



ST. MARY OUR MOTHER CHURCH

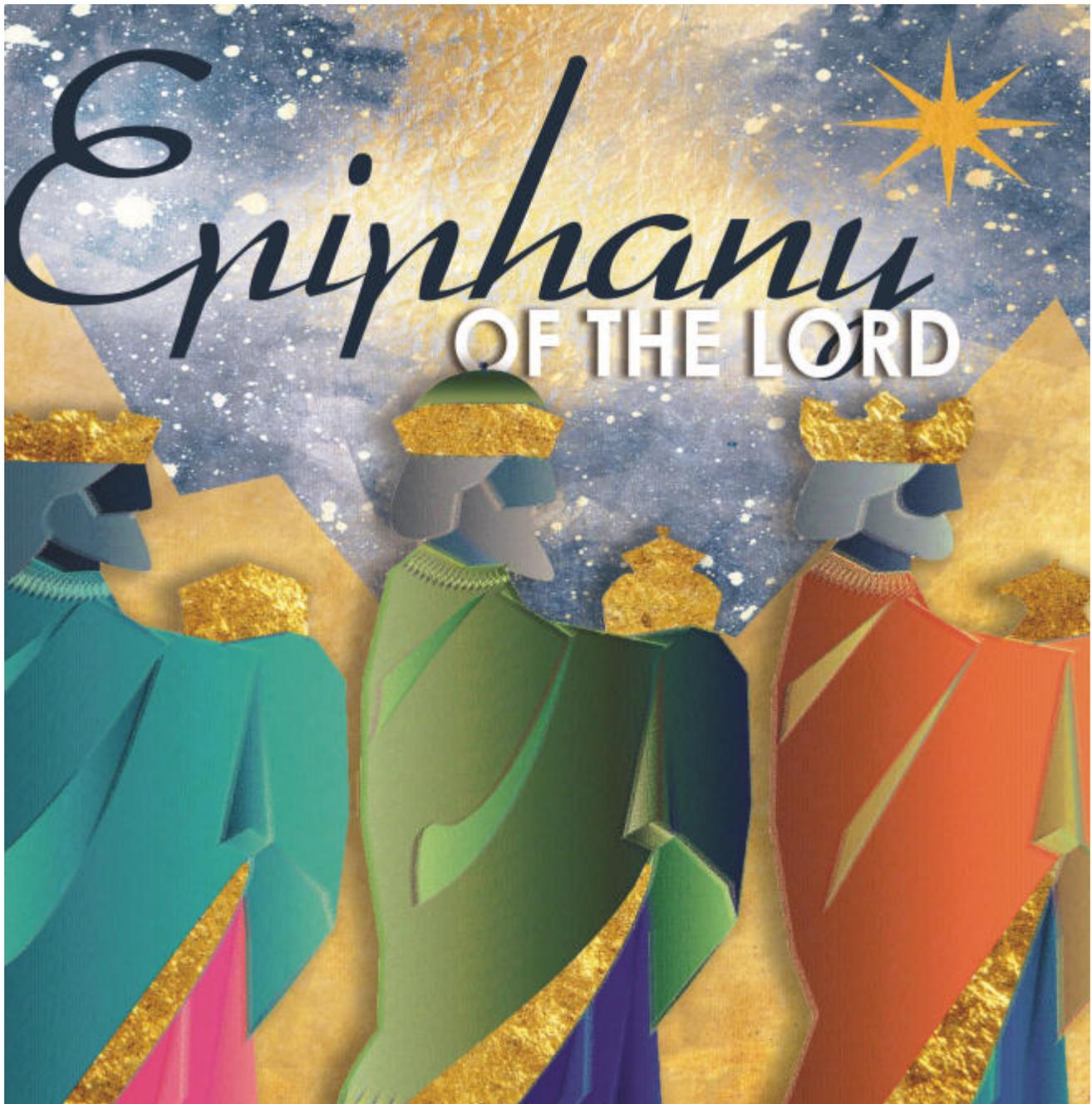
MISSION STATEMENT

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 2, 2022



SCRIPTURE READINGS**SUNDAY - January 9, 2022****THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD**

First Reading: Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11
 Second Reading: Titus 2:11-14, 3:4-7
 Gospel: Luke 3:15-16, 21-22

**IN OUR PARISH****Oplatki**

Oplatki (Christmas wafers) are still 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:**

Rise up in splendor, Jerusalem! 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)

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WEEKLY READINGS AND OBSERVANCES**Readings for the week of January 02, 2022**

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
 Monday: 1 Jn 3:22—4:6/Ps 2:7bc-8, 10-12a/Mt 4:12-17, 23-25
 Tuesday: 1 Jn 4:7-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4, 7-8/Mk 6:34-44
 Wednesday: 1 Jn 4:11-18/Ps 72:1-2, 10, 12-13/Mk 6:45-52
 Thursday: 1 Jn 4:19—5:4/Ps 72:1-2, 14 and 15bc, 17/Lk 4:14-22a
 Friday: 1 Jn 5:5-13/Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20/Lk 5:12-16
 Saturday: 1 Jn 5:14-21/Ps 149:1-2, 3-4, 5 and 6a and 9b/Jn 3:22-30
 Next Sunday: Is 42:1-4, 6-7/Ps 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10
 [11b]/Acts 10:34-38/Lk 3:15-16, 21-22
 or, Is 40:1-5, 9-11/Ps 104:1b-2, 3-4, 24-25, 27-28, 29-30 [1]/Ti 2:11-14; 3:4-7/Lk 3:15-16, 21-22

Observances for the week of January 02, 2022

Sunday: The Epiphany of the Lord; Sts. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors of the Church
 Monday: The Most Holy Name of Jesus
 Tuesday: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious
 Wednesday: St. John Neumann, Bishop
 Thursday: St. André Bessette, Religious
 Friday: St. Raymond of Penyafort, Priest
 Saturday:
 Next Sunday: The Baptism of the Lord

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PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

Due to yet another early bulletin deadline because of the Christmas holidays, this column is being written on Sunday, December 12th. Christmas was over a week ago; today is day two of 2022! For a second consecutive year we have had to celebrate Christmas amidst this global pandemic. My hope is that you were able to gather with family, friends, and loved ones, and prayerfully remember the wonderful gift of God's love we received on that first Christmas, the birth of Jesus Christ.

This weekend we celebrate the **Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord**. It is a day when we acknowledge that Jesus Christ came to offer salvation for all people. Just as the Magi of 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. During these twenty-two months as we have dealt with the coronavirus, we have seen countless examples of people extending a helping hand to people in need. We are called to be the light of Christ for others, even in these most challenging of times. Oftentimes, this may seem rather daunting, but the good news is that we do not take this initiative alone, we do so in the company of each other, and with the grace, direction and strength of the Holy Spirit.

I hope this Christmas time, with all its challenges and hurdles, has been a time of grace and peace for you. As we journey through this Christmas season, I offer this prayer for your reflection:

A PRAYER FOR EPIPHANY

Dear Jesus,

Though a newborn, the wise men, knew your greatness.

*On a hint from the heaven,
they traveled far from their places of comfort
so that they could honor you.*

*From their belief in your divinity,
they gave amazing gifts,
offerings that symbolized
Your life, your power, and even your death.*

*And because of a dream in the night,
they altered their well-laid plans to return home
in order to protect you.*

*May we be so willing to honor, sacrifice and obey,
all for love of you,
as we meditate on the meaning of this day.*

Amen

Happy New Year! Have a great first week of 2022! Please continue to take care of yourself and each other!

Fr. L.

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

Monday, January 3 - Christmas Weekday

6:45 AM Sandy Mentuck - Baker & Lagonegro families

Tuesday, January 4 - St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious

6:45 AM Elizabeth & George Bartosch

Wednesday, January 5 - St. John Neumann, bishop

6:45 AM Tom Cincebox - Mary Ann Cannioto

Thursday, January 6 - Christmas Weekday

6:45 AM Anne Schneider - daughter, Anne Welch

Friday, January 7 - Christmas Weekday

6:45 AM Clint Campbell - his family

Saturday, January 8 - Christmas Weekday

5:00 PM Claire Navone Pitts - her family

Sunday, January 9 - Baptism of the Lord

8:30 AM Louie Tarantelli - the Princiotto's

10:30 AM Rose Steadle - her grandchildren

EVERY DAY STEWARDSHIP

If you own a television that has been turned on at any point in the last month or so, chances are you've caught at least a scene or two of the 1946 classic film "It's a Wonderful Life."

If you're not familiar with the movie, it follows the life of George Bailey from childhood through adulthood. A dreamer by nature, George has big plans for himself that involve world exploration and adventure — but family and community obligations keep him tethered to the same spot on the map, leading an altogether ordinary life.

One of the most memorable scenes from that movie is of George dancing with his sweetheart Mary while they sing "Buffalo Gals — Won't you come out tonight/And dance by the light of the moon?"

That lyric always catches my ear. Of course, the moon doesn't have any light of its own. All the moon has is the ability to reflect the light that shines upon it.

The same holds for us, doesn't it? Our stewardship is purely a reflection of the grace granted to us by another. "Upon you the LORD shines," writes Isaiah, "and over you appears His glory." Every good action we will ever take begins in the mind of God. The fact that we have the honor of carrying it out on His behalf is a beautiful gift. It is God that makes our ordinary lives extraordinary.

In the end of the movie, George Bailey realizes that he had a far greater life because, instead of being the hero of his own story, he allowed himself to reflect goodness onto others.

Remember — the magi didn't chart their own course. They merely followed the star.— *Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS* ©LPi

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.

DROPPED HOST

Question: What happens to a consecrated host if it accidentally falls to the ground?

Answer: This is a very practical question because, as we all know, accidents happen, even during the most careful celebration of the liturgy. The short answer to this question is that nothing happens to the consecrated host. The Real Presence of Jesus remains in the consecrated host or any consecrated wine that might accidentally be spilled.

Another question we might ask is: *How should the ministers respond if the Eucharist is dropped or spilled?* If this happens, the priest, deacon, or extraordinary minister of Holy Communion should immediately pick up the dropped host and consume it. If it is a case of the Precious Blood being spilled, the minister would use the purificator (and additional purificators if needed) to clean the spill and then the area should be reverently washed as soon as the Mass is over and the water poured into the sacrarium (a special sink that is located in church sacristies for reverently disposing of holy water, the water used to clean sacred vessels, etc.).

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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. Heather Bill**, School Principal
- Mrs. Adriana Enright**, School Secretary
- Ms. Terri Orbin**, Business Manager
- Mrs. Joyce Pirozzolo**, Parish Secretary
- Mrs. Maribeth Leipold**, Faith Formation Secretary
- Mrs. Amy Barr**, Faith Formation Associate
- Mrs. Sue Wood**, Bulletin Editor
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- Mr. Doug Johnson**, Cemetery Manager
- 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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- 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 EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

In his Apostolic Exhortation, The Joy of the Gospel, Pope Francis references a thought from Pope Benedict XVI: "Being a Christian is not the result of an ethical choice or a lofty idea, but the encounter with an event, a person, which gives life a new horizon and a decisive direction." Today we celebrate an encounter with the Person of Jesus Christ! This simple but holy event in time dramatically changes human life, pointing it toward a new horizon and giving it a decisive direction. This is a message and truth that is not meant to be shared with only a select few who qualify but with the entire world. Pope Francis continues saying, "Thanks solely to this encounter or renewed encounter with God's love, which blossoms into an enriching friendship, we are liberated from our narrowness and self-absorption. We become fully human when we become more than human, when we let God bring us beyond ourselves in order to attain the fullest truth of our being."

Look around at people. Where is life heading for them? What gives them direction? Even we who are people of faith can get distracted and lose our focus. God, in all of His fullness, is revealed in Jesus Christ and we can encounter Him! God is tangible, real, vulnerable, poor, and full of wonders, surprises, and opportunities. For those who are struggling and lost, today is a day of great joy. All they have to do is reach out and touch the truth of Christ.

This presence is revealed in the poor, exploited, and vulnerable ones who cry out for compassion and love. But it is also found in the faithful ones who see in the Epiphany of God a liberation from structures and systems that hurt us, a narrowness of mind and heart that constricts us, and an absorption in our self-agenda that prevents us from seeing anything other than ourselves as important.

We have been given the charge of preaching this Good News. If only we could find a way to be more effective, it might stand a chance of doing what God intended it to do. There is always tomorrow and our memory of that bright new light that shone so brilliantly that Bethlehem night pointing us to truth and reminding us that we are loved.

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