



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 17, 2023

Third Sunday of **ADVENT**



WEEKLY CALENDAR**Tuesday, December 19**

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

Wednesday, December 20

6:30 p.m. St. Mary Our Mother School Christmas Program

Thursday, December 21

9:00 a.m. St. Mary Our Mother School Christmas Program

Saturday, December 23

3:30 p.m.—Sacrament of Penance—church

The Votive light before the Icon is burning for the week of December 17-23, 2023 for a special intention--Mary and Tom Sweet.

IN THE PEACE OF CHRIST:

Michael Chopko

**PRAYER PLAQUE FOR THE SICK:**

The prayer plaque listing the names of ill persons who have asked for our prayers is posted across from the bulletin board.

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.

A GENEROUS GIFT:

Recently the Church of St. Mary Our Mother received a generous contribution from the Catholic War Veterans Commander Post 1178 in the amount of twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000.00). We wish to thank them for this generous gift to our parish.

MASSES AND MEMORIALS:

Mass intentions and Altar Memorials are a special way you can remember those who have died and those intentions you may wish to remember for the living.

Our Altar Memorials are available each week during the year. Donation for the week is as follows:

| | |
|-------------------|---------|
| Sanctuary candle | \$10.00 |
| Icon candle | \$10.00 |
| Sacramental wine | \$15.00 |
| Eucharistic bread | \$10.00 |

ADVENT/CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE:**SACRAMENT OF PENANCE**

Saturday: 3:30 p.m.

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

6:30 p.m.—Wednesday, December 20

9:00 a.m.—Thursday, December 21

ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND**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

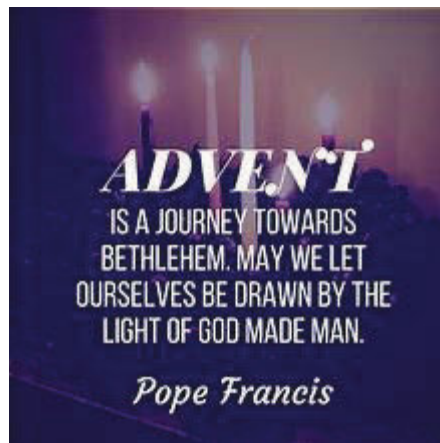
Sunday, December 31

8:30 a.m.—Mass

10:30 a.m.—Mass

Monday, January 1, 2024

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



PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE:

Today we arrive at the **Third Sunday of Lent**, often-times referred to as **Gaudete, or Rejoice Sunday**. Arriving at this mid-point of Advent reminds us of the two-fold nature of the season as a time of the already experienced and the yet to be experienced of God coming among us. There is still enough time of Advent to rejoice as we continue our preparation for Christmas.

The month of December can be a very busy and hectic time of the year as we find ourselves in the throes of Christmas preparation. This busyness can cause us to lose sight of the spiritual importance of the Advent/Christmas season. Each December, the International Catholic Stewardship Council offers suggestions that can help us to keep Christ in Christmas. You may already find yourself doing some of these suggestions.

Give God a very special gift this year: *Let this gift be something personal that no one else needs to know about, and let it be a sacrifice. Perhaps your gift will be to commit more time with God daily or a habit you know you should give up. Why wait for a New Year's resolution? Start now!*

Celebrate the Advent season: *Light the Advent wreath candles each evening before dinner. If you have children, let them offer their own prayers to the Christ child for whom we are waiting.*

Read the Christmas story in the Gospel of Luke 1:5-56 through 2: 1-20: *Consider reading this account with your family and discussing it together.*

Put a crèche in you home: *Consider having one set that that is "child-proof" that your children are allowed to handle. children love to make the Nativity story their own, and they especially love angels!*

Plan a project to help someone at Christmas: *Identify someone with a genuine need. Involve your whole family and see how happy you can make someone this Christmas. Many of you did this through our parish's Christmas basket efforts. If you didn't, there is still time. Make sure that your children are involved to make them aware of the needs of our greater community.*

Give a surprise gift of service to each member of your family: *The idea of giving an unexpected gift of service to members of your family reveals your own love and concern for them. You might consider giving your spouse a day away, running an errand for your brother, or cleaning out your closet for your mother. Make it personal and meaningful!*

Send Christmas cards and thank you notes that convey a spiritual message: *This is an easy way to share your faith during the Advent season. Don't just sign your name, but include a special message with each card. Set*

MASSES FOR THE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 19:

| | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Monday: 6:45 A.M. | Dec. 18 Advent Weekday Our faithful departed |
| Tuesday: 6:45 A.M. | Dec. 19 Advent Weekday Deceased of the Mills family |
| Wednesday: 6:45 A.M. | Dec. 20 Advent Weekday Phillip Amisano--family |
| Thursday: 6:45 A.M. | Dec. 21 Advent Weekday Margaret Bellizia-her family |
| Friday: 6:45 A.M. | Dec. 22 Advent Weekday Brian Kasonic--Tom and Carolyn Collins |
| Saturday: 5:00 P.M. | Dec. 23 Advent Weekday Jeannette Berretta-Joyce and Dick |
| Sunday: 8:30 A.M. | Dec 24 Fourth Sunday of Advent Bernie Matterazzo--Jackie and Warren Conklin |
| 3:00 P.M., | For all families of St. Mary Our Mother |
| 5:00 P.M. | For all families of St. Mary Our Mother |
| 10:00 P.M. | For all families of St. Mary Our Mother |

Pastor's Perspective continued:

aside time after Christmas to write thank you notes and help your children write thank you notes for the gifts they receive. This is a wonderful habit for a lifetime, and a good way to foster gratitude for all gifts.

Write a Christmas letter to someone working or ministering in a foreign land: *It has been said that receiving a letter when you are far away from home is like opening a priceless gift on Christmas morning, no matter what day of the year! Many people are unable to travel home for the holidays, so it can be a very lonely time for them. Write a special Christmas letter to someone of your choice.*

Enjoy an eco-friendly Christmas: *Christmas is a time when a large number of people enjoy excess and extravagance, but the environmental cost can be quite dramatic. Arguably, a million miles of unrecyclable wrapping paper is thrown into the trash every year. Look for simple ways to cut down on the waste over this festive period. Where possible, use recyclable wrapping paper.*

And most importantly.....

Attend Christmas Mass together with your family: *Make Christmas Mass an important part of your family's Christmas celebration. It is a wonderful way of "keeping Christ in Christmas!" If you don't already do so, perhaps you could start a new family tradition of attending Mass each Sunday together as a family. If you are alone this Christmas or don't have family near you, invite a friend or neighbor to join you for Christmas Mass.*

Have a great Advent week. See you in church!
Fr. L.

A GOSPEL MEDITATION:

Why do we believe in Jesus and the Catholic Church? Why should we continue to do so? We've never seen him face-to-face (at least not most of us, I assume). Most of us have never had mystical visions of angels or saints. We live in the same world as our atheist and secularists friends. Why do we believe in Christ if we've never seen him?

The simple, symbolic answer the Gospel presents to us this week might surprise us: we believe because of John the Baptist. Early in John's Gospel we hear: "There was a man sent from God, his name was John. He came for testimony, to bear witness to the light, that all might believe through him." The Baptist powerfully announces Jesus. This is a historical fact, and it is also now a pattern at work in our lives.

John the Baptist stands for the entirety of the old covenant, everything entrusted to the Jewish people. And yet he prophetically opens the door to something entirely new in Jesus, to the revival and fulfillment of God's promises. In every generation, and in every human life, God continues to do this. He has done it through people named Augustine, Francis, Catherine, Theresa, and countless others. In my life, the Baptist's spirit has come through persons named Eric, Paul, Mary, and Ron. I challenge you to name at least three people through whom God has announced the coming of Jesus in your life. Consciously thank God for their testimony. And let's commit ourselves to listening to the spirit of John the Baptist testify again this week so that we might more strongly believe in the light.

THE JESSE TREE:

Advent is a season of preparation before Christmas. The word Advent means "coming" and refers to the coming of Jesus. The season emphasizes a three fold coming, the coming, the coming in the flesh at Bethlehem, in grace through word and sacrament, and in glory on the day of judgment.

Many people go to great lengths to prepare for Christmas, yet fail to appreciate the true meaning of Advent. Advent, when properly observed, helps you realize more fully the coming of Christ and its meaning for you.

Advent begins four Sundays before Christmas and lasts until Christmas Eve. The lessons read in church each Sunday of the season pictures some of the people and events that are significant in the heritage of Jesus.

The Jesse tree has the same purpose, but it expands it by presenting an appropriate story in picture for each day of the season. The Jesse tree is a small tree decorated with symbols portraying the spiritual heritage of Jesus. It is a kind of family tree that was suggested by Isaiah's prophet:

Article continued in right column:

"a shoot shall come out of the stump of Jesse."

Our Jesse tree is located in the seasonal shrine. Each day a different symbol of Jesus' heritage will be placed on the tree. We welcome you to step into the shrine and turn over the corresponding scripture for the third week.

3rd Sunday in Advent, The Wisdom of Solomon,
1Kings 3:3-28:

Monday, Elijah and the Raven, 1 Kings 17:1-6

Tuesday, Elisha and Healing, 2 Kings 5:1-27

Wednesday, Isiah, Isaiah 6:1-8

Thursday, Jeremiah 31:31-34

Friday, Nehemiah the Builder, Nehemiah 13: 10-22

Saturday, Angels, Hebrews 1:1-14



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

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

FORMED.org The Catholic Faith on Demand

Our parish now has a subscription to FORMED available for all members of St. Mary Our Mother. FORMED allows you to have access to Catholic content from your own home. You are able to watch children's and family videos, documentaries, listen to podcasts, learn about our rich Catholic Faith.

1. Go to www.formed.org/signup
2. Enter our parish zip code or name.
3. Enter your name and email and Enjoy!

Learn more at formed.org.



Diocese of
Rochester

Victims of sexual abuse should always report to the civil authorities.

To receive help and guidance from the Roman Catholic Diocese of Rochester, contact our **Victim Assistance Coordinator: Deborah A Housel, 585-328-3228, ext. 1555. Or toll free 1-800-388-7177, ext. 1555.**

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE:

3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



HORSEHEADS FOOD PANTRY:

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.



Don't wait to get the care you need

At **Southern Tier Medical Care**, our care teams offer personalized, compassionate just for you. Making sure you are up to date on screenings and yearly wellness checks is important. We'll also connect you to the right specialists additional care. If you need to come in person for a visit, know we are maintaining strict safety precautions to protect you and your family while in our care.

New patient appointments available. Call 607-608-3396.

 3345 Chambers Road
Horseheads, NY

 135 Victory Highway
Painted Post, NY

 **Southern Tier Medical Care**



**FREE
AD DESIGN**

with purchase
of this space

**CALL
800-477-4574**

WOODBROOK
A Tradition of Quality Assisted Living
Woodbrook Assisted Living Residence
~ Elmira ~
Phone: 607-734-7741 • www.woodbrookhome.com



**Alsworth Capital
Management, LLC**

Investment Management • Tax Planning
Insurance Planning • Estate Planning
Financial Planning
(607) 973-2665
www.AlsworthCapital.com



**Delivery Through
instacart**

Open Daily 6am-10pm

2898 Westinghouse Rd, Horseheads, NY 14845
(In Village Plaza)

(607) 796-2191 Follow Us On: 

horseheadsjubilee.com



**Picnic
PIZZA**
Italian Family Restaurant

Village Plaza • Horseheads, NY • 796-2677
Minier's Plaza • Big Flats, NY • 562-7000
Amot Mall Food Court • Horseheads, NY • 739-4641



ADT-Monitored Home Security

Get 24-Hour Protection From a Name You Can Trust
833-287-3502

- Burglary
- Flood Detection
- Fire Safety
- Carbon Monoxide



'Serving Our Parish Faithfully'
Lynch Funeral Home Inc.
739-1301

318 West Broad Street, Horseheads, NY
 Family Owned & Operated by: James J. Lynch II
 James J. Lynch II & Heather Ann Lynch
 Licensed Funeral Directors

HALE ROOFING 739-0489
 COMMERCIAL ROOFING,
 CRANE SERVICE & SHEET METAL
 2054 Grand Central Ave., Horseheads, NY

GEROULD'S
 PROFESSIONAL PHARMACIES, INC.
 'PRESCRIPTION DELIVERY SERVICE'
 130 S. Main St. • 733-6696
 215 Hoffman St. • 732-0597
 2887 Westinghouse Rd. • 796-2193
 98 W. Pulteney • 936-3233

TERRY ELECTRIC
 Fast Professional Service with Reasonable Rates
 Paul Terry - Over 30 Years Experience
 Residential or Commercial
 Quality Work • Fully Insured • Free Estimates
607-739-4484 • 607-857-5429

Yee Olde
HICKORY HOUSE RESTAURANT
 American, Chinese & Italian Cuisine
 New Hours: Open Monday-Saturday 4pm-11pm
 739-2405 • 3543 Watkins Rd, Horseheads

LET'S GROW YOUR BUSINESS

Place Your Ad Here
 and Support Our Parish!

CONTACT ME Lorne Searight

lsearight@4LPi.com • (800) 477-4574 x6460

SULLIVAN'S FUNERAL HOME
607-739-2035
 Kevin R. Sullivan 365 E. Franklin St.
 Licensed Funeral Director Horseheads, NY

BC Plumbing
 Heating
 Electric
 AC/R
www.bcinc.info 562-2023

FREE AD DESIGN
 with purchase
 of this space
CALL
800-477-4574

America's Choice in Homecare.
VisitingAngels
 LIVING ASSISTANCE SERVICES
 Errands Shopping Light Housekeeping Meal Preparation
 Friendly Companionship Flexible Hourly Care Respite Care for Families Live-In Care
607.846.2370 **www.visitingangels.com/horseheads**

FAITHFULLY SERVING OUR PARISH COMMUNITY
BARBER FUNERAL HOME
 413 SOUTH MAIN STREET, HORSEHEADS, NEW YORK 14845-2490
 (607) 739-4801 • **INFO@BARBERFUNERALHOME.COM**
 FAMILY OWNED & OPERATED FOR NEARLY
 100 YEARS OF COMFORT, CONCERN, & SERVICE

PARMENTER
 Tire, Auto and Truck Service • Team Tiremasters
www.parmenterinc.com

BOUTIQUE 607-739-5321
...Of Course!
 Wedding Gowns, Tuxedo & Prom Gowns
 Mother of the Bride/Groom Gowns
 819 South Main St. in Horseheads

WE'RE HIRING!
AD SALES EXECUTIVES
 BE YOURSELF.
 BRING YOUR PASSION.
 WORK WITH PURPOSE.
 • Paid training
 • Some travel
 • Work-life balance
 • Full-Time with benefits
 • Serve your community
 Contact us at
careers@4lpi.com or
www.4lpi.com/careers

Place Your Ad Here and Support our Parish!
 Instantly create and purchase an ad with
AD CREATOR STUDIO
4lpi.com/adcreator

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS!