



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

October 19, 2025



29TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

“Will not God then secure the rights of his chosen ones who call out to him day and night?” - Lk 18:7

WEEKLY CALENDAR:**Tuesday, October 21**

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

Thursday, October 23

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

Saturday, October 25

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

The main altar arrangement for October 19-25 has been donated in thanksgiving for the return to good health of Tom Sweet with the help and love of daughter, Nicole..

**MASS OF REMEMBRANCE:**

The annual **Mass of Remembrance** will be celebrated on **All Souls Day, Sunday, November 2nd at 10:30 p.m.** During this liturgy, we will remember all those who have died from our parish since November, 2024, and will remember each of the departed by name. If you have a family member or friend who passed away during the last twelve months whose funeral was not at St. Mary Our Mother and would like their name included, please contact the parish office. All are invited to this liturgy as we pray for our departed loved ones, and offer support to their families and friends.

CEMETERY CLEAN UP.

Please remove all spring and summer decorations and flowers from the cemetery by Sunday, November 2nd. Holiday decorations are allowed from November 15th. through March 1st. Spring and summer decorations/flowers are allowed from March 15th. through November 1st. Any items you do not wish to be discarded should be REMOVED by November 5th.

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK: St. Mary Our Mother School:

We are excited to share that our afterschool **Lego League program** will be starting up again in November here at St. Mary our Mother School! This program is a wonderful opportunity for students to explore creativity, problem-solving, and teamwork through hands-on challenges using Lego building and robotics.

Under the leadership of Mrs. Maggi Campanella, our students will not only learn about design and engineering but will also practice critical thinking, collaboration, and perseverance. Lego League has been a highlight for many of our students in past years, and we are grateful for Mrs. Campanella's dedication to providing this enriching program once again.

Please keep our Lego League participants and leaders in your prayers as they prepare for another season of learning, fun, and discovery.

Together in faith and learning,

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

FINANCE FORUM

All members of the parish are invited to a special meeting with members of our Finance Council on Sunday, October 19th immediately following the 10:30 a.m. Mass in our church. At this meeting, a summary of the 2024-2025 financial statement will be reviewed, as well as the budget for the 2025-2026 fiscal year. In addition to the members of our Finance Council, **Mr. Sanjay Solomon**, our area Finance Director, **Michelle Card**, our Operation and Finance Director, and Father Linsler will be present to answer any questions or concerns you may have. All are welcome and encouraged to attend this meeting.

ANNUAL CMA CAMPAIGN CONTINUE:

Activity phase of our parish CMA campaign continues and by now, you should have received a special letter in the mail with a personalized pledge card. Thank you to everyone who has responded with a gift or pledge. If you have not yet responded, please prayerfully consider a gift. The CMA provides funding for important programs, services and ministries that strengthen our whole Church. Every gift to the CMA helps those in need, supports the mission of the Church, and comes back to help our parish. Thank you. Let us continue to pray for the success of our effort.

PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE:

Due to an early deadline for this bulletin, I am writing this column on Monday, October 6th, in anticipation of the Columbus holiday weekend. We are also anticipating the first update of our support of the annual **Catholic Ministries Appeal**.

October is the month when we center our attention on the respect for all life, often times referred to as **Respect Life Month**. It is a time of year when we see significant changes in our weather and the summer activities come to an end and autumn activities begin. It is a time when we become aware of the “dying” of the earth as flowers go into their winter slumber, as the trees give up their colorful leaves, as we tend to remain indoor more often, and the cooler days reminds us that winter is not far off.

These seasonal changes invite us to explore human changes. We become aware of the boundaries of life: living, dying, rising again. We become aware of how very precious each day of life is and how we should treasure each day that God gives us. We also become more aware of those who share life with us and how precious is their life to us and the world.

Given this reality, we focus once again on the basic tenets of our faith: life begins with God and life ends according to God's plan. The Church teaches us that life begins at conception. As a mother cares for her infant in the womb, she is assisting God in the creative process not only giving birth to new life, but allowing herself to house life and nurture her developing child. We hear and see many debates these days which speak of life in the womb—what can be allowed and what must be forbidden; what can be legislated and what can not be legislated. We see political debates from those seeking office who attempt to define the church's teaching. The teaching is rather simple—life begins at conception when God chooses to initiate the creation of a new child.

In the same vein, life continues until God determines when we should come home to heaven. This has become somewhat complicated with the advance of medicine and the development of technology and medications which can prolong and sustain life. At times, a family may face the question, “*are we sustaining life or simply keeping the body going?*” Families have to decide when enough is enough regarding treatments and medications. This is also a challenge because no one likes to let go of a loved one and no one likes to think that they may have ended someone's life. Yet, deciding for comfort care, deciding this is enough pain, deciding that further treatment is not going to add to the quality of life, embracing the idea that it is time to let go and let God bring a loved one home—these are all quality decisions and actually embrace life and the preciousness with which we hold life.

MASSES FOR THE WEEK:

Monday, 6:45 A.M.	October 20—Weekday Living and deceased Amisano & Lanahan families-Adel Lanahan
Tuesday, 6:45 A.M.	October 21—Weekday Mass of thanksgiving on Tom Sweet's return to good health
Wednesday, 6:45 A.M.	October 22—Weekday In thanksgiving to St. Padre Pio—Mary Navone
Thursday, 6:45 A.M.	October 23 —Weekday Deceased Curtin family
Friday, 6:45 A.M.	October 24— Michael Hollenbeck—Dan & Kelli Morsch
Saturday, 5:00 P.M.	October 25— Weekday Mary Woodard—daughter, Evelyn & family
Sunday, 8:30 A.M. 10:30 A.M.	October 26— Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time George Gresock—wife, Ann Karen and Paul Tomkins—Cathy and David Peckham

Pastor's Perspective continued:

It is easy to appreciate the preciousness of life when we hold a newborn infant in our arms, and experience how beautiful life is. Strangely enough, It is also easy to appreciate the preciousness of life when sitting at the bedside of a dying person, listening to their breathing, hearing their final words, saying silent prayers—there is a deep appreciation for all that sustains life. On a beautiful fall day, when we see the beautiful autumn colors, experience the crisp seasonal air, we can sense the wonders and value of human life.

It is more challenging to appreciate life when we are angry with another, when we have been hurt, when we are frightened or confused. We do not value life when we feel sad or depressed, lost and wonder where are friends are, and don't even value our own lives! Yet, the challenge is always to realize that life is precious! Why? Life is a gift from God— and we cannot take that fact lightly. Life is entrusted to us and we need to be responsible for it and never place any life in jeopardy. Life is something to be experienced, enjoyed, and seen as a means of coming in touch with God. Life always evolves, grows, and surprises us—and none of this will happen if we are not open to life.

As we continue our journey during this month of October, **Respect Life Month**, take a moment to appreciate the wonderful and unique life God has given just to you.

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.

Notre Dame H.S. Grades 7-12 Open House for Prospective Students & families:

Notre Dame High School, Grades 7-12, is hosting an Open House on Wednesday, November 5, from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. for prospective students and their families. The evening will begin with a brief presentation in the Charles and Mary Crossed Auditorium. Open House is our chance to meet the faculty, administration, and students, tour the campus, learn about the benefits of a Notre Dame education. Notre Dame is a college preparatory school that provides an inclusive environment rich in the traditions of the Sisters of Mercy and academic excellence. Additionally, Notre Dame offers a competitive athletic program, many opportunities to participate in the performing, visual, and language arts, along with a variety of extra-curricular activities such as FTC&FRC Robotics teams, ND Spotlighters, Science, Olympiad, MaryLeaf (school newsletter), Yearbook, ND Supper club, and Quiz League. Notre Dame H.S. is located at 1400 Maple Avenue, Elmira. A busing option to ND is often available. To determine eligibility, contact the transportation office of your home school district.

To RSVP for the Open House, visit notredamehighschool.com. Questions? Please contact Nick Weiermiller, Director of Admissions, at 607-734-2267.

NOTRE DAME RETREAT HOUSE:

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 18th—"The Body and Soul's Journey through Grieving", 8:00 A.M.—3:00 P.M.—By Roslyn Karaban, MDiv, PhD and Sr. Melissa Gernon, SSJ

November 21st —Free Senior Luncheons

December 19th —Free Senior Luncheons

Register: 585-394-5700 or info@notredameretreat.org

For more information on day and presenter: www.notredameretreat.org

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

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 E-mail..... smoms@dor.org
 School Web Site..... www.stmaryourmother.school

Religious Education Office

816 West Broad Street (607)-739-8214

PRACTICING CATHOLIC – BENEATH THE SURFACE

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Mini reflection: In the same way that a judge cannot go looking for conflicts to mediate, God will not force His way into our problems. What would be the point? What is our life on earth for, if it is not to teach us how to turn willingly to God?

The Prayers We Don't Say

It has always confused me: why a judge?

Jesus could have compared prayer to the subject who requests a gift of his king. He could have compared it to the child who asks a favor of a parent. But in the parable of the widow and the judge, Jesus compares prayer — specifically constant, unwavering prayer — with the marginalized person who doggedly pursues her claim through an unforgiving legal system.

It's not a rosy or reassuring picture. So what is He trying to tell us?

Unlike a king or a parent, a judge has strictly drawn lines which he cannot, under any circumstances, cross. He can only help people who bring their case to court. Even good, earnest judges cannot render justice if charges are not brought.

God is all-powerful. But that doesn't make Him a meddler. He will not force His way into our problems. What would be the point? What is our life on earth for, if it is not to teach us how to turn willingly to God, in every instance — adoration, gratitude, need?

Today, I sat down and made a list of problems I don't pray about. When I was done, I looked at the list and asked myself: why not? Why don't I pray about these things? Some are huge issues over which I have absolutely no control, and prayer feels futile. Some are small grievances I never even considered mentioning to God.

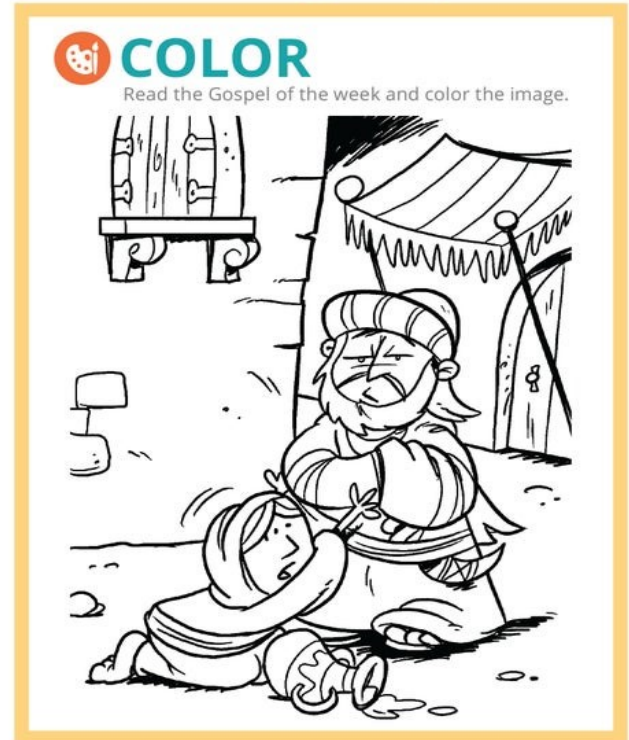
If I prayed about them all, my life would be totally consumed by prayer. Constant, unwearingly prayer. The kind of prayer Jesus calls me to in the parable of the widow and the judge: continual surrender of myself to the mysterious, limitless power of God.

Praying that way could make me tired. The widow was tired, too — but she kept bringing her charges. She got justice. And her judge wasn't even a nice guy.

So say the prayer. Bring the charges. Our judge is one who wants to help, but He won't overstep His bounds.

GROWING WITH THE Gospel

CYCLE C



29th Sunday in Ordinary Time • Luke 18:1-8

Gospel reflection: What do you remember from today's reading? Jesus tells us a story about a bad judge and a widow who wants justice — who wants what is right. Judges are supposed to be fair and honest, but this isn't always the case. The prophets in the Bible were always getting angry with bad judges who thought more about themselves when making decisions than about the people who had been hurt by someone else's actions. And if the judges didn't sort out the problems fairly then people would suffer again and again. Can you think of things that seem unfair to you? How do you feel when someone has treated you unfairly? The widow was ignored by the law but she didn't give up. She just kept nagging the judge to make things right. Eventually, just to get rid of her, he gave her what she wanted, justice. Her prayers were finally answered.



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