



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 26, 2025



30th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"But the tax collector stood off at a distance...and prayed, 'O God, be merciful to me a sinner.' I tell you, the latter went home justified, not the former; for whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and the one who humbles himself will be exalted."

- Lk 18:13a, 13c-14

WEEKLY CALENDAR:

Tuesday, October 28

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

Thursday, October 30

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

Saturday, November 1.—

3:30 Sacrament of Penance —Church

Return to standard Time: Please remember that we return to Standard Time next Sunday, November 2nd at 2:00 a.m. Please be sure to set your clocks back one hour before retiring next Saturday evening.

The main altar arrangement for October 26—November 1, 2025 has been donated by Deloris Sherwood for a special intention.

The Sacramental Wine for the week of October 26—November 1, 2025 has been donated in memory of Anthony Palladino by Rose Ann and Christine Ewanyk

Sharlene Huntley
Joseph Kosalek
William Misnick
Georgette Moschetti
Suzanne (Sue) Ray



MASS OF REMEMBRANCE:

The annual **Mass of Remembrance** will be celebrated on **All Souls Day, Sunday, November 2nd at 10:30 a.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 1st.

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

Excitement is in the air as we prepare for one of our favorite fall traditions at St. Mary Our Mother School! On Thursday, October 30th at 1:30 p.m., our students will take part in the annual **Trunk or Treat Halloween parade** in the school parking lot. Families are welcome to join in the fun as our students show off their costumes, enjoy the festive decorations, and celebrate the joy of the season together.

The celebration continues on Friday, October 31st, when our school will gather for our monthly assembly. During this time, we will proudly recognize students who have gone above and beyond in demonstrating our October character traits of Respect and Alertness. These traits remind us of the importance of treating one another with kindness and thoughtfulness, while also staying mindful and attentive in our daily learning and interactions.

To bring the month to a close in a spirit of unity and fun, the entire school will celebrate by dressing down in orange on October 31st—the color of our October character traits. It will be a wonderful way for our school family to come together, showing both our school spirit and our shared commitment to living out the values we practice each month.

We look forward to celebrating this special time of year with our students, families, and parish community!

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



ANNUAL CMA CAMPAIGN CONTINUES:

The active phase of our parish CMA campaign continues. By now, you should have received a special letter in the mail with a personalized pledge card. If you have not received a mailing, pledge envelopes are available in the vestibule of the Church. 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 efforts.

PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE:

It is hard to believe that Halloween is this Friday, and the next day begins the month of November. November is a month when we are invited to “remember,” beginning with **All Saints Day**, followed by **All Souls Day** next Sunday. Ordinarily a holyday of obligation, because All Saints Day falls on a Saturday this year, there is no obligation for Catholics to participate at Mass. We will have our annual **Mass of Remembrance**, next Sunday at the 10:30 a.m. Mass, where we will remember those who have passed since November, 2024. November 11th is Veteran’s Day, a time to remember all our veterans who have served our nation so faithfully. The fourth Thursday of November we celebrate **Thanksgiving Day**, which gives us an opportunity to gather with family and friends to offer thanks for all we have. November invites us to remember the past and live for the future, even as we are living in the most challenging of times.

A popular song that our children often sing on **All Saints Day** is entitled “Sing a Song to the Saints.” The song mentions a number of the more popular saints of our faith tradition by name, with a refrain inviting us to “sing a song to the saints.” All Saints Day is a time to honor the women and men whose lives were marked with holiness of knowing, loving, and serving God throughout their earthly life. This day reminds us that holiness is a virtue for all of us—not just those who have been formally recognized to be so by the Church, but all who have loved God’s call the best they can.

Every year on All Saints Day, I recall the occasions when the Litany of Saints is sung and prayed during the liturgy. At the Easter Vigil, we are invited to sing this litany just before the elect are baptized. For those in Holy Orders, the singing of this litany brings back memories of their ordination. Before the bishop imposes hands on the candidate, he lies prostrate on the floor of the church, while the congregation joins the saints in the Kingdom, praying for the soon-to-be-ordained. This litany calls out for assistance and guidance, reminding us that we are not only a part of the Church here on earth, but a heavenly church as well.

Sunday, November 2nd, we commemorate the **Feast of All Souls**. While not a day when we are obliged to attend Mass—an exception this year as All Souls is on a Sunday—this day invites us to pray for all the faithful departed. It is a day to remember deceased family members and friends. I often think of all the former priests, religious, and family members who sacrificed to build our church, school, and campus, who prayed, built community here, and truly loved the people. Think of the many funerals we have celebrated here. How often have we remembered and called upon our ancestors in faith to help, guide, and be with us in these most challenging times? All Souls Day invites us to remember and pray

MASSES FOR THE WEEK:

Monday, 6:45 A.M.	October 27—Weekday Faithful departed
Tuesday, 6:45 A.M.	October 28—Saints Simon and Jude, Apostles Mary and Ernest Anderson—Ann Gresock
Wednesday, 6:45 A.M.	October 29—Weekday Faithful departed
Thursday, 6:45 A.M.	October 30 —Weekday Faithful departed
Friday, 6:45 A.M.	October 31—Weekday Faithful departed
Saturday, 5:00 P.M.	November 1— All Souls Day The Commemoration of all the faithful Chester Wawrzusin—Ray
Sunday, 8:30 A.M.	November 2— All Souls day Marlene Fiorini—Enright family
10:30 A.M.	Mass of Remembrance

Pastor’s Perspective continued:

for our departed loved ones, sad that they are no longer with us, but happy that they are with God in heaven.

Veteran’s Day is Tuesday, November 11th. This day reminds us “*that on the eleventh day of the eleventh month in the eleventh hour in 1918,*” the “war to end all wars, World War I”, ended in Europe. Every year since, we have paused as a nation to remember. We remember those who sacrificed their lives in all our nation’s wars so that we might be a free nation. We remember war stories we have heard and continue to pray and work for peace. We are indebted to every military person who willingly put others ahead of themselves in offering the supreme sacrifice of their lives. Veteran’s Day is a day to remember the past so that we don’t repeat it!

The month of November concludes with the celebration of Thanksgiving Day. Although we continue to navigate through challenging times, the American holiday of Thanksgiving remains a day to be grateful for God’s continued blessings in our lives.

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 Spotlights, 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:

November 14-16 Men & Women Semi Silent Retreat, Friday @ 5:00 p.m. 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

December 1 & 15 Preparing the Way...Single Day in Silence and prayer Sacrament of Reconciliation and Mass. Hospitality and lunch 8:30 — 3:00 p.m. \$35.00, \$70.00 if you would like a bedroom for the day.

DAY OF RETREAT: "Blessed are they that Hope in the Lord: Advent meditations on the Virtue of Hope" with Deacon Ed Knauf. December 13th, 8:30 a.m.—3:00 p.m., Fee: \$60.00

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

Parish Office

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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

GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE

DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

October 26, 2025

Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Luke 18:9-14

Every now and then readers of these reflections write letters in which they object to something. Years ago, this Gospel of Luke 18 prompted such an email. A man wrote to me: "I find it deeply offensive that you suggest we are still sinners once we are God's sons and daughters." His objection stirred in me a profound awareness of the paradox at the heart of our faith. Are we sinners or beloved children of God?

In this Gospel (Luke 18:9-14), a tax collector appears as one who has missed the mark. His sins have isolated him. His breast-beating is not an act of self-flagellation for pride's sake but a heartfelt admission of his failure and unworthiness. Remarkably, Jesus honors the candid humility of the parable's penitent. Why? Because we are always in need of mercy, always. But even more, perhaps because on the cross, Jesus will fully embrace a similar place of humiliation and rejection. He will enter into the most shameful, offensive place of the sinner so that we might "go home justified."

There is a sacred tension in admitting that we are sinners and yet have profound hope. We are beloved sons and daughters of God, growing precisely through our honest acceptance of failure. When we cry, "Have mercy on us," during Mass or when we repeat the "Jesus Prayer" in quiet moments, or in the confessional, we embrace our imperfections as fertile ground for divine grace. In doing so, we follow Christ's example — finding true exaltation in the humble acknowledgment of our human frailty.

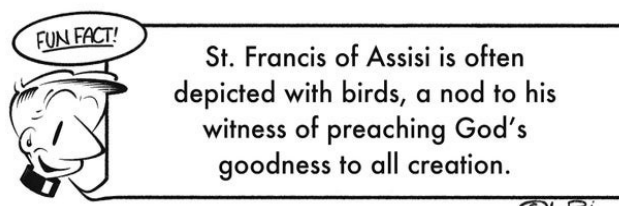
— Father John Mui



"What did the birds say to St. Francis on Halloween?"



"Twick-or-Tweet!"



The Catholic take on Halloween is that it has Catholic roots as "All Hallows' Eve," the Vigil of All Saints' Day, and can be celebrated with caution. While modern celebrations are often secular, the Church encourages focusing on the holiday's Christian significance—honoring saints, remembering the faithful departed, and celebrating Christ's victory over death. It is acceptable for Catholics to participate in activities like trick-or-treating and costume parties, as long as they avoid glorifying evil, violence, or pagan rituals and exercise moderation.

Prayer for Children on Halloween

Heavenly Father, we pray for all children as they celebrate this Halloween. Keep them safe as they go out trick-or-treating, guiding their steps and protecting them from all harm. We pray in Jesus name, AMEN!





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