



ST. MARY OUR MOTHER CHURCH

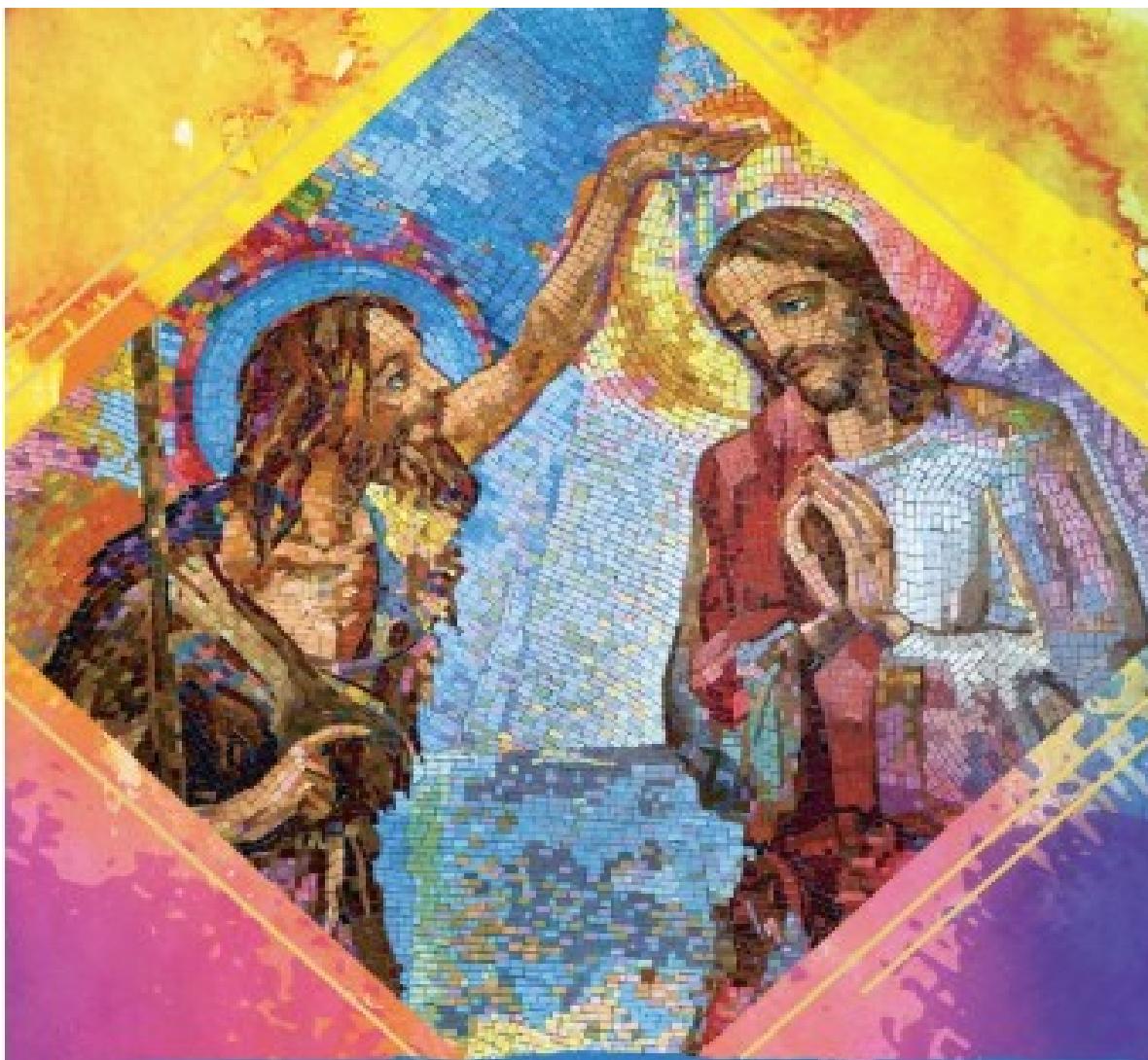
MISSION STATEMENT

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 18, 2026



2ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world." - Jn 1:29

WEEKLY CALENDAR:**Tuesday, January 20**

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

Saturday, January 24

3:30 p.m.—Sacrament of Penance—Church

CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL:

As of 1/9/2026, 235 families have contributed \$99,256.80, **101.28%** 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!

FLOWER DONATIONS

Our Main Altar Arrangement for the Week of January 18-24, 2026

Donated in loving memory of Raymond Sherwood, by his wife, Deloris, Frances, and the Alsworths.

Parish Offices Closed

The parish offices will be closed on **Monday, January 19th** in observance of the **Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.** holiday weekend. The offices will re-open on **Tuesday, January 20th at 9:00 a.m.**

Blessing of the Beloved

Dear God,

Bless and anoint us today.
You are our Father and guide.
Remind us of our identity in You:
loved, called, and equipped for mission.
Bless us as we journey, giving us strength for each day and
grace in each step.
Amen.

IN THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Anna Greenmun
Kevin Bremer
Joseph Pronti
Barbara Tighe Skorczewski
Bryan Takacs
Walter Madison

**"The time is always right
to do what is right."**

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

ALTAR MEMORIALS

The Eucharistic hosts, Sacramental Wine and the Icon Candle for the week of January 18-24, 2026

Donated in loving memory of Raymond Sherwood, by his wife, Deloris, Frances and the Alsworths.

PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE:

This past Monday we returned to the period in the Church's liturgical year known as Ordinary Time, which will continue to Ash Wednesday, the beginning of the season of Lent, which this year falls on February 18th. In addition, each year these middle weeks of January invite us to recall three distinct themes. Tomorrow's national holiday, we prayerfully remember the legacy of **Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.** Today we also begin the annual **Week of Christian Unity**, when the Church invites us to pray for greater unity and understanding among all Christian churches. The third theme centers on a greater respect for all **human life**.

Ever since his death, we are reminded of the legacy of **Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.** Dr. King stood for the equality of all people, especially speaking of his "dream" when all would sit at one table, when all would be able to ride the same bus, when all would be looked upon and identified by their gifts and talents and not by the color of their skin. His tragic and violent death, like modern day terrorism, violence, and war are hard reminders that human nature can act in terrible and tragic ways. Dr. King's death, as well as any act of terrorism, violence or war, are sobering reminders that we have yet to achieve Dr. King's dream. Recalling the life of Dr. King each year affords us an opportunity to address any personal prejudice that we might have, and to recognize the common integrity of every human person.

The Supreme Court's decision of **Roe vs. Wade** fifty-three years ago to legalize abortion in the United States met its critical crisis in defending human life as beginning with natural birth, not at conception. If the child in the womb is a person, by American standards, that person has individual rights. The theology of the Roman Catholic Church defines human life as beginning at conception. While this definition has caused many painful decisions to be made on part of parents, it is a starting point for conversation about the understanding of human life. Jesus' own life is defined from the moment of the Annunciation, when Mary said "yes" to the angel. Mary's own life began at the Immaculate Conception, as the sinless vessel of God. Though the Supreme Court recently overruled the decision of Roe vs. Wade, leaving the decision on the legalization of abortion to individual states, this anniversary serves as a reminder that we need to re-affirm our belief in human life as beginning with conception and ends with natural death.

Since the days of the Second Vatican Council, the Church has set aside eight days in January—specifically January 18 through 25—as a Week of

MASSES FOR THE WEEK:

Monday, January 19

6:45 A.M. For the Faithfully Departed

Tuesday, January 20

6:45 A.M. Living & Deceased Members of the
6:45 a.m. mass family

Wednesday, January 21

6:45 A.M. For the Faithfully Departed

Thursday, January 22

6:45 A.M. For the Faithfully Departed

Friday, January 23

6:45 A.M. For the Faithfully Departed

Saturday, January 24

5:00 P.M. *Jeanne Carney* by Bob & Judi Pichette

Sunday, January 25

8:30 A.M. *Nicholas Frankie* by Ellie Gough

10:30 A.M. *Mary Ann Poland* by the Scarselletta's

Pastor's Perspective continued:

Prayer for Christian Unity. It is a time when we acknowledge our common bonds with our Christian sisters and brothers, as well as people of all faith traditions. We worship a common God: we find our religious foundations in common traditions. For the most part, we utilize the same scriptures for our prayer, worship, and faith formation. For many, our ritual of worship is somewhat similar, often using the same hymns and prayers. This annual week of prayer for Christian Unity is our commitment to our Lord's prayer at the Last Supper, *"that all may be one."* (John 17:21) Since the Second Vatican Council, which issued its own decree on Ecumenism, we have come to realize that our unity can be expressed in a variety of ways. An example of this locally is the annual Service of Lessons and Carols, held each December.

Is there a common bond which unites the violence in our world, to the observance of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday, to a greater awareness and respect for human life from the womb to the tomb, to the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity? It is the fact that we are a people of the same God. Each person has the responsibility to see others as sisters and brothers, offering respect and dignity to each other. It is this responsibility that enables us to address the issues such as life beginning at conception, those who live in the grip of poverty, those who find themselves in prison, those who are close to death. We need to acknowledge the common bond that unites us not only as the Church as the Body of Christ, but to realize that the presence of God resides and can be found in each and every person.

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

Fr. L.

Peace, Explained!

Peace. There may be no other word in the English language, writes Msgr. Stuart Swetland in Catholic Answers, “more susceptible to sloganeering, and thus misunderstanding.” But what is peace, in the context of Catholic virtue?

The peace of God, writes Paul in his Letter to the Philippians, “surpasses all understanding.” (Phil. 4:7) Peace is both a fruit of charity (CCC 1829) and a fruit of the Spirit (CCC 1832). Our modern Catholic understanding of peace is derived from the Hebrew concept of shalom, or wholeness, and it refers not just to an absence of violence (mandated by the fifth commandment) but to a personal reconciliation with one’s Creator. Peace is a spiritual effect of the Sacrament of Reconciliation (CCC 1496).

Our search for interior peace in our hearts parallels the historic struggle of mankind to realize peace in the world by practicing justice. “When we hear the Gospel, dear brothers and sisters,” said Pope Benedict, “we learn to build peace on the truth of a daily life inspired by the commandment of love.”

Play That One Again

How many times have you sung the church song, “Here I Am, Lord”? If you grew up Catholic and are around my age (still 50!), the answer is more than you can count. The song that quotes various verses of Scripture is sung using guitar, piano, or organ, by cantors and choirs, in traditional and modern churches. It is truly a Catholic greatest hit of the modern Church. The question is how many times when singing the refrain have you really taken to heart what you were singing.

“Here I am, Lord; is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night.” Like the biblical figure Samuel, we are responding to the call of God by asking for clarification that we are indeed the one being called. We then follow up the question with a profound statement: “I will go if You lead me.” It is profound because we are pledging to our God that we are willing to go wherever He wants. We are accepting the challenge put forth in the U.S. Bishops’ pastoral letter, “Stewardship: A Disciple’s Response,” to become mature disciples who respond to the call of Jesus Christ regardless of the cost. We have sung this pledge repeatedly for many years.

We never have any idea what God will call us to do and where to go. Sometimes the request can ask us for quite a lot. Hopefully, we respond like a mature disciple. If not, maybe we should reflect more the next time this song is played. The melody will not allow for the words, “I will see if I am busy and then decide to go if you lead me.” Then again, I don’t want to sing that to God, the source of all life anyway. Do you?

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

New Bishop Announced



Bishop John S. Bonnici, currently an auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of New York, has been named by Pope Leo XIV as the 10th bishop of the [Diocese of Rochester](#). His installation is scheduled for March 19, 2026, on the feast of St. Joseph.

He will succeed Bishop Salvatore R. Matano, whose resignation has been accepted by Pope Leo. Bishop Matano, has led the Rochester Diocese since 2014. Bishop Matano is serving as diocesan apostolic administrator until Bishop Bonnici’s installation.

Bishop Bonnici’s appointment and Bishop Matano’s resignation were announced Jan. 7 by Cardinal Christophe Pierre, apostolic nuncio to the United States.

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
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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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

ST. MARY OUR MOTHER SCHOOL:

Celebrating Academic Excellence at St. Mary Our Mother School

At St. Mary Our Mother School, we are proud to share encouraging news regarding our recent New York State assessment results in English Language Arts and Mathematics. These results reflect the hard work, dedication, and commitment of our students, teachers, and families.

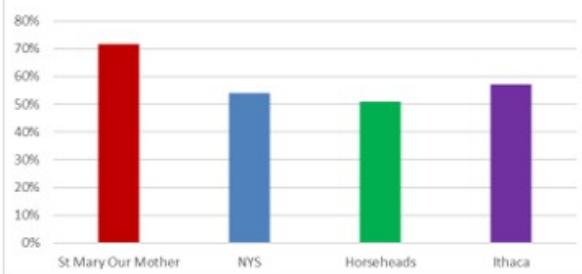
The accompanying graphs illustrate how our students performed compared to other area schools and statewide averages. We are especially proud to report that St. Mary Our Mother School surpassed many neighboring schools in both ELA and Math proficiency. These outcomes speak to the strength of our academic program, the individualized attention our students receive, and the supportive learning environment rooted in faith.

While strong test results are something to celebrate, they represent more than numbers. They are a reflection of our mission to educate the whole child—mind, heart, and spirit—while fostering a love of learning, critical thinking, and perseverance. Our faculty works tirelessly to meet students where they are, challenge them to grow, and support them every step of the way.

We are deeply grateful for the partnership of our families and parish community, whose support makes this success possible. Together, we continue to prepare our students not only for academic achievement, but for lives of faith, service, and leadership.

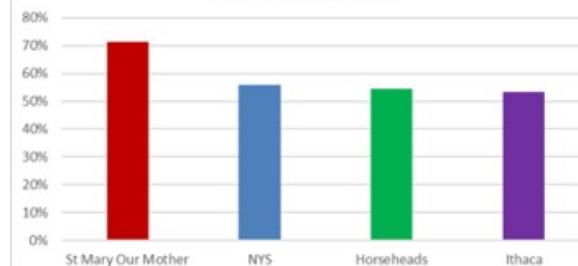
We are proud of our students and thankful for the many blessings that make St. Mary Our Mother School such a special place to learn and grow.

2025 NYS **ELA** Comparison
Based on Proficiency



Cont. next column

2025 NYS **Math** Comparison
Based on Proficiency



With gratitude,

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

Instruction on Receiving Communion

Question:

How many times a day can a person receive communion?

Answer:

To find an answer to this question, we need to turn to the Church's Code of Canon Law. Here we read, "One who has received the blessed Eucharist may receive it again on the same day only within a Eucharistic celebration in which that person participates ..." (no. 917). This tells us that the standard answer would be that we can receive communion twice in a day.

Having said that, we also want to be sure that we pay attention to the entire instruction. The phrase "within a Eucharistic celebration in which that person participates" is important. It means a) that we always have to think of receiving communion as being within a celebration of the Mass and b) we have to be participants in that celebration – we can't simply show up "in time" for communion.

So, when would this rule apply?

For example, if you attend Mass on a Saturday morning and then take part in the Sunday Vigil Mass on Saturday evening, you could licitly receive communion at both celebrations. Or, another example, if you receive communion at a wedding or funeral Mass, you could also receive communion at a daily Mass or Sunday Vigil celebrated on the same day. We always want to be sure that we observe the rules for fasting from food and drink before receiving the eucharist (see Code of Canon Law, no. 919).

We should also remember that the Code of Canon Law instructs that anyone who is in danger of death or seriously ill may also receive communion a second time (no. 91, §2).



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