



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 7, 2024



THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. - Mt 2:10-11

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Tuesday, January 9

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

Saturday, January 13

3:30 p.m-Sacrament of Penance-Church

IN THE PEACE OF CHRIST:

Robert Karney



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.

SUNDAY'S READINGS - EXCERPTS

First Reading: Your light has come, the glory of the Lord shines upon you. (Is 60:1)

Psalm:

Lord, every nation on earth will adore you. (Ps 72)

Second Reading:

It was not made known to people in other generations as it has now been revealed to His holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that the Gentiles are coheirs, members of the same body, and copartners in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. (Eph 3:5-6)

Gospel:

"Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw His star at its rising and have come to do Him homage." (Mt 2:2)

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS:

Wise Men See God in the Simple Things

If you're on social media, you have probably seen a memo going around that features this quote: "God has a plan for your life and the enemy has a plan for your life." Be ready for both. Just be wise enough to know which one to battle and which one to embrace."

There were certainly two competing plans for the Magi: God's and Herod's. And, wise as they supposedly were, it wasn't entirely easy for the Magi to discern which was which.

After all, Herod posed as a friend. He offered the Magi hospitality and kindness. Though the Gospel doesn't say so, he probably flattered them and appealed to every moral weakness he could observe in them. In his palace, they must have felt great physical comfort, rest, and tables of plenty on what was an otherwise long and treacherous journey.

But if the Magi were honest with themselves, I'll bet they would have admitted that, regardless of Herod's charm, they felt a gnawing sense of doubt while in his presence. When they looked upon the Christ Child, born in a stable without any of the comforts of the world or protections of wealth, they probably felt the opposite. They probably felt safe.

The Magi were lucky enough to have the right plan spelled out for them in a dream, but for the rest of us, it's enough to remember this: God's plan is often the one that leads us to places of great simplicity, great humility and great love. Let's have the wisdom to view power with suspicion, and innocence with admiration.

• Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

WEEKLY READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 7, 2024:

- Sunday:** Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 (see 11)/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12
- Monday:** Is 55:1-11/Is 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6 (3)/1 Jn 5:1-9/Mk 1:7-11
- Tuesday:** 1 Sm 1:9-20/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd/Mk 1:21-28
- Wednesday:** 1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20/Ps 40:2 and 5, 7-8a, 8b-9-10/Mk 1:29-39
- Thursday:** 1 Sm 4:1-11/Ps 44:10-11, 14-15, 24-25/Mk 1:40-45
- Friday:** 1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a/Ps 89:16-17, 18-19/Mk 2:1-12
- Saturday:** 1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1a/Ps 21:2-3, 4-5, 6-7/Mk 2:13-17
- Next Sunday:** 1 Sm 3:3b-10, 19/Ps 40:2, 4 7-8, 8-9, 10 (8a, 9a)/1 Cor 6:13c-15a, 17-20/Jn 1:35-42

QR giving code



PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE:

For the first time in over a month due to early bulletin deadlines in anticipation of the Christmas holiday, I am not writing this bulletin two to three weeks before you will actually read it. It is my hope that you were able to enjoy a very "Merry Christmas" with your family and loved ones.

This weekend we celebrate the **Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord**. Today is a solemn celebration in which we acknowledge that Jesus Christ has come for all people. Just as the Magi from the East, led by a star, made their way in search of the truth that came from the Christ child, so people today follow the lights of our world in search of the Word made Flesh.

This great mystery of the Incarnation invites us to continue in the way of Christ by the way we live, love, and care for all who share this world with us. We are challenged to be this light which helps lead others to Christ. This is not always an easy task. But the good news is that we do not take the initiative alone, we do so in the company of one another and always have the strength and guidance of the Holy Spirit.

I hope this Christmas season, which continues today and concludes with the Feast of our Lord's Baptism tomorrow, has been a time of grace and peace for you and your families. My sincere hope is that Christmas afforded you an opportunity to spend some quality time with family, friends and loved ones, prayerfully remembering the wonderful gift of God's love we received on that first Christmas, the birth of Jesus Christ. As we begin 2024 together, may we be inspired by the saints of old as well as our modern day saints, who call us to live a life of holiness and grace. May 2024 find us willing to be Christ for others and to find Christ in others.

The beginning of a new year finds many people offering some hope and resolutions for the coming year. Here are some hopes that I have for our parish community as we begin 2024:

That all of us will know the mystery of God's love in our lives throughout 2024;

That we continue to be a warm and welcoming community for all, including those seeking to understand more about our Catholic faith;

That new parishioners will experience a sense of welcome, hospitality and friendship within our parish.

That those from our parish who have been absent from our community due to health concerns, may experience a welcome return as they join us for regular Sunday worship.

MASSES FOR THE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 19:

Monday: 6:45 A.M.	Jan 8, The Baptism of the Lord Carol Ann Wawrzusn- husband, Ray
Tuesday: 6:45 A.M.	Jan 9, Weekday Our faithful Departed
Wednesday: 6:45 A.M.	Jan 10, Weekday Brian Kasonic - mom, Ann
Thursday: 6:45 A.M.	Jan 11, Weekday Tom Bennett-Woodworth family
Friday: 6:45 A.M.	Jan 12, Weekday Maureen Donohue-Joe and Ann Welch
Saturday: 5:00 P.M.	Jan. 13, Weekday Mary Ellen Ryan Benedict-Class of 1954 Elmira Catholic High School
Sunday:	Jan 14, Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
8:30 A.M.	Sonia and Mark Palladino-Carmella Palladino
10:30 A.M.	Daniel J. Linsler

Pastor's perspective continued:

That our Social Ministry and outreach efforts for justice continue to define us as followers of Jesus to our local community and to the world;

That the vibrancy of our Faith Formation programs continue to renew our commitment to life-long learning of our Catholic faith for families and people of all ages:

That our sacramental programs and celebrations serve as growth-filled opportunities for both candidates, families, and our entire parish;

That we continue to adopt principles of good stewardship, generously sharing our time, talent and treasure;

That we continue to practice sound financial management for both St. Mary Our Mother parish and school;

That we continue to offer healing and acceptance of any person desiring to return home to our church.

Just a few thoughts for us to consider as we begin 2024.

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

Fr. L

NOTRE DAME Retreat House Upcoming Retreats

1. **“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 retreat, the presenter and how to register, please visit our website at

www.notredameretreat.org, or like us on www.facebook.com/NDSpirituality.

**WONDED HEALERS' BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP MEETING.**

As is a tradition on the first meeting of the year, we will be offering a gathering of remembrance and support meeting on Tuesday, January 9, 2024 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 and dark this time of year), 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. You may want to share or you may want to just listen to others. 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.”

**SPOTLIGHT ON CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES (CRS) AT WORK ON OUR BEHALF AROUND THE WORLD.**

Suffering in the *Holy Land* continues. Despite very challenging and dangerous circumstances, Catholic Relief Services is working with partners to provide emergency assistance to over 7,000 families--assisting people who are especially vulnerable, prioritizing first aid and care, bedding, winter supplies, and cash vouchers for food and other necessities. Please pray for peace in the Holy Land and CRS workers. For more information go to www.crs.org

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Miss Lily Barr, Faith Formation Assistant
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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

RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS: "STEP INTO THE LIGHT".

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

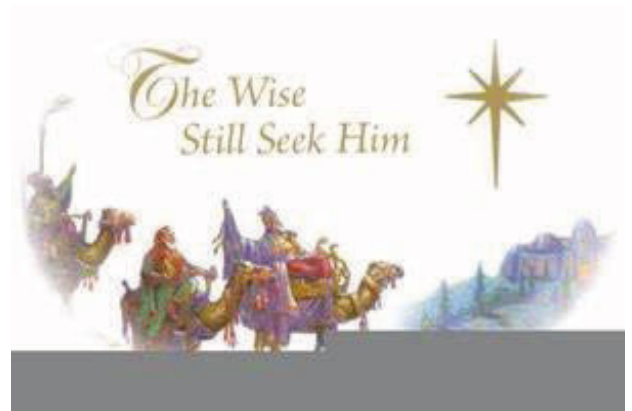
How strange it is to think that if not for Herod's directions, the magi would not have known where to find Jesus. They were not Jews, they knew nothing of the old prophecies. It was Herod who convened the scholars. It was Herod who pointed the way — for ulterior motives, certainly, but nonetheless, this is the part he played. It was Herod who made the Epiphany possible.

"Nations shall walk by your light, and kings by your shining radiance," writes the prophet (Isaiah 60:3). A king may keep to the shadows, suspicious of the light — he may foolishly imagine he can snatch it from the sky to keep as his own possession, and, upon finding the light cannot be governed, grow to loathe it, and even seek to extinguish it once and for all.

But all his grand designs will come to nothing because there is no king so powerful that he can see in the dark. And even a man like Herod — a man so jealous that he sought to kill God — cannot prevent the breaking of day.

The Epiphany marks the manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles. It is a celebration of truth reaching places it was not expected to reach, of brightness illuminating corners of the world long ago consigned to shadow. It is a reminder that the battle has already been won, the night is over. All that remains is for us to decide: will we step into the light?

"See, darkness covers the earth, and thick clouds cover the peoples; but upon you the LORD shines, and over you appears his glory." — Isaiah 60:2





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