



# 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 25, 2026



## CELEBRATING OUR CATHOLIC SCHOOL

EDUCATING  
*Our Children*



BUILDING  
*Our Future*



**WEEKLY CALENDAR:****Tuesday, January 27**

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

**Thursday, January 29**

7:00 p.m.—Adult Choir Rehearsal—Church

**Saturday, January 24**

3:30 p.m.—Sacrament of Penance—Church

**Stewardship****Week End of 1/11/2026:**

Envelope:	\$7,462.95
Plate:	<u>\$737.00</u>
	<b>\$8,199.95</b>

**Patience, Explained!**

In treating others with a spirit of patience, said Pope Francis, we “look at them … with God’s gaze, knowing how to distinguish their faces from their faults.”

“Rushing and impatience are enemies of spiritual life,” he continued. “God is love, and those who love do not tire, they are not irascible; they do not give ultimatums. God is patient, God knows how to wait.”

Patience is sometimes referred to as being “annexed” to the moral virtue of fortitude. In practicing patience, we bear any kind of suffering for a greater good. St. Thomas Aquinas describes patience as a means to “safeguard the good of reason against sorrow, lest reason give way to sorrow” (Sum. II-II, 136, Art. 1).

The virtue of patience is a fruit of the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:22), and as Christians who have received the Holy Spirit we are called to “be patient in tribulation” (Romans 12:12) and to “preach the message (of Christ) … with great patience” (2 Timothy 4:2).

**IN THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

Sandee Johnson

**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 25-31, 2026**

Donated in loving memory of **Bill Dominikoski**, by his wife, Diane and family

**ALTAR MEMORIALS**

**The Eucharistic hosts  
January 25-31, 2026**

Donated in loving memory of **Bill Dominikoski**, by Fran Beering

## PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE:

This coming week, Saint Mary Our Mother School joins other Catholic Schools throughout our nation in celebrating national Catholic Schools Week. This year's theme for Catholic Schools Week is **Catholic Schools: United in Faith and Community**. This week is a time to reaffirm our support of Catholic School education, to affirm the spiritual welfare of every student, to encourage them in their academic development, to recognize parents for their commitment to Catholic School education, and to recognize our teachers, staff, and administration for their dedication and professionalism. It is also a time to offer a word of gratitude to the people of Saint Mary Our Mother for their continued interest and support of our school as a "parish-based" school since 1959. I consider our school a vital part of our parish's responsibility in serving our children, the next generation of Catholics.

The Church as the primary teacher of our faith has the responsibility to its people that our faith life is not only preserved, but that people be given the opportunities for their faith life to be nourished and grow. For its founding days, Catholic Schools in the United States have provided a solid-based education where the truths of our Catholic faith are not only taught but lived. The challenge of every Catholic School today is to meet the needs of our young people who live in a society and world where cultural values are often contrary to the teachings of the gospel. Catholic Schools continue to be important vehicles by which Christ-centered values and virtues are taught and lived. In doing so, each school epitomizes this year's Catholic Schools theme of being sources where the virtues of faith, excellence, and service are lived each day.

St. Mary Our Mother School will celebrate Catholic Schools Week with many of the usual Catholic Schools Week activities, but we will be following the protocols that are in place to insure the health and safety of all students. If you know of a family with children, or you have friends who might consider a Catholic School education, please encourage them to contact the school for further information and to take a tour of our school. Registrations of students for the 2026-2027 has begun. We need your help to get the good news about St. Mary Our Mother School "out there" to the greater community. Tuition assistance is also available, and all students benefit from being in a school with smaller class sizes, more individual attention, and a school that has outperformed school districts on various state test scores.

## MASSES FOR THE WEEK:

<b>Monday, January 26</b>
6:45 A.M. <i>Pablo &amp; Elisea Atienza</i> by Macapinlac family
<b>Tuesday, January 27</b>
6:45 A.M. <i>Bob Kosty</i> by Marianne
<b>Wednesday, January 28</b>
6:45 A.M. <i>Mary Beth Fazzary</i> by Ann Marie & Jim Gibson
<b>Thursday, January 29</b>
6:45 A.M. For the Faithful Departed
<b>Friday, January 30</b>
6:45 A.M. For the Faithful Departed
9:00 A.M.
<b>Saturday, January 31</b>
5:00 P.M. <i>Pamela Enright</i> by the Enright family
<b>Sunday, February 1</b>
8:30 A.M. <i>Marlene Fiorini</i> by Thomas & Kathleen Marzec
10:30 A.M. <i>Darryl Fink</i> by wife, Judy & family

As we celebrate Catholic Schools Week 2026, we thank all who are involved in our Catholic Schools' efforts at Saint Mary Our Mother School:

**Mrs. Heather Bill**, Principal  
**Mrs. Adriana Enright**, Administrative Assistant

<b>Mrs. Jill Knuth</b>	<b>Mrs. Robyn Stowell</b>
<b>Mrs. Sally Heffner</b>	<b>Mrs. Michelle Steed</b>
<b>Mrs. Sandra Hoyt</b>	<b>Mrs. Amy Winkels</b>
<b>Mrs. Jamie Lewis</b>	<b>Mrs. Susan Nagle</b>
<b>Mrs. Angela Langendorfer</b>	<b>Mrs. Barbara O'Brien</b>
<b>Mrs. Kelly Koehler</b>	<b>Mrs. Katy Piet</b>
<b>Mrs. Michelle Procopio</b>	<b>Mrs. Stephanie Pelkey</b>
<b>Mrs. Julie Lawson</b>	<b>Ms. Michelle Card</b>
<b>Mrs. Colleen Meehan</b>	<b>Mr. Roger Williams</b>
<b>Mr. Thomas Ketchum</b>	<b>Miss Jenna Crandall</b>

We thank them, as well as the people of Saint Mary Our Mother, for their commitment, dedication, interest, and support of Catholic School education in our parish.

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

**Fr. L.**



## Examination of Conscience, Explained

In Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians, the apostle writes that it is imperative for a Christian to reflect on his conscience before he partakes of Holy Eucharist: "Let a man examine himself, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup" (1 Corinthians 11:28). The practice of examining one's conscience before seeking the Sacrament of Reconciliation thus dates to the very beginning of the Christian faith and was encouraged as a regular practice by many saints and founders of religious orders as a means of growing in virtue.

An examination of conscience, when it relates to the sacrament, simply means reflecting on one's actions (and particularly the intentions behind those actions) since the penitent's last absolution, making note of lapses in judgment that should be confessed. A good basis for this reflection can be the Ten Commandments, the Beatitudes and the seven deadly sins.

### What Is a Mass Intention?

A Mass intention is a specific petition for which the Mass is offered. Mass intentions, also known as Mass cards, can be requested on behalf of another living person—for example, the healing of someone sick or to commemorate a wedding anniversary. However, Mass intentions are most commonly offered in remembrance of a person who has died.

### Offering a Mass Card For the Deceased

It may seem counterintuitive to offer a Mass intention for a person who has died, as their time on earth is finished. However, the practice of offering Mass intentions for the deceased relates to the Catholic belief in purgatory.

As Catholics, we believe souls who die in a state of sin go through a purification process before entering heaven. We offer Masses for our deceased loved ones to aid them in their journeys to heaven. We pray with hope that the graces imparted by the Mass will usher them further towards eternity with God.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church states: "*From the beginning, the Church has honored the memory of the dead and offered prayers in suffrage for them, above all the Eucharistic sacrifice, so that, thus purified, they may attain the beatific vision of God*" (CCC 1032).

It is especially important to pray for the dead, as they can no longer pray for themselves. Pope Francis said that offering the celebration of the Eucharist for the dead "is the best spiritual help that we can give to their souls, particularly to the most abandoned ones."

## ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIP- TURE

I was 22 years old, lying in bed one night while on a pilgrimage, when I suddenly sensed an idea in my mind: "Go to the seminary." There was no voice, no vision, but a gentle and unmistakable clarity. I simply prayed, "Lord, if that's from you, let me find great joy in it." Three days later, my heart was bursting with joy. I dropped everything and entered the seminary. The older I get, the stranger my rather careless and hasty departure seems to me. I followed not because it made sense, or because I was especially brave. I went because the Lord called me.

Something like this happens in today's Gospel. Jesus walks by Simon, Andrew, James, and John and says, "Come after me" (Matthew 4:19). And immediately they leave their nets and follow. There's no explanation, no hesitation ... just movement. Why? As St. John says, "In this is love: not that we have loved God, but that he loved us" (1 John 4:10). They do not leave their nets because his call made perfect, calculable sense. They left them because they were called. And Jesus' call is powerful.

Take a moment this week to remember when Christ first called you. However small or quiet it was, recall it, and give thanks. The more we marvel that Christ has called us personally, the more passionately and freely we will follow him.

— Father John Muir

### 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

#### 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

## ST. MARY OUR MOTHER SCHOOL:

### Celebrating Catholic Schools Week at St. Mary Our Mother School

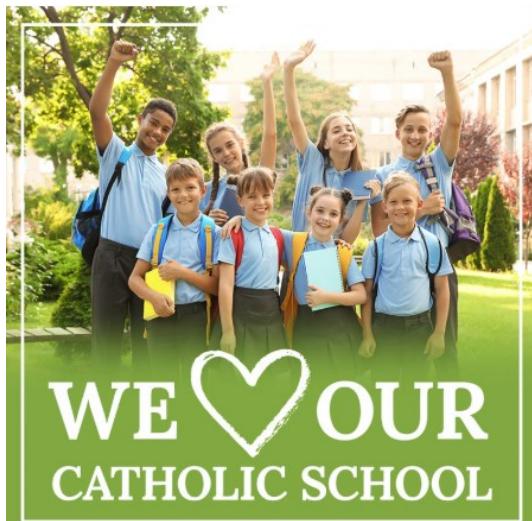
Catholic Schools Week is a special time for us to celebrate the gift of Catholic education and the many blessings found within our school community. At St. Mary Our Mother School, we are proud to join Catholic schools across the nation in highlighting the value of faith-based education and the strong partnership between our school, parish, and families.

Throughout the week, our students will participate in activities that celebrate faith, learning, service, and community. From prayer and reflection to academic celebrations and school spirit events, Catholic Schools Week gives us the opportunity to recognize the dedication of our students, teachers, staff, and families who make our school such a vibrant place to learn and grow. Catholic education is about more than academics—it is about forming the whole child. Each day, our students are guided to grow spiritually, academically, and socially while living out Gospel values in their daily lives. Catholic Schools Week allows us to reflect on this mission and give thanks for the support of our parish community, whose prayers and encouragement are essential to our success.

We invite our parish families to join us in celebrating Catholic Schools Week and to keep our students and staff in your prayers. Please be sure to review the bulletin insert for a detailed outline of the special activities planned for the week.

We are grateful for the continued support of our parish and for the many blessings of Catholic education at St. Mary Our Mother School.

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



### Notre Dame High School Winter Open House

#### For Prospective Students & Families (Grades 7–12)

Prospective students and families are warmly invited to attend Notre Dame High School's **Winter Open House on Thursday, February 26, from 6:00–7:00 PM, in the Charles and Mary Crossed Auditorium.**

The evening will include an overview of Notre Dame's academic program, admissions process, and financial aid, followed by an opportunity to tour the campus and meet some of our administrators and students. Attendees will also hear inspiring testimonies from a current parent and student. Discover what makes Notre Dame a welcoming, college-preparatory community grounded in the traditions of the Sisters of Mercy and a commitment to academic excellence.

Students at Notre Dame benefit from a wide range of opportunities, including **competitive athletics, performing, visual, and language arts; community service, and extracurricular activities** such as FTC & FRC Robotics, Climate Crusaders, Quiz League, Yearbook, MaryLeaf (school newsletter), and The Notre Dame Spotlighters.

Notre Dame H.S. is located at 1400 Maple Avenue, Elmira, and transportation is available from many of our local school districts.

To RSVP for the Open House or to apply for the **2026–27 school year**, please visit <https://tinyurl.com/NDHSWinterOpenHouse26>. To submit your application to ND for the 2026-27 school year, visit [notredamehighschool.com](http://notredamehighschool.com). For questions, contact **Mr. Nick Weiermiller, Director of Admissions, at 607-734-2267.**

We look forward to welcoming you and your family to Notre Dame High School!

Thanks so much.  
Best wishes for the New Year!



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