



# 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

September 21, 2025



25TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

“No servant can serve two masters.”  
- Lk 16:13

**WEEKLY CALENDAR****Tuesday, September 23**

4:00 p.m.—Faith Formation Classes—school

**Thursday, September 25**

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

**Saturday, September 27**

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

**Memorials:**

Our main altar arrangement for the week of September 21 – 27, 2025 has been donated in loving memory of Mario Botero by the Enright family.

**In The Peace of Christ:**

Lisa Troger Brady  
Donald Cook  
Sam Kemp  
Gib Moore  
Karen Tomkins



**WORKING ON THE MARGINS:  
CATHOLIC CAMPAIGN FOR HUMAN  
DEVELOPMENT:**

Please be generous in this week's special collection for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development. In the United States, over 11% of the population lives in poverty. Through this collection, you support programs that address the root causes of poverty and provide a sustainable future for those struggling across the country. In addition, 25% of the funds we collect remain in our diocese to fund local antipoverty projects. Please prayerfully consider how you can support this collection and those working on the margins. More information about the Catholic Campaign for Human Development can be found at [www.usccb.org/cchd](http://www.usccb.org/cchd).



**Due to the recent fire at Tops Markets, the Food Pantry is in urgent need of the following items:**

Snacks for kids  
Bread  
Peanut Butter  
Meats

**PRACTICING CATHOLIC - RECOGNIZE  
GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS:** By  
Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Mini reflection: The law of Moses was like a good deck, admirably built. You could say “Raqa,” your heart filled with anger, and the law didn’t break. But that anger treads heavily. Over time, it becomes too much to bear. And that board — that law, that heart — it’ll break. Just you wait.

**The Carpenter and the Law:**

My husband and I couldn’t believe our luck: our new house had a deck. It was more than a couple of broke millennials had ever dared to dream. Lounging on our patio furniture drinking coffee and watching the cars drive past, we felt like the Kennedys at Hyannis Port. We had arrived.

Well, until it started falling apart.

To be fair, my husband knew this was going to happen all along, because he’s a person who uses words like “joist” and “weight-bearing” correctly. He took one look at the deck at the open house and knew it wasn’t up to code. “We’re going to have to reinforce this at some point,” he told me. “Whatever!” I replied, day dreaming about twinkie lights and porch parties.

Sure enough, our second summer in the house, he had to rip the rotting surface boards off. The biggest issue was that the joists were too far apart; when we stepped on the boards, they bowed and almost cracked, lacking adequate support beneath. But we weren’t going to redo the whole deck — we’re not actually Kennedys. We (okay, he) simply ripped the surface boards off, added the necessary joists, and replaced the decking with newer, better, stronger wood.

Simply put, my husband did not come to abolish the deck but to fulfill it.

The law of Moses was like a good deck, admirably built. You could say “Raqa,” your heart filled with anger, and the law didn’t break. But that anger treads heavily on boards not adequately supported. Over time, the anger becomes too much to bear. And that board — that law, that heart — it’ll break. Just you wait.

And when it does, you’ll see why: there wasn’t anything beneath, holding it up.

So God sent a Carpenter to reinforce the law. The Carpenter crafted joists from prudence, fortitude, justice and temperance — strong virtues that can withstand a lifetime of battery, if properly maintained.



**PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE:**

Today is Catechetical Sunday, a day when we acknowledge and affirm the many dedicated people who serve as teachers and catechists in the various faith formation programs of our parish. This year's theme for Catechetical Sunday, selected by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), is "Always be ready to give an explanation.... for a reason for your hope." **1 Peter 3:15**). Today is a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the teaching role each of us plays in being a faith role model for others. Today is also a time to acknowledge and affirm our parents who are the first and best teachers of the Catholic faith to our children.

Today, I have asked **Lily Barr**, our Faith Formation Coordinator at Saint Mary Our Mother, to offer us an update to our Faith Formation programs.

*This past year has been an incredible season of growth for our Faith Formation Family, embracing new opportunities to grow in faith. This year our programs continue to grow and provide for our parish community. The Tuesday on-site program is back and open to all pre-k through seventh grade students, meeting from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. We also continue our Home Study program with quarterly gatherings in O'Brien Hall between the Sunday Masses. In addition, our new Hybrid program lets you enjoy the best of both worlds—join us for weekly classes and work from home during busy sports seasons. Sacramental preparation for First Penance and First Holy Communion is open to students in second grade, with the two year sacramental preparation for Confirmation beginning in eighth grade, with monthly sessions following the Sunday 10:30 a.m. Mass. Adult sacramental preparation for the Order of Christian Initiation for Adults (OCIA), formerly known as the RCIA, is open to those wishing to receive the sacraments of initiation.*

For further information or if you have questions concerning our faith formation programs, please contact the Faith formation Office at 607-739-8214.

I also wish to offer a profound word of gratitude to our amazing volunteers who so generously share their time, talent, and love with our parish children. You are living witnesses of Christ's love, and your "yes" to this ministry continues to plant seeds of faith that will grow for years to come. A heartfelt thank you to: **Amy Barr, Kerry Bocko, Karen Fracchia, Kathy Geary, Cindi Harigan, Shirley Lant, Tina Mitchell, Desiree O'Rourke, Jean Oshetski, Kiba Painter, Jane Pronti, and Jacquelyn Shope**. We are also especially grateful to our youth volunteers, who joyfully serve and inspire by their example of faith: **Erica and Madison Bancroft, Ivy and Willow Barr, Isabella Bennett, Emma Berkovitch, McKenzie and Nate Blauvelt, Morgyn Bocko, Jeffrey Cain, Michael Gavin, Clara and Dylan Harrigan, Aaron Kaiser, Eliza and Luke Lewis, Liliana Mata, Hawkins and Neanu Mitchell, John Warren Oshetski, Liam Painter, Adelaide Pronti, Lillian and Lucia Shope, and Tanner Watson**. You are each a gift from God, and it is a blessing to have you walk alongside our children as they grow

**MASSES FOR THE WEEK:**

<b>Monday,</b> 6:45 A.M.	<b>September 22—Weekday</b> Faithful Departed
<b>Tuesday,</b> 6:45 A.M.	<b>September 23—St. Pius of Pietrelcina,</b> Faithful departed
<b>Wednesday,</b> 6:45 A.M.	<b>September 24—Weekday</b> Deceased of the Mills family
<b>Thursday,</b> 6:45 A.M.	<b>September 25—Weekday</b> Faithful Departed
<b>Friday,</b> 6:45 A.M.	<b>September 26—Weekday</b> Living and deceased of the 6:45 a.m. mass family
<b>Saturday,</b> 5:00 P.M.	<b>September 27—St. Vincent de Paul</b> In honor of the marriage of Brandon Coon and Gina Muccigrosso
<b>Sunday,</b> 8:30 A.M.	<b>September 28—Twenty Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time</b> Marlene Fiorini—Thomas and Kathleen Marzec
10:30 A.M.	Christina Regula O'Herron—Dan & Connie O'Herron & family

**Pastor' Perspective continued:**

*their love for Jesus and the Church.*

*Finally, we give thanks to Father Chris for his on going guidance, leadership, and support. His pastoral care for our parish family and dedication to forming disciples continues to make Saint Mary Our Mother a truly blessed community.*

*As we look ahead to this new year, we pray that the Holy Spirit will continue to guide us, strengthen us, and fill our hearts with joy as we grow together as the Body of Christ.*

*May God bless you and your families—we can't wait to see you soon!*

*Lily Barr— Faith Formation Coordinator*

Thank you Lily!

"Catechists are people who keep the memory of Jesus alive: they keep it alive in themselves and are able to revive it in others."—Pope Francis

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

Fr. L

## ST. MARY OUR MOTHER GARDENING ANGELS:

Are you looking for a unique opportunity for stewardship within our parish? Here is an opportunity for all parishioners, regardless of age, to help us maintain and enhance our outdoor spaces.

There is always a weed to pull, or a plant to nurture, a tree to prune, or a leaf to rake...

Our plan is to bring the Gardening Angels together "formally" 2 times each year (once in the Spring and once in the Fall) for a campus-wide day of gardening and yardwork, with the added opportunity to weed, nurture, prune, and rake throughout the growing seasons, as needed.

If you'd like to join the Gardening Angels group, please consult the bulletin board located in the church vestibule.

## Now Hiring: Substitute Teachers for the 2025-2026 School Year:

St. Mary Our Mother School, along with other Catholic schools in the Diocese of Rochester is hiring substitute teachers for the upcoming school year.

We are looking for individuals who are motivated, energetic, and passionate about working with children. Substitutes play a vital role in maintaining a positive and productive learning environment, and we are grateful for their dedication and flexibility.

### Interested?

If you or someone you know is interested in making a difference in the lives of students while supporting Catholic education, please contact Mrs. Heather Bill at 607-739-9157.

### Qualifications:

Bachelor's Degree preferred (Associate's Degree with childcare experience considered);

Strong communication and interpersonal skills;

Reliable, professional, and compassionate individuals who love working with children.

Thank you for your continued support of Catholic education in our parish and community.

With gratitude,

Mrs. Heather Bill, Principal, St. Mary Our Mother School  
607) 796-2795.

## NOTRE DAME RETREAT HOUSE:585-394-5700

September 19th Senior Luncheon Series: 11:30 a.m.—1:30 p.m.

"Grace with Aging/Aging with Grace" with Sr. Elaine Englert, SSJ Rochester 11:30 a.m.—1:30 p.m.

September 26-28: "Walking with God in Friendship: Pilgrims of Hope" Women's Retreat". Friday 5:00 pm to noon Sunday

October 10-12—"Walking in Friendship with God: Pilgrims of Hope" Women's retreat; Fri. 5:00 p.m. to noon Sun.

October 14 "Our Lady, the Angels and Their Mission for Our Time"—9:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.

October 17: Senior Luncheon Series: "Stroke Prevention: 11:30 a.m. —1:30 p.m.

October 24th—26 Men's Retreat—Fri. 5:00 p.m. to noon Sunday

November 14-16 Men & Women Semi Silent Retreat, Friday @ 5:00 to Sun. noon.

November 21st —Free Senior Luncheons  
December 19th —Free Senior Luncheons

### MINISTERIAL STAFF

**Rev. Christopher E. Linsler**, Pastor  
**Rev. Peter T. Singano**, in Residence  
**Miss Lily Barr**, Faith Formation Coordinator  
**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

**PRAYERS AND SQUARES:**

Prayers and Squares is a group that makes lap size quilts for our parish. The finished quilts are displayed at the weekend Masses several times during the year and are available for anyone needing comfort and prayers.

The 4th and 5th grade students at St. Mary Our Mother School help tie the quilts and pray the Rosary over them. Many hands are needed to make the quilts and no experience is necessary. The group meets twice monthly in the afternoon. If you would like more information, please contact Wilma Sullivan at (607) 731-8085.

**ADULT CHOIR TO BEGIN REHEARSALS:**

The Adult choir began rehearsals on **Thursday, September 11 at 7:00 p.m.** in the church sanctuary and continue weekly. All adult singers and students in high school or older are invited to join. The choir sings at 10:30 a.m. Mass every Sunday from September through mid-June and the special Liturgies of Christmas, Holy Week and Easter. If you have thought about joining before but never took the “plunge”, now is the time to test the waters. We would love to have more singers!

ANYONE interested in becoming a cantor or a member of the Resurrection Choir, please come to see me at the organ after mass.

**ST. MARY OUR MOTHER FAITH FORMATION KICK-OFF SCHEDULE:****Tuesday Program:**

—  
**Confirmation: Sunday, September 21st @ 11:30.** The meeting begins at 11:30 a.m. in O'Brien Hall, parents & candidates must attend!

**First Penance /First Holy Eucharist**

—**Sunday, September 28th at 11:45 a.m.** in O'Brien Hall, Parent & Candidates meeting. **Parent and Candidate must attend.**

**OCIC & OCIA—Contact Faith Formation to submit your registration to receive the schedule.**

If you have any questions, contact Lily.Barr@dor.org or call our Faith Formation office at 607-739-8214.

**EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS: What's Most Important**

I hold to the belief that you cannot have allegiances to both Duke and UNC, the Packers and the Bears, or the Yankees and the Red Sox. In Matthew 6:24, it says, “*He will either hate one and love the other, or be devoted to*

**FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK:****SCHOOL WELCOME DINNER AND SPIRIT WEAR SALE:**

St. Mary Our Mother School will host its School Welcome Dinner on Wednesday, September 24th., from 6:15—7:45p.m. This marks the first social event of the 2025—2026 school year and is a wonderful opportunity for school families to come together, share a meal, and enjoy fellowship.

The evening allows families to connect with one another, meet new families, and strengthen the sense of community that makes St. Mary Our Mother School so special. It is always a well-attended event, bringing together both new and returning families for a warm and welcoming experience.

As a reminder, the school's Spirit Wear Sale will run from Friday, September 19th. through Friday, September 26th. Families and parishioners are invited to show their support for the school by purchasing St. Mary Our Mother School gear. For more information, contact the school office at 607-739-9157.

Events like the School Welcome Dinner and Spirit Wear Sale reflect the strong sense of community at St. Mary Our Mother School and offer everyone—families, parishioners, and friends alike—the chance to celebrate and support the life of our school.

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

*one and despise the other.*” That verse isn't talking about sports, it's talking about God and money. Most of us love both of those and that can be a problem. If you were to love any of the sets of teams mentioned above, you have a huge problem as well.

Simply put, you can only have one thing that is the most important in your life. When I ask my children what is the most important thing in their lives, they know to respond, “God.” But just because you know that is the right answer doesn't make it the truthful answer. Total allegiance to a sports team seems easier. You won't find a Packers fans secretly wearing a Bear's jersey. However, we can find Christians secretly hoarding their money or doing things based solely on the love of money.

Maybe the problem lies in the fact that, at times, we are merely lukewarm fans of Jesus and not disciples. If we truly have matured in our faith and strengthened our relationship with Him, then real commitment comes easier. There will always be a temptation for money to take the place of Jesus, but the more committed we are, the harder it is to allow anything to come between us and our God. The question we all must continually ask ourselves is, “Is God truly the most important thing in my life?”

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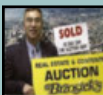
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