



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 26, 2021



THE HOLY FAMILY



He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them; and his mother kept all these things in her heart. And Jesus advanced in wisdom and age and favor before God and man. - Lk 2:51-52

SCRIPTURE READINGS**SUNDAY - January 2, 2022****THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD**

First Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6
 Second Reading: Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6
 Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12

IN THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Renee Langan Joan Mitchell
 Shirley Nellis

MEMORIALS**Sanctuary Candle:***In memory of Guiseppe Puglisi - daughter, Franca***IN OUR PARISH****Oplatki**

Oplatki (Christmas wafers) are available at the parish office.

Parish Calendars

The parish of St. Mary Our Mother is sincerely grateful to the Lynch Funeral Home for their donation of our 2022 calendars.

Until we are able to have printed materials back in the Church, these calendars are available at the parish office.

Catholic Ministries Appeal

As of December 8th, **179 families** have contributed **\$52,159.00** toward our parish goal of **\$106,251.00**. We thank those who have given generously to the CMA and ask that all who have not yet given to this appeal to prayerfully consider doing so. Please consider all the ways God has blessed you and your family and how the Church has brought joy and goodness in our lives. The CMA is one way we can give back to God for the many blessings God has shared with us.

Altar Memorials

When Masses are not available for a particular day, 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 (hosts)	\$10.00

SUNDAY'S READINGS**First Reading:**

"I prayed for this child, and the LORD granted my request. Now I, in turn, give him to the LORD; as long as he lives, he shall be dedicated to the LORD." (1 Sm 1:27-28)

Psalm:

Blessed are they who dwell in your house, O Lord. (Ps 84)

Second Reading:

See what love the Father has bestowed on us that we may be called the children of God. And so we are. (1 Jn 3:1)

Gospel:

After three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. (Lk 2:46)

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WEEKLY READINGS AND OBSERVANCES**Readings for the week of December 26, 2021**

Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 [cf. 1]/ Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/Lk 2:41-52 or 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28/Ps 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10 [cf. 5a]/1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24/Lk 2:41-52
 Monday: 1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12 [12]/Jn 20:1a, 2-8
 Tuesday: 1 Jn 1:5—2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7b-8 [7]/Mt 2:13-18
 Wednesday: 1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6 [11a]/Lk 2:22-35
 Thursday: 1 Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10 [11a]/Lk 2:36-40
 Friday: 1 Jn 2:18-21/Ps 96:1-2, 11-12, 13 [11a]/Jn 1:1-18
 Saturday: Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 [2a]/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21
 Next Sunday: Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 [cf. 11]/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12

Observances for the week of December 26, 2021

Sunday: The Holy Family
 Monday: St. John, Apostle and Evangelist
 Tuesday: The Holy Innocents, Martyrs
 Wednesday: St. Thomas Becket, Bishop and Martyr
 Thursday:
 Friday: St. Sylvester I, Pope; New Year's Eve
 Saturday: New Year's Day; Mary, The Holy Mother of God; World Day of Peace
 Next Sunday: The Epiphany of the Lord; Ss. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors of the Church

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PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

Due to an early bulletin deadline because of the Christmas holiday, I am writing this column on Saturday, December 11th - 2 weeks before Christmas! At this time, we are looking forward to our celebrations of our Christmas liturgies. I hope that you had a very Merry Christmas, and that you have and will be spending time this week with those you love.

Today, this day after Christmas, we celebrate the **Feast of the Holy Family**. I have always thought that the placing of this feast - on the weekend following Christmas - was appropriate as many families are gathered together for the celebration of Christmas. It is a wonderful time to celebrate together and renew family acquaintances. Today is also a day to offer a prayer of thanks for our families. There have been many lessons learned during these many months of enduring this pandemic, and one lesson that has been learned by many is the importance of family.

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph are central figures of the Christmas season. When reading the scriptural accounts about the Nativity, you will find that God was very much a part of each person's life. God sent the angel Gabriel to Mary and she said "Yes"; then God sent Gabriel to Joseph to fill him in on God's plan, and Joseph said "Yes". After the birth of Christ, God told Joseph to move from Bethlehem to Egypt, and along with Mary, they gathered the Christ child and were on their way. Jesus was conceived; Jesus was born; Jesus was saved. His early life was surrounded by this Holy Family.

I recently found the following prayer, and thought it appropriate as we celebrate this feast of the Holy Family:

THANK GOD FOR OUR FAMILIES

For those who nurture us in mind, body, and spirit, and give us the foundation for a good and rewarding life.

For those who believe in us when we have trouble believing in ourselves.

For those who keep on loving us when we are cranky, or stubborn, or selfish, or unreasonable.

For those precious people who are always there for us when things get tough.

For the warm hugs from our children and grandchildren, the unsettling insights of our teenagers, and the married love that grows deeper through the years.

For the place we call home where, no matter what we've done, they will always take us back.

For our church family, for the friendships grown here, the Eucharist we share here, the sins forgiven here, and the compassionate, caring Spirit of Christ that is lived here.

Thank you, God!

Continue to enjoy these Christmas days with your family, your church family, and friends who are "like family". Have a great week. Please continue to take care of yourself and each other!

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

Monday, December 27 - St. John, Apostle & Evangelist

6:45 AM Deborah Foray - Marianne & Bob Kosty

Tuesday, December 28 - The Holy Innocents

6:45 AM For the Faithful Departed

Wednesday, December 29 - Fifth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord

6:45 AM Loretta Deats - Carin Bliss Kujawski

Thursday, December 30 - Sixth Day within the Octave of the Nativity

6:45 AM Dennis Graumann - Ed & Mary Lee Fairbrother

Friday, December 31 - Seventh Day within the Octave of the Nativity

6:45 AM No Mass

Saturday, January 1 - The Octave Day of the Nativity of the Lord

5:00 PM Joseph & Helen Faltisco - Mary Suffern

Sunday, January 2 - Epiphany of the Lord

8:30 AM Isaac James Tenebaum - St. Mary Our Mother Social Ministry

10:30 AM MaryAnne Poland - Walter & the Scarselletta family

A PRAYER FOR THE FAMILY

*Jesus, our most loving redeemer,
You came to enlighten the world
with your teaching and example.
You willed to spend the greater part of Your life
in humble obedience to Mary and Joseph
in the poor home of Nazareth.
In this way, You sanctified that family,
which was to be an example
for all Christian families.*

*Graciously accept our family,
which we dedicate and consecrate to You this day.
Be pleased to protect, guard, and keep it
in holy fear, in peace,
and in harmony of Christian charity.
By conforming ourselves to the Divine model
of Your family,
may we attain to eternal happiness.*

Amen

New St. Joseph People's Prayer Book

FROM THE FINANCE COUNCIL
Tax Advantaged Donation Strategies

In addition to donating with cash or checks, there are other tax beneficial ways that you can donate to St. Mary Our Mother:

If you are over age 70-1/2 and you have an IRA retirement account, you may be eligible for a tax benefit called a **Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD)**. This provision in the tax law allows you to make a distribution from your IRA directly to a qualified non-profit organization. Using the QCD option, you can transfer up to \$100,000 per year to charity and exclude the entire distribution from your gross income for tax purposes. If you are over age 72, the QCD will also count toward your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) for the year. **Please consult with your tax accountant for specific tax advice.**

If you have appreciated securities, you may be able to save money on capital gains taxes by donating shares to a qualified non-profit organization. You can transfer stocks, bonds, mutual funds or exchange traded funds (ETF) positions that have appreciated in value as a charitable gift. **Please consult with your tax accountant for specific tax advice.**

Thank you for your gifts and for all your contributions to St. Mary Our Mother!



REGIONAL EVENTS
March for Life

Speak out for life! Travel by bus to Washington D.C. for the **January 21, 2022** March for Life. Cost is \$50.00. Scholarships are available, so don't let cost prevent your attendance. Adults and school age children are welcome. Call now, don't miss a memorable experience of faith and democracy in action. Call Steve at 607-739-9282 for information or to reserve your seat.

Help for Homeowners

Homeowners in New York State who were financially affected by Covid-19 and who are behind on their mortgage or other housing payments/fees or property taxes may be eligible for help from the New York State Homeowner Assistance Fund (NY HAF). Contact Catholic Charities Elmira office at 607-734-9784 or at www.cs-cc.org for more information. New York State HAF application window is only open from January 3, 2022 to February 3, 2022.

A STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

The ultimate aim of St. Paul's letter to the Colossians is to teach the community how to deepen its relationship with Christ Jesus. His list of virtues summarizes the ideals of communal stewardship: *compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience*. For Paul, practicing these virtues opens our hearts to Christ as individuals and as a worshipping community. This is how the Christian community ought to live. This is how its members should behave in their dealings with others, particularly with fellow believers. As we approach a new year, how might we embrace one of these virtues more fully in order to deepen our relationship with Jesus?

MINISTERIAL STAFF

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- Rev. Richard F. Kajiru**, In Residence
- Mrs. Barbara Matterazzo**, Coordinator of Faith Formation
- Mrs. Cathy Peckham**, Director of Music
- Mrs. Heather Bill**, School Principal
- Mrs. Adriana Enright**, School Secretary
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- Mrs. Amy Barr**, Faith Formation Associate
- Mrs. Sue Wood**, Bulletin Editor
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- 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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- 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

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

Families can be very difficult things to negotiate. This is true not only of our families of origin, the current family of which we are a part, the family of our Church, our society, and our global family as well. Everything human can be found in family stories. Those stories speak of wonderful life-giving successes as well as painful spirit-robbing abuses. Our greatest joys and our greatest wounds are usually connected with the experience of family. Our needs, experiences, and unresolved baggage often color what we bring to our familiar relationships. They contribute to our level of defensiveness, how guarded and protected we become, and what prejudices we believe.

In order to break the cycle of dysfunction we have to remember that it is not only by human effort that we negotiate the difficult and challenging events of our lives. There is a Divine Effort at work as well. For sure, the human effort can create quite a mess and easily destroy lives. This is true of any family with which we are associated. Today's Feast of the Holy Family serves to help us understand that there is a Divine Story being told as well. It is a story of perseverance in the face of hardship, determination in the face of despair, healing when we see nothing but wounds, and light where there is darkness.

Do we believe that God is always working, guiding, restoring, and leading? Unless we do, we will never be free from the imperfections and wounds that bind us and never

be able to understand what it really means to forgive. Pope Francis tells us that the "light which comes from the Holy Family encourages us to offer human warmth to other families." While this is most certainly true, we can only really begin to do this when we realize that we are still works in progress, not anchored to the wounds and sins of our past, and still a leading star in God's continually unfolding story of love. The Holy Family persevered and radiated warmth because they knew they were not alone. We can too.

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