



ST. MARY OUR MOTHER CHURCH

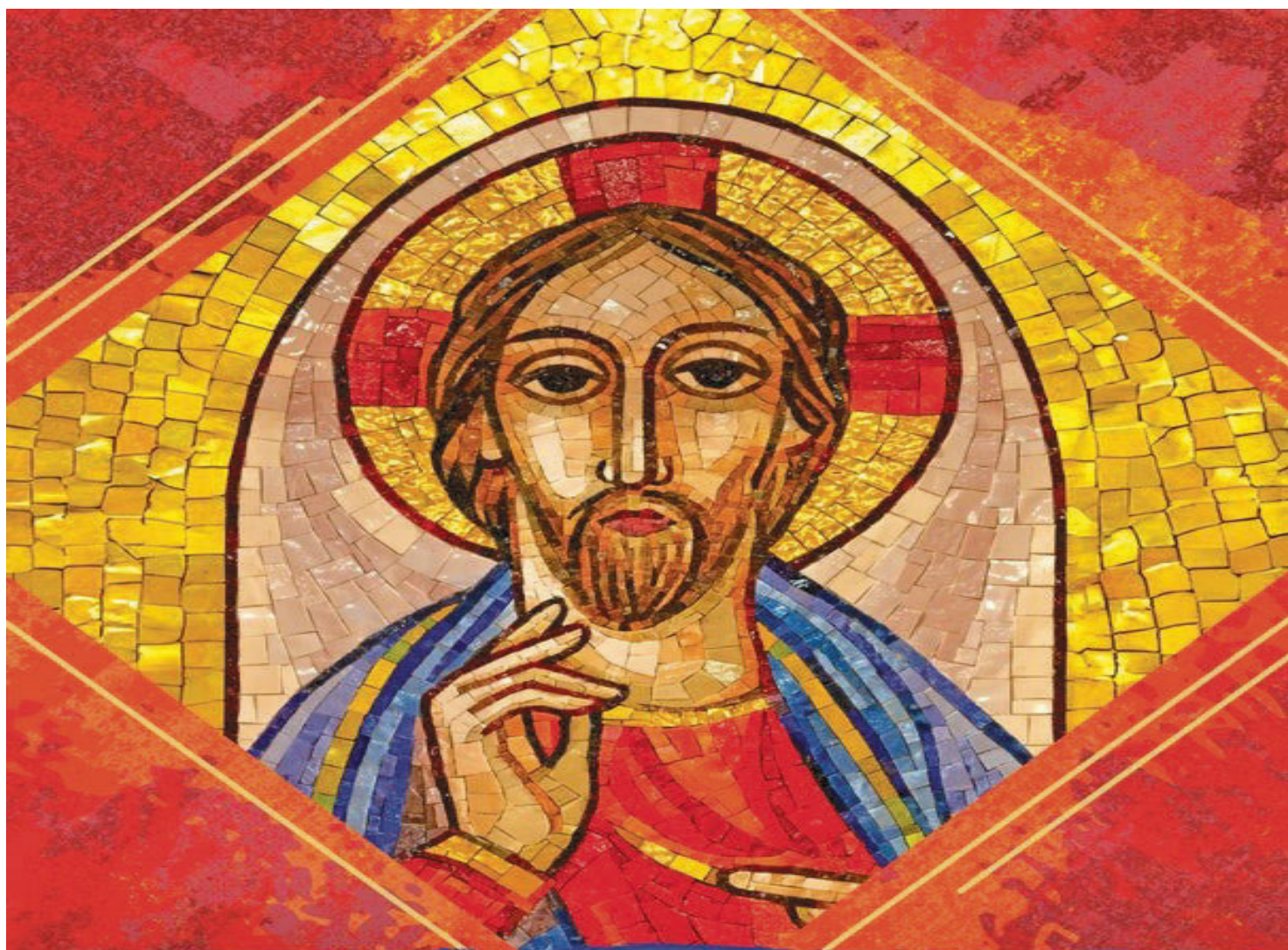
MISSION STATEMENT

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 3, 2023



1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

“May he not come suddenly and find you sleeping.”
- Mk 13:36

WEEKLY CALENDAR

5:00 p.m.—Lessons and Carols, Sun., Dec. 3

First United Methodist Church

Tuesday, December 5

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

Thursday, December 7

7:00 p.m.—Adult Choir rehearsal

Saturday, December 9

3:30 p.m.—Sacrament of Penance—church

The Votive light before the Icon is burning for the week of Dec. 3—9, 2023 in loving memory of Bernie Matterazzo by Nancy and Gene Barcomb.

IN THE PEACE OF CHRIST:

Kim Batulis
James Cronin
Joseph Sinkewicz
Raymond Winieski

**A GOSPEL MEDITATION:**

Lately I've been listening to a science-based podcast on healthy daily living. The host frequently discusses the wide range of health benefits of sleep. So, each night I'm trying to get more, and better, slumber, and it's helping me feel energized. So, why in the world should we follow Christ's advice this week? "Watch therefore, for you do not know when the master of the house will come ... lest He find you asleep." Isn't sleep, especially at midnight and cockcrow, a good thing?

Of course, it is. But the wakefulness the Lord calls us to is a deep, personal orientation to Him. A nightly vigil is therefore a metaphor for this, but it's not just that. We should give up real sleep in order to pray, too. This difficult practice is a time-tested way to foster wakefulness of heart. When we give up sleep to pray, it focuses us. We learn that life is not an endless series of days. You and I belong to the Lord — awake or asleep, in life and in death. Sooner or later, even our need for our physical sleep will pass away. And our attentiveness to God — that is, whether we are awaiting Him to meet us — will be all that matters.

May I challenge us this week and this Advent to intentionally give up at least one hour of sleep each week for prayer? Stay up later, wake up in the middle of the night, or an hour earlier, and pray. Will we be a bit more tired the next day? Yes. But we'll be amazed at the spiritual wakefulness that results, too.

— Father John Muir

ADVENT/CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE:**SERVICE OF LESSONS & CAROLS****Today, Sunday, December 3**

5:00 p.m.—First United Methodist Church

1034 West Broad Street, Horseheads

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE

Saturday: 3:30 p.m.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION**Thursday, December 7**

5:30 p.m.—Mass

Friday, December 8

6:45 a.m.—Mass

9:00 a.m.—Mass

**ST. MARY OUR MOTHER SCHOOL
CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM:**

6:30 p.m.—Wednesday, December 20

9:00 a.m.—Thursday, December 21

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT MASSES**Saturday, December 23**

5:00 p.m.—Mass—Fourth Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 24

8:30 a.m.—Mass—Fourth Sunday of Advent

*Note: No 10:30 a.m. Mass***CHRISTMAS MASSES****Sunday, December 24, 2023**

3:00 p.m.—Christmas Family Mass

5:00 p.m.—Christmas Mass

9:30 p.m.—Adult Choir Choral Concert

10:00p.m.—Christmas Mass during the Night
(formerly known as "Midnight Mass")**Monday, December 25, 2023**

9:00 a.m.—Christmas Mass

*Blessing of Christmas gifts Christmas Morning
Mass. No Mass on December 26th.*

HOLY FAMILY & SOLEMNITY OF MARY**Saturday, December 30**

5:00 p.m.—Mass of the Holy Family

Sunday, December 31

8:30 a.m.—Mass of the Holy Family

10:30 a.m.—Mass of the Holy Family

Monday, January 1, 2024

9:00 a.m.—Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

On line giving QR Code



PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE:

Advent 2023 has arrived! This season of anticipation arrives with all the natural signs that surround it. The days are darker and shorter, tending to make us quieter and more reflective. This year we had an extra week between the Thanksgiving holiday and the beginning of Advent. There is no doubt that Christmas is coming! We have seen the advertisements. Christmas preparations have been underway for weeks. The liturgies and scriptures we will hear during Advent have a tone of their own. No longer is our attention focused on an adult Christ, but we hear of prophecy, anticipation, and begin to hear the infancy narratives. The Advent season is that special time of year when we are invited to step back and remember what we do during this time of year. Advent invites us to avoid the commercialism that surrounds a secular holiday season, but to embrace the true meaning of the season. ***“Emmanuel: God is with us.”*** Try to take time during Advent to think of an occasion when Christ has “broken into” your life. It may have been an occasion of healing, of forgiveness, an unexpected act of kindness that made a difference in your life.

There are several opportunities during Advent to reflect on that theme of ***“God is with us.”*** There are opportunities for prayer, the greatest being the celebration of the Eucharist. For your Advent devotion and reading, we have made available publications of ***“The Word Among Us”*** as well as ***“The Little Blue Book.”*** The first offers a complete guide for the Advent/Christmas season, including scripture readings, meditations and Mass texts for each day. ***“The Little Blue Book”*** provides a brief reflection for each day, including scripture, an historical note, a suggested good work, finally ending each day with the invitation, “spend some time with the Lord”. We have also made available a publication by Bishop Robert Barron entitled ***“This Is My Body”*** as we continue this time of Eucharistic Revival in our country. These publications are great sources which will help us in our “quiet time” during the Advent season.

For the third year in lieu of a formal Christmas basket program, our Social Ministry Committee is teaming in a Christmas Giving program with the Horseheads Food Pantry. In addition to our weekly collection of food, you are invited to make a monetary donation to the parish, which will be forwarded to the food pantry for the purchase of meat for the pantry's Christmas outreach efforts. You are also invited to donate a Christmas ornament for the Christmas trees in the narthex. Envelopes for your donations are available on the vestibule table, or if you use an ordinary envelope, be sure to mark on the envelope what it is for. All checks should be made payable to St. Mary Our Mother, and all donations need to be received by next week.

One of the Advent traditions we have each year is the annual ***“Service of Lessons & Carols.”*** This service is an opportunity to gather with our sisters and brothers of other Christian traditions to reflect on the Advent/

MASSES FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 3RD

Monday: 6:45 A.M.	Dec. 4 Advent Weekday Arthur Rathbun—Marianne and Bob Kosty
Tuesday: 6:45 A.M.	Dec. 5 Advent Weekday Special intention to St. Anthony, St. Jude, St. Pio
Wednesday: 6:45 A.M.	Dec. 6 Advent Weekday John Kordyl—wife, Evie and family
Thursday: 6:45 A.M. 5:30 P.M.	Dec. 7 St. Ambrose, Bishop and Doctor For the Faithful Departed Margaret Amisano—Adele Lanahan
Friday: 6:45 A.M. 9:00 A.M.	Dec. 8 The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary Pablo and Elisea Atienza—The Macapinlac's For the students, families, teachers and staff of St. Mary Our Mother School
Saturday: 5:00 P.M.	Dec. 9 Weekday Mary Amisano—husband, Guy and family
Sunday: 8:30 A.M. 10:30 A.M.	Dec. 10 Second Sunday of Advent Josephine and Henry Ryan—Mary and Jim Carr James McFarland—Bob and Karen Paulman

Pastor's perspective continued:

Christmas season. The Service of Lessons & Carols will be today, **December 3rd at 5:00 p.m.** at the First United Methodist Church in Horseheads. This service will feature our Adult Choir, as well as other choirs from various churches throughout the area. If you have never attended this service, I highly encourage you to do so. This is a wonderful opportunity to spiritually prepare for Christmas.

The Advent season is meant to offer us a time of quiet waiting, reflective living, and discovering the Christ present in our lives. This season invites us to do the ordinary things in life with renewed anticipation that Christ is priest and working in our lives. If we make that special effort this Advent season, then Christmas will mean more to us as we have been brought closer to God and to one another.

Remember that Advent this year is the shortest it can be—22 days! Enjoy this first week of Advent with the peace and many blessings this season offers to Please continue to take care of yourself and each other.

Fr. L.



The prayer plaque listing the names of ill persons who have asked for our prayers has returned 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.

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 are provided on the tables for 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.

Donation envelopes are available in the vestibule of the church and the Christmas Caring tree will be standing proudly in the back of the church awaiting your ornaments until this program concludes next weekend.



NOTRE DAME Retreat House Upcoming Retreats

1. **“Advent, a Season of Darkness and Light”**-given by Sr. Karen Dietz, SSJ, Tuesday, Dec. 5th from 9:00-3:00 pm. Fee of \$35.00 includes lunch
2. **“Keep Hope Alive”** Men’s Retreat weekend, December 8-10 given by Fr. Mike Cunningham, C.Ss.R., Fr. Daniel Ruiz, Deacon Jonathan Schott, Jodie Scordo and Nancy Lynch.
3. **“A Time for Every Purpose”**-A time management workshop given by Dr. Mike Wischnowski, Wednesday, January 10th from 9:00am—3:00 pm. Fee of \$35.00 includes lunch.

For more details on each retreat, the presenter and how to register please visit our website at www.notredameretreat.org. or like us on [www.facebook.com/ND Spirituality/](https://www.facebook.com/ND_Spirituality/)



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.

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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 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

FAITH FORMATION UPCOMING EVENTS:

Today, Dec. 3rd— Lessons and Carols: All Confirmation Candidates must attend. See details on page two of bulletin.

Dec. 10—OCIC class— O'Brien Hall following 8:30 a.m. Mass

Dec. 10—Cookies & Cocoa following 10:30 Mass. All parish members are welcome. Confirmation class will help with activities.

Dec. 16—Youth Group & whole parish caroling following the 5:00 p.m. Mass. All parish members are invited to participate.



With the coming of the Christmas Holiday, 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.

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE:



December 3, 2023 Memory Bible Verse:

Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we will be saved. Psalms 80:4




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