



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 26, 2026



4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

"I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly." John 10:10

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Tuesday, April 28

4:00 p.m.—Faith Formation Classes—School

Thursday, April 30

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

Saturday, May 2

3:30 p.m.—Sacrament of Penance—Church

Hope is Coming: People of Hope Museum Coming to the Diocese of Rochester

Catholic Charities USA is launching an inspiring new initiative, People of Hope, a nationwide mobile storytelling exhibit debuting in spring 2026. Supported by a major grant from Lilly Endowment Inc., the exhibit brings to life the real stories of volunteers, staff, and community members whose everyday acts of service reflect faith, compassion, and human connection. Through immersive audio and visual experiences, People of Hope celebrates how helping others transforms both those who serve and those they serve.

Housed inside a retrofitted tractor –trailer, the exhibit invites visitors to listen to powerful, professionally recorded stories and even record their own reflections on service, hope, and transformation. Research shows many people feel called to help but aren’t sure how to begin. People of Hope bridges that gap by showing how meaningful, accessible, and fulfilling volunteering can be—and how service builds lasting relationships and stronger communities.

We are excited that People of Hope will visit our region as part of its national tour, stopping in Chemung County on May 4, at St. Mary Our Mother Church in Horseheads, and Rochester on May 7, at St. Marianne Cope Parish at Guardian Angels Church. This is a free, family-friendly experience that offers a chance to reflect, listen, and add your own story to a growing national tapestry of hope.



Catholic Home Missions Appeal

Support the Catholic Home Missions Appeal today! Nearly 40% of dioceses in the United States and its current and former territories are considered mission territories because they are unable to fund essential pastoral activities for their communities. Your support funds religious education, seminary formation, lay ministry training, and other programs that build vibrant faith communities right here in the United States. Please be generous. Find more information at www.usccb.org/home-missions.

Stewardship

Weekly Contribution for week ending 4/12/2026
Totalled.....\$7,798.12

IN THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Stephen Romanki
Mick Rodabaugh

Main Altar Flowers

For April 26-May 3, 2026 have been donated in memory of Eddie Jadoski by his loving family.

The Devil’s Long Con

The algorithm on my streaming service has been suggesting a lot of romantic scam documentaries lately. If you’re not familiar, romantic scams are a particularly cruel form of “the long con.”

Some man presents himself to some woman as Prince Charming. He wines her. He dines her. He charms her mom and makes her friends jealous. Little red flags pop up here and there, but she shrugs them all off. She accepts convenient explanations.

She just wants to be happy.

And then one day, Prince Charming vanishes, along with the contents of the woman’s savings account. Every victim says the same thing: “I should have known better, but I wanted it to be real.”

I think the reason I’m so drawn to these shows is that I identify with these women. No, I’ve never been the victim of a romantic scam (if my husband married me thinking he would gain access to some kind of fortune, he’s the one who got scammed). But we have all told ourselves that something is right because it feels right. We have shrugged off doubts about a choice, a relationship, a habit.

We have accepted easy answers that don’t pass the sniff test — because we really, really wanted an answer, and we really, really wanted it to be easy.

The devil is a romantic scammer. A third-party retailer hawking knock-off joy and fulfillment. A wolf in sheep’s clothing. A false prophet. A thief, a robber who has climbed the fence, knowing the gate will not admit him.

These are all different ways of saying the same thing: we can recognize what is real by where it comes from. What it sounds like. This ability to discern truth is written into our souls. We can ignore it, if we want. Suppress it. We can follow the stranger.

But where will he lead?

PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE:

One of the edifying sights that I have observed are the number of families who are bringing their “little ones” to church on weekends. After all, we often refer to ourselves as a church family, and families have children. Children by their nature are still learning about the times to use their “inside voices” and behaviors. There are times when they need to run around and just be kids. I believe it is very important for families to bring their children to church so that this becomes an important part of their normal life. So parents, continue to bring your children to church. You need not worry about them distracting others, or drowning out the homilists! Most of us have big voices, not to mention amplification systems!

However, if your attempts to settle your little one are unsuccessful, just take them for a short walk to the narthex or vestibule. And for our more “seasoned” members, thank you for your patience and understanding. No one ever knows what another person is going through—health challenges, life struggles or personal crises. Each of us needs to be compassionate, patient, and understanding.

The following is an article which started my thought process on this topic. The author is unknown, but his message is spot on:

There you are sitting at Mass. Your child, or toddler, is restless. Perhaps they are even a little boisterous. You try to silence them, and nothing. You try to pacify them with food or toys, and nothing. Eventually, you resort to the last thing you wanted to do: you pick them up, and before a watching audience, you make the march out of the church. All the while, you're a little embarrassed. Maybe you're a little frustrated too. You might even think to yourself “there is no point in coming to church; I get nothing out of it because I have to constantly care for my kid.”

I want you—you mothers and fathers to know just how encouraging you are to so many. The little elderly woman who often feels alone beams with a smile at the sight of you wrestling with your little one. She's been there before. She knows how hard it can be, but she smiles because to hear that brings her back precious memories. To see young parents and their children brightens her day, and she may have just received bad news this week about her health, but seeing the vitality of your ones removes—if but for a moment—her fears.

The older man who always seems to be grouchy notices you too. He's always talking about how children in this day have no respect or sense of the common good. But, he sees you—a young family—in church, and you don't miss any gathering. Like clockwork, he can depend on the sight of you and your young family. You give him hope that maybe the church isn't doomed after all, because there are still young parents who love God enough to bring their restless children to worship.

Bring your children to church. If you don't hear crying, the church is dying. As hard as it might be for you as a parent who's half-asleep and dead tired, keep on doing

MASSES FOR THE WEEK:

Monday, 6:45 A.M.	April 27 Our Faithful Departed
Tuesday, 6:45 A.M.	April 28 Deceased Curtin family—family
Wednesday, 6:45 A.M.	April 29 Bernardus Hendrani—his family
Thursday, 6:45 A.M.	April 30 Christina O'Herron Regula—Mom, Mary Ann
Friday, 6:45 A.M.	May 1 Joseph Ruhmel—Wife, Janet
9:00 A.M.	For all Grandparents living & deceased
Saturday, 5:00 P.M.	May 2 For our First Communicants
Sunday, 8:30 A.M.	May 3 Fifth Sunday of Easter For our First Communicants
10:30 A.M.	For our First Communicants

Pastor's perspective Continued:

what you are doing. You and your family are a sign of hope and encouragement, and you are starting off your children's lives as you should.

My response to the above? Amen!

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

Fr. L.



4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

“I am the good shepherd, and I know mine and mine know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I will lay down my life for the sheep.” - Jn 10:14-15

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Saint Peter plays a prominent leadership role in the first two readings, urging his listeners to be baptized and accept the gift of the Holy Spirit; and encouraging them to follow in the footsteps of Christ. We have just renewed our baptismal promises at Easter and the Holy Spirit dwells in us in a special way. Are we good stewards of those baptismal vows? Have we renewed our commitment to follow in Jesus' footsteps? Have we opened our hearts to discern the will of God in our lives? Take some time to reflect on the importance of our baptismal renewal and our lives as disciples of the Lord.

MASS INTENTIONS

The 2026 Mass Book is 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.

Exaltation of the Cross

Question:

What is the history behind feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross?

Answer:

Emperor Constantine’s mother, Helena, is credited with having discovered the true cross around 330. She traveled to the Holy Land and uncovered the places associated with Jesus’ life. Legend has it that Helena uncovered three crosses but was not able to detect the true cross until each of them was laid on a leper. Only one of them cured the leper, proving it to be the true cross. A great church was built at the site, and soon various portions of the cross were sent to other churches as relics to be venerated.

The day after the dedication of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, September 14, 335, the actual cross was displayed for veneration. Egeria, a women traveler to Jerusalem around the year 386, kept a diary that has survived. She tells of the unique veneration of the wood of the cross that took place on Good Friday, something maintained ritually to this very day.



Humility, Explained!

“If anyone wishes to be first,” Christ told the Apostles in the Gospel of Mark, “he must become the last of all and the servant of all.” (Mark 9:35).

True humility does not require us to ignore, underestimate or hide our gifts — it merely demands that we use these gifts rightly, with the knowledge that they are from our Creator and meant for His glory, not our own. “Man is a beggar before God,” said St. Augustine.

The Blessed Mother is the perfect model of this, and her Magnificat (Luke 1:46-55) is a blueprint for a life lived in joyful humility.

Humility, says the Catechism, is also the key to a fruitful prayer life: “Humility is the foundation of prayer. Only when we humbly acknowledge that ‘we do not know how to pray as we ought,’ are we ready to receive freely the gift of prayer.” (CCC 2559)

**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:

Annual Diocese of Rochester Regional Spelling Bee

St. Mary Our Mother School is proud to announce our representatives for this year's Diocese of Rochester Regional Spelling Bee in Canandaigua!

Congratulations to Joshua Marcelle (6th Grade), our school champion, and Joseph Campbell (5th Grade), our runner-up. These outstanding students earned the honor of representing our school after competing in a spirited in-school spelling bee during Catholic Schools Week. Students in grades 5 and 6 participated, showcasing their impressive spelling skills, focus, and determination.

We are thrilled to see Joshua and Joseph take their talents to the regional level, representing St. Mary Our Mother School with pride. Their hard work, preparation, and dedication reflect the excellence we strive for in all our students. We wish them the best of luck as they compete and continue to make our school community proud!

We also warmly invite you to join us for our May Crowning Mass and Grandparents Day Celebration on Friday, May 1st at 9:00 AM in the Church, where we will celebrate faith, family, and community together.

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.

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.



NOTRE DAME HIGH SCHOOL SUMMER ACADEMIES & ATHLETIC CAMPS

Is summer on your mind yet? Looking for ways to keep your kids active, engaged, and having fun? Notre Dame has something for everyone! Our exciting lineup of **Summer Academies** includes: Cooking 101, Just Desserts, Teen Trailblazers, Build It. Code It. Drive It!, Craft-It-With-Cricut, Not Your Average Art Camp, Sweet Feet Hiking & Nature Photography Camp, Summer Seminar on the Performing Arts, and Advanced Musical Theater Review. We're also offering **Athletic Camps**, including our popular Crusader Soccer Camp led by Boys Varsity Head Coach Gavin Harrington, and a Tennis Camp directed by Varsity Head Coach Erik Romminger. Learn more at: notredamehighschool.com. Register today: <https://tinyurl.com/NDHSSummer2026>. Join us for a fun and enriching summer at Notre Dame! All programs will be held at Notre Dame High School, 1400 Maple Avenue, Elmira. For questions, please contact Michelle Barkley at 607-734-

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