



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

August 23, 2026



21ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



"I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven. Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven." - Mt 16:19

IN THE PEACE OF CHRIST

James Drake

ALTAR FLOWERS THIS WEEK

The main Altar flowers for the week of August 23-29, 2026 have been donated in loving memory of our son, Phillip, by Maryanne and Rich Amisano.

MEMORIALS

The Altar or Sacramental Wine for the week of August 23-29, 2026 have been donated by Jem and Mary Carr in memory of Josephine and Henry Ryan.

The Sanctuary Candle burning before the Blessed Sacrament for the week of August 23-29, 2026 have been donated by Jem and Mary Carr in memory of Josephine and Henry Ryan.

The Altar flowers for the week of August 2-8, 2026 have been donated in loving memory of Mary & Warren Woodard by their daughter Evelyn & Family.

*Keys to the Kingdom***ONLY PETER HAS THE ANSWER**

“What do you think of the Pope?”

After the election of Pope Leo XIV in 2025, all my non-Catholic friends texted me this question. The result of the papal conclave was dominating the news cycle, and everyone was curious about this man who would now be so prominent on the world stage, making me temporarily popular with people who apparently need more (and better) Catholics in their lives.

In today's Gospel, we see Jesus entrust Peter and his heirs with the stewardship of the kingdom here on earth, creating an unbroken line of authority that stretches through the millennia all the way to our current Pope — whoever he is at the time you are reading this. I don't know if you like the Pope.

The same goes for your local bishop and your pastor. If a friend texted you, “What do you think of him?” I have no idea how you would respond. All I know is this: it doesn't really matter. What really matters is what we would say if a friend texted us the same question about Jesus Christ: “What do you think of him, and why?” In today's Gospel, Jesus doesn't ask his disciples to take an IQ test. He doesn't try to find out which one is the nicest, the hardest worker, the most humble, or even the holiest.

He asks a very simple question: “Who do you say that I am?” Peter has the answer.

I am not Catholic because I like the Pope. I am not Catholic because the human representatives of the Church have anything to offer me (they often do, but this is beside the point).

I am Catholic because only Peter has the answer.

PARISH EVENTS:

Friday, August 28th | **Parish Offices Closed**

Next Sunday, August 29th | 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

RECONCILIATION

Saturday | 3:30 pm in the church

UPCOMING IN OUR PARISH:**SCHOOL YEAR REGISTRATIONS**

- Information about registrations for **St. Mary Our Mother School 2026-2027** year can be found on Page Five.
- Registrations for **St. Mary Our Mother's Faith Formation & Sacramental Preparation Classes** can be found on Page Four.

**CATHOLIC INITIATION FOR CHILDREN, TEENS, & ADULTS!**

The Order of Christian Initiation for Children, Teens, and Adults (OCIA) is a class designed to help with the process of becoming a Catholic. **Classes begin on September 26th at 6:00** This meeting is open to anyone of any faith background to explore the Catholic Faith or work towards receiving the sacraments of Initiation into the Catholic Church.

Get more Information:

Lily.Barr@dor.org or 607-739-8214

Or use the QR Code to sign up for more information about classes.

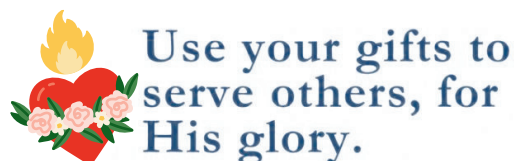
**ADULT FORMATION- OPEN TO ALL**

Beginning September 26, join us two Sundays each month from 6:00–7:00 PM, following the 5:00 PM Mass, for Adult Faith Formation in combination with our OCIA program.

Whether you are a cradle Catholic, interested in becoming Catholic, or simply want to learn more about our faith, all are welcome! We will explore the Catechism, the Mass, the Eucharist, Scripture, and what it means to live as a Christian today.

No registration is needed for our first class, all are welcome!

Get more Information: Lily.Barr@dor.org or 607-739-8214



check out page four to find ways to serve our parish!

PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

With the beginning of the 2026-2027 school year only fifteen days away, I thought it appropriate to share with you various comments from families whose children either attend or have in the past attended St. Mary Our Mother School. Taking a cue from David Letterman, you might want to entitle the following as the:

Top Ten Reasons Families Choose St. Mary Our Mother School

1. *Higher standards for student achievement, rigorous curriculum, and a strong moral Foundation rooted in faith.*
2. *Family feel and community*
3. *Kevin is an alumni of St. Mary Our Mother School and has strong relationships in the community from his experience at the school. Faith based and strong curriculum.*
4. *We wanted to choose a school that reflected our faith values-Academic excellence, and having God ever present in our lives.*
5. *Catholic students are given lessons that will give them a strong moral and ethical foundation to help them make the right decision during situations that are not clearly black and white. In essence, Catholic schools encourage each student to accept the challenges of being a better person in tomorrow's world. They do this by stressing the Values to self-discipline and commitment.*
6. *The first time we walked through the door at St. Mary Our Mother School (looking for the right school for our children), it was like getting a big hug and we knew this was the place. Seven years later we appreciate the family-like community and strong academics! So glad we are part of this school.*
7. *We love St. Mary Our Mother School because of the strong sense of community and Excellent education. The teachers and staff are dedicated to providing the best education to each individual student academically, socially, and spiritually.*
8. *Families at St. Mary Our Mother School have and strive for high academic standards, as well as similar values, morals, and ethics. Children are happy, loved, respected, and Safe. You are not just part of a school, you are a part of a greater family- God's family. The faculty and staff strive to raise children who will make a positive, impacting Difference in the world.*
9. *We chose St. Mary Our Mother School for its friendly and caring atmosphere and focus On teaching core values as well as academics. After we toured the school, we couldn't imagine sending our Kindergartener at the time, anywhere else.*
10. *We chose St. Mary Our Mother School not only for the excellent faith-based academic Foundation, but because we felt like part of a family the minute we walked through the door.*

Registration is still open for St. Mary Our Mother School for the 2026-2027 academic year. Please call the school office at 739-9157 for further information or to schedule a tour. Our school principal, Mrs. Heather Bill, will answer any questions you may have.

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

Monday, August 24 - St. Bartholomew, Apostle
6:45 a.m. - David Waters - Dailey Family

Tuesday, August 25 - Weekday
6:45 a.m. - Richard Hall - Charles & Andrea Paggio

Wednesday, August 26 - Weekday
6:45 a.m. - Our Faithful Departed

Thursday, August 27 - St. Monica
6:45 a.m. - Our Faithful Departed

Friday, August 28 - St. Augustine, Bishop & Doctor
6:45 a.m. - Deceased Members of the Triano family - the Costello's

Saturday, August 29 - Passion of St. John the Baptist
5:00 p.m. - Carlos Botero - Enright family

Sunday, August 30- Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
8:30 a.m. - Anna Greenmum - Sisters Deloris & Frances
10:30 a.m. - Deceased Members of Curtin family - family

PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE CONTINUED...

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

Fr. L.

I'VE HEARD OF THE CORPORAL WORKS OF MERCY, WHAT ARE THEY?

As God has shown us mercy, so too are we called to show mercy to those we encounter. We see mercy throughout the Gospels, but the parable in Matthew 25 forms the foundation for the first set of Works of Mercy. This parable of the last judgment shows each person being asked how well they cared for those around them, and being reminded that this care for those in need is care for God Himself; the foundation of the Corporal Works of Mercy.

FAMILY CORPORAL WORKS OF MERCY IDEAS

FEED THE HUNGRY

- help cook dinner
- feed a younger sibling
- bring a meal to a friend in need
- donate to a food pantry

GIVE DRINK TO THE THIRSTY

- help a sibling get a drink
- fill everyone's water cups
- donate water bottles for a cause
- support a charity that provides clean water

CLOTHE THE NAKED

- help with laundry (wash/fold/put away)
- donate clothes
- help a younger sibling get dressed

SHELTER THE HOMELESS

- donate to a homeless shelter
- host a missionary or religious who needs a place to stay
- learn about saints who helped the homeless

VISIT THE SICK

- comfort your sick sibling, parent, or friend
- visit a nursing home
- bring soup or a card to a sick friend

VISIT THE IMPRISONED

- make Rosaries for a prison ministry
- donate scapulars to a prison ministry
- send Holy Cards to the imprisoned
- [learn more about prison ministry](#)

BURY THE DEAD

- attend a funeral
- visit a grave
- learn about Catholic funeral and burial practices

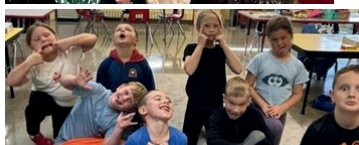


ST MARY OUR MOTHER PARISH

What is faith formation?

Faith Formation is a lifelong journey of growing in our relationship with Jesus Christ. **It is more than classes & sacrament preparation, it gives our young people tools to be active and loving Catholics in our world today.**

Whether you call it CCD, Religious Education, Sacramental Preparation, Catechism Class, or Faith Formation, our goal is the same: to help our entire parish community grow closer to Jesus Christ and live as His disciples.



WHO CAN COME TO FAITH FORMATION?

ALL Public School Pre-K through 7th Grade | learn the foundations of our faith, Scripture, prayer, and how much God loves them. *Open for all Public School students & find the best option for your family: Tuesday Classes, Home Study Classes, or Hybrid.*

2nd Graders (& above) | Children prepare to encounter Jesus in a special way through the **Sacraments of Reconciliation and the Eucharist**, while families grow alongside them on their faith journey. *Open for students in Public & Catholic Schools*

Teens (above 8th Grade) | deepen their relationship with Christ, the Saints, and our Faith, prepare for and receive **Confirmation**, and discover how to live their faith in today's world. *Teens in Catholic & Public Schools are welcome to join us for Sunday Classes, Youth Groups, and community service activities.*

Adults (17 & above) | continue growing through Scripture, prayer, service, fellowship, and lifelong learning. *Check out Page 2 for our OCIA & Adult Formation Class*

Whether you are 3 or 103, Faith Formation is for you. Faith is not something we graduate from; it is a relationship which will guide you for a lifetime.

CALL for VOLUNTEERS

We're looking for volunteers to help our parish grow! Current opportunities include:

- **5th Grade Catechist** for our Tuesday In-Person Faith Formation Program
- **Classroom Aides** for Tuesday In-Person Faith Formation (*No teaching experience needed!*)
- **Youth Group Volunteers & After-Mass Event Volunteers**
- **Vacation Bible School (VBS) Coordinators**
- **Adult Bible Study Volunteers & Facilitators**

Our parish needs you! No experience necessary!

If you'd like to share your time and talents, we'd love to hear from you! Please contact

Lily.Barr@dor.org.



faith formation KICK-OFF

9/20 PENANCE/EUCHARIST

11:45-1:00 IN O'BRIEN HALL

- Parent and Child both Attend
- Open to all Families interested in the sacraments

9/22 TUESDAY PROGRAM

CLASSES BEGIN AT 4:00 & END AT 5:00

- Drop off at the Main Church Doors
- Open house on 22nd @ 4:50 for all families to meet teachers & learn more about the year

9/26 OCIA & OCIC

MEETING: 6:00-7:00 IN SCHOOL CAFETERIA

- Open for all interested in becoming Catholic, expanding their understanding of faith, or wanting sacraments.
- All Teens, Children, and Adults are welcome

9/27 HOME STUDY

CLASS: 9:30-10:15 IN SCHOOL CAFETERIA

- Parent & Students both attend

9/27 CONFIRMATION

MEETING AT 11:30 IN SCHOOL CAFETERIA

- Parent & Students both attend
- Year 1 Families done at 12:00
- Year 2 Families done at 12:15

Find Information, Full Calendars, & Registration Forms at stmaryourmother.com or scan:

SCAN ME!



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

Mrs. Joyce Pirozzolo, Parish Secretary

Ms. Wendy Slater, Office Assistant

Mr. Doug Johnson, Cemetery Manager

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 WebSite: www.StMaryOurMother.com

St Mary Our Mother School

811 Westlake Street (607)-739-9157

E-mail: smoms@dor.org

School WebSite: www.stmaryourmother.school

Faith Formation

816 West Broad Street (607)-739-8214

E-mail: lily.barr@dor.org



ST. MARY OUR MOTHER SCHOOL
SCHOOL SUPPLY DROP-OFF
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2026
5:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Sidewalk Chalk - Playground - Sweet Treats - Meet Teacher - Campus Tours - Supply Drop Off - Uniform Exchange - Meet New Families - Ask Questions

To help lighten your child's backpack on their first day, please come drop off your labeled school supplies to your classroom.



ST MARY OUR MOTHER SCHOOL 2026-2027 Registration

St. Mary Our Mother School is pleased to share that **registration for the 2026-2027 school year is currently ongoing.** We welcome both new and returning families to explore all that St. Mary Our Mother School has to offer as part of our faith-filled, nurturing school community.

At St. Mary Our Mother School, **students in Pre-K 3 through Grade 6 are supported in an environment rooted in Catholic values, academic excellence, and a strong sense of community.** Our dedicated faculty and staff are committed to helping each child grow academically, spiritually, and socially through engaging instruction and meaningful learning experiences.

Families continue to choose St. Mary Our Mother School for its welcoming atmosphere, strong partnership between home and school, and commitment to educating the whole child. From daily classroom learning to school-wide traditions and service opportunities, students are given the foundation they need to succeed and thrive.

We encourage families interested in learning more about enrollment, tuition, or scheduling a visit to reach out to the school office.

For additional information, please contact the school office or email Heather Bill at Heather.Bill@dor.org.

We look forward to continuing to welcome new families into our St. Mary Our Mother School community for the 2026-2027 school year.



21ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

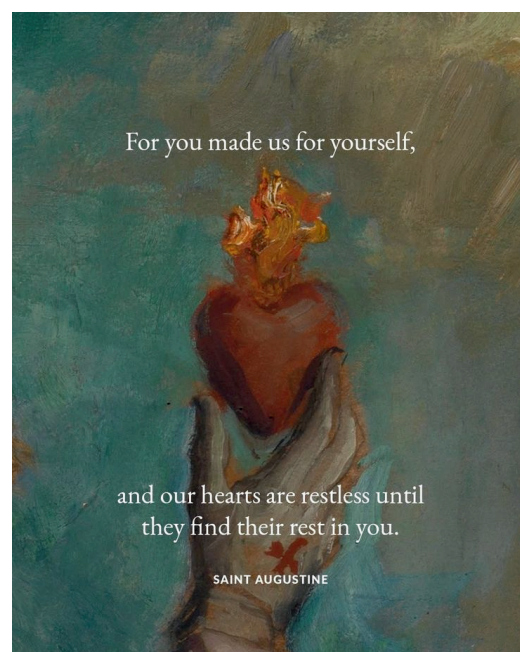


POPE LEO: HOMILY FOR THE ASSUMPTION OF MARY

"For it is the purity of the soul that, in Mary — as in us — by the grace of God, illuminates and transfigures the whole person, leading us to the glory of Heaven."

Pope Leo XIV gave this reminder during Mass for the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary at the Pontifical Parish of Saint Thomas of Villanova in Castel Gandolfo on 15 August 2026. This Solemnity, the Pope recalled that the Magisterium of the Church teaches us that Mary, "having completed the course of her earthly life, was assumed body and soul into heavenly glory, and points out to us, in this Mystery, the fulfillment of the most perfect grace that God bestowed upon her at her Immaculate Conception." The Holy Father acknowledged how easy it is to see where true beauty lies and where, on the other hand, there is still a need for conversion, forgiveness and healing.

"If we truly wish to discover and nurture the divine beauty that surrounds us and for which we were made, and to share it with those around us, we must learn to see it in the wrinkles of an elderly person as in the tender face of a child, in the maturity of an adult as in the liveliness of a young person, in work clothes and tools as well as in festive decorations." *Read the full story at [VaticanNews.VA](https://www.vaticannews.va)*



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