



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

May 17, 2026



7TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

“I revealed your name to those whom you gave me out of the world. They belonged to you, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word.” - Jn 17:5-6

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Thursday, May 21

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

Saturday, May 23

3:30 p.m.—Sacrament of Penance—Church

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

Where did he go? Many times when we think of those who have died, we imagine escape from this world to a purely spiritual place. Jesus' Ascension can leave us in a place of confusion. What happens to Jesus? And why does this matter to us?

The Ascension has been confirmed in the Creed for two millennia. In Jesus' Ascension, we're invited to consider our own ultimate end. Regardless of death's reality now, we believe in the resurrection of the body and the reunification of body and soul. One day, earth and heaven will meet perfectly and without end. We anticipate this "new heaven and a new earth" at every Mass and throughout the beauty, truth, and love of the Church and her members. Today, celebrate a foreshadowing of the fullness we all await!



Blessing for Communications

Dear Jesus,

On this World Communications Day, bless each of us as we communicate, whether by conversation, email, text, post, letter, or phone. May our words bring peace, comfort, healing, promise, joy, and love. May we bring your blessing wherever we go.

Amen.

CATHOLIC TRIVIA – JUST FOR FUN

Question: Before the Gospel is proclaimed at Mass, Catholics make small signs of the cross over which body parts?

Answer on Page 5

Stewardship

Weekly Contribution for week ending 5/10/2026
Total.....\$5,605.56

IN THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Elizabeth Menarchick

Main Altar Flowers

For May 17-23, 2026 have been donated in loving memory of *Raymond Sherwood* by his wife, Deloris.

Hosts & Wine

The Eucharistic Hosts & the Sacramental Wine for May 17 -23, 2026 have been donated in memory of *Josephine & Henry Ryan* by Mary & Jim Carr

Hail Mary, Explained

The words of the Hail Mary — undoubtedly the most recognizable Catholic prayer after the Lord’s Prayer — are deeply rooted in scripture. The opening lines of the prayer are taken from the words of the angel Gabriel at the Annunciation — “Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee.” This line is known as the Angelic Salutation. The following words — “Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus” — echo the sentiments expressed by Elizabeth at the Visitation.

The Angelic Salutation is regarded as the earliest devotional prayer to Mary, since it forms the very first words spoken to her as the Mother of God, but Catholics did not begin to utilize the Hail Mary prayer in its current form until around the 11th century.

An in-depth explanation of each line of this prayer is provided in the Catechism of the Catholic Church, 2676-2677.



PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE:

For many years, the Fourth Sunday of Easter has been designated as World Day of Prayer for Vocations. Although three weeks past the “official” day, any time is an appropriate occasion to address this topic.

As Catholics, we believe that through our Baptism God has a plan for our lives. God calls some to marriage, some to the ordained ministry as priests and deacons, and others to consecrated religious life and sisters or brothers, and others to live as generous single people. Fully living our own vocations—and teaching young people how to discern God’s call—is a serious duty and responsibility, but also a joyful one.

The word “vocation” means “call.” As Catholics, we believe God calls individuals to fulfill certain roles in the Church, both for their own holiness, and the good of the entire Church as the People of God. After the decision to follow Christ and seriously pursue holiness, our vocation is the most important decision in life.

Marriage: Most people are called to marriage—to wholeheartedly love their spouses and to joyfully welcome children. The purpose of marriage is for each spouse to bring out the best in their partners, help each other to one day reach heaven, and to teach their children to do the same. Like any vocation, marriage must be discerned, not assumed.

Consecrated Religious Life: Both women and men can join religious communities such as the Franciscans, Dominicans, Benedictines, the Sisters and Brothers of Mercy, the Sisters of St. Joseph, the school Sisters of Notre Dame, etc. The life, ministry, and work of religious orders varies greatly—some are primarily devoted to prayer; others work actively in schools, hospitals, orphanages, social services, pastoral ministry, prison and jail ministry, etc. Common to all religious communities are the vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience. The Sisters of Charity founded by St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta adds one more vow; that of service to the poor.

Priesthood and Diaconate: Priests bring Jesus to people and people to Jesus through preaching the sacraments. Priests are active as they counsel people, teach classes, celebrate the liturgy and sacraments, prepare homilies, administer parishes and much more. *Some surveys show that priests are the happiest people in the world!* Deacons also share in the Sacrament of Holy Orders.

Dedicated Single Life: Some people serve God as single people, without marrying or making special promises or vows. Single people “*contribute greatly to the good of the human family.*” (CCC 2231) “*Some live their situation in the Spirit of the Beatitudes, serving God and neighbor in exemplary fashion.*” (CCC 1658). There are many single people who serve the Church with incredible generosity.

MASSES FOR THE WEEK:

Monday, 6:45 A.M.	May 18 Deceased members of the Curtin family—the family
Tuesday, 6:45 A.M.	May 19 For our faithful departed
Wednesday, 6:45 A.M.	May 20 Agnes & Jack Purcell—the Gallagher’s
Thursday, 6:45 A.M.	May 21 Denis Amisano—Guy Amisano
Friday, 6:45 A.M.	May 22 Living & deceased members of the 6:45am Mass family
Saturday, 5:00 P.M.	May 23 Florence Ruocco—daughter, Marianne Kosty
Sunday, 8:30 A.M. 10:30 A.M.	May 24 Pentecost Sunday Mario Botero—Enright family Angie Barbito—family

Pastor’s perspective Continued:

“Each of you has a personal vocation which God has given you for your own joy and sanctity. When a person is conquered by the fire of God’s gaze, no sacrifice seems to great to follow God and give God the best of ourselves. This is what the Saints have always done, spreading the light of the Lord—and transforming the world into a welcoming home for everyone.” -Pope Benedict XVI

During this week and beyond, let us take seriously our responsibility to encourage the young people in our lives to understand the various vocations open to them. Let us also encourage our young to consider that they might have a vocation to the priesthood or vowed religious life. May we and our young be open to the vocation to which God may be calling them, as we all seek holiness and to build up the Kingdom of God in our world through our particular vocation in life.

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

Fr. L.



God Has A Plan

Practicing Catholic: When Words Fail

I love words (obviously; I'm a writer).

But sometimes, words are like teeny, tiny cages. They enclose and confine and restrict our understanding of supernatural realities that are, by their nature, bigger than language.

We do the best we have, with the words that we have, to express who God is. We use terms like "Father" and "Son" because they are the most accurate. But often, without really noticing, we give the words too much weight, and we find ourselves thinking of Jesus as a human son and the Creator as a human father, with all the implications those particular words carry for different people.

That's why I love hearing Christ speak to God the Father in the Gospels. These one-sided conversations (at least from our viewpoint) pull back the curtain just a little on the breathtaking intimacy that exists between the two. Our misunderstandings of their relationship — framed by our own human experience of fathers and sons, of time and place, of creation and death — are shattered.

"Now glorify me, Father, with you," Jesus says, "with the glory that I had with you before the world began."

Before the world began.

In our collective imagination, too often we imagine Jesus as being connected — tethered, really — to a certain time and place: the Incarnation, and all that came after. But let's not get confused: the Incarnation means that the Son became flesh, and dwelt among us. The Incarnation does not mean that the Son *became*.

The Son was. From the very beginning, He was. Begotten, not made. Consubstantial.

We say these words every week in the Creed. But saying them isn't enough. We have to take them into the silence of our hearts and hold them there. We have to invite the Spirit to move among them. Rearrange them. Liberate them. Unleash them.

Only then will we understand what words fail to explain.



**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:**Memorial Day Break Announcement**

St. Mary Our Mother School will observe Memorial Day Break from Friday, May 22nd through Tuesday, May 26th. Originally, school was scheduled to be closed only on Monday, May 25th; however, due to unused snow days and in alignment with our local school districts, we will also be closed on Friday, May 22nd and Tuesday, May 26th.

This extended break provides our students, families, and staff with additional time to rest, recharge, and enjoy meaningful moments together. It is a wonderful opportunity for families to spend quality time together while also reflecting on the significance of the holiday.

As we observe Memorial Day, we pause to remember and honor the brave men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice in service to our country. We encourage our families to take a moment during the break to reflect, pray, and give thanks for those who have protected our freedoms.

We wish all of our families a safe, restful, and meaningful Memorial Day weekend.

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

**FREE Senior Luncheon Series**

11:30 am—1:00pm—3rd Friday of each month

June 19th—Scripture Soaking/Immersive Prayer

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.

Incredible Generosity:

Your donation of \$4,776.80 for the Rice Bowl Lenten almsgiving project will be sent off to Catholic Relief Services to be used to support their programs that alleviate poverty and hunger, both globally and locally. This generous amount of \$4,776.80 that was donated by our parish & Catholic school, is an 18.3% **increase** over last year's Rice Bowl total. Remember that 25% of our donations will be used to support poverty and hunger in Chemung County.

Since the donations were tallied and sent off, a few stray donations have come in. So if your rice bowl is still at home and you wish to turn in a donation, please do so soon.

In the current national situation where there is a significant reduction or cancellation of funding to global and state agencies working to address poverty and hunger, your sacrifices mean more now than ever. Thank you so much for responding to Jesus' call to reach out to those in need through your Lenten sacrifices.

Action Alert!

The new Federal Scholarship Tax Credit would allow all taxpayers to receive a 100% federal tax credit, up to \$1,700, for donations that fund scholarships helping students with tuition, tutoring, and other education costs. If New York opts in, this program would bring millions of dollars in privately funded support to families, while allowing taxpayers to redirect a portion of their federal taxes to help students across the state, including our Catholic school families. Tell Gov. Hochul to opt in! Go to:

www.bit.ly/federal-scholarship-credit to take action today.

Answer: On their forehead, lips, and chest (near their heart.)

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 607-734-2267.



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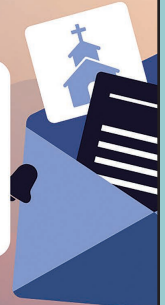
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