



# 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

March 23, 2025



## 3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT



Jesus said to them in reply, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were greater sinners than all other Galileans? By no means! But I tell you, if you do not repent, you will all perish as they did!" - Lk 13:2-3

**WEEKLY CALENDAR:****Tuesday, March 25**

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

**Thursday, March 27**

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

**Saturday, March 29**

3:30 p.m. —Sacrament of Penance—church

Gary Cerio  
Mary Jean Gray  
Barbara Grebleski  
Caterina Ruggiero

**MEMORIALS:**

The Icon candle for the week of March 23—29 has been donated in memory of Marlene Fiorini by Mary and Tom Sweet.

The Sanctuary candle for the week of March 23—29 has been donated in memory of Kathleen Marzec by Mary and Tom Sweet.

**MEMORIALS:** *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.*

**EASTER FLOWERS:**

The sign up form for Easter lilies has been posted on the Church bulletin board. The deadline to be included for Easter, 2025 is March 28th.

**2025 LENTEN SCHEDULE****Daily Mass:**

6:45 a.m.—Monday through Friday

**Sacrament of Penance:**

3:30 p.m. — Saturday

11:30 a.m.—Wednesday, April 2nd—Diocesan  
Day of Penance, *Sacrament available  
until 5:30 p.m.*

**Stations of the Cross:**

1:15 p.m.—Fridays with St. Mary Our Mother  
School (when school is in session)

5:30 p.m.—Fridays of Lent (*except Friday, April  
11th*)

St. Mary Our Mother School Living Stations of the  
Cross

1:30 p.m. & 5:30 p.m.—Wednesday, April 9, 2025

**A CHALLENGING CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES ANNIVERSARY YEAR:**

CRS Rice Bowl reported having received a letter from Pope Francis earlier this year on the occasion of their 50th anniversary. In his letter the Pope says, “I renew my best wishes this anniversary, and upon all who support Rice Bowl, I invoke Almighty God’s blessings of wisdom, hope, and strength.” As we journey through Lent, let us join in praying for the health of Pope Francis and the needs of our global family.

Last week at our weekend Liturgies, Deacon Mark Robbins spoke of the work of CRS in assisting over 100 countries in the fields of health, education, farming, and nutrition. He pointed out that this anniversary year has become a very difficult and challenging year with the recent dissolution and uncertain future of USAID. CRS receives a sizable portion of their funding through USAID as well as donations from donors like our parish and school. Hopefully, the sacrifices made by the Rice Bowl donors will help CRS to weather the current storm.

Deacon Mark closed his homily with these words of Pope Francis, “Never think that you have nothing to offer or that nobody needs you. Many people need you.” We need to remember in our hearts that many people out there need us. Rice Bowl is a bridge to those brothers and sisters in need. Consider being a part of that bridge this Lenten season

**PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE:**

Our parish bulletin since the beginning of Lent has had information about the diocesan wide *“Day of Penance and Mercy”* on **Wednesday, April 2nd**. On this day, all parishes throughout the diocese will be *“Open for Forgiveness,”* affording people an opportunity to celebrate the Sacrament of Penance individually. Three priests will be available that day from 11:30 a.m.—6:00 p.m.

When people have not availed themselves to this sacrament for a while, they often will say, *“I don't know how to celebrate this sacrament anymore, “or I feel embarrassed that I don't know the procedures of the sacrament,” or “I am not sure what I should confess anymore; what really is a sin these days?” or “I can't remember the Act of Contrition”, or “I don't even know where the reconciliation rooms or confessional are in our church.”*

First of all, the reconciliation rooms at St. Mary Our Mother are located to the west side of the vestibule, adjacent to the Eucharistic Chapel. Both rooms offer the penitent the choice of either kneeling and remaining anonymous, or being seated face to face with the priest.

The Sacrament of Penance begins with the Sign of the Cross, with a greeting and invitation from the priest, reminding the penitent of the mercy of God. Then there is a reference to scripture, usually a verse or two reminding the penitent to be open to the mercy of God. The penitent may also reference a brief scripture text that would be appropriate to their situation.

Having examined their consciences beforehand, the penitent then confesses his or her sins. If necessary, the priest may be helpful in helping the penitent articulate sins, and may offer spiritual counsel. It is important to remember that their priest here is not a judge in this situation, or a social worker or psychiatrist, but a kind of spiritual physician seeking to heal the wounds of sin.

The priest then proposes an act of penance, usually some form of prayer, scripture or spiritual reading, fasting, or good works. The penitent accepts it as a means of amending one's life. The rite of the sacrament makes reference to a *“firm purpose of amendment of one's life”* is necessary on the part of the penitent when receiving the sacrament. The penitent then expresses sorrow for sin by making an *“Act of Contrition.”* Please don't be concerned that you do not remember it, or you may forget it while you are celebrating the sacrament. We have printed versions of a number of this prayer in each confessional. Simply saying the words sincerely *“Lord Jesus, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner,”* is acceptable.

**MASSES FOR THE WEEK:**

<b>Monday,</b> 6:45 A.M.	<b>March 24—Lenten Weekday</b> Our faithful departed
<b>Tuesday,</b> 6:45 A.M.	<b>March 25—The Annunciation of the 6 Lord</b> Living and deceased of the Amisano & Lanahan families—Adele Lanahan
<b>Wednesday,</b> 6:45 A.M.	<b>March 26—Lenten Weekday</b> Louise Lordi—Patti Pautz
<b>Thursday,</b> 6:45 A.M.	<b>March 27—Lenten Weekday</b> Margaret Bellizia—family
<b>Friday,</b> 6:45 A.M.	<b>March 28—Lenten Weekday</b> Deceased of the Curtin family
<b>Saturday,</b> 5:00 P.M.	<b>March 29—Lenten Weekday</b> Donna Berry—Jane Gallagher
<b>Sunday,</b> 8:30 A.M.	<b>March 30—Fourth Sunday of Lent</b> Deceased members of the Driscoll family—family
10:30 A.M.	Francis, Paul, Tom & Zack Stermer—family

Pastor's Perspective continued:

The priest will then pray the words of forgiveness and absolution in the name of the Church, extending his hand over the penitent. There are then brief words praising God whose mercy is endless. Then the penitent goes in peace.

Two things are important to remember when celebrating the individual form of the Sacrament of Penance. First, don't worry about the order of the service; the priest is there to guide you through. Your responsibility is to know your sins and truly be sorry for them. Second, and perhaps more important, remember that mercy and forgiveness of God are waiting for you, even before you decided to celebrate this sacrament. The purpose of this sacrament is an opportunity to encounter Christ and to receive the merciful and loving forgiveness that Christ offers you.

I hope these insights are helpful as we prepare to celebrate the Diocesan Day of Penance and Mercy on Wednesday, April 2nd.

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

Fr. L.



**FROM THE PRINCIPAL’S DESK: Staff Retreat Day—March 24th**

On Monday, March 24th our school will be closed for a Staff Retreat Day, and our faculty and staff will be spending the day at the Elmira Community Kitchen, preparing a meal for those in need.

This day of service provides a wonderful opportunity for our staff to come together as a team and give back to the community. It’s a meaningful way for us to live out our faith and teach the importance of compassion and service to others.

We appreciate your ongoing support as we continue to grow as a school and a community. Please keep us in your prayers as we take part in this outreach, and we thank you for being a part of our mission to serve.

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

**St. MARY OUR MOTHER SCHOOL ANNUAL LEGACY GALA:**

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 P.M. to 11:00 P.M. 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. & 10:30 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.



**NOTRE DAME RETREAT HOUSE LENTEN OPPORTUNITIES:**

**Weekend, March 28-30— Spiritual Exercises as GPS** with Roc O’Connor, SJ—Friday 5:00 p.m.—Sunday noon.

For more details and updates about these events: [www.notredameretreat.org](http://www.notredameretreat.org), [www.facebook.com/ND Spirituality](http://www.facebook.com/NDSpirituality) 585-394-5700

**NEW TOP THREE FOOD ITEMS ON THE PANTRY’S WISH LIST:**

The Horseheads Food Pantry is most thankful to the people of St. Mary Our Mother for their ongoing food donations. The top three on their wish list now are:

- \* boxes of instant mashed potatoes
- \* Jiffy corn muffin mix
- \* cake mixes and icings

**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**

- 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

**CATHOLIC REFUGEE MINISTRIES:  
LETTER OF POPE FRANCIS TO THE U.S.  
BISHOPS, Feb. 10, 2025 –Part 2 of 3**

4. “I have followed closely the major crisis that is taking place in the United States with the initiation of a program of mass deportations. The rightly formed conscience cannot fail to make a critical judgment and express its disagreement with any measure that tacitly or explicitly identifies the illegal status of some migrants with criminality. At the same time, one must recognize the right of a nation to defend itself and keep communities safe from those who have committed violent or serious crimes while in the country or prior to arrival. That said, the act of deporting people who in many cases have left their own land for reasons of extreme poverty, insecurity, exploitation, persecution, serious or deterioration of the environment, damages the dignity of many men and women, and of entire families, and places them in a state of particular vulnerability and defenselessness.”
5. “This is not a minor issue: an authentic rule of law is verified precisely in the dignified treatment that all people deserve, especially the poorest and most marginalized. The true common good is promoted when society and government, with creativity and strict respect for the rights of all—as I have affirmed on numerous occasions—welcomes, protects, promotes and integrates the most fragile, unprotected and vulnerable. This does not impede the development of a policy that regulates orderly and legal migration. However, this development cannot come about through the privilege of some and the sacrifice of others. What is built on the basis of force and not on the truth about the equal dignity of every human being, begins badly and will end badly.”
6. “Christians know very well that it is only by affirming the infinite dignity of all that our own identity as persons and as communities reaches its maturity. Christian love is not a concentric expansion of interests that little by little extend to other persons and groups. In other words: the human person is not a mere individual, relatively expansive, with some philanthropic feelings! The human person is a subject with dignity who, through the constitutive relationship with all, especially with the poorest, can gradually mature in his identity and vocation. The true *ordo amoris* that must be promoted is that which we discover by meditating constantly on the parable of the “Good Samaritan” (Lk 10:25-37, that is, by meditating on the love that builds a fraternity open to all, without exception.

*...to be concluded next week*

**EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP: Stoking  
the Lenten Fire**

I think we all can acknowledge that there’s a certain fatigue that comes over us all as we near the end of the Lenten season. Next week is Laetare Sunday, and I find that as soon as those pink vestments start coming out of storage, our collective motivation begins to wane.

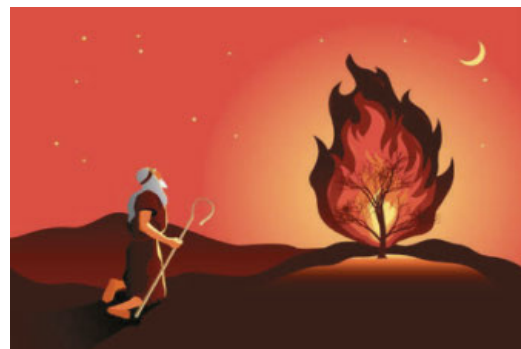
I get that. Maybe you’re fatigued — I am, too. Maybe you’re doing well in your resolutions and devotions but you’re in danger of coasting. Or maybe, like many of us this year or in past years, you don’t feel that you have even really begun your Lenten journey.

Either way, chances are that the fire that was in your belly on Ash Wednesday is burning a bit low. All fires eventually do, once they consume whatever fuels them. So here we would do well to remember what fuels our Lenten fire.

Sometimes we make resolutions that have the appearance of being spiritual, but also have an earthly motive. We give up chocolate hoping to lose weight. We stop gossiping so our friends may like us more. There is nothing wrong with these sacrifices — just with their motivations.

As Moses removes his sandals to approach the burning bush, he sees that the fire burns brightly, strongly — but does not consume. It is propelled by something inexhaustible, something which is not of this world.

Is your Lenten fire fueled by God? Are you daily surrendering yourself to the same voice that boomed from the bush in Genesis — the voice that commanded the Israelites to do what seemed like the impossible?



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