



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

November 19, 2023



33RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

“Master, you gave me five talents. See, I have made five more.” - Mt 25:20

WEEKLY CALENDAR**Tuesday, November 21**

3:45 p.m.—Faith Formation Classes—school

Saturday, November 25

3:30 p.m.—Sacrament of Penance—church

The Votive light before the Icon is burning for the week of November 19-25, 2023 in memory of Fae and Puglisi families by George and Franca.



The main altar arrangement for the week of November 19-25, 2023 has been donated in memory of Raymond Sherwood by his wife, Deloris.

IN THE PEACE OF CHRIST:

Jean Jones
Dorothy Sgro

**PRAYER PLAQUE FOR THE SICK:**

The prayer plaque listing the names of ill persons who have asked for our prayers will return to the Church soon.

If you wish to be listed or know of someone who has asked for our prayers, please call the parish office at 607-739-3817.

OUR CMA CAMPAIGN PRAYER:

O God our loving Creator and giver of all good gifts. bless our parish, strengthen our faith and grant us the spirit of Christian Stewardship so that we may give generously of our time, talent, and treasure, to the building of Your Kingdom here in the Church and throughout the world.

We pray for your help in achieving success in this campaign, so that we can help others throughout our diocese.

This we ask through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit now and forever.
AMEN.

PARISH OFFICES CLOSED; The parish offices will be closing at **11:00 a.m.**, on **Wednesday, November 22nd**, and offices will re-open on Monday, November 27th at 9:00 a.m.

We wish all a very joyful and happy Thanksgiving!

WEEKLY READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 19, 2023.

Sunday: Prv 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31/Ps 28:1-2, 3, 4-5 (see 1a)/1 Thes 5:1-6/Mt 25:14-30 or 25:14-15, 19-21.

Monday: 1 Mc 1:10-15, 41-43, 54-57, 62-63/ Ps 119:53, 61, 134, 150, 155, 158/ Lk 18:35-43

Tuesday: 2 Mc 6:18-31/Ps 3:2-3, 4-5, 6-7/Lk 19:1-10

Wednesday: 2 Mc 7:1, 20-31/Ps 17:1bcd, 5-6, 8b and 15/Lk 19:11-28

Thursday: 1 Mc 2:15-29/Ps 50:1b-2, 5-6, 14 15/ Lk 19:41-44

Friday: 1 Mc 4:36-37, 52-59/1 Chr 29:10bcd, 11abc, 11d-12a, 12bcd/Lk 19:45-48

Saturday: 1 Mc 6:1-13/Ps 9:2-3, 4 and 6, 16 and 19/Lk 20:27-40

Next Sunday: Ez 34:11-12, 15-17/Ps 23:1-2, 3, 5-6 (1)/1 Cor 15:20-26, 28/Mt 25:31-46



Our Thanksgiving Day Mass will be at 9:00 a.m. We invite you to join us for this Eucharist of Thanksgiving and ask that you bring nonperishable food items with you to this Mass. These food items will be used by our Social Ministry Committee's Christmas Giving program in partnership with the Horseheads Food Pantry. In addition, the collection on Thanksgiving Day will be used to support these outreach efforts of our Social Ministry Committee. You may place all donations in the receptacles at the entrances of the church.

"Why do melons have to get married in a church?"



"Because they cantaloupe."



Catholic weddings take place in church buildings to emphasize the importance of the day and the sacredness of the occasion.

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PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE:

"Thank you" are two of the most used words in our language, taught to us at a very early age. At times, we use them automatically, often without thinking; other times we are surprised when they are addressed to us. These two words express an appreciation for a kind word, a good deed, a project completed, satisfaction confirmed. They invite us to be grateful for the fact that what often is done for us or said to us is appreciated.

When I encounter our young children in the parish, I often smile when a child says "thank you," usually accompanied by a huge smile. Sometimes, I will ask them to repeat that two word answer, always with an enthusiastic spirit. Other times, I am caught off guard when one of the older students will say, "Uh, Father, tanks!" Oftentimes when I visit the sick or administer the sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, the patient or a family member may say *Thank you.* As I get ready to leave, oftentimes we will shake hands and they will say *"Seriously Father, thank you"* It was a moment that let me know they appreciated my time and effort and wanted me to know about it. In this case, I had taken those important two words for granted.

Thursday of this week, Americans will celebrate Thanksgiving. The President's Official Proclamation calls for all Americans to set aside the fourth Thursday in November—this year, November 23, 2023—as a day to give thanks for the blessings and prosperity that we enjoy. We are aware of the artist's renditions of early American Thanksgivings and have seen the television specials telling us of Thanksgivings of old. In our Thanksgiving gatherings, we may find ourselves remembering Thanksgivings of the past, recalling fondly those who once sat with us at table and now sit at God's heavenly table. We may simply look around at our family table and see familiar faces, along with familiar stories and simply be grateful that we are a part of it all. Wherever you find yourself, Thanksgiving offers us a moment to pause and not to achieve a thing but to simply be grateful for who we are.

Several years ago, I attended a kindergarten Thanksgiving Dinner. Before the dinner I asked the children what the pilgrims ate on Thanksgiving. Of course, they all responded *"Turkey!"* Then a little boy put his hand up, and said *"They had popsicles!"* I smiled and asked the child *"Why do you think they had popsicles?"* My teacher said that the pilgrims had their *favorite foods—popsicles and my favorite food, so they must have had popsicles!* I told him that I didn't know if they had popsicles or not, but his logic was flawless! We then gathered in this large circle and we were asked to name *what we were grateful for.* The usual answer that was spoken was: *"Mom and Dad; Grandma and Grandpa; my sister; my brothers; and the pet dog."* Then I heard a little voice which said *"I thank God that my Mommy is still alive!"*

MASSES FOR THE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 19:

Monday: 6:45 A.M.	Nov. 20 Weekday Margaret Bellizia —family
Tuesday: 6:45 A.M.	Nov. 21 The presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Mary Amisano—husband Guy and family
Wednesday: 6:45 A.M.	Nov. 22 St. Cecilia, Virgin and Martyr Chester Wawrzusin—Raymond
Thursday: 6:45 A.M.	Nov. 23 Weekday For all the People of St. Mary Our Mother
Friday: 6:45 A.M.	Nov. 24 St. Andrew Dung-Lac, Priest & Companions, Martyrs No Mass
Saturday: 5:00 P.M.	Nov. 25 Weekday Bob VanBurger—wife, Barb
Sunday: 8:30 A.M. 10:30 A.M.	Nov. 26 Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of The Universe Deceased of the Curtin family—family Joey Blide—JoAnn Barbieri

Pastor's perspective continued:

A profound silence filled the room. I knew that this child's mother has been battling cancer and the tiny voice of a child spoke volumes of what was in her heart—it was a true prayer of thanks!

I extend a special invitation to you and your family to begin your Thanksgiving Day by joining us for Mass at 9:00 a.m. It is a wonderful way to begin this American holiday, and to thank God for the many blessings we are grateful for! Many blessings to you and your family this Thanksgiving!



The annual Service of Lessons and Carols will be held at the First United Methodist Church of Horseheads, on December 3rd, at 5 p.m. The church is located at 1034 West Broad Street. The choirs of St. Mary Our Mother and First United Methodist Church of Horseheads and friends will be joining together to present a wonderful evening of song, carols, and readings. This service is guaranteed to put your heart and soul in the right place for Christmas. Mark your calendar and plan to spend an hour reveling in the joy of the Advent-Christmas season.

CHRISTMAS CARING PROGRAM 2023

Over the years, we, at St. Mary Our Mother, have reached out to help the needy of Horseheads and its many surrounding rural areas. We have done this in partnership with the Horseheads Food Pantry, which serves these families by providing food assistance. Parishioners have generously supported the pantry year-long by donating grocery items to the vestibule cart and clean, empty deposit bottles to the parish office. Furthermore, 25% of the Rice Bowl proceeds that are returned by CRS are then given to help with the expenses of our local pantry.

As the Christmas season of giving and caring approaches, we, at St. Mary Our Mother, will be reaching out to the clients of the Food Pantry in **three** special ways:

1. **Making a monetary donation so the pantry can supply meat and fresh food for the Christmas meal and the holiday week.** Envelopes will be provided on the tables in the back for this purpose.
2. **Increasing our donations of canned and dried food** to the vestibule food cart so the pantry clients have healthy and adequate food for the Christmas holidays.
3. **Bringing a Christmas ornament that you offer to a needy family.** You hang the ornament on our Christmas Caring tree in the back of the church. The ornaments will be taken to the pantry so the families and children can pick an ornament for their tree as a reminder that we care for them.

This program will kick off this weekend, November 19th–20th, when donation envelopes will be available in the vestibule and the Christmas Caring tree will be standing proudly in the back of the church awaiting your ornaments. This program will conclude the weekend of December 9th and 10th.

A STEWARDSHIP MOMENT:

In today's Gospel, Jesus delivers the parable of the talents; using the example of money rather than abilities or skills. It is a story about investments, risks and returns. Stewards understand that God has given them an abundance of spiritual gifts. They know God doesn't want them to simply receive these blessings and bury them in fear, but to multiply them; to use these gifts to serve Him and others; to spread Christ's Good News; to go and make disciples of others. Good stewards invest what God has given them in the service of others and are prepared to render an account when the Lord returns.

REMEMBER TO BRING FOOD ITEMS FOR THE FOOD PANTRY:

Your food donations can be dropped into the food cart located in the main entrance vestibule of the church.

WORLD DAY OF THE POOR:

Struggling with mental health challenges isn't uncommon. About half of all Americans will be diagnosed with a mental illness sometime in their life. However, for people living in poverty, struggling with mental health is much more common. Experiencing poverty affects almost every aspect of a person's life.

Over 40 million households spend more than 30% of their income on housing, with 20 million households spending over half their income on housing costs alone. After accounting for other necessities such as food, healthcare, and transportation, many families simply do not have money left to cover unexpected expenses. The stress of choosing between paying for housing or paying for medications can degrade a person's overall mental and physical health.

ACT: The best way to address the mental health of the community is to address the root cause of poverty. Helping people keep stable jobs with fair wages, strengthening family life, and increasing access to affordable housing and quality health care can slow and possibly stop the descent into poverty that many often exacerbates a decline in mental and physical health. Please contact our Congressman Nick Langworthy and tell him this. (607-377-3130).

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

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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

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A VERSE FROM TODAY'S GOSPEL READING TO MEMORIZE: *Stay awake, be ready, for you do not know neither the day or the hour that the Lord will come.*

THANKSGIVING AT THE HORSEHEADS FOOD PANTRY



With the holidays quickly approaching, our thoughts turn to those in need, especially our neighbors who are assisted by the Horseheads Food Pantry. The Pantry is located at the Horseheads Presbyterian Church right here on Westinghouse Road. Its services are open to all Chemung County residents as well as nearby residents in Schuylar County.

For Thanksgiving, the Food Bank of the Southern Tier will be supplying the Horseheads Food Pantry with turkeys for their clients. Throughout the year, we as a church, have been donating food items to the pantry. With the coming of Thanksgiving, we urge our families to consider increasing their donations of non-perishable food items. A wooden cart is in the vestibule of the church for receiving your donations.

We are grateful for your ongoing support and hope we can depend on your continued generosity in this season of Thanksgiving.




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