



ST. MARY OUR MOTHER CHURCH

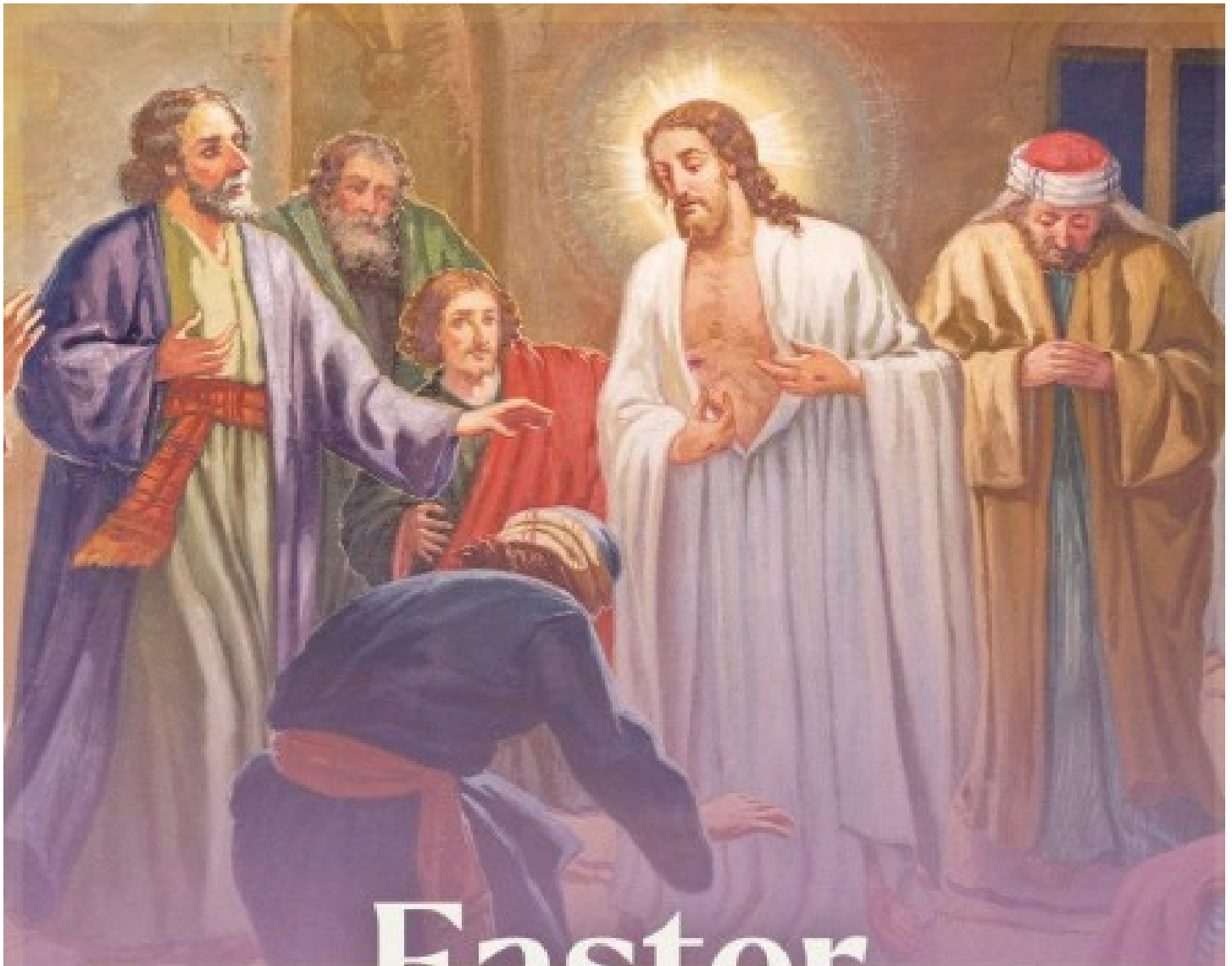
MISSION STATEMENT

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

April 5, 2026



Easter

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Saturday, April 11th

3:30 p.m.—Sacrament of Penance—Church

EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION
OF THE LORD

There are many stones in our paths that keep us from truly living and being free. Some of these boulders have been there for a very long time. They have been there so long that they have even settled into the soil of our lives with other weeds, vines, and compacted soil keeping them firmly in place. We find them hard to move and trying to do so can be exhausting. What are these suffocating albatrosses that keep us so tethered and immobile? They are many things.

They are past childhood wounds and hurts that stem from disappointment, rejection, or abuse. People may have told us we were unwanted, that the world is frightening, that there are only some acceptable feelings you can have and others you cannot. We may have tried to love someone or struggled to figure out how and were met with rejection. Maybe we trusted someone completely and were betrayed. We come to life collecting barnacles that begin to attach to other barnacles and before you know it, we have a mass of solid matter blocking our vision and keeping us from moving. We live in fear. We are afraid of losing what we have, afraid that the future will be empty, afraid that we won't succeed and even more afraid that we will not be loved. There is so much fear. Didn't Jesus tell us not to worry and to not be afraid? Either we believe in the message of Easter, or we don't!

Go confidently into the night. Walking with God you will find the light and strength you need. Often without even knowing, God will move those boulders and stumbling blocks that bind us and, with putting one foot in front of the other and looking forward, we will move. The resurrection of Christ is really all about receiving the gifts of trust and faith and doing new things. The rocks that bind us keep us spinning the same wheels and doing the same things. When was the last time you threw caution to the wind and actually did something totally out of character and different? This is where we find God, in the spontaneous, the adventurous, the fun, and the creative choices we make! God is not boring and stuck. God is exciting and engaging. Jesus Christ is risen from the dead! Find a way to

CATHOLIC TRIVIA – JUST FOR FUN

Question: What is the name of the patron saint of travelers and lost items?

Stewardship

Unavailable due to early bulletin submission

IN THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Wine & Hosts

The Sacramental Wine and the Eucharistic hosts for the week of April 5-11 have been donated in memory of **Joseph Higgins** by Jane & Joe Gallagher.

PASCHAL CANDLE

Our Paschal candle for Easter this year has been donated in loving memory of **Anthony Palladino** by Suzanne Blanchard.

PALMS

The palms for this past Palm Sunday have been donated in loving memory of **Bob Kosty** by his wife, Marianne.

Easter

Question:

Why is the Easter season so long? And should we be doing something special for it?

Answer:

You've probably noticed the priest continuing to wear white vestments at the Sunday liturgy. While we celebrated Christ's resurrection several weeks ago, the Easter season extends fifty days — just over seven weeks — from Easter Sunday to Pentecost. For most of that time — about six weeks — Jesus is still with the disciples, teaching and encouraging them. The Easter season isn't just a celebration of when Jesus is with us. At the Last Supper, Jesus promised to send an "advocate" or "counselor" when he left. At the Ascension, he directs the disciples to await "power from on high" — the coming of the Holy Spirit. The Ascension completes the Paschal Mystery, beginning with Jesus' suffering and death and continuing in the resurrection. But the Holy Spirit ushers in a new era for the Church.

After spending weeks in prayer, fasting, and service during Lent, it may seem odd that we don't widely have similar practices for Easter. That doesn't mean you can't embrace the season! Commit to taking moments of little joy throughout the weeks, like random acts of kindness towards others. Consider reading the Acts of the Apostles to learn more about the early Church or picking up an Easter devotional to pray with. He is still risen indeed!

PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE:

Happy Easter! We are delighted to have you join us this Easter weekend! If you are a long standing parishioner, new to the church, visiting our area, or coming to Mass for the first time in a long time, we welcome you. On behalf of the staff of our parish and school, we hope you feel welcome and “at home” at St. Mary Our Mother!

There is no day to compare with Easter Sunday. It stands out from the conflicts and turmoil of our world; it lifts our mind and hearts with a joy and love so complete that it conquers death. Early that first Easter morning, a mighty act of God took place—Christ rose from the dead, changing the past and shaping the future. Nothing can be the same again. This makes Easter the primary day of the entire Church year. Everything that we believe as Christians stems from the Easter event. Easter reminds us that there is a way out of darkness, transformation is possible, and change can take place in our lives.

Easter reminds us that death is not the final answer or the end of us. We are meant for more than the present life and are not anchored to this world. Human life is not limited to the cycle of birth to death. Easter is the answer to the tears that are shed at the graves of our loved ones as it reminds us that we have a future greater than the one we believe in, provided we open our hearts to the grace that the resurrected Jesus won for us. Christ has shared the gift of life with us, and his resurrection from the dead points to the resurrection of all people.

The Easter event is the turning point inviting us to live an entirely new way that goes beyond the limits of this world. Each of us is challenged to become part of a new creation, inspired by the life of God given to each of us at baptism. Life depends on a person's perspective. At times, life can seem like a series of Good Fridays, an empty tomb, full of bitterness and confusion. There are also times when life is full of joy, hope, and endless possibilities. The challenge facing each of us is to appreciate God and to see God's plan in the events that surround our lives. This can be done if we remain faithful to our baptismal promises, and are aware of God's grace and presence in our lives.

The gospel for Easter tells us that the stone at the entrance to Christ's tomb has been rolled away. The question that is before each of us is: *Have I risen to the new life of Christ, or are all the stones of one kind or another still weighing me down and keeping me imprisoned: difficult relationships, disappointments, sorrows, losses, reflections, and so on?* The good news of Easter is that the boulders, stones, and restraints that weigh on us have been rolled away by the power of Jesus' resurrection. The tomb of Christ is empty; Jesus lives; and as people who share in life, we live as well.

The alleluias we sing today and throughout the fifty days of Easter are acclamations of great gladness and joy that Jesus is risen, and the hope of our resurrection as well. The joy and enthusiasm of Easter cannot be limited to a single day; this is the reason we continue to celebrate the joy

MASSES FOR THE WEEK:

Monday, 6:45 A.M.	April 6-Monday Within the Octave of Easter <i>No Mass</i>
Tuesday, 6:45 A.M.	April 7-Tuesday Within the Octave of Easter Pamela Smart Eldred—Virginia & Brendan Curtis
Wednesday, 6:45 A.M.	April 8-Wednesday Within the Octave of Easter Living & deceased members of the 6:45AM Mass family
Thursday, 6:45 A.M.	April 9-Thursday Within the Octave of Easter Deceased members of the Mills family— family
Friday, 6:45 A.M.	April 10-Friday Within the Octave of Easter Special Intentions—Ann LeMark
Saturday, 5:00 P.M.	April 11-Saturday Within the Octave of Easter Teri Guardi—Bob
Sunday, 8:30 A.M. 10:30 A.M.	April 12-Second Sunday of Easter Jennette Berretta—Chris Lloyd Christina O'Herron Regula—Mom, MaryAnn

Pastor's Perspective continued:

of Easter Sunday for fifty days!

The entire staff of St. Mary Our Mother parish and school join me in wishing you a very blessed, happy, and joyous Easter! Please continue to take care of yourself and each other!

Fr. L.

PARISH OFFICES CLOSED

The **Parish Offices** will be closed on **Monday, April 6th** in observance of Easter. The offices will re-open on **Tuesday, April 7th, at 9:00 a.m.**



CATHOLIC TRIVIA – JUST FOR FUN

Answer: St. Anthony of Padua

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.

RICE BOWL DONATIONS

Please turn in your Rice Bowl donations on Easter or the week after to the Church basket or at the parish office. Your donation can be inside your Rice Bowl or for easier handling as a check in a clearly marked envelope. Thank you for your participation in our Lenten almsgiving project.

While It Is Still Dark

If you are a person who is religious in any way, chances are that at some point, someone has asked you to give a reason why.

I meet lots of people who identify as spiritual but not religious, lots of people who are more comfortable splashing in the shallow end of belief but hesitating to wade into the more uncertain depths of doctrine. So when they ask the question “Why do you believe what you believe?” it usually comes out as “Why do you go to church?”

They want to know why I come to this specific place at this specific time. What am I expecting to happen?

We read that Mary Magdalene went to the tomb “while it was still dark.” I imagine she could not sleep. She was traumatized. Grieving. Confused. Angry, perhaps. Doubting? Maybe. It’s possible. We cannot know what was in her heart.

We only know what she did. We only know where she went. And we know that it was dark, that the light of Easter’s dawn had not yet pierced the sky.

Often, I am grieving when I go to church, or angry, or confused, or all three. I have gone many times with a doubting and resentful heart.

Because, you see, it is still dark. The dawn of eternity, which will illuminate all understanding, has not yet even begun to creep across my horizon.

My answer to the question, when I am asked, is that I go to church — to Catholic Mass, specifically — for the same reason Mary Magdalene went to the tomb. I go because it is the last place I saw Christ, and I am desperate to see him again.

**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:**Celebrating Easter at St. Mary Our Mother School**

This Easter weekend, we joyfully celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord, a time of hope, renewal, and new beginnings. Our students have been immersed in the true meaning of Easter through prayer, acts of service, and heartfelt lessons in faith and compassion. Each week leading up to Easter, our students participated in the Stations of the Cross, reflecting on Christ's journey with reverence and understanding, bringing the story of His sacrifice and love to life in our classrooms.

We are incredibly grateful to our dedicated teachers, staff, and parish community for creating a school environment where faith, learning, and service are nurtured together. It is inspiring to witness our students living out the Gospel in meaningful ways every day.

Reminder: St. Mary Our Mother School will be on Easter Break from Thursday, April 2nd through Friday, April 10th. We look forward to welcoming our students back on Monday, April 13th!

Wishing all our families a blessed, joyful, and hope-filled Easter!

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.

The WOUNDED HEALERS' BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP meeting will be offered on Tuesday, April 14, 2026 at 7:00 p.m., 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."

Christine Lloyd, 607-796-2795

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.

**Come to Christ**

Life is perhaps God's greatest gift to each of us. Without life, we would be unable to experience all the wonder of this world, the love of family and friends, and the joy that comes from using our talents and skills. Life itself is more profound a gift than we can even truly contemplate. On Easter, we celebrate life. For on this day, Jesus Christ conquered death and gave to us the chance for a life eternal. The wonder, love, and joy of this world does not have to end. Through a life in Jesus Christ, these emotions are heightened, and we find even greater fulfillment in this world.

Maybe this Easter you are finding yourself open to taking a next step in your relationship with Jesus. This could be the moment you decide to follow Him more closely and take seriously all that he has given you. If so, welcome to the journey, where there are many other disciples on that same path who can help show you the way and share their stories. If not, hopefully it doesn't take a whole year for this possibility to be considered again. Jesus is alive and waiting to get closer to you. May this Easter season find you and Our Lord getting to know one another in a whole new way. Happy Easter!

—Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

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