



ST. MARY OUR MOTHER CHURCH

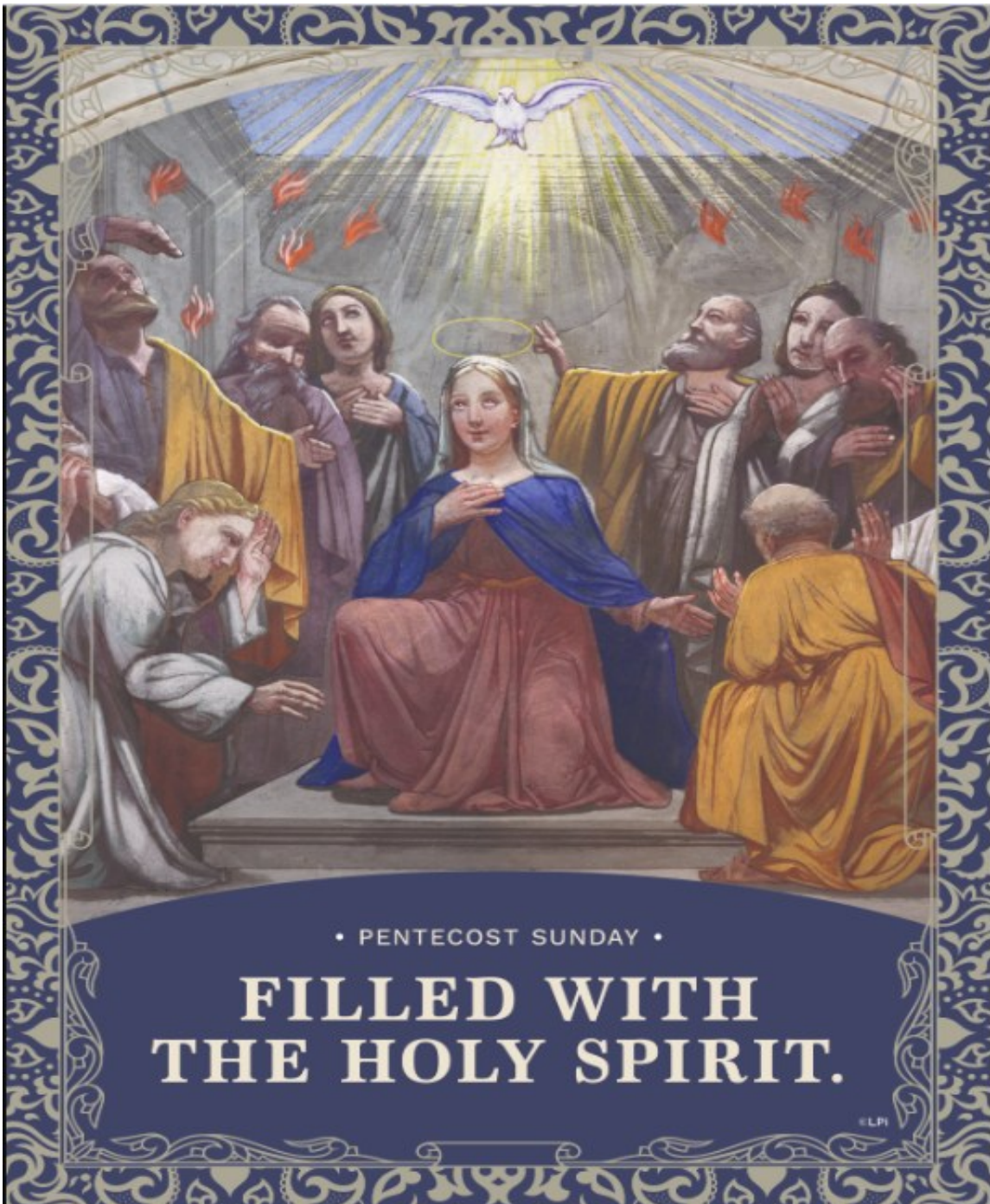
MISSION STATEMENT

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 24, 2026



WEEKLY CALENDAR

Thursday, May 28

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

Saturday, May 30

3:30 p.m.—Sacrament of Penance—Church

We Are Never Alone

My children want my help sometimes, and other times, not so much. I remember being a teenager and young adult myself. At times, I thought I knew everything. I didn't need help because I was just so darn smart. Truth is, I needed to find my own way. I needed to stretch my wings and prove to myself and my family I could fly. I assume that is what is happening with my own children as well. It just seems so different now that I'm the parent.

Human beings need help. We need community, and we need to rely on one another. At Pentecost, we reflect on Jesus sending to the Church a helper, the Holy Spirit. God interacting with us in this manner means we are never truly alone. We focus most of the time on the Spirit of God as the assistance we need, and we do need Him for sure. However, since it is that very same Spirit that turned us into "Church" from a band of people looking to carry on after Jesus' ascension, at Pentecost we gained more than divine help: we gained each other.

Today, the Church needs help in a profound way. We need to lean on the Holy Spirit to blow through the Church with a profound renewal. But we cannot forget that we have been given each other to lean on as well. We are a gift to each other, and together with the Spirit's help, we are the Body of Christ here on earth. We must be strong and stand for one another. If we do that, this Pentecost will bear fruit that will be with us for many Pentecosts to come.

—Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

Piety, Explained!

Piety is one of the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit and is related to the virtue of justice.

St. Thomas Aquinas writes, "Piety denotes the reverence which we give to our faith and to our country. And since God is the Father of all, the worship of God is also called piety...therefore the gift whereby a man, through reverence for God, works good to all, is fittingly called piety." (Sum., II:II, 68, Art. 4)

The virtue of piety, which can be understood most easily as giving due reverence to God, should not be confused with "popular piety," which refers to external expressions of devotion that are unique to specific places and environments. The virtue of piety describes a person's fulfillment of their duty to God and the precepts of the Church; popular piety describes other practices that enliven their desire to fulfill that duty.

Stewardship

Weekly Contribution for week ending 5/17/2026
Total.....\$9,386.00

IN THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Joseph L. Sindelar
John R. Byers, III
Thomas Smetanka
Steve Monks
Joseph Opetosky
Elizabeth Menarchiclose

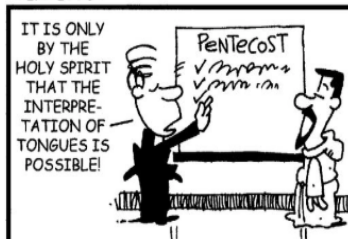


**Venturing Outward in Love:
Reflecting on Pope Leo's Apostolic Exhortation,
Dilexi Te**

In our overly busy world, we are faced with many social pressures calling for our attention. It is tempting to feel overwhelmed and to turn our gaze inward to focus on those in our immediate circles. Yet Holy Spirit is always calling us to venture outwards in love, for God, for the Earth, and for our neighbors. Pope Leo asks us, in his apostolic exhortation, Dilexi Te, "to hear clearly the cry coming from the poor, from the earth, and from future generations who will live with the consequences of the choices we make today." Living Faith: Call our congressman Nick Langworthy (607)377-3130. Ask him to please consider the impact on the poor, on our earth, and on future generations before any vote in congress.

*from reflection by Daniel P. Scheid, Professor of Moral Theology at Boston College.

PENTECOST



PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE:

Today is the **Solemnity of Pentecost**. From the red that is worn to the story of the arrival of the Holy Spirit, we are reminded how blessed we are to be children of God. As we conclude the Easter season today, we should be conscious of the presence of the Holy Spirit in our world today.

For Catholics, the sacramental life of the Church is based on the power of the Holy Spirit. I recall telling our First Communion children *"when you see the priest extending his hands over the bread and wine, he prays that the Holy Spirit will change them into the Body and Blood of Christ."* During Mass, as I participate in that action, I feel the power of that moment, deeply aware that the same Spirit that had come upon the apostles was present now. During the Anointing of the Sick, immediately before we anoint the forehead and hands of the person to be anointed, there is a prayer of thanksgiving, asking that the Holy Spirit be present to those anointed.

During the celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation, the Bishop or his delegate, invites the concelebrating priests to extend their hands with him over the confirmands, as the Prayer of Confirmation is prayed, calling down the same Holy Spirit of Pentecost on those to be confirmed. It is a very powerful moment, where I always feel connected with the apostles in that moment, sharing the power that God so freely gives to us. In the celebrating the Sacrament of Penance, the priest raises his hand to offer absolution with the prayer asking God to send the Holy Spirit that our sins may be forgiven through the power of that Holy Spirit, concluding with the words *"I absolve you from all your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit."* These sacramental moments take place only because the Holy Spirit is present and real for us today, as Jesus chose to send the Holy Spirit to us.

I believe that all of us share special moments in the lives of others. Oftentimes, it is with family and with friends, on occasion, even with strangers. These moments are moments we treasure but may not speak about with others. Such moments can give us a real sense of satisfaction. They might be moments of break-through, when a problem is faced, a crisis is dealt with, a moment of love becomes real, or we take a risk, acting with the courage we did not know that we had. Moments like these are moments that the Holy Spirit is truly present, helping us grow, discern, resolve, and live. Very often people might say *"I don't know where the strength or insight came from.....but, it was there!"*

In moments and times of prayer, the Holy Spirit is present. In our prayer, we may find something occurring that is much deeper than just our prayer intention. By our prayer, we are inviting God to intervene and help direct our lives. Prayer is more than just kneeling and speaking; it is the sharing of an encounter with God, a God who loves us. Prayer invites us into a deeper and mysterious level in our relationship with God. It is the power of the Holy Spirit which invites us and guides us in our life of Prayer.

MASSES FOR THE WEEK:

- Monday, May 25 Memorial Day**
NO MASS TODAY
- Tuesday, May 26**
6:45 A.M. Living & deceased members of the 6:45 AM Mass family
- Wednesday, May 27**
6:45 A.M. Pablo & Elisea Atienza—Macapinlac family
- Thursday, May 28**
6:45 A.M. For our faithful departed
- Friday, May 29**
6:45 A.M. John Kordyl—Peggy Woodard
- Saturday, May 30**
5:00 P.M. Mass of thanksgiving on the 45th wedding anniversary of John & Theresa Brennan—their children
- Sunday, May 31 The Most Holy Trinity**
8:30 A.M. Teri Guardi—Bob
10:30 A.M. Bill & Sally Driscoll—Bill & Judi Driscoll

Pastor's perspective Continued:

This Pentecost Sunday, we will once again hear of the story of Pentecost. We will hear of the strong winds, the shaking house, the tongues of flames, the speaking in tongues—the experience of Mary and the apostles in the upper room. Like Mary and the apostles, we are invited in our own Pentecost experience sharing that same Holy Spirit, who continually comes into our lives refreshing and renewing us. Today, we can be grateful that God has chosen us to be part of that story. Today, we can speak with the tongues of faith, knowing that our God is present and walks with us every moment of our lives. Today, we are filled with the knowledge that, while the Easter season may be ending, we are reassured that the Holy Spirit remains constant, consistent, and a powerful presence in our lives.

Pentecost Sunday also finds us in the middle of the Memorial Day weekend. This weekend is more than just a three-day weekend, unofficially marking the beginning of summer, but it is also a time to reflect and remember that many women and men who gave the ultimate gift of their life for our freedom, our country and its people. Whenever we walk the cemeteries (and I hope you will take the time to visit a cemetery this Memorial Day weekend), we often think of the massive loss of American lives that have been sacrificed for our country. **President John F. Kennedy** once said that the value of society is not measured by what it has done, but by how it remembers. If America's daughters and sons are willing to march, fight, and die for their country, then the least we can do is to remember. And remember we do each Memorial Day.

Enjoy your Memorial Day weekend, and please take a moment to remember and offer a prayer of gratitude for those who paid the ultimate sacrifice so we can enjoy the life we have come to know as Americans. And include in your prayer a prayer for those who continue to serve in the military, as well as police, firefighters, emergency medical personnel, and those who always walk the extra mile. Please continue to take care of yourself and each other.

GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEP-ER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

Pentecost Sunday

John 20:19-23

“He breathed on them and said to them, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained.’” (John 20:22–23)

For those of us who go to confession regularly, there is often a familiar frustration: “Why do I keep confessing the same sins?” It can feel like a loop, cleansed but unchanged.

Pentecost reveals a hopeful perspective. When the Risen Jesus breathes on his ashamed and fearful disciples and gives them the Holy Spirit, he echoes Genesis, when God breathes life into Adam. This is not just primarily the removal of guilt, but new creation.

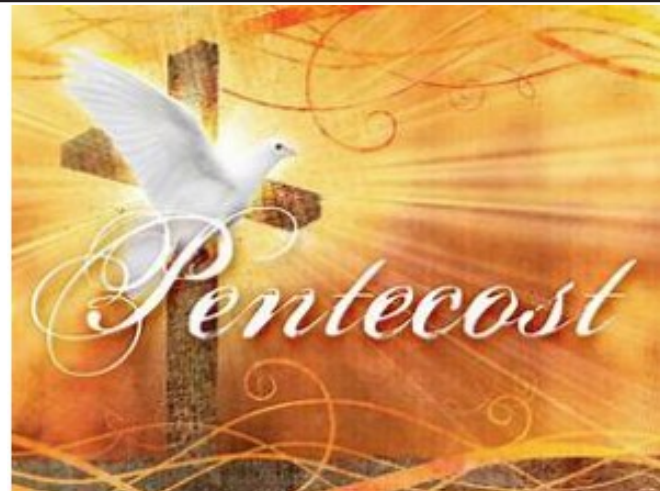
In confession, we receive more than forgiveness. We receive a fresh outpouring, the breath of the Spirit, and a renewed mission. Jesus does not say to us, “You’re forgiven, now go back to your old life.” He says, so to speak, “As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” (John 20:21)

That is why penance is not just saying a few prayers. It is reorientation. It is the Spirit summoning us to live differently: with mercy and healing.

Just as Adam was sent into the world, and the Apostles were sent out after Pentecost, so too we are sent from the confessional — not just clean, but consecrated.

Pentecost Challenge: After your next confession, ask the Holy Spirit for one way you can participate in Christ’s healing will for you. Then take one small, concrete step, and do not look back.

— Father John Muir



**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:**St. Mary Our Mother School Legacy Gala**

St. Mary Our Mother School is excited to announce our **Annual Legacy Gala**, taking place on **Friday, May 29, 2026, from 6:00 PM–11:00 PM at the Elmira Country Club**. This elegant evening promises to be a memorable celebration of our school community while supporting the continued growth and success of St. Mary Our Mother School.

The Legacy Gala is one of our most important fundraising events of the year. Proceeds from the evening will directly benefit our students and support ongoing improvements to our school, helping us continue to provide a strong academic foundation rooted in faith, service, and community.

Guests can look forward to an evening filled with fellowship, celebration, and community spirit as we come together to support Catholic education and the mission of St. Mary Our Mother School. Events like the Legacy Gala allow us to strengthen our programs, enhance our learning environment, and create meaningful opportunities for our students.

We invite our families, parishioners, alumni, and community members to mark their calendars and join us for this special evening.

Thank you for your continued support and commitment to St. Mary Our Mother School. Together, we are building a lasting legacy for our students and our community.

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.

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.

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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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