



# 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

July 4, 2021

## INDEPENDENCE DAY PRAYER

Heavenly Father,  
you have given us the gifts of life and liberty  
and entrust to your people  
the duty to guard these gifts  
wherever they are threatened.

Help us to protect the freedom of all  
to follow the Gospel of your Son, Jesus Christ,  
and to bring His light and truth  
to the ends of the earth.

Guide all who play a role  
in enacting legislation  
to uphold the freedom of conscience  
of all citizens.

Send us your Spirit to inspire in us  
the wisdom and courage needed  
to witness to the truth and to stand up for all  
whose religious liberty is endangered.

We ask this through Christ, our Lord.

Amen.



## FOURTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

It's all so ordinary that we can easily miss it. The sea-gulls hunting and diving for mollusks at the beach offer a display of determination and precision as they gather their food for the day. It's simply what these creatures do. Yet, there's a magical artfulness and skill to their work that speaks volumes about the One who breathed life into their being. This is pretty much the way it is with God's presence. God comes in common ways through common things and ordinary people. Sadly, we are so engulfed in our little worlds of order and ideas to notice the beauty and wonder of it all. Many have numbed themselves to the Divine spark at the essence of all life because that's just the way it is. What's so special about it? A sunset is a sunset and a seagull is a seagull. That's precisely what they thought about Jesus too. After all, isn't He just the carpenter's Son? What merit can His words possibly have?

If we're looking for God to come in an event that is so dramatic and intense that it knocks our socks off, then think again. When pondering God's relationship with His people and God's action in our lives, we have to go back to the stable and the recurring, creative, unending power of God's presence. It was a quiet, run of the mill kind of night. There was nothing spectacular or extraordinary. To the naked eye, a woman gave birth to a child and there wasn't anything extraordinary to see. We have a hard time understanding God's ordinary-ness. Jesus grew up in an ordinary town, had neighbors and did normal human things. Perhaps that's why we don't always like the Gospel. It doesn't dazzle us with extraordinary things but simply challenges us to take a different look at our ordinary stuff. That makes us uncomfortable. We prefer things as they are. Our lack of faith can even cause us to take offense at what Jesus says and does, dismissing it as folly.

God's life-giving presence continues to sustain that sea-gull in flight and keep all things in being regardless of whether we have the faith to see and understand this. Our personal agendas, preconceived ideas, misconceptions, and expectations can often cause us to be hardened and blinded to what God is doing or desiring to do. While God continues to do what He has done for all eternity, faith is needed for God's presence to bear fruit. The blinders we wear and the expectations we bring to life can often prevent us from seeing graced moments that radiate with God's graceful presence. They also prevent God's transforming, healing, and hope filled vision for our world from being realized. Without faith, God won't be able to do much for us either.

## PARISH OFFICES CLOSED

The parish offices will be closed on **Monday, July 5th** in observance of the Independence Day holiday weekend. The offices will open on **Tuesday, July 6th**, at 9:00 a.m. We wish you a very happy and safe Independence Day weekend!

**SCRIPTURE READINGS****SUNDAY - July 11, 2021****15th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

First Reading: Amos 7:12-15

Second Reading: Ephesians 1:3-14

Gospel: Mark 6:7-13

**IN THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

Mary Jo Danna

Mary Humpton

Norma Sears

George Gresock

Jean Jurasik

**MEMORIALS****Eucharistic Hosts & Sacrament Wine:***In memory of Catherine & John Ciprich - their family***FLOWER DONATIONS****Main Altar Arrangements:***In thanksgiving for the 50th wedding anniversary of  
Nancy & Gary Miller***Blessed Mother - Church:***In loving memory of Raymond Sherwood - the  
Alworth's and Deloris***IN OUR PARISH****Social Ministry Baby Shower**

We are unable to have our annual baby shower at this time. The Life Center is currently moving to a new location and they are requesting monetary donations only. You may send your checks to the following address: Southern Tier Pregnancy Resource Center, 375 W. Water St., Elmira, NY 14905

Please do not leave baby items in the church. Thank you.

**Flower Sign Ups**

Please call the parish office if you would like to honor special events in your life with a floral arrangement in our Church or Chapel. Flowers are available for the main altar, the chapel, the Blessed Mother in the chapel and the Blessed Mother in Church.

**Mass Intentions**

Any one of our regularly scheduled Masses may be offered for a specific intention - in memory of a deceased person, for a sick person's recovery, a special birthday, a special anniversary or other occasion.

Please call the parish office at 739-3817 to request your Mass.

**SUNDAY'S READINGS****First Reading:**

But you shall say to them: Thus says the Lord GOD! And whether they heed or resist, for they are a rebellious house, they shall know that a prophet has been among them. (Ez 2:4-5)

**Psalm:**

Our eyes are fixed on the Lord, pleading for his mercy. (Ps 123)

**Second Reading:**

I will rather boast most gladly of my weaknesses, in order that the power of Christ may dwell with me. (2 Cor 12:9)

**Gospel:**

Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honor except in his native place and among his own kin and in his own house." (Mk 6:4)

*Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.*

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**WEEKLY READINGS AND OBSERVANCES****Readings for the week of July 4, 2021**

Sunday: Ez 2:2-5/Ps 123:1-2, 2, 3-4 [2cd]/2 Cor 12:7-10/Mk 6:1-6a

Monday: Gn 28:10-22a/Ps 91:1-2, 3-4, 14-15 ab [cf. 2b]/Mt 9:18-26

Tuesday: Gn 32:23-33/Ps 17:1b, 2-3, 6-7ab, 8b and 15 [15a]/Mt 9:32-38

Wednesday: Gn 41:55-57; 42:5-7a, 17-24a/Ps 33:2-3, 10-11, 18-19 [22]/Mt 10:1-7

Thursday: Gn 44:18-21, 23b-29; 45:1-5/Ps 105:16-17, 18-19, 20-21 [5a]/Mt 10:7-15

Friday: Gn 46:1-7, 28-30/Ps 37:3-4, 18-19, 27-28, 39-40 [39a]/Mt 10:16-23

Saturday: Gn 49:29-32; 50:15-26a/Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 6-7 [cf. Ps 69:33]/Mt 10:24-33

Next Sunday: Am 7:12-15/Ps 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14 [8]/Eph 1:3-14 or 1:3-10/Mk 6:7-13

**Observances for the week of July 4, 2021**

Sunday: 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time;  
Independence Day

Monday: St. Anthony Zaccaria, Priest; St. Elizabeth of Portugal

Tuesday: St. Maria Goretti, Virgin and Martyr

Wednesday:

Thursday:

Friday: St. Augustine Zhao Rong, Priest, and Companions, Martyrs

Saturday: Blessed Virgin Mary

Next Sunday: 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

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## PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

This weekend our nation is celebrating the **245th anniversary** of the ratification of the **Declaration of Independence**, a day to thank God for our nation that began on **July 4, 1776**. Our nation has offered a quality of life unparalleled in history to so many people. It has brought freedoms unimagined of by earlier generations. We know that, like every nation, we are not perfect and do not always live up to the ideals and principles of our founding forefathers. We have yet to fully enshrine in our culture and society a right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness for all citizens, especially those most vulnerable among us - the sick, the fragile, the unborn, immigrants, and those who have special challenges of mind and body. In America, by working together, we can achieve these ideals. We are a nation of believers, dreamers, and builders, capable of so much good that makes life better for others.

"Freedom" is a word we like to use most frequently when we think of "America". If we think freedom simply reflects the mentality that "I can do what I want, when I want," we are greatly mistaken. Such an idea of freedom is selfishness under a more comfortable disguise. With our nation's founding, and in our Christian tradition, freedom has a much different meaning. We are free as God created us to be free. Freedom is a gift given by God to every human being. Freedom is not something granted by any government. Freedom is the gift we recognize in each other as the capacity to reach our full potential, to develop our God given talents and abilities, a sharing in God's own creative freedom! This freedom allows us to become the person God has created us to be - to bring beauty, life, and goodness to our shared existence and to the future of others.

Living in freedom in our modern day society is not easy. The modern day culture, driven by excessive materialism, attempts to "define" us only as "consumers". Our culture wants us to believe that "something" we might "own" will be the source of our happiness. Thus, modern day culture and society tells us what to wear, what to drive, what to eat, if we are truly "wise" and "in sync!" Our culture tells us to conform or be thought of as rather "odd". Society often discourages creative and independent thinking. Perhaps if we stepped back from the hectic pace of our lives, we might actually discover a better and happier way of life. There are so many aspects of life that can bring us happiness and a sense of peace without economic cost - friendships, conversations, sharing what we have, simply enjoying the beauty of nature.

Please take some time this July 4th holiday to reflect upon your own experience of life and freedom. Take some time this week to thank God for our nation and the freedoms we share. This week is also a wonderful time to remember those who serve us in all areas of government - national, state, and local levels - as well as those who continue to serve us in the military, police, firefighters, and first responders.

## MASSES FOR THE WEEK

### Monday, July 5 - Weekday

6:45 AM No Mass

### Tuesday, July 6 - Weekday

6:45 AM Pat Marks - Jane Gallagher

### Wednesday, July 7 - Weekday

6:45 AM Deceased Mills family - family

### Thursday, July 8 - Weekday

6:45 AM Mildred Mazur - Margaret Clark-Plaskie & family

### Friday, July 9 - Weekday

6:45 AM No Mass

### Saturday, July 10 - Weekday

5:00 PM Barbara Cobb - the Maceli's

### Sunday, July 11 - Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:30 AM Allan B. Caldwell

10:30 AM Catherine Mandell - her family

These people work selflessly to protect our freedoms we enjoy in this country.

Each 4th of July we have an opportunity to remember our history and to celebrate the lives we live as people of the United States. Have an enjoyable and safe July 4th holiday weekend. May God, as God has done these past 245 years, continue to bless the United States of America!

Fr. L.

## COLLECTION FOR THE CHURCH IN CENTRAL & EASTERN EUROPE

Next week we will take up the Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe. This collection supports the Church in more than 25 countries that still struggle to recover from former communist rule. Funds from this collection support pastoral care, catechesis, building renovations, and seminary formation. Your support restores the Church and builds the future in this region. Please prayerfully consider how you can support the collection next week. More information can be found at [www.usccb.org/ccee](http://www.usccb.org/ccee).

## REGIONAL EVENTS

### Wounded Healers' Bereavement Support

The Wounded Healers will meet on **Tuesday, July 13th** from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. Since we do not meet in August, this will be a good chance to speak about how grief affects us now that it is summer, with all that means for anyone who is grieving the death of a loved one. Sometimes there are significant struggles and sometimes it is also a time of reconnecting and refreshment.

Go to [www.zoom.com](http://www.zoom.com), choose **join meeting** and use the **ID# 828 8706 8618**. If you are early you will be sent to a virtual waiting room and Chris will admit all participants when opening the meeting. Remember to use the microphone icon to unmute yourself.

We are an empathic group, open to whatever you might want to share or comfortable with anyone who just wants to listen. "We have been there, wounded by death, and we see healing in the very act of helping." Christine M. Lloyd, LCSW-R, Thanatologist

### Horseheads Food Pantry

Non-perishable food and grocery items are being collected for the Horseheads Food Pantry this month. The Horseheads Food Pantry is in desperate need of all food items and especially ask for rice or pasta for the month of July, although all canned goods are always needed. For your convenience, please place all donations in the cart located across from the bulletin board. If it is inconvenient to make a food donation, you may make a monetary donation. Please make checks payable to the Horseheads Food Pantry and place in the collection. Thank you for your generosity!

### NYS Legislator on Parole

Elders in the NYS prison system are denied parole again and again, even after being incarcerated for decades. Releasing them to their families would not only save millions of tax dollars, it would give them the opportunity to serve their communities.

There's still time to convince the legislative leaders to call for a vote on the two bills we're supporting:

**Fair and Timely Parole (S.1415/A.4231)**

**Elder Parole (S.15/A.3475)**

Please take a minute to call Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie at 518-455-3791 and State Senate Majority Leader Andrea Cousins at 518-455-2715. Ask that they allow these bills to come to the floor. Now is the time!

### Blood Donor Shortage

Before you dive into your summer plans, can you help us create a summer full of life to make sure the blood supply doesn't take a dip?

The Red Cross asks those who are healthy to make it a summer full of life by donating blood. Donations help ensure blood is available for patients who rely on lifesaving transfusions. We can't do it without you.

Please call 1-800-RED-CROSS for information on local blood drives.

### Mortgage Foreclosure Prevention & Financial Fitness Services

Catholic Charities provides free, confidential mortgage foreclosure prevention services to help homeowners avoid the loss of their homes, and Financial Fitness services to help restore credit and financial stability. This program offers free credit counseling, financial management, and assistance negotiating with lenders. We work to find solutions for individuals and families, whether it's saving your home or rebuilding financial solvency, we are here to help. This program serves homeowners in Chemung, Schuyler, Tompkins, and Tioga Counties. These services are provided free through a grant from the New York State Homeowner Protection Program. For more information or to make an appointment to talk with a Catholic Charities housing counselor, please call Karen Wheeler at 607-734-9784, ext. 2132.

### MINISTERIAL STAFF

**Rev. Christopher E. Linsler**, Pastor

**Rev. Richard F. Kajiru**, In Residence

**Mrs. Barbara Matterazzo**, Coordinator of Faith Formation

**Mrs. Cathy Peckham**, Director of Music

**Mrs. Jean Yorio**, School Principal

**Mr. Richard O'Lenick**, Business Manager

**Mrs. Joyce Pirozzolo**, Parish Secretary

**Mrs. Jeanne Carney**, Facilities Coordinator

**Mrs. Maribeth Leipold**, Faith Formation Secretary

**Mrs. Amy Barr**, Faith Formation Associate

**Mrs. Sue Wood**, Bulletin Editor

**Mr. Doug Johnson**, Cemetery Manager

**Mrs. Kim Roemmelt**, School Secretary

**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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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

E-mail.....smomfaithformation@gmail.com

## EVERY DAY STEWARDSHIP

Prophet. There's a heaviness to this word. It's weighted down with meaning. We think of prophets and we think of Charlton Heston with wild hair and a booming voice, reaching out his hand to work wonders of nature by the grace of God. We think of prophets and we think of ancient Biblical history — someone far away, someone so removed from our everyday life. A prophet is someone who knows something we don't.

When I let you in on this secret, it might scare you at first: in a way, God is calling you to be a prophet. He is calling me. He is calling anyone who hears the truth of the Gospel. However, there is no need for the megaphone and the wild locusts. This prophet gig might not be what you're thinking.

What does a prophet do? He hears and testifies to the truth, even when it's uncomfortable, even when it's unpopular, even when it results in, as Paul says, "weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions and constraints." A prophet doesn't have to be smart or rich or ordained; heck, he doesn't even have to be particularly willing.

All a prophet has to do is listen to the truth. The truth we receive from Christ, through the Gospel and the sacraments, is a mighty gift. But it is a gift that we are not meant to simply keep for ourselves. In possessing it, we are compelled to also pass it on, to share it, to let the Spirit set us on our feet.—*Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS*

## **CONFESSTION AND CHILDREN**

**Question:** Our Catholic grade school is doing a penance service this Lent. Do young children really need to go to Confession? How much sin can they really have?

**Answer:** Ask any mom about her children, and see how many would say she has a brood of perfect angels! Parents know that kids do things that are wrong ... and they often know they're doing it! Even toddlers have a sense of right and wrong. The Church recognizes that their minds and consciences are not yet fully developed, however, and typically waits until age seven to offer the sacrament of Confession. Around that age and beyond, most young people, when asked, can easily explain why something is wrong.

Confession for children is an excellent way to help them reflect on their actions and accept responsibility for their behavior. It helps them to grow in their understanding of sin and how it affects others. This helps them to form their consciences and make better choices in the future. Most importantly, they learn the value of forgiveness, both given and received. Rather than singling out what's wrong, Confession offers hope and a new start! Children can grow in understanding God's unconditional love and develop a sense of inner dignity that transcends their failings. Not bad for five minutes and an "Our Father" or two!

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