



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

MAY 11, 2025



4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

"I know them, and they follow me."
- Jn 10:27

WEEKLY CALENDAR:**Tuesday, May 13**

Wounded Healers' Bereavement Support Group
7:00 pm—school

Thursday, May 15

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

Saturday, May 17

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

**Memorials:**

The Eucharistic Hosts and the Sacramental Wine for May 11—17, 2025 have been donated in loving memory of Kate & Walt Enslen by Joan and Barry Sawester.

The Blessed Mother flowers in the Church for the week of May 11—17, 2025 have been donated in loving memory of Sue Beering by her husband, Fran.



Daniel Morgan

DEVOTION: Retreat, Explained

Spiritual retreats are an act of removing oneself from one's daily life for a period of prayer and reflection, with the intent of returning to that daily life transformed.

It was Christ himself who was the greatest and earliest advocate of spiritual retreat. In the Gospels, He is constantly depicted as withdrawing from other people to be alone in prayer. Likewise, participants in a modern retreat most often go somewhere like a retreat center to seek silence, solitude and communion with God. There are many different varieties of retreats; they can be guided and take place in a group setting, or they can be undertaken alone by just one person. Some are focused on a specific topic or theme; some are defined by periods of total silence. Though clerics are compelled by canon law to go on retreat regularly, all faithful are encouraged to make retreat part of their spiritual life.

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK:**Annual Walk-a-Thon: A beloved Tradition at St. Mary Our Mother School:**

Each year our students in Pre-k3 through 6th grade look forward to our Annual Walk-a-Thon, a fun and active event that brings our school community together while raising important funds for our school. Even our dedicated teachers and staff enjoy participating, walking alongside the students as they complete their laps.

This exciting event encourages students to seek pledges for the number of laps they walk, helping to support our school in a meaningful way. Over the years, we have been blessed with beautiful weather, and we pray that this year will be just as wonderful.

Mark your calendars—our Walk-a-Thon will take place on Friday, May 16th with a rain date of Monday, May 19th. We are grateful for the generosity of our families, parish, and community in making this event a success year after year. Thank you for your continued support, and we look forward to another fantastic Walk-a-Thon!

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

DIOCESAN MISSIONS SUNDAY 2025

The Church is called to proclaim Jesus Christ, who was crucified, died and is risen: through Him God bestows "new life" that is divine and eternal. This is the "Good News" which changes people and history, and which all people have a right to hear.

We cannot be content when we consider the millions of our brothers and sisters who don't know Christ and the love of God yet. "As I have loved you, so you also should love one another" says Jesus in John 13:34.

For over fifty years, the Sisters of St. Joseph have labored in Brazil and the Sisters of Mercy in Chile. Next weekend, May 17th and 18th, we call upon you to help with your prayers and sacrificial gift, so that they may continue to bring Christ into a world where darkness, despair and emptiness prevail.

PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE:

Happy Mother's Day to all mothers in the parish of St. Mary our Mother! We honor you today and offer our gratitude to God for you and the unconditional love you give to your children and to us. All Sunday Masses this weekend are being offered for all mothers, living and deceased, of all of our people. With the public conversation today about the role of women in the church, in religious circles, and society in general, we should never fail to appreciate the uniquely womanly role of motherhood.

Like many others who have lost their mothers, this year will be the seventh Mother's Day without my mother for my family. We will remember her fondly throughout the day. I would hope that if your mother is living, that you make the opportunity to speak to her, tell her you love her, and spend some quality time with her. If your mother has passed to the kingdom, I hope you are blessed with fond memories of her. If you are a person whose mother did not meet your needs or expectations, offer a prayer for her today, and pray for the healing of your memories, acceptance of what cannot be changed, and a decision to thank God for your life and the mother who gave you that life.

Each year, Mother's Day falls during the Easter season. As we experience signs of Easter life, this weekend invites us to center on "Mother". One might say that a mother is the premier sign of Easter. She gives birth to human life to gain this title. Not only does she give birth, but she nurtures, encourages, cares and loves her children. Motherhood is not a 8 to 5 job—nor is it concluded when her child walks out of the house. Motherhood is a life-long process and, I believe, extends beyond the bounds of time and space to eternity. All that we envision in the life of a mother is envisioned in the life of an Easter person.

A survey was given to a number of mothers in which the participants were asked the question, "**As a mother, what is most important to you?**" The following are some responses:

**The welfare of my children;*

**Our children's faith;*

**That my children become everything they are capable of being;*

**That my children somehow enrich humanity as a peacemaker, reconciler, healer, and creative problem solver;*

**To ask God what I should say and do when my children are in trouble, to listen to God, and calm myself down before saying a word;*

MASSES FOR THE WEEK:

Monday, 6:45 A.M.	May 12th.—Easter Weekday Cecelia Wawrzusin—Raymond
Tuesday, 6:45 A.M.	May 13th.—Easter Weekday Pamela Smart Eldred—Virginia & Brendan Curtin
Wednesday, 6:45 A.M.	May 14th.—St. Matthias, Apostle Our Faithful departed
Thursday, 6:45 A.M.	May 15th.—Easter Weekday Luzviminde Ferrer—The Lapitan's
Friday, 6:45 A.M.	May 16th.—Easter Weekday Teri Guardi husband—Bob
Saturday, 5:00 P.M.	May 17th.—Easter Weekday Mario Botero—his family
Sunday, 8:30 A.M.	May 18th.—Fifth Sunday of Easter Laura Merritt—Kiba Painter, Jacqueline Alsworth Phyllis Guardi—Bob Guardi
10:30 A.M.	

Pastor's perspective continued:

**My children's failures are not my fault, and their successes are not my credit;*

**That girls can do and accomplish anything;*

**There can be hundreds of children being picked up from school; yet, when they hear their mother's voice, they know they are safe;*

**I thank God for letting me be my children's mom. I am grateful for biological mothers giving these children to parents, praying that they know how much we love them;*

**That I do my best to prepare them for life—sharing love and joy, listening well, making peace, modeling the behavior I want to see in them, asking God for help, saying "I'm sorry" and "I love you"—and show it;*

**To believe in them;*

**That our children love God with their whole heart and love their neighbor as themselves;*

**To know that God loves them and that we love them too, unconditionally, as God does;*

**We hold our children in our arms for a little while and in our heart forever;*

**That their spouses are kind and loving, and I don't care if they make big money;*

**That they have the same image I have of my own mother waving from the doorway when I am leaving; she is doing it now at the nursing home as her mother did before her and she can still see her face in her doorway;*

(continues on page 4)

Pastor's perspective continued:

*My mother always said, "Give me a call when you get home" and now I am saying "give me a call when you get back to school," to my children.

*I know that a mother dies too soon;

*My mother's dementia showed me that I had to be a mother's mother. This long good-bye showed me our relationship is still there. When she actually died, it was as painful as if she'd died when she was young. She is very much alive to me right now. Maybe even more alive then when she died.

Happy Mother's Day to all our mothers! Have a great week. Please continue to take care of yourself and each other.

Fr. L.

What Happens When a New Pope Is Elected?

Pope Francis' funeral Mass happened April 26. A nine day mourning period (novendiales) began on the 26th and will continue until May 4th. Approximately 15-20 days following the death of the Pope, a Papal Conclave will begin which is the process by which a new Pope is elected. The Camerlengo, who is an American Cardinal by the name of Kevin Ferrell, is responsible for overseeing the conclave. One hundred and thirty five (135) Cardinals across the world are eligible to vote for the new pope. During the conclave, the Cardinals are not allowed to communicate with the world. In the secret ballot proceedings, a signal of white or black smoke is sent out the chimney after each vote. Black means a pope has not yet been chosen, white means we have a new pope. Voting takes place four times a day until a candidate receives 2/3 of the vote. The ballots are brought forth to a chalice. As each cardinal places his ballot into the chalice they say, "I call as my witness Christ the Lord who will be my judge that my vote is given to the one who before God I think should be elected." The ballots are counted and then burned to produce the white smoke or burned, with a chemical added, to produce the black smoke. The new Pope will be announced from the balcony of the Vatican and give a Papal Blessing. We will watch with the world until the white smoke appears!

"Imitating the love Pope Francis had for us, we now offer our heartfelt prayers, commending Pope Francis to the love and mercy of God as he crosses over the threshold from this life to eternal life. United to the See of Peter by the bonds of faith, hope, and charity, we offer to God this successor to Saint Peter asking that he be welcomed into eternity by the Good Shepherd, Jesus Christ, and that the Lord will bestow upon him the mercy and love that our Holy Father, preached, cherished and lived."

-Bishop Salvatore R. Matano



THE WOUNDED HEALERS' BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP.

The Wounded Healers' Bereavement support group meeting will be offered on Tuesday, May 13, 2025 at 7:00 p.m., in person, at St. Mary Our Mother School, 811 Westlake St., Horseheads, NY. Please 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. 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." For information: 607-796-2795. Christine Lloyd

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

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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

FROM OUR SOCIAL MINISTRY GROUP: Jubilee Year Reflection/Action:

TANGIBLE SIGNS OF HOPE

During this Holy Jubilee Year, Pope Francis asks us to be alert to the opportunities to be a *tangible sign of hope* for brothers and sisters who experience hardships of any kind. Pregnant and parenting moms-in-need are in our parishes, our neighborhoods, and in the wider community. As Pope Francis reminds us, our parishes need to be “islands of mercy in the midst of the sea of indifference.” 72 million people nationwide rely on Medicaid and the Child Health Insurance Program for health care, this includes many low-income pregnant women, new mothers and their babies/children. Programs like Medicaid help neighbors-in-need access otherwise unaffordable health care—this promotes human dignity and the well-being of our people, especially the children. A healthy population is a national security issue.

Contact our US House Representative, Nick Langworthy (Corning office 607-377-3130) and leave this message:

Please oppose any proposals that cut or restrict access to Medicaid or the Child Health Insurance Program. Many of our neighbors, especially pregnant women and children, need this health insurance. We are happy that our taxes help our neighbors access health care.

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 for caring.

NOTRE DAME RETREAT HOUSE SCHEDULE:

May 13—“Blessed Are You: A Closer Look at the Fundamental Message of Jesus”, with Sr. Carol Cimino, SSJ. (\$35.00)

This day-long reflection will examine each of the Beatitudes in the context of Jesus’ total message and how they can transform our own “attitude” toward our lives.

Woman’s Retreat May 16-18: “Walking in Friendship with God: Pilgrims of Hope” with Fr. Philip Sutherland, SJ; Elena Kiley & Jodie Scordo

June 17th.—Fill Your Soul Day—“Poetry and Prayer—A presentation for our Jubilee Year” with Fr. Peter Murray, SJ

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.

ANNUAL BABY SHOWER



Our Social Ministry Committee will once again be sponsoring their annual Baby Shower this weekend May 10th and 11th and May 17th and 18th. Please bring new, unwrapped baby items to Mass and place them in the bassinet. Monetary donations may also be placed in the box provided.

In addition to welcoming the new babies, we would like to expand this event to include new mothers. These new moms need encouragement, love and support while navigating the emotional and physical journey of pregnancy and childbirth. We have compiled a list of gifts that are needed. These lists can be found in the basket near the bassinet. Your donations will be given to needy mothers-to-be, mothers, and their newborns through the work of Mosaic of the Southern Tier, formerly known as Southern Tier Pregnancy Resource Center.

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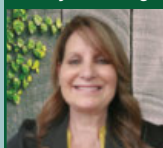
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