



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 30, 2025



4TH SUNDAY OF LENT

“This son of mine was dead, and has
come to life again.” - Lk 15:24a

WEEKLY CALENDAR:**Tuesday, April 1**

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

Wednesday, April 2**Diocesan Day of Penance & Mercy**11:30 a.m.—Sacrament of Penance—church
*Sacrament will be available until 5:30 p.m.***Thursday, April 3**

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

Saturday, April 5

3:30 p.m.—Sacrament of Penance—church

King Fitzpatrick
Edward Flesch
Charles O'Toole
Diane Russo
Tony Santarone

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.*

**WOUNDED HEALER'S BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP:**

The Wounded Healer's Bereavement Support Group meeting will be offered on Tuesday, April 8th, at 7:00 p.m., in person at St. Mary Our Mother School, 811 Westlake St., Horseheads, NY. You may want to bring a picture or two or a memento of significance of your loved one who died,

Each one has a personal grief journey so we are open to listen and are careful not to dogmatize with "shoulds". 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."

Please enter the school through the door located across from the playground.

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)

5:15 p.m.—Fridays of Lent (*except Friday, April 11th*)

St. Mary Our Mother School Living Stations of the Cross

1:15 p.m. & 5:15 p.m.—Wednesday, April 9, 2025

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK:**ALL SCHOOL MASS—FRIDAY APRIL 4TH:**

We are delighted to invite you to join us for our monthly **All School Mass on Friday, April 4th, at 9:00 a.m. in the church.** This special Mass will be beautifully hosted by our 1st grade students, who will be actively involved in the liturgy by singing, reading, and leading us in prayer and reflection.

It is always a heartwarming experience to see our young students stepping up to take part in such an important tradition, and we are especially excited to have our 1st graders share their enthusiasm, faith, and talents with the parish community. Their joy and dedication will surely inspire us all.

We invite you to come and celebrate with us as a unified school and parish family. It is a wonderful opportunity for all of us to grow in faith and support one another through prayer.

We look forward to seeing you there and sharing in this beautiful and uplifting Mass together.

Blessings,

Mrs. Heather Bill

Principal, St. Mary Our Mother School

PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE:

Our parish bulletins since the beginning of the Lenten season have carried information concerning the Diocesan **Day of Penance and Mercy**, which will take place this **Wednesday, April 2nd**. On this day, parishes throughout the diocese will be *"open for forgiveness"*, giving people an opportunity to celebrate the **Sacrament of Penance** on an individual basis. A priest will be available in church that day from **11:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.** In recent years there seems to be fewer people taking advantage of this sacrament of God's forgiving grace and mercy, but I haven't noticed an equal drop-off in sin.

The following may be a few reasons why people might be avoiding this sacrament, with some short responses added.

Reason 1: *"I haven't been to individual confession in years! I don't know what to do?"* No problem; just ask the priest to guide you through.

Reason 2: *"I prefer to confess my sins directly to God and be forgiven; I don't need to go to confession."* Our sins not only offend God, but also disrupt our relationships with everyone else. We need to be reconciled with God, the Church, and all people through this sacrament.

Reason 3: *"I don't know what to confess anymore!"* Do a quick examination of Conscience, and ask yourself: How holy and good are my relationships with God, myself, the people around me everyday and the wider world in which I live? Be honest and thorough with yourself, and you will know what to confess.

Reason 4: *"I am embarrassed to mention my sins to another person, to say nothing of a priest I may see at parish, school, and community events."* Chances are pretty good the priest won't remember what you confessed—trust me on this! Please remember that the priest cannot say a word about it or let it color his thinking outside the confessional. But there is something reassuring to have the personal assurance from a priest that God forgives you!

Reason 5: *"I find myself confessing the same sins over and over again!"* Welcome to the Human race! That is why we need forgiveness over and over again. It is also a reminder to us that God gives us mercy over and over again!

Reason 6: *"I may need more than just a few minutes for spiritual direction about my sins."* If this is the case, you can always make an appointment with a priest to discuss the state of your spiritual life. The sacrament was never intended to be an opportunity for individual counseling and therapy.

MASSES FOR THE WEEK:

Monday, 6:45 A.M.	March 31—Lenten Weekday Our Faithful Departed
Tuesday, 6:45 A.M.	April 1—Lenten Weekday Louise Sweet—Richard & Mary Helen Hall
Wednesday, 6:45 A.M.	April 2—Lenten Weekday Our Faithful Departed
Thursday, 6:45 A.M.	April 3—Lenten Weekday Teri Guardi—husband, Bob
Friday, 6:45 A.M.	April 4—Lenten Weekday Joseph Raymond Welch—Adele Lanahan
9:00 A.M.	Marlene Fiorini—Thomas & Kathleen Marzec
Saturday, 5:00 P.M.	April 5—Lenten Weekday Dick Sullivan—wife, Carol & family
Sunday, 8:30 A.M.	April 6—Fifth Sunday of Lent Teresa Dobek—family
10:30 A.M.	Janis Zelko—MiMi and Nick Santone

Pastor's Perspective continued:

Reason 7: *"I am afraid of shocking the priest!"* Really? Try me!

Reason 8: *"I am afraid that the priest will ask me to change my life."* If there is something that is wrong in a person's life, change will be needed. The priest may make some suggestions to you, but it will be the Holy Spirit, not the priest, asking you to do so.

During one of our Lenten Parish Retreats, Father Simeon Gallagher, O. F. M., Cap., offered a very practical summary for a person preparing to celebrate the Sacrament of Penance. Father Gallagher's approach included four steps:

Step 1: Name it (name the sin)

Step 2: Claim it (admit/claim ownership of the sin)

Step 3: Tame it (open yourself to God's grace and mercy)

Step 4: Aim It (go forth living a life renewed).

I hope these insights are helpful as we prepare to celebrate the Diocesan Day of Penance and Mercy on Wednesday of this week.

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

Fr. L

FROM THE PRINCIPAL’S DESK:

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.

HORSEHEADS FOOD 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

MASS OF RECOGNITION OF THE SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY:

You are cordially invited to a Mass of Recognition of the Sacrament of Matrimony.

Please join The Most Reverend Salvatore R. Matano, Bishop of Rochester and couples celebrating anniversaries of Matrimony on Sunday, April 27, 2025 at 11:15 a.m., at Sacred Heart Cathedral, 296 Flower City Park, Rochester, NY 14615.

All married couples and their guests are welcome to attend and renew their vows with Bishop Matano. Those celebrating milestone jubilees will be given special recognition.

Please help us plan by letting us know you are coming by registering at <https://forms.gle/UVdG2SUKbvJw81ok8> or emailing Donald.smith@dor.org.

Additionally, the June issue of the Catholic Courier will feature a Wedding Jubilee section. If you would like your name and anniversary (25, 50, and above) to be included, please send an email or a letter with the following information:

Names, Church, Town where you were married, wedding date/year, and a wedding photo (optional).

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- Rev. Peter T. Singano**, in Residence
- Miss Lily Barr**, Faith Formation Assistant
- Mrs. Cathy Peckham**, Director of Music
- Mrs. Heather Bill**, School Principal
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PASTORAL COUNCIL

- Mr. Vincent Moschetti**, Chairperson
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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

PRACTICING) CATHOLIC – THE APOLOGY

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Mini Reflection: God doesn't need our repentance. We need our repentance.

The Apology

I like to imagine the Prodigal Son practicing his apology in the mirror.

He wouldn't have, of course, mirrors weren't exactly a dime a dozen back then. But I imagine him anyway, rehearsing the words as he contemplates his own gaunt reflection: "Father, I have sinned against God and against you. Treat me as you would treat one of your hired workers."

In other words, I have done wrong. I deserve nothing from you. But please, don't let me starve. Save me.

The apology wasn't necessary to move the heart of the father. We know that because before they meet, before anything is said, the father is overcome with compassion — not because he got his satisfaction, that long-awaited "I'm sorry, I was wrong." No, he's simply overjoyed to see his son alive. Even without apology, we know the father will beg his son to stay.

So why does the son apologize?

The father doesn't need the "I'm sorry." He isn't starving and lost. He knew all along it was a bad idea. He doesn't need to learn any lessons.

But what a tragedy it would have been, if the son had never said he was sorry. Undoubtedly, his father would have let him stay as a hired worker, and he would have had food to eat. He would have survived. But he would not have been what he was born to be.

I often think of the son's apology as I am kneeling in the confessional, awkwardly reciting sins God already knows and is eager to forgive. *Why are you doing this?* some people would ask. *God doesn't need this.*

It's the apology, you see. The apology means everything. The Prodigal Son was dead. The apology brought him back to life.

God doesn't need our repentance. *We need our repentance.*

GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

March 30, 2025
4th Sunday of Lent
John 9:1-41

A man looking a bit downtrodden approached me as I filled my car's gas tank. He asked, "May I share with you my testimony about how good God is?" "OK," I skeptically answered. He went on to tell me that he had been an alcoholic and drug addict, and that God had healed him; now he was four years sober. He said, "I didn't deserve it, but now I'm a different person. God is so good! Have a terrific Tuesday!" A few minutes later, as I drove away, I saw him smiling and handing a homeless person some money. I was confronted with a choice: either he was a total fraud or God had changed him. Something had happened to him, and it didn't seem fake. Maybe it was God.

When Jesus heals the man born blind, the man becomes a challenge to everyone who meets him. They must decide. Is he the same blind person who they knew before? Who healed him and how? And what is the status of the one who can heal such infirmities? We shouldn't be surprised at the storm of doubt, hatred and animosity that swirls around the healed man — so it often goes when Jesus heals someone even to this day.

Like we often do, the religious leaders confronting the healed man declare that God is not at work. They ask with mocking superiority and dismissive disdain, "**You were born totally in sin, and are you trying to teach us?**" (John 9:34). And they cast him out. When Jesus clearly works in our lives, in us or around us, we should accept it, and give praise and thanks for this wonderful manifestation of his goodness.

Lenten challenge: Think of one way the Lord has healed you. Perhaps he healed a form of selfishness, a physical ailment, or something else. This week, find a person to whom you can share that testimony, and share it. Don't worry if they don't accept it was God who did it.

— *Father John Muir*

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