Catholic Stewardship Conference will appear in next week's bulletin.

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

Fr. L.

**“So you want to become Catholic?”
RCIA FOR ADULTS IS FOR YOU**

Are you interested in learning more about the Catholic faith? Perhaps you are married to a Catholic and are bringing your children up in the faith, and you would like to participate fully in the Mass as well. Or you attended a wedding or funeral of a friend or loved one and would like to explore this faith tradition more deeply. Maybe it is an interest in Catholic Social teaching or and experience of the sacraments; or maybe you have a friend or family member who is Catholic and their presence in your life is an inspiration.

Whether you have never been baptized, or attended Sunday school, or were baptized in another Christian faith and are now interested in the Catholic Church, the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) could be for you. The RCIA is a process in which the faith journey of an individual is honored and together we talk about God and faith and the core beliefs of the Catholic faith.

For more information please call the parish office at 607-739-3817. Please provide your name and contact information for our RCIA coordinator who will contact you.

NEW YORK STATE EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS:

October 20-22, 2023 Our Lady of Martyrs Shrine, Auriesville, NY.



We're going on a pilgrimage! Join Catholics across the Southern Tier for a trip by bus to the New York State Eucharistic Congress on Saturday, October 21. We plan to pick up pilgrims in Corning, Horseheads, Waverly and Owego. The cost is \$65. Call the Blessed Trinity parish office in Owego to reserve your spot: 607-687-1068. For more details, visit: www.blessed-trinity-.org/pilgrimage/

WOUNDED HEALERS' BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP:



The Wounded Healers' Bereavement Support Group meeting will be offered on Tuesday, September 12, 2023 at 7:00 p.m., in person, at St. Mary Our Mother School, 811 Westlake St., Horseheads, NY. After entering the school driveway and bearing left (the length of the school on your right), drive to the parking lot. Use the door of the school across from the playground. You may want to bring a picture or two of your loved one who died, or a memento of significance. Each one has a personal grief journey so we are open to listen, and are careful to not dogmatize. We welcome those who are grieving the death of a loved one to this sharing; as you are each hoping to find encouragement, insight, and normalization from each other. ALL are welcome. We strive to provide a safe, confidential, and open place where our motto remains, "We see healing in the very act of helping."



Our programs for Faith Formation are beginning soon. This includes our Tuesday Program, Home Study, First Penance, First Holy Eucharist, and Confirmation. Please check the bulletin board in the back of church or our church website for registration forms. Below you will find important dates for each program.

- Tuesday Program:** September 19th, 3:45-5:00 p.m.— Pick-up and drop off at the church.
- Confirmation Yrs. 1&2**—Saturday, September 23rd., at 6:00 p.m. (following mass) in the church.
- Home Study Kick-off meeting (all must attend):** Sunday, September 24th, at 11:45 a.m. in the church.
- First Penance Kick-off Meeting (all must attend):** Sunday, October 1st, at 12:00 p.m. in the church.

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
- Michelle Card**, 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**
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- 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

BIBLE TRIVIA TO CONTEMPLATE:

What is Truth?

- A. It differs for each person.
- B. Nothing but a lie.
- C. The expression of reality.

What does it mean when Genesis 1:27 says that God created humans in His image?

- A. We each have the freedom and capacity to love.
- B. Every person has a divine spark that eliminates darkness.
- C. Each of us is a demigod.

Where do we most see the current influence of the tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil?

- A. At the produce section of your local store.
- B. In the New Testament gospel of Grace.
- C. In the workings of the human conscience.

CORRECT ANSWERS: 1. c, 2. a 3, c



ON THE LIGHTER SIDE:

In the foyer of a church, a young boy was looking at a plaque with the names of men and women who died in various wars. He asked the pastor, "Who are these people?" The pastor said, "those are members from our church who died in service." The boy asked, "The early service or the second service?"



18TH ANNUAL ST. MARY OUR MOTHER SCHOOL GOLF TOURNAMENT:

Join us on September 17, 2023 for the 18th Annual St. Mary Our Mother School Golf tournament. We have sponsorship opportunities so please spread the word. To register, scan the QR code below to access the tournament's website.

If you are unable to join us for the tournament, please consider making a donation that will go directly to supporting St. Mary Our Mother School.

The tournament is held at Willowcreek Golf Club, starting at 10 a.m. (Shotgun start). Hotdogs will be available at the turn, with dinner and prizes to follow. We look forward to seeing you, and we appreciate your support!

For more information, please check our website—
<http://smoms-annual-golf-tournament.perfectgolfevent.com>.




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