



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

September 8, 2024



23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



And people brought to him a deaf man who had a speech impediment and begged him to lay his hand on him. He took him off by himself away from the crowd. He put his finger into the man's ears and, spitting, touched his tongue; then he looked up to heaven and groaned, and said to him, "Ephphatha!"—that is, "Be opened!" - Mk 7:32-34

MEMORIALS:

The Main Altar arrangement for the week of September 8-14, 2024 has been donated in loving memory of Eddie Jadoski by his family.

The Eucharistic Breads for the week of September 8—14, 2024 have been donated for the intentions of Jeanne & Matt Burris family by Pat Madison.

IN THE PEACE OF CHRIST:

Father Charles Latus

**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.

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 today, 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 as 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.

19th ANNUAL ST. MARY OUR MOTHER SCHOOL GOLF CLASSIC

Please join St. Mary Our Mother School for their 19th Annual St. Mary Our Mother School Golf Classic. The Captain & Crew tournament will be held on Sunday, September 15th, 10:00 a.m. shot-gun start, at Willowcreek Golf Club. This is one of our biggest fund-raisers of the year, and we invite our school, parish, and community partners to help by supporting this event. The day consists of an 18-hole round of golf, lunch at the turn, along with awards and dinner. Sponsors and golfers are asked to submit a registration form, along with payment, to the school office at 811 Westlake Street, Horseheads, NY, 14845. Checks should be made payable to *St. Mary Our Mother School*. Registration forms can be found on the table outside the sacristy or at the school office. Please call the school office with any questions 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.

CATHOLIC CAMPAIGN FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT:

Next week our special collection will support the Catholic Campaign for Human Development. Nearly 38 million people in the United States live in poverty. This collection supports programs that empower people to identify and address the obstacles they face in bringing permanent and positive change to their communities. Learn more about the Catholic Campaign for Human Development at www.usccb.org/cchd.

On-line giving QR code



PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE:

This past Wednesday, **St. Mary Our Mother School** opened its doors for the 66th consecutive year. St. Mary Our Mother School welcomed its first students in September, 1959, with an enrollment of 125 students in grades one, two and three, and with a faculty of six Sisters. A few years later saw an expansion of the school building to twice its size due to an increasing number of students and expanded the number of grades to encompass students in grades kindergarten to eighth grade. It was a time of unprecedented population growth in Horseheads and Chemung County.

For the 2024-2025 school year, we have an enrollment in our school of 150 students in grades pre-K3 through grade six. Although many of the policies and restrictions which had to be implemented the past few years as a result of the pandemic have been relaxed, we continue to follow all safety policies which will keep our students, faculty, and staff safe and healthy. Mrs. Heather Bill, our school principal and the entire school team have been working diligently to create and maintain a safe, welcoming, and nurturing environment at St. Mary Our Mother School. We are blessed with a dedicated school staff and proud of the commitment of each teacher, teacher assistant, and support staff has to ensure the academic success of each and every student.

The faculty and staff of Saint Mary Our Mother School for the 2024-2025 academic year are:

Mrs. Heather Bill	<i>Principal</i>
Mrs. Adriana Enright	<i>Administrative Assistant</i>
Mrs. Jill Knuth	<i>Pre-K3 Teacher</i>
Mrs. Robyn Stowell	<i>Pre-K3 Teaching Assistant</i>
Mrs. Amy Winkels	<i>Pre-K3 Teaching Assistant</i>
Mrs. Caitlin Disbrow	<i>Pre-K4 Teacher</i>
Mrs. Sally Heffner	<i>Pre-K4 Teaching Assistant</i>
Mrs. Michelle Steed	<i>Pre-K 4 Teaching Assistant</i>
Mrs. Sandra Hoyt	<i>Kindergarten Teacher</i>
Mrs. Jamie Lewis	<i>First Grade Teacher</i>
Mrs. Angela Langendorfer	<i>Second Grade Teacher</i>
Mrs. Kelly Koehler	<i>Third Grade Teacher</i>
Ms. Stephanie Pelkey	<i>Fourth Grade Teacher</i>
Mrs. Claire Thurston	<i>Fifth Grade Teacher</i>
Mrs. Colleen Meehan	<i>Sixth Grade Teacher</i>
Mrs. Bridget Hallinan	<i>AIS/Teaching Assistant</i>
Mrs. Susan Nagle	<i>Technology Teacher/ Coordinator</i>
Mrs. Barbara O'Brian	<i>Art Teacher/Library</i>
Mrs. Katy Piet	<i>Music</i>
Mr. Thomas Ketchum	<i>Physical Education Teacher</i>
Mrs. Michele Procopio	<i>School Nurse</i>
Ms. Jenna Crandall	<i>Maintenance</i>
Mr. Roger Williams	<i>Maintenance</i>

On behalf of the faculty, staff, and students of Saint Mary Our Mother School, I offer a word of thanks to you—the people of Saint Mary Our Mother—for your continued interest and faithful support of our parish school. May all who make Saint Mary Our Mother

MASSES FOR THE WEEK:

Monday 6:45 A.M.	September 9, St. Peter Claver, Priest Margaret Bellizia—Family
Tuesday 6:45 A.M.	September 10, Weekday Faithful Departed
Wednesday 6:45 A.M.	September 11, Weekday Faithful Departed
Thursday 6:45 A.M.	September 12, Weekday Faithful Departed
Friday 6:45 A.M.	September 13, St. John Chrysostom, Bishop and Doctor of the Church. Deceased of the Mills family—family
Saturday 5:00 P.M.	September 14, The Exaltation of the Holy Cross Nancy Fazzary—Ann Marie & Jim Gibson
Sunday 8:30 A.M.	September 15, Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time Deceased members of the Farley family— Ida Dandrea
10:30 A.M.	Debbie Difasi—her husband, Dan

Pastor's Perspective continued:

School what it is—a creative and safe learning place of Catholic faith filled education—enjoy a grace filled and safe year.

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

Fr. L

**DO NOT GRIEVE 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 moment of significance. Each one has a personal grief journey so we are open to listen, and are careful to not dogmatize with "should" 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 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".

GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE
DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

September 8, 2024
23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

One of the most touching YouTube videos I’ve ever seen is one in which a deaf woman receives new technology to heal her hearing. She hears her husband’s voice for the first time — and her own, too — and bursts into tears of overwhelming joy. It must have been like an immovable wall between her and her loved ones came tumbling down.

We are all like this woman, to some degree. We believe in the presence of God’s love, but we can’t hear Him. We can’t speak well about Him. The deaf man who can’t speak properly in the Gospel today is an image of what God wants us to experience again and again. Jesus takes the man aside to a private place away from the crowd, touches his ears and tongue, and says, “**Ephphata!**” The man’s ears are opened, and he speaks clearly. Contact with Christ has this effect on us.

This experience happens to us in our baptism, almost exactly. It happens to us in the liturgy. It happens in our private prayer. It happens when we hear the voice of God in our conscience. The more we engage these privileged channels of Jesus’ healing, the more we are empowered to hear and speak of the presence of God’s perfect love.

— *Father John Muir*

CATHOLIC TRIVIA – JUST FOR FUN

Question: What is the name of the patron saint of grandfathers?

Answer: Saint Joachim, father of Mary.

September 8– Grand Parents Day: Prayer for Grandparents

Dear God,

What a grace to live in a world of all ages and stages.

Bless our grandparents, today and always.

Thank You for their experiences, wisdom, and insight.

Thank You for the gifts they bring the Church.

Thank You for the lessons they teach the next generations.

Amen.



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.

PRACTICING CATHOLIC - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS:

Be Opened! 1

There are several moments throughout the calendar year when we are tricked into thinking we can reinvent ourselves.

One of them is New Year's Day. The barista at my coffee shop told me that they sell more decaf coffee in January than in the entirety of the remaining year, because everyone is swearing off caffeine. By February, she said, the trend subsides: folks have realized they're not actually superheroes just because the last digit of the year has increased by one.

The beginning of a new school year is another of those moments. Every pencil is freshly sharpened, and every lesson plan is painstakingly plotted. Our heads are full of what we plan to do this year, how we plan to do it, who we plan to become.

But by May, the wind is out of our sails. We've learned the concepts, we've used up the pencils, yes — but we've remembered that underneath it all we're basically the same people, with the same shortcomings and the same obstacles as we always were. The only difference in September was we had new planners.

The truth is that we cannot reinvent ourselves. We can't change ourselves at all, not on New Year's Day or the first day of school or on our 40th birthday or after quitting a bad habit. We are what we are: blind in some ways, deaf in others, crippled in still more, moving through life with uncertainty, stumbling in the dark.

People don't change. Not without miracles.

But being a Christian means believing in miracles and being ready for them at any moment — in January or in September, in the middle of a hopeless week or at the end of a bad day, when you feel strong and when you don't, when you want to be better and when you feel too tired to try.

No, we can't change ourselves, but we can be changed. There is one who can change us if we will let him. He is waiting — now, tomorrow, yesterday, next week. The time is always right for a miracle.

“ He put his finger into the man's ears ... and said to him, 'Ephphatha!'— that is, 'Be opened!'—And immediately the man's ears were opened ...” Mark 7:34-35

Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

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