



ST. MARY OUR MOTHER CHURCH

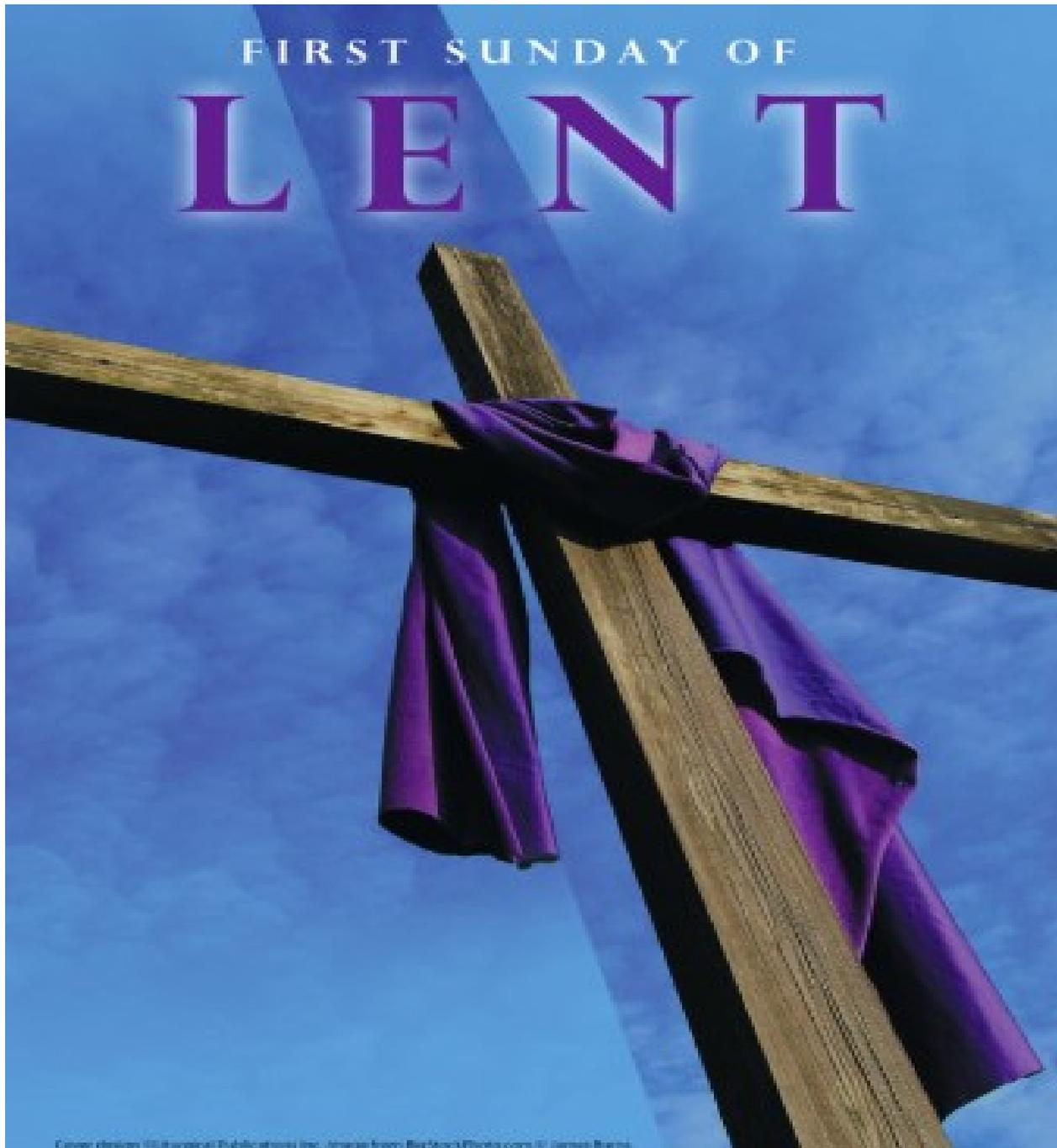
MISSION STATEMENT

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

February 22, 2026



WEEKLY CALENDAR:

- Tuesday, February 24**
4:00 p.m.—Faith Formation Classes—School
- Thursday, February 26**
7:00 p.m.—Adult Choir Rehearsal—Church
- Friday, February 27**
1:15 p.m.—Stations of the Cross—Church
5:15 p.m.—Stations of the Cross—Chapel
- Saturday, February 28**
3:30 p.m.—Sacrament of Penance—Church

CRS Lenten Prayer

God of Hope, You journey with us through the desert. You challenge us to become more like Christ.

During this Lenten season, may our prayers, fasting, and almsgiving give us the courage to go forth and share our gifts with the world. May our encounter with You allow us to bring hope to our global family.

Amen.

NICKELS ADD UP

Your clean deposit cans and bottles are worth five cents each to the Horseheads Food Pantry when you drop them off at our parish office. If the office is closed, please leave the bag(s) on the front step under the overhang.

The pantry uses the money to purchase the needed items when food donations fall short. Social Ministry is collecting these deposit containers, redeeming them, and sending the money on to the Food Pantry. Consider joining the several families who have been doing this for years. It will give you a "feel good" feeling, knowing that you are helping out our neighbors in need.



LENTEN DISCIPLINES OF FASTING & ABSTINANCE

Catholics in good health ages 18 to 59 are required to fast and to abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday & Good Friday.

Fasting consists of eating only one meal, with the possibility of two smaller snacks that do not add up to a full meal.

Catholics age 14 and older are to abstain from meat on all Fridays of Lent.

Stewardship

Week End of 2/15/2026:

Figures unavailable due to President's Day Holiday

2026 LENTEN CALENDAR

Ash Wednesday, February 18, 2026

- 6:45 a.m.—Mass
- 12:00 p.m.—Liturgy of the Word/Ashes
- 5:30 p.m.—Mass

Daily Mass:

6:45 a.m.—Monday thru Friday

Sacrament of Penance:

- 3:30 p.m.—Saturday
- 11:30 a.m.—Tuesday, March 24, 2026—Diocesan Day of Penance (*Sacrament available until 5:30 p.m.*)

Stations of the Cross:

- 1:15 p.m.—Fridays with St. Mary Our Mother School (*when school is in session*)
- 5:15 p.m.—Fridays of Lent
- St. Mary Our Mother School Living Stations of the Cross
- 1:15 p.m. & 5:15 p.m.—Wednesday, April 1

Rite of Election:

2:00 p.m.—Sacred Heart Cathedral

MASS INTENTIONS

The 2026 Mass Book is now open. There are several dates for both Sunday and Weekday Masses that are available to be scheduled. Please contact the Parish Office to schedule your Mass intentions for this year.

FIRST WEEK OF LENT

FLOWER DONATIONS

Our Main Altar Arrangement for the Week of February 8-17, 2026

Donated in loving memory of *Arvie & Inez Korstad and Joyce, Lauren & Kent Peckham*

IN THE PEACE OF CHRIST

**Thomas Margeit
Roger Joy
Gerry Austin**

PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE:

The season of Lent is traditionally a time of **prayer**, **fasting**, and **almsgiving**. Christians from the earliest days of the Church have considered this period of time as a *"Time of Enlightenment,"* a period of time to practice these three Lenten disciplines. But just what are these disciplines supposed to accomplish in us? To this day, it is common for people to tell us what they are doing for Lent, of what sacrifices people are making during the season of Lent, whether it is abstaining from dining in restaurants, (which was a result of the recent pandemic) to abstaining from television, candy, alcohol, or desserts. You may also hear people spending less "screen time" on their smart phones, mobile units, and the internet. But what is the reasoning behind these sacrifices people make during Lent? What is the "end result" that these Lenten penitential practices supposed to accomplish?

The Lenten practices we embrace during this season are meant to change our hearts. We journey through this Lenten season together as a church, although each of us has the freedom to choose our own Lenten practices. In changing individual hearts, we can change all hearts. The actions of any of us affect all of us, for good or ill. We involve ourselves in these Lenten practices to help not only ourselves but others in the disciples of Lent. We have an opportunity to grow closer to God and to change hearts. Lent is a season when we can remove anything that keeps us from being the person and the people God wants us to be. Anything that keeps us from growing closer to God and to one another is something we can work on as part of our Lenten discipline and penance. The Lenten season is a time when our prayer can help change and transform your life, in which your acts of penance can build up the community of faith.

The "official" fast days during the season of Lent are **Ash Wednesday** and **Good Friday**, but your personal fasting need not be restricted just to these two days of Lent. Personal fasting can be done at any time. Once again this year, our parish will be participating in the **Catholic Relief Services Rice Bowl**. This is an excellent Lenten practice in offering alms for the sake of others and reminds us of the needs of the hungry throughout the world. On a local level, you may want to include a local charitable organization to be the recipient of your Lenten almsgiving.

Whatever disciplines you choose for Lent this year, please remember that they are focused on healing to being about a change of heart in each of us. I invite you, during the Lenten season, to pray, to fast, and to be generous in the giving of alms. As members of the Church, we make our journey together, celebrating this season as a time of spiritual growth and renewal. I hope that during these Lenten days that we continue to pray for each other, that our hearts change in the way that God wants them to change. When change takes place in individual hearts, all hearts can be changed and renewed.

Cont'd

MASSES FOR THE WEEK:

Monday, 6:45 A.M.	February 23—Lenten Weekday Mass of Thanksgiving—the Sweet family
Tuesday, 6:45 A.M.	February 24—Lenten Weekday For deceased Fathers & Ancestors—Peter Park
Wednesday, 6:45 A.M.	February 25—Lenten Weekday Our Faithful Departed
Thursday, 6:45 A.M.	February 26—Lenten Weekday Our Faithful Departed
Friday, 6:45 A.M.	February 27—Lenten Weekday Our Faithful Departed
Saturday, 5:00 P.M.	February 28—Lenten Weekday Living & deceased Members of the Sweet & Bistran families—The Sweet family
Sunday, 8:30 A.M. 10:30 A.M.	March 1 Our Faithful Departed Roger Joy—his parish family

Pastor's Perspective continued:

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

Fr. L.

Everyday Stewardship

Can you believe Lent is here already? It seems like not that long ago I was decorating a Christmas tree! Time waits for no one and that is why it is important to make a mindful commitment now to not let this Lenten season pass you by. It is a great time to focus on growing as an everyday steward. The temptations are always there to procrastinate or to give in to spiritual laziness, but the Church's observation of Lent offers us so many tools to help us get on track. Increased devotions such as Stations of the Cross, various parish missions, or Lenten-focused literature are all gifts that your parish may be offering to assist you in this season.

With the Passion being the focus of Lent, it is easy to contemplate the value of true generosity. How could someone give more than Jesus? He gave until his life was spent on a cross. When contemplating how we can increase our generosity in all aspects of our life, we only need to look to the cross. Of course, this also brings home to us that more may be asked of us than we bargained. The temptation is to not give too much, out of fear that we might face persecution or worse.

But we take solace in the fact that we are disciples of One who had the same temptations. He overcame those temptations. He rejected the easy way out. His love and generosity could not be contained. He gave it all so that you and I have the chance to do the same. This Lent, look to the greatest example of stewardship that ever lived. Jesus will show us the way to observe a Lent that will soon bring forth great Easter fruit.

Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

A Note of Apology

Dear Parishioners:

We sincerely apologize for the late arrival of your weekly offering envelopes. Due to unexpected catastrophic issues with our production equipment, we have experienced an unavoidable delay. We are working diligently to resolve the problem and restore our regular schedule. Please forgive us for this inconvenience—we greatly appreciate your patience and understanding.

Thank you,
Cathedral Envelope Company

CRS, Rice Bowl, and Lent

Catholic Relief Services was started in 1943 by the bishops of the United States to aid refugees and survivors of World War II. Today it has expanded its mission to become the official international agency of the Catholic Church. Today it sends trained, professional workers to over 100 countries across the globe. Their relief and development programs address health, education, agriculture, emergency response services, micro-finance of small businesses, and peacebuilding. Wherever CRS goes, it works to create a world in which people live as one human family.

CRS gets its funds from grants, donations, and fundraising activities, such as Lenten Rice Bowl. Ninety-three percent of the funds go directly to the projects while only 7% is used by management, administration, and fundraising costs. It holds an A+ rating from CharityWatch. CRS keeps 75% of your Rice Bowl donations to support their overseas programs, but returns 25% to help fight hunger and poverty in our own local area of Chemung County.

CRS Global Fellows are Roman Catholic priests and deacons that are trained to work with and witness to the good works that CRS is doing with the world's most vulnerable people. They journey to villages to work along CRS workers and meet the people in the villages where they serve. CRS has over 75 Global Fellows in the US. Here in the Diocese of Rochester we are fortunate to have two diocesan deacons who are global fellows, both of whom have visited and delivered homilies here in our church in the past few years

CRS Lenten calendars and rice bowls will be available I our church starting Ash Wednesday. In weeks to come, our bulletin will feature articles about the work of CRS overseas in Ghana, Guatemala, and Timor Leste. Visit the crsricebowl.org website for lots more information. Remember the CRS workers and the people they serve in your prayers. Happy Lent!

**DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER
PERMANENT DIACONATE**

The deacon is a man of faith, who is called from the community that already recognizes his dedication to service. He makes a lifetime commitment to serving the People of God by proclaiming the Word, assisting and presiding at liturgies, and ministering in the areas of charity and social justice. A deacon gives witness to his availability to the community by addressing present and emerging needs of the Church. The Diocese is inviting interested men of strong and active faith, who can demonstrate a record of service in the communities in which they live, work and worship, who may wish to explore a possible call to ordained ministry as a permanent deacon, to first speak with their pastor for an initial conversation. They may also contact Deacon Edward Giblin, Director of the Office of the Permanent Diaconate, at edward.giblin@dor.org, for additional information. A potential candidate must be at least 35 years of age and no older than 62 years of age at the time of ordination after a five (5) year period of formation. He must be in good health, emotionally mature, have stable relationships and must have the wholehearted support of his wife (if married) and family to enter the phase of inquiry. Because the parish is the primary experience of Church for most inquirers, the parish community is asked as well to invite from among its members men who exhibit strong faith and a spirit of service and encourage them to consider a possible vocation to the permanent diaconate. The Diocese anticipates that the next formation class will begin in Fall 2027, with the application process beginning in early 2027.

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:**Annual Read-A-Thon & 100th Day of School Celebration**

When we return from break, St. Mary Our Mother School will celebrate our annual Read-A-Thon, a favorite event for students, families, and staff! This year, the celebration also coincides with the 100th day of school, making it an extra special occasion.

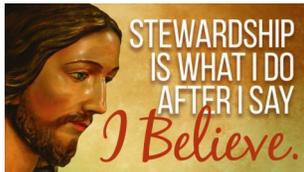
Students will take part in a variety of fun and engaging activities, including visits from special guest readers, while celebrating the joy of reading and learning together. The Read-A-Thon also serves as a fundraiser—last year, it raised over \$10,000 to support our school programs and initiatives.

We are especially thankful to our teacher organizers, Mrs. Langendorfer and Mrs. Meehan, for their dedication and hard work in making this event a success each year.

It's sure to be a week filled with laughter, learning, and community spirit!

Blessings,

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

A STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

In today's Gospel reading we listen to the confrontation between Jesus and the devil, who thought he might tempt Jesus to forget who he was and commit a grievous sin when he was most vulnerable. Jesus had just spent 40 days and nights out in the desert, alone, away from civilization. He was hungry, thirsty, and tired. If there ever was a time to tempt Jesus, that was it. Temptations to sin come at us every day, from many directions and in many different forms. When the temptation to sin tries to overcome us, how do we react? Do we consciously remind ourselves that we are followers of Christ? Is there a time this week when you have needed to confront a temptation to sin?

Lenten Blessing

Bless us in Your mercy, Lord, as we enter these 40 Days of Lent.

Use this time to call, anoint, bind, strengthen, and inspire us anew.

Like a good shepherd, teach us Your voice, and give us the strength to follow.

Amen.

FOLK GROUP

An interest in starting up a folk group here at St. Mary Our Mother has been expressed by one of our parishioners who has a background playing bass with a folk group. There would be a need for acoustic guitar players and willing singers in order to create this new ensemble. If you are interested, please call the parish office at 607-739-3817 and leave your name and phone number, or see Cathy Peckham after mass. You will be contacted.

**ANNUAL EMPTY BOWLS FUNDRAISER
to benefit
CATHOLIC CHARITIES SAMARITAN CENTER**

Tuesday, March 24 - 11:30AM—1PM
Hosted by Notre Dame High School
Tickets \$35 or \$50 with Commemorative bowl
RSVP: 607-734-9784 (Catholic Charities)

Samaritan Center provides a range of services (groceries, housing/heating fuel, health, & other needs) to residents throughout Chemung County.

**First Sunday of Lent**

A covenant is a formal agreement between two parties. Assuming both parties enter into the covenant of their own free will, it is a bond that cannot be broken. As time goes on, that covenant will be tested and its validity questioned by skeptics, but it will remain if it is real.

God's covenant with his people is real. It began with a promise made to Noah and was renewed in the person of Jesus Christ. It has been tested by man through sin and by evil through Jesus' trials in the desert. But here in 2026, it still remains as strong as ever.

This Lent, take time to rediscover and reflect on this covenant God has with us. Reclaim your baptism and make it a motivating factor in how you live your life. Take the opportunity this Lenten season provides to increase your devotion and spirituality. You will be tested and you will suffer trials, for life is not always easy. But God has always upheld his part of the agreement. Now is the time to take our part in this covenant more seriously.

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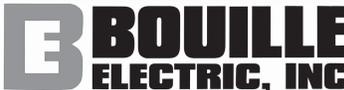
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