



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

September 13, 2026



24TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



Peter approached Jesus and asked him, "Lord, if my brother sins against me, how often must I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus answered, "I say to you, not seven times but seventy-seven times." - Mt 18:21-22

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH:

Monday, September 14 | K of C Meeting

Tuesday, September 15 | Tuesday Program Volunteer & Catechist Meeting @ 4:00 in Church

Thursday, September 17 | Adult Choir Rehearsal @ 7:00

Next Sunday, September 20 | First Penance & Communion Kick-Off Meeting in O'Brien Hall

RECONCILIATION

Saturday | 3:30 pm in the church



CALLING ALL SINGERS

It's that time of year again to consider joining the adult choir as they begin the new season. If you have been waiting for an invitation, consider yourself invited. **Your voices are needed and welcome.**

If you remember having a great experience in high school or college choirs, please consider adding your voice to the choir. High school singers are welcome! Together we can make a joyful song unto the Lord.

Rehearsals Begin: Thursday, September 10 at 7:00 p.m. • *In the Church*

First Mass: Sunday, September 13 • *Please arrive by 10:00 a.m.*

The Adult Choir sings at all 10:30 a.m. Sunday Masses from September through mid-June, as well as special liturgies for Christmas and Holy Week. Additionally, singers are also needed for the Resurrection Choir, which provides music for funeral liturgies throughout the year.

→ **Interested in joining?**

Contact Cathy Peckham: 739-3817
or see Cathy at the organ after Mass!



COLLECTION | NEXT WEEK

Next Week our special collection will support the Catholic Campaign for Human Development. Nearly 37 million people in the United States Live in Poverty. This collection helps support programs that address these obstacles and bring permanent change to their communities. Learn more at www.usccb.org/cchd

ALTAR FLOWERS THIS WEEK



The main Altar flowers for the week of September 13-19, 2026 have been donated in loving memory of Eddie Jadoski by his loving family.

The Blessed Mother flowers for the week of September 13-19, 2026 have been donated in loving memory of Sue Beering by her husband, Fran.



ADULT FORMATION | CLASS BEGINS

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



CATHOLIC INITIATION FOR CHILDREN, TEENS, & ADULTS | LEARN MORE

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.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS | MEETING UPDATE

The Horseheads Knights of Columbus normally meets on the first Monday of each month. Due to Labor Day, this month's business meeting has been moved to **Monday, September 14 at 6:30 PM in O'Brien Hall.**

All members are encouraged to attend. We look forward to seeing you there!

PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

This past Tuesday Saint Mary Our Mother School opened its doors for the 68th consecutive year. Saint Mary Our Mother School welcomed its first students in September, 1959, with an enrollment of 125 students in grades one, two, and three, with a teaching faculty of six Sisters of Saint Joseph. A few years later saw the expansion of the school building to twice its capacity due to the increasing number of students and expanded the number of grades to encompass students from kindergarten to eighth grade. It was a period of unprecedented growth in Horseheads and Chemung County. For the 2026-2027 school year, we have an enrollment in our school of 122 students in grades Pre-K 3 through grades six. Mrs. Heather Bill, our school principal, and the entire school team have been working diligently to create and maintain a safe, welcoming, and nurturing environment at Saint Mary Our Mother School. We are blessed with a dedicated school staff and proud of the commitment of each teacher, teacher assistant, and support staff has to ensure the academic success of each and every student.

The faculty and staff of Saint Mary Our Mother School for the 2026-2027 academic year are:

Mrs. Heather Bill	Principal
Mrs. Adriana Enright	Administrative Assistant
Mrs. Jill Knuth	Pre-K 3 Teacher
Mrs. Robyn Stowell	Pre-K 3 Teaching Assistant
Mrs. Sally Heffner	Pre-K 4 Teacher
Mrs. Michelle Steed	Pre-K 4 Teaching Assistant
Mrs. Sandra Hoyt	Kindergarten Teacher
Mrs. Jamie Lewis	First Grade Teacher
Miss Karissa Collins	Second Grade Teacher
Mrs. Angela Landendorfer	Third Grade Teacher
Mrs. Stephanie Pelkey	Fourth Grade Teacher
Mrs. Julie Lawson	Fifth Grade Teacher
Mrs. Colleen Meehan	Sixth Grade Teacher
Miss Lily Barr	AIS Teaching Assistant
Mrs. Barbara O'Brien	Art Teacher/Library
Mrs. Katy Piet	Music Teacher
Mr. Thomas Ketchum	Physical Education Teacher
Mrs. Michelle Procopio	School Nurse
Mr. Roger Williams	Maintenance

On behalf of the faculty, staff, and students of Saint Mary Our Mother School, I offer a word of thanks to you - the people of Saint Mary Mother- for your continued interest and faithful support of our parish school. May all who make Saint Mary Our Mother School what it is—a warm, creative and safe learning place of Catholic faith-filled education enjoy a grace filled and safe year.

Have a good weekend. Please continue to take care of yourself and each other!

Fr. L.

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

Monday, September 14 -The Exaltation of the Holy Cross
6:45 a.m. - Living & Deceased members of the 6:45 AM Mass Family

Tuesday, September 15- Our Lady of Sorrows
6:45 a.m. - Souls in Purgatory- Costello Family

Wednesday, September 16 - Sts. Cornelius and Cyprian
6:45 a.m. - Ellen Kania - Susie Alexander

Thursday, September 17 - St. Robert Bellarmine & St. Hildegard of Bingen,
6:45 a.m. - Sandee Johnson - Pat Madison

Friday, September 18- Weekday
6:45 a.m. - Faithful Departed

Saturday, September 19 -St. Januarius, Bishop and Martyr
10:00 a.m. - Memorial Mass for Dr. Joseph Navone
5:00 p.m. - Mary Amisano- Guy

Sunday, 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time; Catechetical Sunday
8:30 a.m. - Teri Guardi - Bob
10:30 a.m. - Pamela Enright, Enright Family

THIS WEEKEND'S GOSPEL REFLECTION:

In my parish, there was once a new employee who frequently told me she was sorry for various imperfections in her work. It could be a little tiring. I finally told her, "You know, you don't have to say 'sorry' so often." She looked me right in the eyes and said, "Father, you're right. I'm sorry." Her ear-to-ear grin betrayed that she enjoyed the irony — and that she would keep asking for forgiveness as often as she needed it.

The Gospel reading this week proclaims to us that God, in Jesus, delights in numerous requests for, and the granting of, forgiveness. To Peter's question, "Lord, if my brother sins against me, how often must I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus responds, "I say to you, not seven times but seventy-seven times." In other words, Peter, stop counting.

Christian life should be marked by a commitment to frequent forgiveness. God never tires of forgiving us. His limitless love has overcome the power of vengeance, hatred, and division. How light our souls feel when unburdened by the habit of keeping score.

Challenge: Name one thing, small or large, for which you could ask forgiveness from someone in your life. Then do it.

— Father John Muir



I'M A LITTLE PENCIL IN THE
HAND OF A WRITING GOD, WHO IS
SENDING A LOVE LETTER TO THE WORLD
- Mother Teresa



ST MARY OUR MOTHER PARISH

faith formation

Faith Formation classes are getting ready to begin! Make sure to register for one of our programs, or stop by our Kick-Off Meetings to learn more. We would love to have you and your family join us for the 2026–2027 school year!

★ Sign up today!
Classes begin after Sept. 20th



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

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.



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. Amy Winkles, Business Manager

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

Strengthening the Home-School Partnership

At St. Mary Our Mother School, we recognize that parent support is essential to the success of students, staff, and the entire school community. To strengthen this partnership, we are excited to host our Parent Information Night on Wednesday, September 16th.

This special evening provides parents with a first-hand look at the expectations, routines, and goals for each classroom for the upcoming school year. Each teacher will share important information about their class and provide families with a classroom handbook, which serves as a valuable guide throughout the year. Parent Information Night is a well-attended event designed exclusively for parents, offering them the opportunity to understand their child's learning environment and to engage directly with teachers. When parents are informed and involved, it greatly enhances the support they can provide to their children, creating a strong foundation for academic growth, personal development, and faith formation.

We are grateful for the partnership of our families and the prayers of our parish community. Events like Parent Information Night help nurture a school environment where students can thrive, teachers are supported, and families are fully engaged in the life of the school.

We look forward to welcoming all parents on Wednesday, September 16th for this meaningful and informative evening.

Blessings always

Mrs. Heather Bill

Principal, St. Mary Our Mother School



God of wisdom and might, we praise you for the wonder of our being, for mind, body, and spirit. Be with our children as they begin a new school year. Bless them and their teachers and staff. Give them the strength and grace as their bodies grow; wisdom and knowledge to their minds as they search for understanding; and peace and zeal to their hearts. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.



YOUNG PEOPLE IN FRANCE ARE GEARING UP FOR THE POPE'S VISIT

The program for Pope Leo XIV's Apostolic Journey to France from September 25-28 has officially been released. The four-day visit will be packed as the Pope will travel to Paris, Saint-Denis, Lourdes, and Metz before returning to Rome. Pope Leo XIV's visit to France will be the first papal visit to the country in 18 years. Young people, in particular, are eagerly looking forward to the encounter and will be among those accompanying the Pope during his visit. The young people who met Pope Benedict XVI at Notre-Dame Cathedral in 2008 are now parents themselves, with children who are eagerly awaiting the Pope's visit — the first papal encounter of their lives and the first "in their adult life" for their parents. The level of interest among young people in Pope Leo's visit is evident from the fact that all the available spots completely filled up — around 80,000 — at the Stade de France near Paris in just one hour. On 25 September, the stadium will host a vigil with the Holy Father, marking the first religious gathering to take place at France's largest sports venue.

Read More at Vaticannews.va



MERCY YOU CAN FEEL

"You qualify for forgiveness," I heard the woman on the other end of the phone tell me, and I surprised myself by starting to weep. I had called the hospital system's financial services department to set up a payment plan on a balance I owed after having some unexpected scans and tests. I was hoping to minimize the dent our family's savings took — transform one devastating wallop into a series of more easily absorbed blows, so to speak. Imagine my surprise when I realized the hospital was pulling its punch. If you have ever had a financial debt forgiven, you know the relief that came over me in that moment. It wasn't until a little later that the guilt set in. I know so many people who have medical debt. Why was I able to get out of paying, and they were not? But the cold, hard truth is that I didn't "get out" of anything. My insurance, for which I pay, had given the hospital enough money to cover the true cost of the procedures. That balance would merely have increased the hospital's profit. Make no mistake: capitalism does not forgive.

If you describe the Sacrament of Reconciliation to someone unfamiliar with theology, chances are they'll think God is a chump. "You get to go in, say you're sorry, and leave — and everything's just fine?" someone once asked me in disbelief. Well, yeah. That's forgiveness. Real mercy cannot be budgeted. It must be given recklessly, extravagantly, against all reason. It must cost the giver. It might just mean that I need to engage more in real mercy. Mercy I can feel.



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