



ST. MARY OUR MOTHER CHURCH

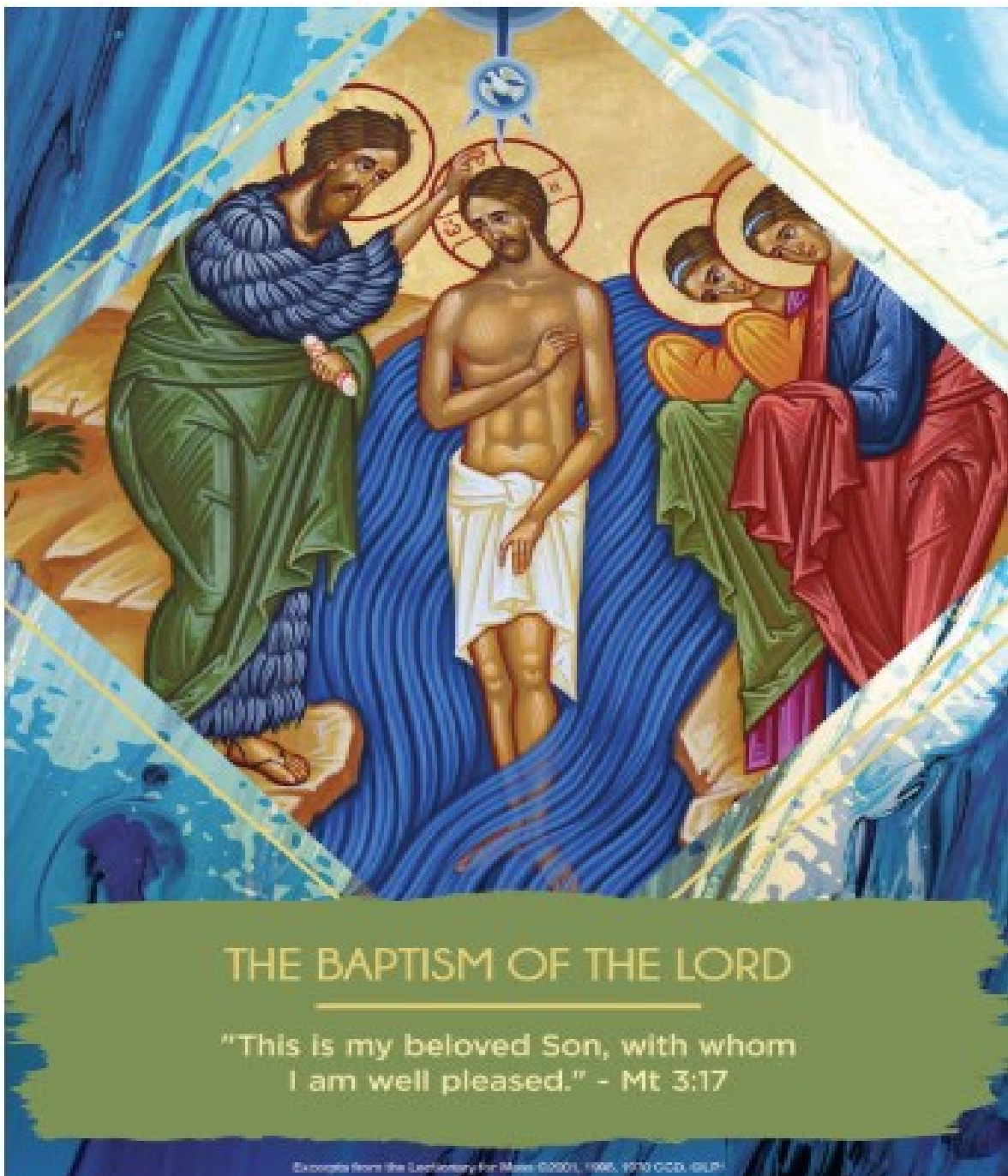
MISSION STATEMENT

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

January 11, 2026



THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

"This is my beloved Son, with whom
I am well pleased." - Mt 3:17

WEEKLY CALENDAR:**Tuesday, January 13**

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

7:00 p.m.—Wounded Healers Bereavement Support Group—School

Saturday, January 17

3:30 p.m.—Sacrament of Penance—Church

CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL:

As of 1/2/2026, 230 families have contributed \$97,231.80, 99.22% to our parish goal of \$98,000.00 to Catholic Ministries Appeal. We thank those who have given generously and ask all who have not given to prayerfully consider doing so. The CMA helps our Church and our parish in many ways. Please consider all the ways that God has blessed you and your family, and how the Church has brought goodness into your lives. Join our appeal and give back what you can so that we remain strong and able to do God's great work.

VALENTINES FOR VETS

We will once again be participating in the Valentines for Vets program.

Valentines for Vets is a local project to support veterans at the Bath VA Medical Center. The purpose of this project is to wish veterans a Happy Valentines Day and thank them for their service. St. Mary Our Mother Social Ministry Committee has been involved in the project for many years.

We ask that you create handmade cards or letters, thanking our veterans for their service and wishing them a Happy Valentines Day. Please use the salutation, "Dear Veteran" or "Thank you, Veteran" and do not include last names or personal photos.

A red box has been placed on the table across from the bulletin board to collect valentines. Cards should not be in envelopes and are hand delivered to the veterans.

Sample cards and any additional information are attached to the box.

Thank you!

WOUNDED HEALERS' BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP

Meeting will be offered on Tuesday, January 13, 2026 at 7:00 p.m., in person, at St. Mary Our Mother School. 811 Westlake St., Horseheads, NY. This will be our annual Memorial Service. There are no pressures, only invitations for remembering and supporting.

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 with "should's."

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."

*Christine Lloyd
(607)796-2795*

IN THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Richard Kimball
Tatiana Scholssburg
Thomas Nagle
Thomas Streb
Josephine Italiano
James Cleary
Susan Carne
Susan Viselmeyer
Terry Seidler
Nicholas Frankie

Devotions, Explained! St. Blaise Blessing of the Throat

St. Blaise Blessing of the Throat, Explained Perhaps it's an example of divine providence that the Feast of St. Blaise falls on Feb. 3 — right in the middle of cold and flu season! This fourth-century Armenian saint was a bishop and martyr and is venerated as the patron of those who suffer from illnesses of the throat.

On his feast day, Catholics traditionally receive a blessing of the throat. This blessing is administered by a priest, deacon or a lay minister who follows the rites and prayers designated for a layperson. During the blessing, the minister takes two candles that were blessed on the Feast of the Presentation and makes a cross in front of the throat, saying "Through the intercession of Saint Blaise, bishop and martyr, may God deliver you from every disease of the throat and from every other illness." A priest or deacon will then make the sign of the cross.

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PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE:

Today we celebrate the **Baptism of the Lord**, which brings the liturgical season of Advent/Christmas/Epiphany to a close. This time of year there is a sense of sadness when it comes to taking down, there is a sense of sadness as we take down the lights and seasonal decorations of Christmas. As the popular saying goes, "time marches on;" and our church's liturgical calendar unfolds into the fullness of time, but it is a bittersweet time to bid farewell to our Christmas experiences each year. There is also a sense of relief that after the Christmas season we are returning to some measure of normalcy to our daily routine. I hope you enjoyed a blessed and Merry Christmas! I wish to thank all who made Christmas 2025 at St. Mary Our Mother a beautiful, festive, and joyful experience that it was.

Because of the early bulletin deadlines throughout the month of December-last Sunday's bulletin went to press December 19th-we are including the vital statistics from those weeks and Christmas in today's bulletin. Our four Christmas Masses drew nearly 1500 people.

Many of our parishioners and visitors expressed their appreciation and admiration for the prayerful and reverent manner in which our liturgies are celebrated at St. Mary Our Mother, especially during the Christmas season. Many expressed their appreciation of the warm welcome they received when joining us for worship. A special word of thanks to our ministers of hospitality, our ushers, and to all for extending a warm welcome to all!

Today's celebration of the Baptism of the Lord reminds us of the new life given to all of us through the sacrament of baptism, a bond that unites us as God's chosen and holy people. That bond and relationship began for us on the day of our baptism, when we were cleansed of sin, given the new life in Christ, and welcomed into the Church. As children of God through baptism, we are called to embrace a life-giving and life-long relationship with Christ. It is a relationship which invites us to continually grow in our Christian faith.

Today's feast also invites us to reflect on the call of God in our lives, and how best to respond to that call. The beginning of a new year and decade finds many making some New Year's resolutions, taking the time to reassess and recommit ourselves to God's call. The following are a few suggestions you might consider as resolutions or opportunities for this new year and decade:

Prayer: *Nothing is more important than nurturing a closer relationship with God.. Take some time each day to listen to the voice of God.*

MASSES FOR THE WEEK:**Monday, January 12**

6:45 A.M. For The Faithful Departed

Tuesday, January 13

6:45 A.M. Deceased members of the Madison & Healy Families—Pat Madison

Wednesday, January 14

6:45 A.M. For The Faithful Departed

Thursday, January 15

6:45 A.M. Daniel Morgan—Robert & Dawn Fischer

Friday, January 16

6:45 A.M. Inez Corideo—Patti Perone

Saturday, January 17

5:00 P.M. Fortunada & Modesto Alvarez—Anita & Jim Osborn

Sunday, January 18

8:30 A.M. Raymond Sherwood—Wife, Deloris, Frances & the Alsworths

10:30 A.M. In Thanksgiving for Many Blessings—The Khan Family

Pastor's Perspective continued:

Family: *How often in our busy lives does time with family get neglected? Resolve To find (or create) a special time with each family member each week. Make sure family meals are celebrated frequently. The ideal would be every day. Plan a special family outing once or twice a month, and attend Mass Together. Resolve that when your spouse or child speak, you look at them and truly listen.*

Health: *Without good health, we lack energy to serve the Lord well. Resolve to make that doctor or dentist appointment. Make one healthy change in your Eating habits. Moderate your consumption of alcohol, and add a few minutes to exercise to your daily routine.*

Possessions: *Want less; live more simply. Challenge yourself to sacrifice something you like but that you know another person needs more than you. Access your **clothing closet and drawers and donate clothing that you have not worn since the beginning of the millennium.***

Parish: *Offer your service to a liturgical ministry or another parish ministry for the new year. We are always in need of more volunteers in the parish. You enrich the parish and your parish experience when you become involved.*

These are a few resolutions for you to consider for the new year. Have a great week. Please continue to take care of yourself and each other!

Fr. L.



Upcoming Events

CORE Retreat Weekends

2026 Theme: "Holy and Beloved"

January 16th - 19th - MEN

with Fr. Dennis Billy, C.Ss.R., Dcn. Kevin Carges and Jodie Scordo,

January 23rd-25th - MEN

with Fr. Peter Sousa, C.Ss.R., Deacon Gary Terrana and Jodie Scordo,

February 13th - 15th - COUPLES

with Fr. Jim Dahlinger, SJ; Deb & Keith Northridge and Jodie Scordo,

Fill Your Soul Days

January 20th - 9am-3pm

"The Shroud of Turin"

with Paul Then

February 11th 9am - 3pm

"The Spirit of Giving"

with Fr. Aaron Kelly and Anna Schlia

Special Events - LENT

February 3rd - March 24th - Lenten Book Read

"Do Not Judge Anyone: Desert Wisdom for a Polarized World"

Facilitated by Dr. Mike Wischnowski & Retreat Day lead by Fr. Isaac Slater (author)

February 28th - Lenten Retreat Men & Women

"You Have Given All to Me . . . Now I Return It"

with Marie Mozzi

March 7th - Women's Lenten Retreat

"Who Cooked the Last Supper"

with Sr. Carol Cimino, SSJ

Lessons from Baptizing a Frog

I used to lead an RCIA session on baptism, where I would bring in my Kermit the Frog toy from when I was a child and pretend to baptize it. It was a session I especially made sure I led when we had children preparing for Easter sacraments. You would think Kermit would have become super holy having been baptized so many times, year after year. But, if he had been real, he would not have been any holier due to multiple baptisms than he was after the first baptism. He couldn't be re-baptized. (Not to mention, of course, he is a FROG.)

When Jesus came to John for baptism, he transformed the baptism of repentance that John was practicing into a baptism of redemption. And although we are called to repentance over and over in our life, redemption comes to us only once. We cannot get baptized again in the Jordan or Sea of Galilee because of romantic notions, or come into the Catholic Church by a second baptism so we can start all over. Our baptism, whether we can remember it or not, is a one-time deal. But it is the real deal. Whether you feel it or not, you are sealed for Christ, and the stain of original sin has been washed away.

Too many of us take that moment for granted. Yes, you may have been baptized as an infant. But much time has passed since then, and you can work to understand the impact that it had on your life. We sometimes look for a good time to begin living a stewardship way of life. However, that time already passed, and God has been waiting. We are called to reflect on our baptism and respond to the call it has placed on our lives. We can respond and be disciples, or we can be like Kermit the Frog, always searching for a new start that never comes.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

CATHOLIC TRIVIA – JUST FOR FUN

Question: What is the name for the formal letters in the New Testament sent to people and Christian communities?

Answer: Epistles.

Blessing for Baptismal Graces

Dear God,

Through Baptism, You called and claimed us as Your own, chosen and loved.

Pour Your blessing upon us as we remember our Baptism.

Plant Your identity in our hearts.

Help us to live as Your beloved.

Amen.

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

Ms. 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

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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

ST. MARY OUR MOTHER SCHOOL:

Preparing for Mid-Term Exams at St. Mary Our Mother School

As we begin the new year, students in grades 3 through 6 at St. Mary Our Mother School are working diligently to prepare for their mid-term exams. These exams, which will take place on the following dates, provide an opportunity for students to demonstrate their understanding and mastery of the curriculum:

January 14th 3rd, 4th, 5th – English Language Arts

6th – Math

January 15th, 6th – Social Studies

January 16th, 3rd, 4th, 5th – Math

6th – English Language Arts

January 20th 6th – Science

Mid-term exams are an important part of the academic journey, helping to reinforce the lessons learned and encouraging students to develop strong study habits, time management skills, and self-discipline. These skills are invaluable, not only for their immediate academic success but also as they grow into future-ready learners equipped for high school and beyond.

In addition to fostering academic growth, the experience of preparing for and taking exams nurtures the virtues of perseverance and resilience. We encourage our students to approach their studies prayerfully, trusting in the talents and abilities that God has blessed them with.

We ask our parish family to keep our students in your prayers during this time. May they feel supported and guided by their teachers, families, and faith as they work toward their goals.

Thank you for your continued support of our mission to educate and nurture the whole child—mind, body, and spirit.

***Yours in Christ,
Mrs. Heather Bill
Principal, St. Mary Our Mother School***



(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

When Jesus Wades In:

Usually, when God comes to us, we aren't ready.

We think we are. Like John the Baptist, we stand in our waters of baptism, certain of our mission. We know how it's going to go. We know what's going to be asked of us. We're sure of it.

Christ wades into the waters. And he screws up all our plans.

To be clear, I don't think John the Baptist lacks faith when he balks at the idea of baptizing Jesus. I think it is, in fact, a testament to his humility. But whatever motivated John's actions, he is — if even for a brief moment — hesitating to do the will of God. Just a few chapters after this in the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus will acknowledge that John is the greatest person "born of women" — with the caveat that even he is not perfect enough for the Kingdom of Heaven.

Not yet.

Jesus didn't give John an explanation as the two stood in the River Jordan. He merely said, "Allow it for now." John could have resisted further, demanding to understand why. He could have grown suspicious at the simplicity of Jesus' answer, at the strangeness of this request. He could have clung desperately to his version of How Things Are Supposed To Be, and in doing so, fostered doubt in his heart. He could have even stormed off, confused and angry.

He did none of these things, because John is, as Jesus says, the greatest born of women.

When the Holy Spirit descends and the voice of God declares, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased," he is referring, of course, to Jesus. But I think He would say the same of John the Baptist — and of all those who welcome Jesus into the waters, ready to do as he bids.



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