



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 20, 2026



25TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



“Are you envious because I am generous?” Thus, the last will be first, and the first will be last.” - Mt 20:15-16

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH:

Tuesday, September 22 | Tuesday Program Begins
 Thursday, September 24 | Adult Choir Rehearsal
 Saturday, September 26 | OCIA & OCIC Meeting
 Next Sunday, September 27 | Home Study Class & Confirmation
 Kick-off

RECONCILIATION

Saturday | 3:30 pm in the church

Catechetical SUNDAY

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: Every Thursday, starting at 7:00, in the church.

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!

SPECIAL COLLECTION | THIS WEEKEND

Please be generous in this week's collection for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development. In the United States, over 11% of the population lives in poverty. Through this collection, you

support programs that address root causes of poverty and provide a sustainable future for those struggling across the country. Please prayerfully consider how you can support this collection and those working on the margins.

More information can be found at
www.usccb.org/cchd

WE ARE SIMPLY CALLED
 TO BE THE HANDS AND
 FEET OF JESUS,



IN THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Joseph Sartori
 Evelyn Catlin
 Tom Skidmore

ALTAR FLOWERS THIS WEEK

Main altar flowers for September 20-26, 2026
 have been donated in loving memory of Mary
 Amisano from her husband, Guy.

CATECHETICAL SUNDAY

As part of an initiative launched in 1935, the catechists are celebrated for volunteering their time to educate the children in the Catholic faith. Parents and guardians, too, are catechists as they are the primary teachers of faith for their children.

The word catechesis is from a Greek word meaning "to echo." Catechesis is the act of resounding or bringing the Church's teachings to the world. A catechist is one who teaches in the name of the Church.



Catechetical Sunday is a time to rededicate and thank the catechists for their mission of handing on the faith and being a witness to the Gospel as a community.

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.

PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

Today is Catechetical Sunday, a day when we acknowledge and affirm the many dedicated people who serve as teachers and catechists in the various faith formation programs of our parish. This year's theme for Catechetical Sunday selected by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) is "**The Spirit of the Lord is upon me....to bring good news to the poor.**" Luke 4:18; cf. Isaiah 61:1. Today is a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the teaching role each of us plays in being a faith role model for others. Today is also a time to acknowledge and affirm our parents who are the first and best teachers of the Catholic faith to our students.

Today, I have asked **Lily Barr**, our Faith Formation Coordinator at Saint Mary Our Mother, to offer an update on our Faith Formation programs.

This past year has been an incredible season for growth for our Faith Formation Family, and we are grateful for all the ways our parish community has come together to grow in faith.

As we begin a new year, we are excited to continue that growth with a special focus on community, connection, and bringing people together: Faith is something we are never meant to live alone, and we hope our programs provide opportunities for children, teens, adults, and families to learn, grow, and truly feel at home in our parish.

*Our **Tuesday On-Site Program** is open to all Pre-K through Grade 7 students and is held from 4:00 - 5:00 p.m. We are also continuing our **Home Study Program**, with quarterly gatherings on Sunday morning at 9:30 a.m. Our Hybrid Program offers families to join us for weekly classes while also having the flexibility to work from home during busy sports seasons and other family commitments.*

***First Penance and First Communion preparation** is open to students in Grade 2 and older. **Confirmation Preparation** begins in Grade 8, with two classes, a Saturday class focused on service, and a Sunday class beginning with a candidate led Rosary in O'Brien Hall. **Sacramental Preparation for anyone** wishing to receive any of the Sacraments of Initiation to become Catholic. We hope this year brings more opportunities for families to grow together in our Catholic faith. If you have any further questions, please contact the Faith Formation Office at 607-739-8214.*

I also want to offer a word of gratitude to our amazing volunteers, who so generously share their time, faith, and love with our parish children.

*You are living witnesses of Christ's love, and your "yes" to this ministry continues to plant seeds of faith that will grow for years to come. A heartfelt thank you to **Amy Barr, Kerry Bocko, Andrew Bo, Kathy Geary, Brandy Hoover, Barbara Matterazzo, Julie McGinnis, Tina Mitchell, Jean Oshetski, Kiba Painter, Jane Pronti, and Jacquelyn Shope**. We are especially grateful for our youth volunteers who joyfully serve and inspire our students by the example of faith: **Erica & Maddison Bancroft, Ivy & Willow Barr, Izabella & Baylee Bennett, Nate Blauvelt, Morgyn Bocko, Joey Brennan, Jeffrey Cain, Andrew Hoover, Jack Hastrich, Clara Harrigan, Eliza & Luke Lewis, Hawkins & Keanu Mitchell, John Warren Oshetski, Liam Painter, Adelaide & Andrew Pronti, and Lillian & Lucia Shope**. It is a blessing to have you walk alongside our children as they grow in their love for Jesus and His Church. Finally, we give thanks to Father Chris for his ongoing guidance, leadership, and support.*

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

Monday, September 21 - St. Matthew - Apostle & Evangelist
6:45 a.m. - Special Intention of Colleen Kozikowski - Shirley & Ross Lant

Tuesday, September 22 - Weekday
6:45 a.m. - Our Faithful Departed

Wednesday, September 23- St. Pius of Pietrelcina
6:45 a.m. - Deceased Members of the Curtin family - family

Thursday, September 24- Weekday
6:45 a.m. - Martyn Reimsnyder - daughter, Nancy

Friday, September 25 - Weekday
6:45 a.m. - Our Faithful Departed

Saturday, September 26 - Weekday
5:00 p.m. - Ann O'Mara - Marianne Kosty

Sunday, September 27- 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time
8:30 a.m. - Janis Zelko - Mimi & Nick Santone
10:30 a.m. - Roger Joy - Jonathan Taets

PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE CONTINUED:

His pastoral care for our parish family and dedication to forming disciples continues to make Saint Mary Our Mother a truly blessed community! As we look ahead to this new year, we pray that the Holy Spirit will continue to guide us, strengthen us, and bring us closer together as a parish family.

Lily Barr

Faith Formation Coordinator

Thank you, Lily!

"Catechists are the people who keep the memory of Jesus alive; they keep it alive in themselves and are able to revive it in others." - Pope Francis I

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

Fr. L.

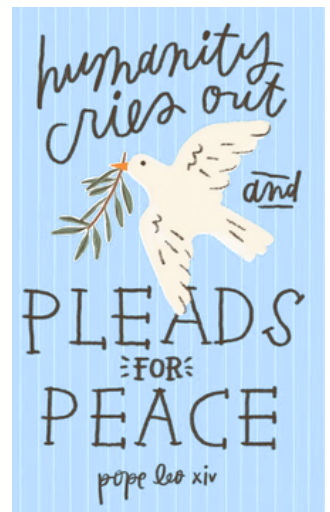
CHRISTIANS SHOULD SEEK COMMUNION AND FOSTER PEACE TOGETHER

The Pope recently invited the Bishops to visit the various holy sites associated with the early Christians and martyrs, whose lives continue to offer a source of inspiration to modern Christians.

Their example, he said, encourages us also to "give our lives for the glory of God and for the good of our brothers and sisters."

Pope Leo pointed to the difficult challenges presented by our world's "particularly turbulent period."

"There seems to be an increasing animosity among peoples, evident not only in international conflicts and disputes," however, said the Pope, we instead need to seek out paths of reconciliation and fraternity. "Jesus shows us another way, revealing that goodness and charity have the power to disarm," he said.





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



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Here are all the ways *your family* can grow in faith THIS YEAR at SMOM Parish

First Penance & Communion Kick-Off Meeting (2nd+)

SEPT 20 @ 11:45 AM

This preparation is open to Catholic children 2nd grade and older who are ready to begin their sacramental journey.

Becoming Catholic Meeting

(Open for kids, teens, & adults)

SEPT 26 @ 6:00 PM

Interested in becoming Catholic or learning more about the Catholic faith? This Meeting is a welcoming place to ask questions, learn about the Catholic Church, & Find out the right path to receive the Sacraments.

Adult Bible Study Meeting (16+)

SEPT 26 @ 6:00 PM

Come together with other adults to explore Scripture, grow in your faith, and connect with our parish community.

Confirmation Kick-Off Meeting (Grades 8-12)

SEPT 27 @ 11:30 PM

This program helps teens grow deeper in their relationship with Christ, learn more about their Catholic faith, and prepare to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation

Youth Group (Grades 6-12)

OCT. 17 @ 6:00 PM

A place for 6th-12th grade students to hang out, bring their friends and siblings and build community through fun games, service activities, & Pizzal!

📍 All Events Meet in O'Brien Hall/SMOM School Cafeteria

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.



"You'll know them by their fruits."

Not by what they say about themselves.
Not by how many verses they can memorize.
Not by how loud they preach about God.
Not by how perfect they appear in public.
Not by how often they post about faith.
Not by their titles, church positions, or image.

But by their life.

By how they treat people who can't benefit them.
By how they respond when they're hurt.
By their consistency in private, not just in public.
By their humility, their patience, their kindness.

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 Winkels, 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

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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 Welcome Dinner

St. Mary Our Mother School will host its School Welcome Dinner on Wednesday, September 23rd, from 6:15–7:30 p.m. This marks the first social event of the 2026–2027 school year and is a wonderful opportunity for school families to come together, share a meal, and enjoy fellowship. The evening allows families to connect with one another, meet new families, and strengthen the sense of community that makes St. Mary Our Mother School so special. It is always a well-attended event, bringing together both new and returning families for a warm and welcoming experience.

Events like the School Welcome Dinner reflect the strong sense of community at St. Mary Our Mother School and offer everyone—families, parishioners, and friends alike—the chance to celebrate and support the life of our school.

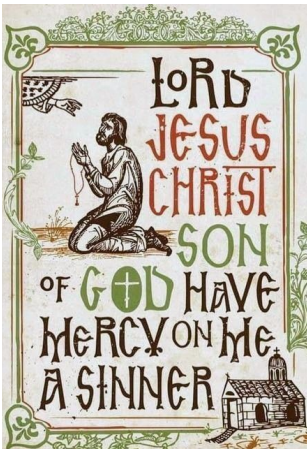
Blessings always,

Mrs. Heather Bill

Principal, St. Mary Our Mother School



WHAT IS THE “JESUS PRAYER?”



The Jesus Prayer is a short invocation of mercy in the name of Jesus: “Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner.”

The exact origins of the prayer are unclear, though it is often attributed to the tradition of Eastern Christianity, possibly via the Desert Fathers (early Christian ascetics who dwelled in Egypt). The prayer has been important to the traditions of both the Eastern Orthodox and the Eastern Catholic faithful. The text echoes the words of the publican in the parable

from Luke 18:9-14, whose humble manner of prayer was praised by Jesus. Its short form and simple wording make it ideal for meditative prayer.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church, in paragraph 2667, highlights the Jesus Prayer, saying that “by it the heart is opened to human wretchedness and the Savior’s mercy.”

25TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



THIS WEEKEND’S GOSPEL REFLECTION:

Every December, the priests of my diocese gather for a Christmas dinner with our bishop. Nearly 200 of us in one room: newly ordained and long retired, pastors of large parishes and quiet confessors, men full of energy and others moving more slowly. Some carry visible success; others bear hidden wounds. It is a tapestry of vocations and lives. When the bishop thanks us, I am always moved. For a moment, none of our differences matter. What matters is that we belong to one another.

I usually leave that evening with a deep sense of peace, but also with a sober realization. Nothing drains joy from the vineyard of the Lord faster than comparison.

That is what Jesus exposes in today’s parable of the workers in the vineyard. The early laborers are not upset because they were treated unjustly; they are angry because others were treated generously. When the landowner asks, “Are you envious because I am generous?” he names the real wound.

This tension echoes throughout salvation history: the elder brother resenting the prodigal, the faithful servant scorning the latecomer. Jesus does not deny the labor of those who have borne the heat of the day, but he refuses to let God’s mercy become a zero-sum game.

In the end, the vineyard’s reward is not about fairness but belonging. The joy offered is communion with a generous Father, who delights in gathering early and late, strong and weak, into one household of grace.

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