



# ST. MARY OUR MOTHER CHURCH

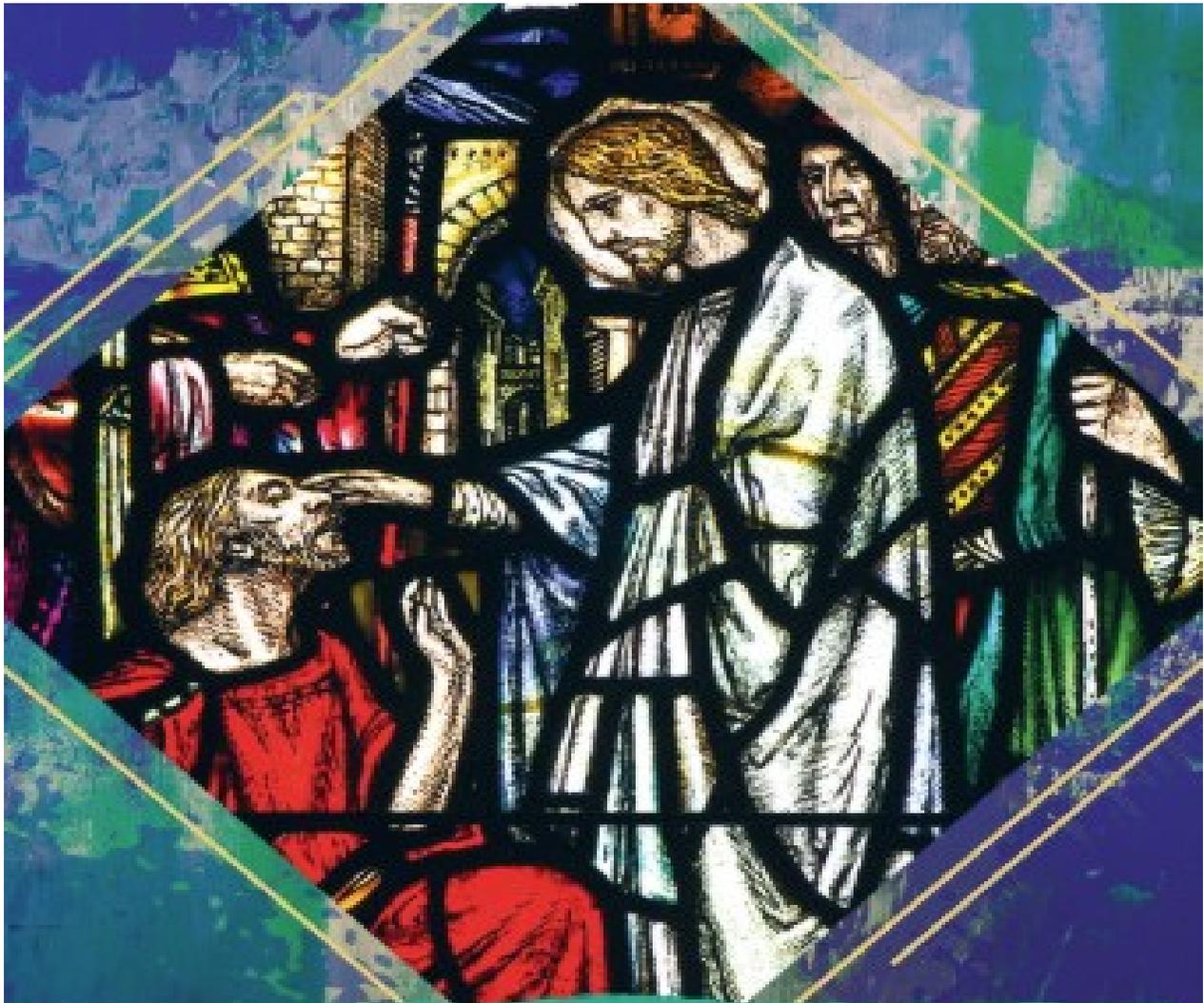
## *MISSION STATEMENT*

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 15, 2026



## 4TH SUNDAY OF LENT

The Pharisees also asked him how he was able to see.  
He said to them, "He put clay on my eyes, and I  
washed, and now I can see." - Jn 9:15

**WEEKLY CALENDAR:**

- Tuesday, March 17**  
4:00 p.m.—Faith Formation Classes—School
- Thursday, March 19**  
7:00 p.m.—Adult Choir Rehearsal—Church
- Saturday, March 21**  
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**

- Mary Lissy
- Linda Burke
- Lea Sidari
- Ralph Quatrano
- Fr. William Cosgrove
- Patricia Pasquale

**2026 LENTEN CALENDAR**

- Daily Mass:**  
6:45 a.m.—Monday thru Friday
- Sacrament of Penance:**  
3:30 p.m.—Saturday
- Diocesan Day of Penance—Tuesday, March 24, 2026**  
11:30 a.m.—2:00 p.m.  
3:00 p.m.—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 & ABSTINENCE**

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**

Weekly Contribution for week ending 3/1/2026  
Totalled.....\$9,789.54

**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!



**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.

**Hope, Explained!**

“Hoping against hope, he believed, and thus became the father of many nations.” (Romans 4:18)

This is how Paul describes the hope of Abraham, who allowed himself to believe in and wish for what seemed like an impossible thing — all because it had been promised to him by God. In this same way, Christian hope “is the theological virtue by which we desire the kingdom of heaven and eternal life as our happiness” (CCC 1817), even as we recognize that our own strength and merit can never achieve this.

Hope, simply, is remembering that God keeps His promises.

A desire for happiness is a seed planted by God in each heart. The virtue of hope pours down like rain to nourish that seed, but a barrier has been created by original sin. The Holy Spirit removes the barrier, allowing the hope to pour forth upon the roots of our sprouting happiness in great abundance.

### PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE:

Our parish bulletins since the beginning of Lent have been printing information concerning the diocesan-wide “**Day of Penance and Mercy**,” on **Tuesday March 24th**. On this day, all parishes throughout the diocese will be “*open for forgiveness*,” affording people an opportunity to celebrate the **Sacrament of Penance** on an individual basis. A priest will be available in church that day from **11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**, then again from **3:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.**

When people have not availed themselves of this sacrament for a while, they often will say, “*I don’t know how to celebrate this sacrament anymore*,” or “*I feel embarrassed that I don’t know the procedures of this sacrament*,” or “*I am not sure what I should confess anymore; what really is a sin these days?*” or “*I can’t remember the Act of Contrition*,” or “*I don’t even know where the reconciliation rooms or confessional are in our church*.” These are all legitimate concerns that many have.

First of all, the reconciliation rooms at St. Mary Our Mother are located to the west side of the vestibule, adjacent to the Eucharistic Chapel. Both rooms offer the penitent the choice of either kneeling and remaining anonymous, or being seated face to face with the priest.

The Sacrament of Penance begins with the Sign of the Cross, with a greeting and invitation from the priest, reminding the penitent of the mercy of God. Then there is a reference to scripture, usually a verse or two reminding the penitent to be open to the mercy of God. The penitent may also reference a brief scripture text that would be appropriate to their situation.

Having examined their consciences beforehand, the penitent then confesses his or her sins. If necessary, the priest may be helpful in helping the penitent articulate sins, and may offer spiritual counsel. It is important to remember that the priest here is not a judge in this situation, or a social worker or psychiatrist, but a kind of spiritual physician seeking to heal the wounds of sin.

The priest then proposes an act of penance, usually some form of prayer, scripture or spiritual reading, fasting, or good works. The penitent accepts it as a means of amending one’s life. The rite of the sacrament makes reference to a “firm purpose of amendment of one’s life” is necessary on the part of the penitent when receiving the sacrament. The penitent then expresses sorrow for sin by making an “Act of Contrition.” Please don’t be concerned that you not remember it, or you may forget it while you are celebrating the sacrament. We have printed versions of a number of this prayer in each confessional. Simply saying the words sincerely “Lord Jesus, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner,” is acceptable.

The priest will then pray the words of forgiveness and absolution in the name of the Church, extending his hand over the penitent. There are then brief words praising God whose mercy is endless. Then the penitent goes in peace.

### MASSES FOR THE WEEK:

<b>Monday,</b> 6:45 A.M.	<b>March 16—Lenten Weekday</b> Our Faithful Departed
<b>Tuesday,</b> 6:45 A.M.	<b>March 17—Lenten Weekday</b> Sandee Johnson—Pat Madison
<b>Wednesday,</b> 6:45 A.M.	<b>March 18—Lenten Weekday</b> Marry Lissy—Ann Gresock
<b>Thursday,</b> 6:45 A.M.	<b>March 19—Lenten Weekday</b> Living & deceased members of the 6:45 am mass family
<b>Friday,</b> 6:45 A.M.	<b>March 20—Lenten Weekday</b> Our Faithful Departed
<b>Saturday,</b> 5:00 P.M.	<b>March 21—Lenten Weekday</b> George & Theresa Ketchum—Ketchum family
<b>Sunday,</b> 8:30 A.M. 10:30 A.M.	<b>March 22 Fifth Sunday of Lent</b> Teri Guardi—Bob Casimir Kujawski—his children

### Pastor’s Perspective continued:

Two things are important to remember when celebrating the individual form of the Sacrament of Penance. First, don’t worry about the order of the service, the priest is there to guide you through. Your responsibility is to know your sins and truly be sorry for them. Second, and perhaps most important, is to remember that the mercy and forgiveness of God are waiting for you, even before you decided to celebrate this sacrament. The purpose of this sacrament is an opportunity to encounter Christ and to receive the merciful and loving forgiveness that Christ offers you.

I hope this has been helpful to you as we prepare to celebrate the diocesan “**Day of Penance and Mercy**” on **Tuesday, March 24th**.

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

Fr. L.





**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 who 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](mailto:smomc@dor.org)
- Parish Web Site.....[www.StMaryOurMother.com](http://www.StMaryOurMother.com)
- St. Mary Our Mother School**
- 811 Westlake Street .....(607)-739-9157
- E-mail.....[smoms@dor.org](mailto:smoms@dor.org)
- School Web Site.....[www.stmaryourmother.school](http://www.stmaryourmother.school)
- Religious Education Office**
- 816 West Broad Street .....(607)-739-8214

**ST. MARY OUR MOTHER SCHOOL:****Back by Popular Demand – Doug’s Fish Fry Food Truck!**

We are excited to announce that Doug’s Fish Fry Food Truck will be returning to St. Mary Our Mother Church parking lot on Friday, March 20th, during Lent, from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

This is a fantastic opportunity to support our school while enjoying a delicious fish fry! Doug’s Fish Fry has been a favorite in our community, and last year they sold out quickly—so be sure to arrive early to get yours.

All proceeds benefit St. Mary Our Mother School, helping us continue to provide a nurturing and enriching environment for our students. Whether you’re grabbing a quick lunch or picking up dinner for your family, this is a wonderful way to combine a Lenten meal with support for our school.

We hope to see many of our parishioners and school families there—let’s make this another successful day of community, generosity, and great food!

Blessings,

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

**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.

**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.

**GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEP-ER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE**

If you are like me, it’s easy to fixate on our shadows: failures, guilt, shame. Especially when we suffer, it is easy to want to blame ourselves or others. In this week’s Gospel, Jesus’ disciples ask about the blind man, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents?” (John 9:2) They, like us, focus on blame. But Jesus sees the entire situation differently: “Neither he nor his parents sinned; it is so that the works of God might be made visible through him.” He does not deny sin, but he sees deeper — through the light of mercy, not the lens of judgment. The scene hinges on Jesus’ strange claim: “I am the light of the world” (John 9:5). He sees things differently than everyone. They see shadows and light. He is the light.

Thought experiment: imagine you are the sun looking at everything on the earth. What do you see? Everything. What do you not see? Shadows. Everything is illuminated. If you see it, it is illuminated. For the light, nothing is dark.

Because he is the light, Jesus sees us in the glow of his redemptive love. Even our sin becomes a place where his glory can shine. The man’s healing is not just about sight — it is about seeing as Christ sees. Lent is not a season of staring into darkness. It is a time to step into the light — to let Christ’s gaze reframe how we see ourselves and one another.

Lenten challenge: Spend 10 quiet minutes this week asking Jesus to show you how he sees you. Not through shame or fear, but through the light of his mercy.

— Father John Muir

**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.

# Lynch

**Funeral Home Inc.**  
318 W. Broad Street Horseheads, NY 14845  
607-739-1301

James J. Lynch II - Licensed Funeral Director  
Heather Ann Lynch - Licensed Funeral Director  
Family Owned and Operated by James J. Lynch II  
[www.lynchfuneralhome.com](http://www.lynchfuneralhome.com) • [jlynch4@stny.rr.com](mailto:jlynch4@stny.rr.com)

739-0489  
**H HALE**  
ROOFING  
COMMERCIAL ROOFING,  
CRANE SERVICE & SHEET METAL  
2054 Grand Central Ave., Horseheads, NY

**TERRY ELECTRIC**  
Fast Professional Service with Reasonable Rates  
Paul Terry - Over 30 Years Experience  
Residential or Commercial  
Quality Work • Fully Insured • Free Estimates  
607-739-4484 • 607-857-5429

**GEROULD'S**  
PROFESSIONAL PHARMACIES, INC.  
'PRESCRIPTION DELIVERY SERVICE'  
130 S. Main St. • 733-6696  
215 Hoffman St. • 732-0597  
2887 Westinghouse Rd. • 796-2193  
98 W. Pulteney • 936-3233

*Yee Olde*  
**HICKORY HOUSE**  
RESTAURANT  
American, Chinese & Italian Cuisine  
New Hours: Open Monday-Saturday 4pm-11pm  
739-2405 • 3543 Watkins Rd, Horseheads

  
**SULLIVAN'S**  
FUNERAL HOME  
607-739-2035  
Kevin R. Sullivan  
Licensed Funeral Director  
365 E. Franklin St. | Horseheads, NY

  
Italian Family Restaurant  
Village Plaza • Horseheads, NY • 796-2677  
Minier's Plaza • Big Flats, NY • 562-7000  
Amot Mall Food Court • Horseheads, NY • 739-4641

  
Four Seasons Travel  
of Elmira, LLC  
319 W. Church St. • Elmira, NY  
Call Julius Carozza, Parishioner  
(607) 733-8111  
[Fourseasonstravel.com](http://Fourseasonstravel.com)

  
**Alsworth Capital**  
Management, LLC  
Investment Management • Tax Planning  
Insurance Planning • Estate Planning  
Financial Planning  
(607) 973-2665  
[www.AlsworthCapital.com](http://www.AlsworthCapital.com)

  
Plumbing  
Heating  
Electric  
AC/R  
[www.bcinc.info](http://www.bcinc.info) 562-2023

Never miss our bulletin!  
Get this bulletin delivered straight to your inbox every week.  
  
Scan to subscribe on [parishesonline.com](http://parishesonline.com)

  
**ADT-Monitored Home Security**  
Get 24-Hour Protection From a Name You Can Trust  
833-287-3502  
• Burglary • Flood Detection  
• Fire Safety • Carbon Monoxide  


FAITHFULLY SERVING OUR PARISH COMMUNITY  
  
**BARBER**  
FUNERAL HOME  
413 SOUTH MAIN STREET, HORSEHEADS, NEW YORK 14845-2490  
(607) 739-4801 • [INFO@BARBERFUNERALHOME.COM](mailto:INFO@BARBERFUNERALHOME.COM)  
FAMILY OWNED & OPERATED FOR NEARLY  
100 YEARS OF COMFORT, CONCERN, & SERVICE

  
607-739-5321  
...Of Course!  
Wedding Gowns, Tuxedo & Prom Gowns  
Mother of the Bride/Groom Gowns  
819 South Main St. in Horseheads

  
**PARMENTER**  
Tire, Auto and Truck Service • Team Tiremasters  
[www.parmenterinc.com](http://www.parmenterinc.com)

"Always working for you...I don't go home, until you go HOME!"  
  
**(Lenora) Sue Larson**  
Licensed Associate Real Estate Broker  
ABR/GRI/AHWD  
Cell 607-731-2831  
  
Real Estate Services  
215 WEST CHURCH ST.  
ELMIRA, NY 14901

Advertise Here!  
Contact Chris Reeves  
[creeves@4LPi.com](mailto:creeves@4LPi.com) | (800) 950-9952 x6206

  
2058 College Ave, Elmira Heights, NY  
(607) 734-1492  
Your Neighborhood Destination for  
Heartfelt Gifts and Beautiful Cards!

Call today for a free estimate  
607.527.3256  
  
**ELLIOTT**  
CONSTRUCTION SERVICES, LLC  
RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL SITE WORK  
EXCAVATION • SITE DEVELOPMENT • ASPHALT  
CONCRETE: PADS, SIDEWALKS, RETAINING WALLS & FOUNDATIONS  
SEPTIC SYSTEM INVESTIGATION & INSTALLATION • UTILITY WORK  
GRAVEL, STONE, & TOPSOIL DELIVERIES  
CO. RTE. 125, CAMPBELL, NY 14821  
[WWW.ELLIOTTCS.COM](http://WWW.ELLIOTTCS.COM)

  
ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS SINCE 1972  
607-734-6106  
[www.bouilleelectric.com](http://www.bouilleelectric.com)