



# ST. MARY OUR MOTHER CHURCH

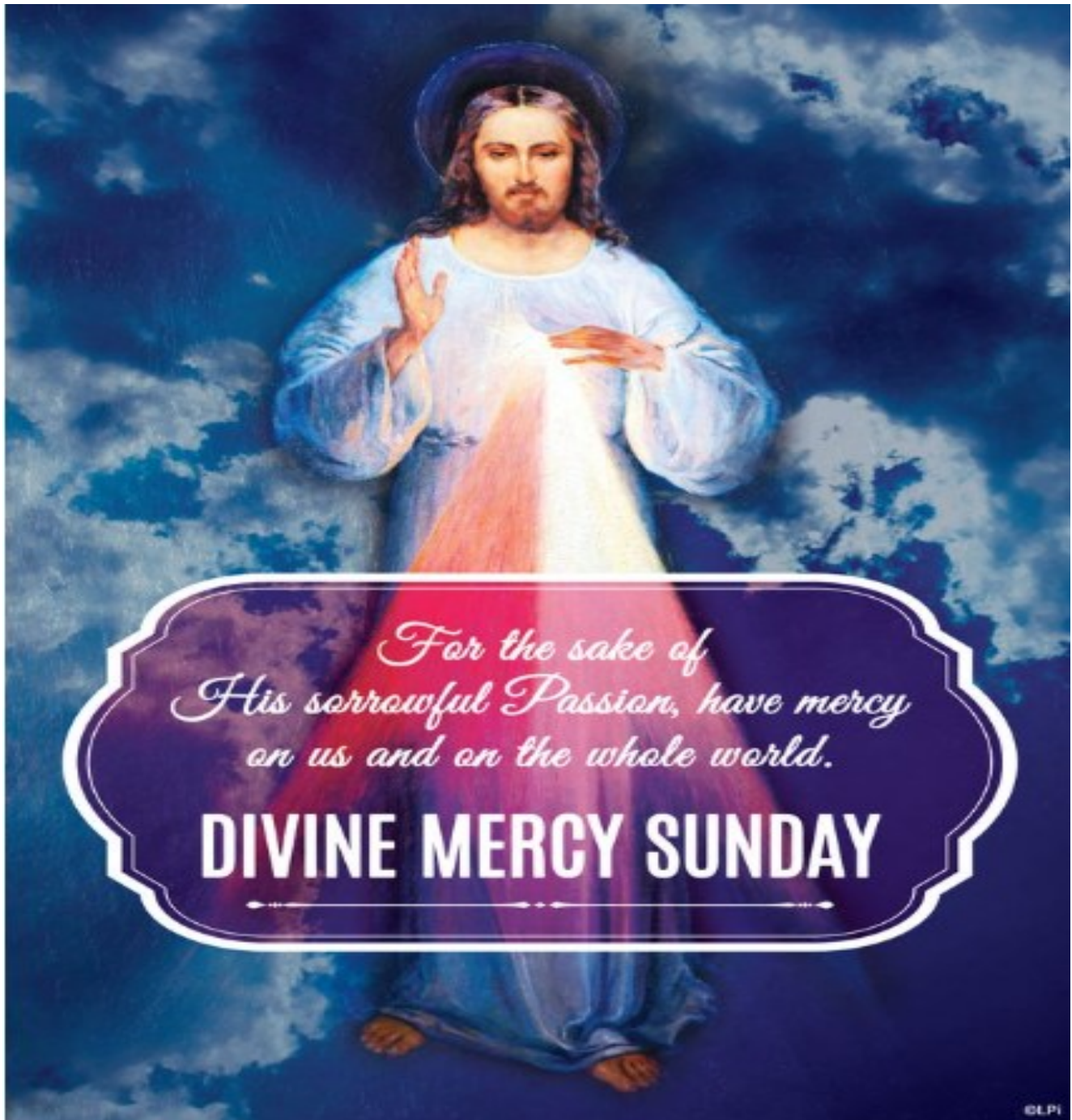
## *MISSION STATEMENT*

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 12, 2026



## WEEKLY CALENDAR

**Tuesday, April 14**

4:00 p.m.—Faith Formation Classes—School  
 7:00 p.m.—Wounded Healers Bereavement Support group—School

**Thursday, April 16**

7:00 p.m.—Adult Choir Rehearsal—Church

**Saturday, April 18th**

3:30 p.m.—Sacrament of Penance—Church



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

“Then he said to Thomas, ‘Put your finger here and see my hands, and bring your hand and put it into my side, and do not be unbelieving, but believe.’” (John 20:27)

In my early 20s, I volunteered at a parish youth group. I witnessed teens encountering Jesus with a fresh, romantic wonder that reminded me of my own teenage conversion. But something had changed in me. I was quietly jaded and cynical. When teens shared stories of encountering Christ, I’d want to sarcastically murmur, “Well, good for you.” I had grown suspicious of the zeal I once knew.

Then we brought the group on a pilgrimage. I was standing in an old church in France, ignoring a long-winded tour guide. I found myself before a crucifix. In that moment, I heard something, not audibly, but unmistakably in my heart: “I came to be your friend... and you wish to be my enemy? Why do you stand far from me? I suffer gladly for you. I was pierced for you. Why do you run from me?” My heart opened. I saw how cold and cynical I had become. But Jesus had not given up on me. He had returned, and his mercy broke through.

So I can relate to the scoffing — and transformation — of Thomas when the Risen Jesus presents his wounds for inspection. Thomas is not simply doubting; he is guarded, suspicious, even cynical. But Jesus comes to him. No lecture. Just understanding and mercy. He invites Thomas to touch his wounds. This burns away his cynicism like the morning mist.

**Divine Mercy Challenge:** This week, rejoice with someone who is newly alive in faith. If your own heart has grown skeptical or tired, ask Jesus to help you. He will.

— Father John Muir

### Stewardship

Unavailable due to Easter Holiday

### IN THE PEACE OF CHRIST

**Patricia Cantando**

### Sanctuary Candle

The Sanctuary Candle burning before the Blessed Sacrament for the week of April—12-18th has been donated in loving memory of *Ann Barcomb* by Gene and Nancy

### Divine Mercy Sunday

#### Question:

Where did the feast of Divine Mercy come from?

#### Answer:

If you were born well before the year 2000, you know the feast of Divine Mercy has not always been celebrated in the Church. In the early 1900s, a young Polish nun began receiving private revelations. Jesus appeared to her during her times of prayer, speaking a message of mercy and love for the world. She received a set of prayers — the Divine Mercy Chaplet — and the request to have a feast day established to remind the Church of the mercy of God. St. Faustina died in 1938, on the cusp of war and in the midst of one of the most violent centuries in the history of the world.

Her story and her diaries began circulating in Poland and beyond. It quickly became apparent that this was a holy young woman, and the cause for her canonization opened. In the year 2000, she was canonized by the first-ever Polish pope, St. John Paul II. On her canonization day, he established the second Sunday of Easter as Divine Mercy Sunday, “a perennial invitation to the Christian world to face, with confidence in divine benevolence, the difficulties and trials that mankind with experience in the years to come.”

### Fortitude, Explained!

“When you go out to war against your enemies and you see horses and chariots and an army greater than your own, you shall not be afraid of them,” we read in Deuteronomy 20:1. “For the Lord, your God...will be with you.”

The virtue of fortitude actually requires, first and foremost, the feeling of fear. In order to grow in fortitude, one must face a thing which frightens him; in that way, it is distinct from patience and perseverance. Christ shows perfect fortitude as he endures his Passion and death, of which he was indeed afraid; it is likewise shown by martyrs. But fortitude doesn’t require a cinematic battle. Fortitude can be shown by someone who is afraid of losing his job or of being in bodily danger simply for adhering to the laws of God. What is important is that the courage shown is in pursuit of the good, not just bearing with an attack.

### PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE:

It is my hope that you and your family enjoyed a very Blessed and Happy Easter! I was edified by the many people who joined us for Holy Week and Easter liturgies. Hopefully, this is a good sign of people feeling very comfortable and experiencing a sense of welcome and hospitality when they join us for worship at St. Mary Our Mother!

A popular devotion of many people during the season of Lent is praying the **Stations of the Cross**, a prayer that invites us to focus on the Way of the Cross, on the last hours of Jesus prior to his crucifixion and death. The following is a reflection of the Stations of the Cross authored by **Father Peter Cameron, O.P.**, which uses the format of the Stations of the Cross to reflect on the **Resurrection and Mercy of God**. Since this is the Second Sunday of Easter, sometimes referred to as Divine Mercy Sunday, I thought today would be a good time to offer these to you. I believe you will find these reflections quite insightful.

**First Station: *Jesus rises from the Dead.*** *At your rising the peace, the forgiveness, the display of Your wounds are healing and mercy for me.*

**Second Station: *The Disciples find the Empty Tomb.*** *The emptiness inside of me is crushing sore. The mercy of your empty tomb frees me and fills me.*

**Third Station: *Jesus appears to Mary of Magdala.*** *To a frantic Mary who wants to carry away your body, you appear in Risen mercy to carry her away.*

**Fourth Station: *Jesus walks with the disciples to Emmaus.*** *To the two discouraged disciples your mercy appears as a sudden accompaniment. Walk with me!*

**Fifth Station: *Jesus reveals himself to the Breaking of the Bread.*** *All that our heart craves abides in the Last Supper bread breaking. Break through my forgetfulness!*

**Sixth Station: *Jesus appears to the Disciples.*** *You appear in your humanity: eating, consoling, ridding fear. By your mercy, help me to be more human.*

**Seventh Station: *Jesus confers on His Disciples the Power to Forgive Sins.*** *You give, not the ability to live without sinning, but the power to forgive sin—the greatest mercy!*

**Eighth Station: *Jesus Confirms Thomas in Faith.*** *In your mercy, doubt will not gain the upper hand. Touching the wound in your hand reclaims us.*

**Ninth Station: *Jesus appears to His Disciples on the Shore of Lake Galilee.*** *When we are adrift and dispirited, you come as a surprise, cooking us breakfast, calling us “children.”*

**Tenth Station: *Jesus Confirms Primary of Peter.*** *The unity of the Church needs you to provide in the successor of Peter, it's visible source and foundation.*

### MASSES FOR THE WEEK:

<b>Monday,</b> 6:45 A.M.	<b>April 13-Easter Weekday</b> Deceased members of the Madison & Healy families—Pat Madison
<b>Tuesday,</b> 6:45 A.M.	<b>April 14-Easter Weekday</b> Deceased Curtin Family—Family
<b>Wednesday,</b> 6:45 A.M.	<b>April 15-Easter Weekday</b> Frank Navone—His wife, Mary
<b>Thursday,</b> 6:45 A.M.	<b>April 16-Easter Weekday</b> Sandee Johnson—Pat Madison
<b>Friday,</b> 6:45 A.M.	<b>April 17-Easter Weekday</b> Bob Kosty—Marianne
<b>Saturday,</b> 5:00 P.M.	<b>April 18-Easter Weekday</b> John Bennett—Wife Michele & Family
<b>Sunday,</b> 8:30 A.M. 10:30 A.M.	<b>April 19-Third Sunday of Easter</b> Bob Lantzy—Wife Lois and Family Eddie Jadoski—his Family

### Pastor's Perspective continued:

**Eleventh Station: *Jesus Entrusts his Disciples with the Universal Mission.*** *I believe because of Christian witnesses who shared their faith. Make me a missionary of mercy!*

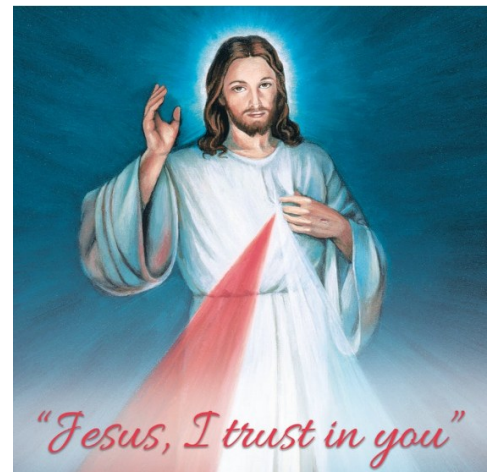
**Twelfth Station: *Jesus ascends into Heaven.*** *You ascend in your humanity to heaven to give us access to the Father's house and to God's life.*

**Thirteenth Station: *Mary and the Disciples await the Holy Spirit's Pentecost.*** *Thank you for the gift of the One who reminds us of all you said and who forms us in the life of prayer.*

**Fourteenth Station: *Jesus sends the Spirit promised by the Father to his Disciples.*** *Lost though we are in a state of deformity, the Holy Spirit restores our original beauty and fill us with Grace.*

Have a great week and continue to enjoy these Easter days. Please continue to take care of yourself and each other!

Fr. L.



**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.

**Give Yourself Completely**

The early days of the first Christian community were not easy by any measurement. Jesus had been executed, and his disciples had to be discreet so as not to meet a similar fate. Jesus was now risen, but the truth of his resurrection was not accepted by all. However, the depiction of that early community in Acts 2:42-47 would lead someone to believe it was the opposite situation. We are told of community life where people lean on each other and share great joy. They ate and prayed together, and many wonders and signs were occurring to lift the community and bear witness to the power of Jesus Christ. They were disciples living out their faith, and it was their strong sense of stewardship that made all this possible in the face of threatening Roman and Jewish powers.

Today, we find the Church in a new turmoil. Increasing secularism, abuse scandals, and a lack of true fidelity place us once again in a time that is not easy. A friend of mine likes to say that any challenge of sin we encounter in the Church has its origin in a lack or misunderstanding of the stewardship way of life. We create our burdens by not using our gifts wisely and by turning inward selfishly.

Could we use the story in Acts of the early Church to help us today? If we begin with the decision to give of ourselves completely to God and His people, will we become agents of change? There is only one way to find out.

—Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

**2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER**



**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:****NY State Testing for Grades 3–6**

Our students in grades 3–6 at St. Mary Our Mother School are gearing up to take the New York State ELA tests on Tuesday, April 14th through Wednesday, April 15th. We are excited to see our students showcase their hard work, perseverance, and love of learning, as they demonstrate all the skills and knowledge they have gained this year. These assessments will be completed on computers (CBT Testing) and provide an opportunity for our students to shine academically.

We are proud to share that last year our students excelled in these tests, outperforming all other schools in our area! This achievement reflects the dedication of our talented teachers, the hard work of our students, and the strong support of our families and parish community.

We ask for your prayers and encouragement as our students demonstrate their learning and continue to shine academically. Thank you for supporting their success and celebrating the outstanding work happening here at St. Mary Our Mother School!

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.

**Horseheads Food Pantry**

The Horseheads Food Pantry is very grateful to the people of St. Mary Our Mother community for their long-standing, generous support of the pantry. Their current wish list is below:

- *Brownie mixes and cookie mixes*
- *Saltine or Ritz-style crackers*
- *Jiffy corn muffin mixes*
- *Family size bags or boxes containing individual bags of chips or pretzels*
- *Boxes of cereal*

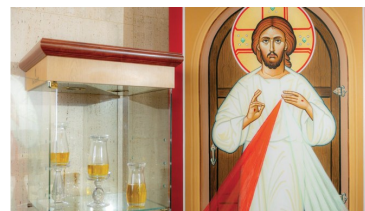
And keep those deposit cans and bottles coming. Thank you so much.

**Divine Mercy Blessing**

Dear Jesus,

May your mercy flow over us,  
filling our gaps and healing our wounds.  
Open our hearts more deeply  
with knowledge of your love for us,  
understanding of the depth of your passion,  
and trust in your never-ending mercy.

Amen.

**Knights of Columbus**

Happy Easter! Due to spring break, our regular meeting will be held on Monday, April 13th in O'Brien Hall. We are planning a day to help clean up the church grounds tentatively on Saturday 4/18/2026. More info will be forthcoming.

# Lynch

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