



# 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 22, 2026

## 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday OF LENT



Jesus told her, "I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" She said to him, "Yes, Lord. I have come to believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who is coming into the world." - Jn 11:25-27

**WEEKLY CALENDAR:**

**Tuesday, March 24**  
*Diocesan Day of Penance & Mercy*  
 11:30 a.m.—Sacrament of Penance—(until 2:00 p.m.) - church  
 3:00 p.m.—Sacrament of Penance—(until 5:30 p.m.) - church

**Thursday, March 26**  
 7:00 p.m.—Adult Choir Rehearsal—Church

**Saturday, March 28**  
 3:30 p.m.—Sacrament of Penance—Church

**2026 LENT/HOLY WEEK/ EASTER SCHEDULE**

**DAILY MASSES**  
**Monday thru Friday:** 6:45 a.m.

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS**  
**Wednesday, April 1, 2026**  
 1:15 p.m.—*Living Stations with St. Mary Our Mother School*  
 5:15 p.m.—*Living Stations with St. Mary Our Mother School*

**SACRAMENT OF PENANCE**  
 3:30 p.m.—Saturday, April 4

**PALM SUNDAY OF THE LORD’S PASSION**  
*Masses will follow the regular Sunday schedule*

**HOLY THURSDAY, APRIL 2, 2026**  
 9:00 a.m.—Morning Prayer—Chapel  
 7:00 p.m.—Solemn Liturgy of the Lord’s Last Supper  
*Ritual Washing of Feet at this liturgy*  
 Adoration in Chapel until 9:30 p.m.

**GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 3, 2026**  
 9:00 A.M.—Morning Prayer—Chapel  
 3:00 p.m.—Solemn Liturgy of Good Friday

**HOLY SATURDAY, APRIL 4, 2026**  
 9:00 a.m.—Morning Prayer—Chapel  
 9:30 a.m.—Easter Vigil OCIA Rehearsal  
 7:00 p.m.—Easter Vigil Liturgy

**EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 5, 2026**  
 8:30 a.m.—Easter Liturgy  
 10:30 a.m.—Easter Liturgy

**Stewardship**

Weekly Contribution for week ending **3/15/2026**  
 Totaled.....\$7,050.50

**IN THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

Patricia Pasquale  
 Diane Lepkowski

**Blessing for New Life**

God, in Your goodness, restore our hope.

Where we feel imprisoned, break our chains.

Where we feel discouraged, bring us light.

Where the ground feels dry,  
 break through with life anew.

Amen.

**Faith, Explained!**

“Nobody reaches God’s presence until he has learned to believe that God exists, and that he rewards those who try to find him.” (Hebrews 11:6)

So how do we learn to believe? Through the theological virtue of faith — which is “man’s response to God, who reveals himself and gives himself to man.” (CCC 26). Faith, then, is embarking on the journey to find God. By faith “man freely commits his entire self to God.’ For this reason, the believer seeks to know and do God's will.” (CCC 1814)

But it is not enough for faith to simply be within us, as a lit match burns in a dark room. We are compelled to fan those flames. We must encourage them with the complementary virtues of hope and love, and we must ask the Holy Spirit for the gift of understanding so that our faith will grow and strengthen.

**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.



### PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE:

Our parish bulletin, for the last few weeks have been printing information concerning the diocesan-wide "*Day of Penance and Mercy*," this **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.** In recent years, there seems to be fewer people taking advantage of this sacrament, but I haven't noticed an equal drop-off of sin.

The following may be a few reasons why people might be avoiding this sacrament, with some short responses added.

**Reason 1:** "*I haven't been to individual confession in years? I don't know what to do?*" No problem; just ask the priest to guide you through it.

**Reason 2:** "*I prefer to confess my sins directly to God and be forgiven; I don't need to go to confession.*" Our sins not only offend God, but also disrupt our relationships with everyone else. We need to be reconciled with God, the Church, and all people through this sacrament.

**Reason 3:** "*I don't know what to confess anymore!*" Do a quick examination of conscience, and ask yourself: How holy and good are my relationships with God, myself, the people around me everyday and the wider world in which I live? Be honest and thorough with yourself, and you will know what to confess.

**Reason 4:** "*I am embarrassed to mention my sins to another person, to say nothing of a priest I may see at my parish, school, and community events.*" Chances are pretty good the priest won't remember what you confessed—trust me on this!! Please remember that the priest cannot say a word about it or let it color his thinking outside the confessional. But there is something reassuring to have the personal assurance from a priest that God forgives you!

**Reason 5:** "*I find myself confessing the same sins over and over again!*" Welcome to the human race! That is why we need forgiveness over and over again. It is also a reminder to us that God gives us mercy over and over again!

**Reason 6:** "*I may need more than just a few minutes for spiritual direction about my sins.*" If this is the case, you can always make an appointment with a priest to discuss the state of your spiritual life. The sacrament was never intended to be an opportunity for individual counseling and therapy.

**Reason 7:** "*I am afraid of shocking the priest!*" Really? Try me!

**Reason 8:** "*I am afraid that the priest will ask me to change my life.*" If there is something that is wrong in a person's life, change will be needed. The priest may make

### MASSES FOR THE WEEK:

<b>Monday,</b> 6:45 A.M.	<b>March 23—Lenten Weekday</b> Our Faithful Departed
<b>Tuesday,</b> 6:45 A.M.	<b>March 24—Lenten Weekday</b> Our Faithful Departed
<b>Wednesday,</b> 6:45 A.M.	<b>March 25—The Annunciation of the Lord</b> Living & deceased members of the 6:45 am mass family
<b>Thursday,</b> 6:45 A.M.	<b>March 26—Lenten Weekday</b> Our Faithful Departed
<b>Friday,</b> 6:45 A.M.	<b>March 27—Lenten Weekday</b> Our Faithful Departed
<b>Saturday,</b> 5:00 P.M.	<b>March 28—Lenten Weekday</b> Roberta & Raymond Howard—the Ketchum family
<b>Sunday,</b> 8:30 A.M. 10:30 A.M.	<b>March 29—Palm Sunday</b> Linda Burke—The Fairbrothers Deceased members of the Stermer family—Family

### Pastor's Perspective continued:

Some suggestions to you, but it will be the Holy Spirit, not the priest, asking you to do so.

During our Parish Retreat in 2013, **Father Simeon Gallagher, O.F.M., Cap.**, offered a very practical summary for a person preparing for the Sacrament of Penance. Father Gallagher's approach included four steps: **Step 1: Name it;** (*name the sin*); **Step 2: Claim it** (*admit/claim ownership of the sin*); **Step 3: Tame it** (*open yourself to God's grace*); **Step 4: Aim it:** (*go forth living a life renewed*).

I hope these insights are helpful as we prepare to celebrate the Diocese Day of Penance on Wednesday of this week.

Have a great fourth week of Lent. See you in church!

Fr. L.

### 5th Sunday of Lent

Are you asleep?

Today Jesus is called to the grave of a dear friend who had recently died. Martha cries out that if Jesus were closer, her brother Lazarus would not have died.

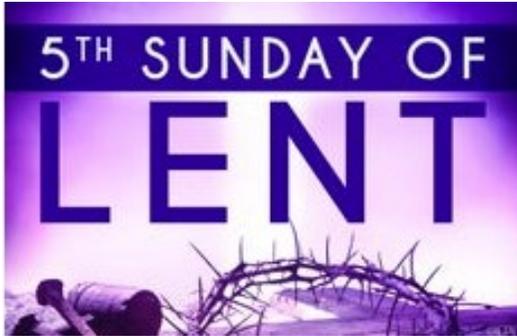
Remember from the First Sunday in Lent that death and sin are connected and that life is seen as living a faith-filled life? That is what is happening in this Gospel. Living as a disciple of Christ can give us the ability for a life everlasting in the presence of God.

What in our lives needs to be uncovered, as Lazarus is unwrapped of his burial clothes and returned to live with his loved ones?

As we move closer to Easter Sunday, let us ask God to unwrap or unbind that which needs to be healed so that we may live a life that is pleasing to God.

**MASS INTENTIONS**

The 2026 Mass Book is now open. There are many 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:****Teacher Conference Day**

On Monday, March 23rd, our teachers will come together for a special Teacher Conference Day and Retreat, a time to reflect, collaborate, and grow as a team. The day will begin with a prayer service, grounding our work in faith and gratitude.

Following the prayer, our teachers will participate in team-building activities designed to strengthen community and collaboration within our school. There will also be dedicated time to work in classrooms and collaborate on curriculum planning, ensuring our students continue to receive the best possible learning experiences.

After gathering for a shared lunch, our staff will head to the Food Bank of the Southern Tier to give back to the wider community through service. This special day balances reflection, professional growth, and community outreach, embodying the spirit of St. Mary Our Mother School.

We are grateful for our dedicated teachers and the example they set for our students through both learning and service.

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.

**Everyday Stewardship**

When I am driving throughout the United States, I enjoy seeing the billboards that dot the highways speaking for God. A couple of my favorites: "Life is short. Eternity is not. --God"; and "Let's meet at my house this Sunday, before the game. --God." God must have a pretty big advertising budget because he has billboards in pretty much every state!

One billboard I saw read, "You asked God for a sign, and here it is!" After a chuckle, I realized that we are always looking for a sign. We say we believe, but sometimes, we act like we just want to be sure.

In the Gospels, Jesus performs miracles and healings so that people would believe. The healing of Lazarus was surely a profound moment for all who were there. Jesus was able to show that he has power over even death itself, a foreshadowing to his resurrection that will occur in the not too distant future. For all who doubt, be assured that Jesus is the giver of life. He has given living water to the woman at the well, sight to the blind, and now has raised a man from the grave.

As Easter draws ever closer, how many more signs do you need? What else can Jesus do to convince you that his call on your life comes from the source of all life? As the US Bishops' pastoral letter on stewardship lays out, we have been challenged, we are asked to choose, and then our lives will be transformed. May all the signs of God around us, even billboards on the side of the road, move us to choose a path of giving of ourselves like Jesus.

**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

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