



# 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

March 8, 2026



## 3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT

Jesus answered and said to her, "If you knew the gift of God and who is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him and he would have given you living water." - Jn 4:10

**WEEKLY CALENDAR:**

- Tuesday, March 10**  
4:00 p.m.—Faith Formation Classes—School
- Thursday, March 12**  
7:00 p.m.—Adult Choir Rehearsal—Church
- Friday, March 13**  
1:15 p.m.—Stations of the Cross—Chapel  
5:15 p.m.—Stations of the Cross—Chapel
- Saturday, March 14**  
3:30 p.m.—Sacrament of Penance—Church

**HOSTS**

**The Eucharistic Breads or Hosts for the week of  
March 15-21, 2026**

Have been donated in loving memory of LCP Michael  
J. Sawester & June Sawester by Joan & Barry  
Sawester.

**IN THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

Christine (DiPetta) Matthews  
Jeff Elston

**2026 LENTEN CALENDAR**

**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

**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 Fri-  
day.

Fasting consists of eating only one meal, with the possibil-  
ity 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**

Weekly Contribution for week ending 2/22/2026  
Totaled.....\$6,240.00

**Journey Through Lent with CRS:  
The Third Week**

Guatemala, a Central American country just south of Mexi-  
co, is home to volcanoes, rainforests, and ancient Mayan  
cities. Many families in Guatemala don't eat healthy foods  
and often don't feel well. A CRS program offers nutrition  
classes that teach parents how to make healthy food choic-  
es for their family. These classes teach mothers how to  
stay healthy for their own well-being and that of their chil-  
dren. The CRS program also taught families and the whole  
community how to save money and build better habits for  
everyday life. Our Lenten prayer and sacrifice bring hope  
to our sisters and brothers in Guatemala.

**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 alms-  
giving 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.



**The Sign of the Cross**

"I claim you for Christ by the sign of his cross." These  
words from the Rite of Baptism, spoken as the priest traces  
a cross on the infant's forehead, perfectly communicate the  
significance of that simple, familiar action. In signing the  
cross, we claim ourselves again and again for Christ, unite  
ourselves with His sacrifice on Calvary, and confess his  
victory over death.

Christians have been making the sign of the cross since an-  
cient times, as evidenced by writings from Tertullian, Hip-  
polytus and St. Cyprian. The ritual action is not only an im-  
portant component of formal liturgies and sacramental rites,  
but also a daily devotional practice whereby the faithful  
invoke the blessing and protection of God.

In the Latin rite, it is made either with a movement of the  
full hand from one's forehead, breast and shoulders (going  
right to left) or with the thumb tracing the cross on the fore-  
head, lips and breast.

### PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE:

One of the disciplines we are called to embrace during the season of Lent is that of **almsgiving**. It is a word that can bring to mind people who might approach you asking for an occasional handout. In our part of the world, these occasions can be rare, after all, we have social service agencies which deal with these matters. So what significance does "almsgiving" hold for us, especially during the Lenten season?

The daily scripture readings in Lent make it clear that we are talking about the works of mercy and justice. References that are found in Isaiah 58:1-9; Leviticus 19:1-2, 11-18; Matthew 25:31-46. Almsgiving is not just about contributing our loose change to the poor. It is sharing of our financial and material gifts with others, "paying forward," as you might say, our blessings and recognizing that everything we think we have and own really belong to God. One bishop in the early Church would remind his people that almsgiving is the responsibility of everyone, no matter how great or small our resources might be. We can be equal in generosity of the heart for the benefit of our sisters and brothers in need.

As a parish, St. Mary Our Mother is blessed with financial, volunteer, and spiritual resources. A decision was made years ago to "tithe" our Sunday collections, setting aside a certain amount each week, and to designate those monies for some charitable cause or service. For example, four times a year we make a donation in the name of our parish to the Food Bank of the Southern Tier to support the Back Pack program, which helps provide nutritious food for at-risk children on weekends. These monies also help support our Social Ministry Committee's Christmas Sharing efforts each year. In addition, each week our parishioners are extremely generous in bringing food to help support various food pantries in our area. A few years ago, the Food Bank of the Southern Tier recognized our parish as one of the top ten contributors to the Food Bank. So your contributions to St. Mary Our Mother include not only the support of the ministries of our parish and school, they also reach beyond to help unknown numbers of people who are in need.

In addition, each Lent we offer the **Catholic Relief Services Rice Bowls** during this season, asking you to participate in helping to feed hungry people throughout the world. For a second consecutive year, we were honored to have **Deacon Mark Robbins**, who is a Global Fellow for Catholic Relief Services, with us as our guest homilist, sharing with us his insight on the wonderful work being achieved throughout the world by Catholic Relief Services. Many families put money in their rice bowls at meal time as they say grace and pray for the poor of the world. Others put money in their bowls when they find themselves using in appropriate language, or when they are gossiping or saying unkind words about another. These rice bowls are returned to the parish on Easter.

The season of Lent is a good time for us to examine our level of almsgiving and charitable giving not just during Lent but throughout the year. I remain grateful for

### MASSES FOR THE WEEK:

**Monday, March 9—Lenten Weekday**  
6:45 A.M. Our Faithful Departed

**Tuesday, March 10—Lenten Weekday**  
6:45 A.M. Our Faithful Departed

**Wednesday, March 11—Lenten Weekday**  
6:45 A.M. Happy Birthday Sandra Gretsinger—Ann Gresock

**Thursday, March 12—Lenten Weekday**  
6:45 A.M. Our Faithful Departed

**Friday, March 13—Lenten Weekday**  
6:45 A.M. Deceased members of the Madison & Healy families—Pat Madison

**Saturday, March 14—Lenten Weekday**  
5:00 P.M. Gerry Austin—Jackie & Warren Conklin

**Sunday, March 15 Fourth Sunday of Lent**  
8:30 A.M. Lucille Geist—The Hoover Family  
10:30 A.M. John Ksionzyk—Wife Paula & family

### Pastor's Perspective continued:

your generous financial stewardship to our parish. When you do so, you not only support our parish ministries, but also our school and the countless ways we as a parish demonstrate our concern for the less fortunate.

Have a wonderful third week of Lent. Please continue to take care of yourself and each other.

Fr. L.

### Third Sunday of Lent

Paul reminded the Corinthians, "We proclaim Christ crucified." Christ's weakness is stronger than any human strength. The power of the cross is greater than anything the world or evil has to combat it.

The Lenten season is one of repentance, self-denial, almsgiving, and prayer. Many in our modern world do not see any wisdom in denying themselves anything. Those swept away in a consumer culture want more and they want it faster, bigger, and better. They also are looking for easy and quick satisfaction, unwilling to wait long.

Paul speaks of the "foolishness of God" and how it is wiser than any human wisdom. Lent is a time to put aside that which we feel and think as humans and put on the attitude of Christ. The cross of Christ is neither easy nor fleeting, and it will ask us to deny our very selves for him. To the human mind it makes no sense. However, by putting on Christ and seeing with his eyes, we see reality with clarity. Our sacrifice can lead to riches that only a "foolish" man would covet. But it is exactly there that we are satisfied and fulfilled.



**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.

**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, microfinance 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 in 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](http://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](mailto: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:**

**A Stellar Visit from Eileen Collins!**

On Thursday, March 5th, St. Mary Our Mother School had the incredible honor of welcoming Eileen Collins, the first female Space Shuttle commander, to speak with our 3rd–6th grade students. Her visit was nothing short of inspiring!

During the assembly, Ms. Collins shared her journey from a curious young student to a trailblazing astronaut, encouraging our students to dream big, work hard, and embrace challenges with courage and determination. Our students were captivated by her stories, asked thoughtful questions, and left with a renewed sense of possibility.

We are so grateful to Ms. Collins for taking the time to visit our school and to our school community for fostering an environment where students are encouraged to reach for the stars—literally and figuratively! It was truly a memorable day of learning, inspiration, and celebration of curiosity and achievement.

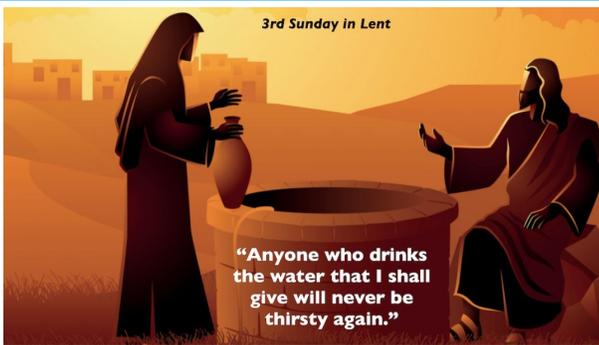
Blessings,

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

**Cemetery Cleanout & Cleanup**

Twice a year, a cleanout and a cleanup of our cemetery is done. Please remove all winter decorations at this time. If you have items you do not wish to have discarded, please remove them by **March 15th**.

Thank you!



**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.

**Blessing of Living Water**

Lord, where there has been dryness in my life, bless me with Your living water!

Where I fear to dream of new hope and growth, bless me with Your living water!

Where I'm thirsty for new and abundant life, bless me with Your living water!

Drench the parched earth with Your promise, bless me with Your living water!

**Wounded Healers**

The WOUNDED HEALERS' BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP meeting will be offered Tuesday, March 10, 2026 at 7:00 PM, in person, at St. Mary Our Mother School, 811 Westlake St., Horseheads, NY. 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 "shoulds." 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."

# Lynch

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