



ST. MARY OUR MOTHER CHURCH

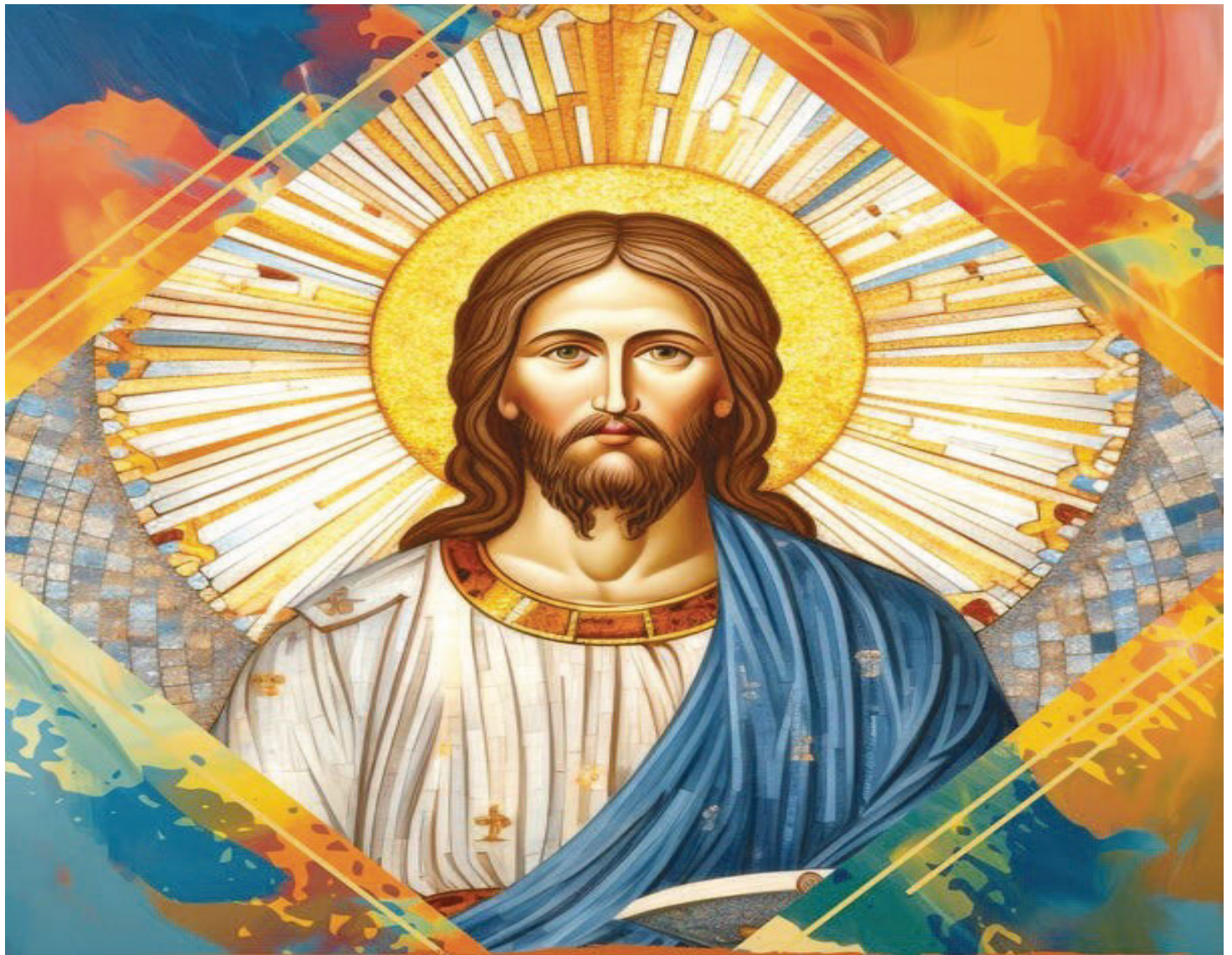
MISSION STATEMENT

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

February 23, 2025



7TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

“Give, and gifts will be given to you.”
- Lk 6:38

WEEKLY CALENDAR:**Tuesday, February 25**

3:45 p.m.—Faith Formation classes—school

Thursday, February 27

7:00 p.m.—Adult Choir Rehearsal—church

Saturday, March 1

3:30 p.m.—Sacrament of Penance—church

J. Peter Fennell, Sr.
Margaret Kinsey
Rosemary Klotz

**MEMORIALS:**

Our main altar flowers for February 23—March 4 have been donated in loving memory of Marlene Fiorini by her family, the Marzee's

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, for a special birthday or anniversary or other occasion.

Arrangements may be made by contacting the parish office at 607-739-3817.

A SUPER THANK YOU:

Our Super Bowl collection totaled \$786.83 in donations to the Horseheads food pantry. The Eagles won the Pantry Bowl with \$609.83 donated in their honor. We thank all who participated, both the Eagles' and the Chiefs' fans, as well as our youth who collected your donations at the doors. These funds will help support the food pantry as they work to alleviate hunger in Chemung County.

CEMETERY CLEANOUT AND CLEANUP:

Twice a year, a cleanout and cleanup of our cemetery is done. Please remove all winter decorations at this time. If you have items you do not wish to have discarded, please remove them by March 15th. Thank you!

Parish giving QR Code

**FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK:****Celebrating 66 Years of Catholic Education**

During Catholic Schools Week last month, our students came together in a spirit of service and celebration to mark our school's 66th birthday. In honor of this milestone, the students participated in a special project: **"Birthday in a Bag."**

Each class contributed items to create a complete birthday celebration kit, including cake mix, frosting, candles, and other festive touches. With joyful hearts and helping hands, the students packed **66 birthday bags**—one for each year of our school's legacy.

The event concluded with a lively rendition of "Happy Birthday," sung by the entire school community. The bags were then delivered to the Horseheads Food Pantry, where they will bring joy to families in need.

Together, we honored our school's history while embodying the Gospel message of love and service.

**Join Us for the Legacy Gala—
A Night to Remember!**

St. Mary Our Mother School invites you to our annual Legacy Gala—a special evening of celebration and support for Catholic education! This year's event will take place on Friday, May 30th, from 7:00 PM to 11:00 PM at the Elmira Country Club.

Enjoy an exciting night of entertainment, including live music, a live auction, a silent auction, heavy hors d'oeuvres, a cash bar, and multiple raffles, including our Big Money Raffle!

Big Money Raffle Tickets are \$100 each, giving you a chance to win one of three prizes: \$500, \$1,000, or \$5,000! Tickets will be available for purchase after Saturday 5:00 P.M. Mass and Sunday 8:30 A.M. & 11:30 A.M. masses on select weekends.

We hope you will join us for this wonderful evening and help support St. Mary Our Mother School. Your generosity directly benefits our students and ensures the continued success of our school community.

Thank you for your support, and we look forward to celebrating with you!

With gratitude and blessings,

Mrs. Heather Bill,
Principal, St. Mary Our Mother School

PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE:

I'm writing this column in the middle of the Presidents' Holiday weekend. Looking at the calendar, it hardly seems possible that today is the fourth and final weekend of February. I also realize that in a mere ten days, the season of Lent will be upon us. Ash Wednesday is one week from this coming Wednesday, March 5th.

A parishioner shared with me the following, and I thought I would pass it on to you. The article is entitled "**Top Ten Reasons for Participating at Mass every Sunday.**"

10. *Sunday is the Lord's Day (because Jesus rose from the dead on this day), not our day; we remember that the other days of the week hold us lovingly in God's care.*
9. *We keep up our membership in the Church—our friendship with God.*
8. *You will know what times Masses are when your mother asks you to go to Church with her on Mother's Day.*
7. *We will be able to hear some 'good news' (the meaning of the "gospel") every week.*
6. *We will live more deeply into the mystery of Christ's life, death, and resurrection, and so gain a more complete focus of mind and heart, centered on God.*
5. *I will recognize you when your sister asks you to be a godparent and you ask me for a certificate saying that you are a member of St. Mary Our Mother and a practicing Catholic.*
4. *You can give back to God in song the voice God gave you.*
3. *We are nourished by the full reality of Christ (in the Eucharist, with Christ's Body and Blood), to strengthen us in the virtues of faith, hope, and love—especially love.*
2. *We remember that we are not alone, but have splendid companions to walk with us in this world and a great company of saints praying for us in the next.*
1. *We give thanks and praise to God for ALL God has done for us in Christ, and for ALL God does for us each day and every week.*

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

Fr. L.

MASSES FOR THE WEEK:

Monday, 6:45 A.M.	February 24— Weekday Carol Ann Wawrzusin—Ray
Tuesday, 6:45 A.M.	February 25—Weekday Joyce Savino—Ann Gresock & Joan Ruhmel
Wednesday, 6:45 A.M.	February 26— Weekday Carol Zielinski—Tom Kolonoski and family
Thursday, 6:45 A. M.	February 27 —Weekday Deceased members of the Mill family—family
Friday, 6:45 A.M.	February 28—Weekday Our faithful departed
Saturday, 5:00 P.M.	March 1—Weekday Janis Zelko—Dawn & Robert Fisher
Sunday, 8:30 A.M. 10:30 A.M.	March 2— Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time Walter Dobek—family Michael Hollenbeck—cousins, Mary & Charlotte

A STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

In today's Gospel reading Jesus urges His listeners to "Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful." He also offers several examples of putting mercy into action. Listeners can then reason their way into how to put the values of the Gospel reflected in these imperatives into practice in other situations. Good stewards look for opportunities to exercise God's mercy toward others. They realize that, in doing so, their own experience of God's mercy not only becomes more profound, but affirms their hope of seeing the Lord face to face one day. How have we experienced God's mercy in our lives? How might our thinking, words, attitudes, and actions reflect God's mercy on someone else today?

A WORD OF THANKS FROM OUR SOCIAL MINISTRY GROUP!

The Social Ministry Committee would like to thank everyone for supporting the "Valentines for Vets" project this year. We had an amazing response and we sent 463 valentines to the veterans at the Bath, VA! We are very much appreciative of the groups who made Valentines. These include the Key Club from Thomas Edison High School, St. Mary Our Mother School, and our Social Ministry Committee and friends.

The Social Ministry Committee is thankful for the support of so many students and adults to show the veterans our appreciation for their service and sacrifice!

THANK YOU!!

SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME:

This Sunday, Jesus continues His challenging Sermon on the Mount. "Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. Give to everyone who asks of you, and from the one who takes what is yours do not demand it back." Words like these are challenging! Many of us have grown up in a culture of independence and retaliation against those who harm us. Today's Gospel reminds us that the way of the world is not necessarily the way of the disciple.

In many spiritual tests, saints describe the first state of the spiritual life as mercenary love of God. That is, we love Him because He "pays" us with graces and good things. Consider for a moment, why do you do the good that you do? Take volunteering, for example, how often do we talk about the good feelings service evokes and how you "get so much more than you give." This is still based on an attitude of return on our investment. Would we volunteer if we knew it was good to do, but we didn't "feel" good afterward? What if the people we helped seemed ungrateful, or if some one at the food pantry stole \$20 out of your purse? It can be difficult to love people when we think we might not get anything back. "For if you love those who love you, what credit is that to you?"

As Christians, we are called to imitate God. We follow a God who loves not as only His closest friends, but who loves betrayers, deniers, and crucifiers. The Christian walk is one of perseverance and sacrifice.

What does your love look like?

REFLECTION:

"But rather, love your enemies and do good to them, and lend expecting nothing back; then your reward will be great and you will be children of the Most High. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful." Lk 6:35-36



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MINISTERIAL STAFF

- Rev. Christopher E. Linsler**, Pastor
- Rev. Peter T. Singano**, in Residence
- Miss Lily Barr**, Faith Formation Assistant
- Mrs. Cathy Peckham**, Director of Music
- Mrs. Heather Bill**, School 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**
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- 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

GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

One of my favorite new singers/songwriters is Noah Kahan. I'm a little biased because, like me, he is originally from Vermont. In a fine song entitled "Stick Season," he sings of his hope to "cancel out the darkness I inherited from dad." This lyric articulates his painful recognition of a dark spiritual "inheritance" from his father, and his hope to be free of it. We all inherit some degree of evil from our earthly forebears. It's easy to feel doomed to repeat their darkness.

But we're not so doomed, thank God. This week's Gospel proclaims this. Whatever good or bad we received from our parents, we have a more definitive and perfect inheritance in God. Jesus commands us, "**Be merciful just as your Father is merciful**" (Luke 6:36). We have a perfect Father in heaven and are destined to inherit and reflect *that* perfect and merciful love. We have an inheritance of light, not darkness, and thus a whole new possibility of magnanimous love. Like any inheritance, this is a free gift to us.

What are we destined to repeat? Not the darkness of our earthly parents. We are destined to be a reflection of *God's* life. Jesus liberates us from the inevitability of repeating whatever evils and imperfections are in our familial or cultural upbringings. It's time to claim that perfect inheritance.

— *Father John Muir*



ON THE LIGHTER SIDE: Bulletin "oops"

The Fasting & Prayer Conference includes meals.

The sermon this morning: 'Jesus Walks on Water.' The sermon tonight: 'Searching for Jesus.'

Miss Charlene Mason sang "I will not pass this way again," giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.



During this holy Jubilee Year, we are alert to the opportunities to be a tangible sign of hope for brothers and sisters who experience hardships of any kind. One distressing reality is that in a world with enough food for all, millions of children (in the United States and globally) suffer from severe hunger and nearly half of all preventable deaths among children under age five worldwide are attributed to malnutrition. This is intolerable. Let us use our voices to speak up for the children.

Contact our US House Representative, Nick Langworthy (Corning office 607-377-3130) and leave this message: *I ask you to pass legislation in the Congress that fully funds the WIC program (Women, Infants, Children Supplemental nutrition); expands the Child Tax Credit to cut poverty in families with children; increase funding for global child nutrition programs; help reduce food insecurity on college campuses. Be sure to leave your name and county. This phone call will take a minute or two, but can make a big impact.*

Thank You—Social Ministry Committee

NOTRE DAME UP COMING RETREATS AND SPECIAL EVENTS:

February 24: Faith-Based Counseling Resource for Parish Staffs and Volunteers—"Spiritually Informed Communication and Self-Care Workshop"
(Deborah Lynch, LCSW and Phil Miller, DSW, LCSW)

February 28-March 2: Couple's Retreat
"Walking in Friendship with God: Pilgrims of Hope"
Fr. Bob Werth, Joe and Aline Clement, Jodie Scordo

A FAMILY PRAYER:

Heavenly Father, we ask for your help to keep our family united in love and understanding. Remove any conflicts or misunderstandings and replace them with harmony and peace. Let us communicate with kindness and respect, always putting each other first and fostering a spirit of unity AMEN

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