



# 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

September 1, 2024



## 22ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

“Nothing that enters one from outside can defile that person; but the things that come out from within are what defile.” - Mk 7:15

**MEMORIALS:**



The Main Altar arrangement for the week of September 1-7, 2024 has been donated in loving memory of Jim Cronin by his wife, Shirley.

The Blessed Mother flowers in the Church for the week of September 1-7, 2024 have been donated in celebration of the birthdays of sisters, Anne Greenmun and Deloris Sherwood.

**IN THE PEACE OF CHRIST:**

Pamela Bailey  
Franny Decker



**PRAYER PLAQUE FOR THE SICK:**

The prayer plaque listing the names of individuals who have asked for our prayers is posted in the vestibule of the church. If you wish to have your name added to the list, or know of someone who is sick and would like to be added, please call the parish office at 607-739-3817.

**PARISH OFFICES CLOSED:**

The parish office will be closed on Monday, September 2nd in observance of the Labor Day holiday weekend. The offices will reopen on Tuesday, September 3rd, at 9:00 a.m. We wish everyone a pleasant and safe holiday weekend.

On-line giving QR Code



**ST. MARY OUR MOTHER SCHOOL ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT**

If you are looking for a great way to spend a fall afternoon with your friends out on the golf course, we hope you will join us for the 14th Annual St. Mary Our Mother School Golf Classic. You will be able to enjoy your love of golf while raising funds to support our school. The four person scramble tournament will be held on Sunday, September 15th, at Willow Creek. There will be dinner immediately following the tournament.

You can register an individual player, register a team and/or sponsor the tournament by completing a registration form and mailing the form or dropping it off with payment to St. Mary Our Mother School, 811 Westlake Street, Horseheads, NY 14845. Registration forms are available in the church vestibule or at the school. All checks should be made payable to St. Mary Our Mother School. If you have any questions regarding the tournament, please contact the school office at 739-9157.

**ST. MARY OUR MOTHER SCHOOL 2024-2025 REGISTRATION**

St. Mary Our Mother School is accepting student registrations for the 2024-2025 school year for grades pre-k-3 through grade six. Openings will be filled on a first-come-first-serve basis. Parents or guardians who are new to St. Mary Our Mother School will need: birth certificate, baptismal certificate, immunization records and a completed parish commitment form for members of the parish. The non-refundable registration fee is \$200 per family. Both before and after school care are available. For further information, please call St. Mary Our Mother School at 739-9157 during summer hours from 8:00 a. m. - 2:30 p.m.

**ANNUAL PARISH MEETING:**

In accordance with the laws of the State of New York, every parish corporation is to have an annual meeting to supply information to the parish at large with regard to financial and legal issues. The annual meeting will take place next Sunday, September 8th, following the 10:30 a.m. Mass in church. At this meeting, a summary of the 2023-2024 financial statement will be reviewed, as well the budget for the 2024-2025 fiscal year.

In addition, members of our parish's Finance Council will be present, as well as Donna Haraty, our Regional Finance Director, Michelle Card, our Operations and Finance Manager, and Father Linsler will be present to answer any questions or concerns you might have.

**PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE:**

Another Labor Day holiday is upon us! For many, this weekend signals the end of summer activities. With schools opening this week, many summer vacations are winding down, and after a very warm, humid, and rainy summer, it is time to savor the Labor Day holiday weekend. Many families and groups of friends have a Labor Day gathering as a signal that another summer season is coming to an end. With this in mind, it is important for us to stop and appreciate the meaning of this civil holiday.

Of all the national holidays we have, Labor Day doesn't seem to get much attention. One reason might be is that we haven't found a way to commercialize the holiday as we have with Christmas, Valentine's Day, Easter, Mother's Day, Thanksgiving and the like. Another reason is that the original intent of this day has pretty much vanished since labor unions have become a part of the American business environment. It is important to remember that the unions were the early voice of the ordinary worker, advocating for the dignity and rights of the worker.

The efforts of labor unions to protect the well-being of "voiceless workers" have resulted in the passage of legislation which now protect the rights and safety of many workers. However, there are still many people both near and far who fall into the category of the "voiceless worker." I am referring to the seasonal workers who are helping with the harvesting of our crops in our upstate New York area. These workers play an important role in our local economy. There is also the talented, young African-American who cannot find work because prejudice stands in the way. There are the textile workers of the world who help make the clothes you and I wear, and the farm workers who play an important role to help us enjoy the morning cup of coffee or tea whose wages are so unjust they are hardly able to provide basic necessities of life for themselves and their families. There are those who are part of the work force throughout the world, including children, who perform their duties in extremely unsafe conditions. Who is "there for them" when it comes to just wages, a safe working environment, and basic human dignity?

On this Labor Day, please take a few moments to reflect on the work of others which supports the life you have become accustomed. Pause to give thanks to God for this huge network of people, from the farm and plantation workers who provide food for our tables; for the clothing workers from around the world who make the clothes we wear; for health care professionals whose efforts keep us in good health and those whose on-going research helps to provide cures for the diseases and illnesses that plague us; for police, fire-fighters, emergency medical personnel, and first responders who watch and protect our community; 'behind-the-scenes' people who support our use and ever-increasing dependency on technology and electronic devices; to artists, writers, and musicians who help enhance the beauty that surrounds us; to actors, directors, producers, the professional and amateur athlete who guarantee that we are entertained; the people of our postal system, those who maintain our buildings, streets, arenas, and stadiums; the ministers of our churches. The list is endless!

**MASSES FOR THE WEEK:**

<b>Monday</b> 6:45 A.M.	<b>September 2, Weekday</b> No Mass
<b>Tuesday</b> 6:45 A.M.	<b>September 3, St. Gregory the Great, and Doctor of the Church</b> Faithful Departed
<b>Wednesday</b> 6:45 A.M.	<b>September 4, Weekday</b> Faithful departed
<b>Thursday,</b> 6:45 A.M.	<b>September 5, Weekday</b> Tom Letts—Jackie and Warren Conklin
<b>Friday,</b> 6:45 A.M.	<b>September 6, Weekday</b> Fortunata Alvarez—Osborn family
<b>Saturday,</b> 5:00 P.M.	<b>September 7, Weekday</b> Bernie Matterazzo—Ann Gorman
<b>Sunday,</b> 8:30 A.M. 10:30 A.M.	<b>September 8, Twenty-Third Sunday in ordinary Time</b> Teri Guardi—Bob Eddie Jadoski—his loving family

***Pastor's Perspective continued:***

As you enjoy this Labor Day weekend, take a moment and appreciate all that you have that is the product of another's labor. Take the time to offer a prayer for our nation's foundation of strength—the American worker. And remember to appreciate who you are, and who, with the help of God, you might become!

Have a safe and enjoyable Labor Day weekend. Please continue to take care of yourself and each other!

**DO NOT GRIVE ALONE****WOUNDED HEALERS' BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP**

The Wounded Healers' Bereavement support group meeting will be offered on Tuesday, September 10, 2024 at 7:00 p.m., in person, at St. Mary our Mother School, 811 Westlake St., Horseheads, NY. 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 with "shoulds" We welcome those who are grieving the death of a love one to this sharing; as you are each hoping to find encouragement, insight, and normalization from each other. You may share or you may just listen. We encourage you to be sensitive to your own needs. 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".

PRACTICING CATHOLIC - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorm

The Word

On November 28, 1981, Alphonsine Mumureke was in the dining room at her high school in Kibeho, a small village in southwestern Rwanda. She heard a voice. It was a woman, veiled and beautiful. Alphonsine asked her who she was. "I am the Mother of the Word," answered the woman.

It was the first appearance of Our Lady of Kibeho, who would return to visit Alphonsine and two of her schoolmates over the course of the next eight years. She left with them an urgent call for repentance, along with a prophecy of the Rwandan genocide that would come to fruition in the next decade.

I have always found it compelling that Our Lady chose to identify herself in this way at Kibeho. *The Mother of the Word*. A title so simple and so concise, but so heavy with meaning.

"In the beginning was the Word..." says the Gospel of John in its opening lines.

But what is the Word? Is it spoken, or is it felt? Is it seen, written, heard? Is it shouted or whispered? Is it scribbled across pages that will one day dry and disappear? Is it carved into stone tablets, or on the nameplate above a cross? Is it poured over our foreheads? Is it set ablaze in a bush? Is it etched into our hearts?

It is all of these things, yes, but it is more, still. The Word is not something that is merely spoken. It is not merely written. The Word is something that is done. It is something that we must choose to do.

Our Lady of Kibeho lamented that this world "has neither love nor peace." "If you do not convert and heal your hearts, you will all fall into an abyss," she warned.

But how do we convert our hearts? What snatches us back from the brink?

It is the Word, spoken. It is the Word, carried out. Not just one, and not just the other, but both.

"Humbly welcome the word that has been planted in you and is able to save your souls." — James 1:21

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The Horseheads Food Pantry is requesting the following much needed food items: **crackers** (saltine or ritz type), **cereals** (oatmeal or cold cereals), and "**frosting** for cake mixes."

The pantry is always in need of **personal care items** as they are not available from the Food Bank. This includes: **body soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste, and feminine personal hygiene items**. They cannot accept over the counter medicines or vitamins.

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, 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



The beginning of the school year is fast approaching, and that means the start of our parish faith formation classes. Following you will find important dates of when each program will begin.

**CONFIRMATION YRS. 1 & 2:** Sunday, September 29, 2024. There will be a meeting beginning at 5:00 p.m. in the church. All incoming 8th graders (year 1) and 9th graders (year 2) must attend with a parent. If your child will be entering 9th grade or above, has received the Sacraments of Baptism and First Holy Communion, and has not started year 2 Confirmation classes, they are encouraged to attend this meeting as well.

**First Penance:** Saturday, September 21, 2024, there will be a meeting at 9:00 a.m. in the church. All incoming 2nd graders who plan on receiving First Holy Communion in the Spring must attend this meeting with a parent. If your child is in a grade level other than 2nd grade and is at least seven years old and has been baptized and would like to receive First Holy Communion in the Spring must attend this meeting for First Penance.

**Tuesday Faith Formation Program:** Our Tuesday program will begin on Tuesday, September 24, 2024 beginning at 3:45 p.m. in the church. Please drop your student off in the church. Pick-up will also be in the church at 5:00 p.m.

**Youth Group:** The first Youth Group meeting of the school year will be held on Sunday, October 6, at 5:00 p.m. All students in grades 6 and above are encouraged to come and bring a friend.

**Home Study:** Saturday, October 5, 2024, there will be a home study meeting in O'Brien Hall following the 5:00 p.m. Mass.

All registration forms for each program can be found in the back of the church next to the bulletin board or on the parish webpage. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Amanda Reeves or Lily Barr at the parish office-607-739-8214.

## RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS: By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

### EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

#### Give it all Back

Pop culture has given us a unique idea of the term justice. Justice, we often think, is about taking. Taking what's owed. Taking revenge. Taking what we deserve. This worldview tends to make mincemeat of our Catholic social teachings. Seeking the good of the poor, a call to community and participation, solidarity — on the face of it, in a society where everything must be earned and we are encouraged to hoard for ourselves whatever success we can achieve, these principles look a lot like highway robbery.

But when you remember the presence of an omnipotent, all-loving and all-merciful God, it turns our gunslinging sense of justice on its head. For how does justice inhabit the same universe as a God who is so quick to give and indeed to forgive?

Well, very easily, when we remember Who exactly is the source of every good and perfect thing in this world. There is no law that cannot be traced back to the Word. And the Word saves our souls.

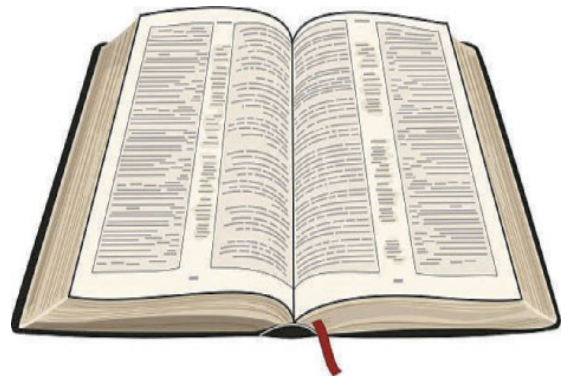
Is that justice? No, that is a gift. It is the reckless, indulgent gift of a father whose love is greater than His anger. What is justice in the Biblical sense?

The answer is simple. Look at your life. See the hours in your day? See your spouse, your kids, your grandkids? See the house they live in, the money in your wallet, the food in your fridge, the breath in your lungs?

Calling it all your own, refusing to share any of it — that's robbery. Giving it all back to the One who gave it to you — that's justice.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

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