



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

October 4th, 2026



27TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



"The stone that the builders rejected has become
the cornerstone." - Mt 21:42ab

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH:

Tuesday, October 6 | Tuesday Program Begins

Thursday, October 8 | Adult Choir Rehearsal

Saturday, October 10 | Adult Formation/OCIA & OCIC Meeting

Next Sunday, October 11 | Twenty Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

RECONCILIATION

Saturday | 3:30 pm in the church



MONTH OF OUR
LADY OF THE HOLY
ROSARY

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS | NEXT MEETING & UPDATES

The next Knights of Columbus business meeting will be held Monday, **October 5 at 6:30 PM** in O'Brien Hall. All members are encouraged to attend.

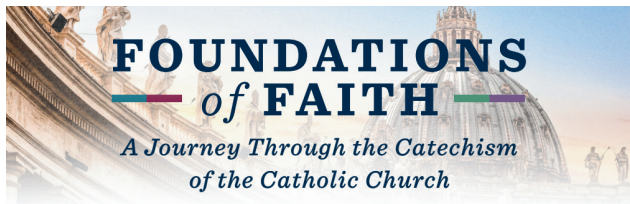
Congratulations to our recent Lotto winners! We plan to donate the majority of the profits from the Lotto to local charities.

This year's C&B tickets will be sent out soon. Please plan to participate!

If you have not yet completed and returned your member survey, please do so as soon as possible.

Our next Social Meeting will be **Monday, October 19**. Details will be discussed at the October 5 business meeting.

Vivat Jesus!



ADULT FORMATION | NEXT CLASS

Discover the heart and soul of your Catholic beliefs with Foundations of Faith: *A Journey Through the Catechism of the Catholic Church*.

This engaging, 20-session series was filmed across 40 locations, spanning 4 continents and 10 countries, showing you the universal beauty of the Church. Participants will meet to view the dynamic video presentations followed by a time of lively group discussion and fellowship. Open for all adults in our parish who would like to learn more about the foundations of our faith! Learn from some of the most renowned Catholic educators of our time, including Dr. Edward Sri, Jeff Cavins, Dr. Marcellino D'Ambrosio, and Fr. Mike Schmitz.

→ Join us for Foundations of Faith & OCIA on **Saturday, October 10th at 6:00 in O'Brien Hall**.

For more information, contact Lily Barr, lily.barr@dor.org



IN THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Dominic Sgro
Rex Gurnsey
Lawrence E. Schaller

MEMORIALS

The Blessed Mother Flowers for October 4-10, 2026 have been donated in loving memory of Sue Beering by her husband, Fran.

The Eucharistic Hosts and the Sacramental Wine for October 4-10, 2026 have been donated in loving memory of Judi Lynch by her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

The Sanctuary Candle burning before the Blessed Sacrament for October 4-10, 2026 have been donated in loving memory of Roy Tenny by his wife, Helen & Family.

NOT TOO LATE TO JOIN OUR FAITH FORMATION & SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMS

Our Faith Formation and Sacramental Preparation Programs are in full swing! However, it's not too late to join us for this school year.

If you're interested in learning more about our programs or would like to join us this year, please reach out to Lily Barr at lily.barr@dor.org or 607-739-8214. We would be happy to talk with you about the different options available and help you find the path that works best for you and your family's life.

THE WOUNDED HEALERS' BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP

Meeting will be offered on **Tuesday, October 13, 2026** at 7:00 PM, in person, at St. Mary Our Mother School, 811 Westlake St., Horseheads, NY. Use the door of the school across from the playground. You may want to bring a picture or two of your loved one who died, or a memento of significance. Each one has a personal grief journey so we are open to listen, and are careful to not dogmatize with "shoulds." We welcome those who are grieving the death of a loved one to this sharing; as you are each hoping to find encouragement, insight, and normalization from each other. You may share or you may just listen. We encourage you to be sensitive to your own needs. ALL are welcome. We strive to provide a safe, confidential, and open place where our motto remains, "We see healing in the very act of helping."

Christine Lloyd, 607-796-2795

PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

October is the month when we center our attention on the respect for all life, often times referred to as Respect Life Month. It is a time of year when we see significant changes in our weather as the summer activities come to an end and autumn activities begin. It is a time when we become aware of the "dying" of the earth as flowers go into their winter slumber, as the trees give up their colorful leaves, as we tend to remain indoors more often, and the cooler days reminds us that winter is not far off.

These seasonal changes invite us to explore our human changes. We become aware of the boundaries of life: living, dying, rising again. We become aware of how very precious each day of life is and how we should treasure each day that God gives us.

We also become more aware of those who share life with us and how precious is their life to us and to the world.

Given this reality, we focus once again on the basic tenets of our faith: life begins with God and life ends according to God's plan. The Church teaches us that life begins at conception. As a mother cares for her infant in the womb, she is assisting God in the creative process not only giving birth to new life, but allowing herself to house life and nurture her developing child. We hear and see many debates these days which speak of life in the womb—what can be allowed and what must be forbidden; what can be legislated and what cannot be legislated. We see political debates from those seeking office who attempt to define the church's teaching. The teaching is rather simple: life begins at conception when God chooses to initiate the creation of a new child.

In the same vein, life continues until God determines when we should come home to heaven. This has become somewhat complicated with the advance of medicine and the development of technology and medications which can prolong and sustain life. At times, a family may face the question, "are we sustaining life or simply keeping the body going?" Families have to decide when enough is enough regarding treatments and medications. This is also a challenge because no one likes to let go of a loved one and no one likes to think that 'they' may have ended someone's life. Yet, deciding for comfort care, deciding this is enough pain, deciding that further treatment is not going to add to the quality of life, embracing the idea that it is time to let go and let God bring a loved one home—these are all quality decisions and actually embrace life and the preciousness with which we hold life.

It is easy to appreciate the preciousness of life when we hold a newborn infant in our arms, and experience how beautiful life is. Strangely enough, it is also easy to appreciate the preciousness of life when sitting at the bedside of a dying person, listening to their breathing, hearing their final words, saying silent prayers—there is a deep appreciation for all that sustains life. On a beautiful fall day, when we see the beautiful autumn colors, experience the crisp seasonal air, we can sense the wonders and value of human life. It is more challenging to appreciate life when we are angry with another, when we have

been hurt, when we are frightened or confused. We do not value life when we feel sad or depressed, lost and wonder where our friends are, and don't even value our own lives! Yet, the challenge is always to realize that life is precious! Why? Life is a gift from God—and we cannot take that fact lightly. Life is something to be experienced, enjoyed, and seen as a means of coming in touch with God. Life always evolves, grows and surprises us and none of this will happen if we are not open to life.

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

Monday, October 5 - Weekday

6:45 a.m. - Joseph Navone - Annette Levan

Tuesday, October 6 - Weekday

6:45 a.m. - Conversion of Sinners - Costello family

Wednesday, October 7 - Our Lady of the Rosary

6:45 a.m. - Ann Ponzi - Phil

Thursday, October 8 - Weekday

6:45 a.m. - Deceased Members of the Miller family - family

Friday, October 9 - Weekday

6:45 a.m. - Mary Amisano - Guy

Saturday, October 10 - Weekday

5:00 p.m. - Richard Hall - Mary & Tom Sweet

Sunday, October 11 - Twenty Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:30 a.m. - Tony Dandrea - wife Ida

10:30 a.m. - Brett Owen - Jean & John Yorio & family

PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE CONTINUED:

As we continue our journey during this month of October, Respect Life Month, take a moment to appreciate the wonderful and unique life God has given just to you.

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

Fr. L.

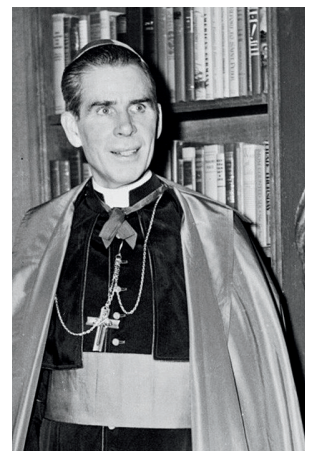
ARCHBISHOP FULTON SHEEN: A 'MASTER OF MODERN MEDIA'

"Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen understood that the most important conversation in a human life takes place in the depths of the heart. It is one reason his voice remains so compelling today.

Archbishop Sheen was a master of modern media in his own era. He understood radio and television and used them with remarkable effectiveness. He entered millions of homes through The Catholic Hour and Life Is Worth Living. Standing before the cameras with his blackboard and episcopal regalia, he spoke about God, human nature, love, suffering, freedom, marriage, temptation and eternity.

Archbishop Sheen's public ministry was rooted in this kind of interior encounter with Christ. The Church must learn to evangelize in the digital world. Archbishop Sheen himself would surely encourage us to do so. But his witness also offers a necessary caution: We must never become so fascinated with the means of communication that we forget the purpose of communicating."

-Bishop Louis Tylka (VaticanNews)





The first step in the OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation of Adults) journey is simply coming and asking questions. Whether you are curious about the Catholic faith, have been thinking about becoming Catholic, or are simply looking to learn more, you are welcome!

OCIA is a journey of prayer, conversation, learning, and discovery as we explore what it means to know and follow Jesus and to be part of the Catholic Church. There is no pressure, just an invitation to come and see. We meet two Saturdays a month from 6:00-7:15, call our Faith Formation Office to learn more!

DID YOU KNOW | CATHOLIC CONVERTS RISING!

A new national study of more than 2,100 participants in the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA) across 20 Catholic dioceses in the United States points to a growing interest in the Catholic faith, particularly among young adults seeking truth, meaning and spiritual depth. The study found that those entering the Church were motivated primarily by two broad factors: a personal search for goodness, truth, inner peace and purpose, and an attraction to the Catholic Church's liturgy, teachings and two-thousand-year tradition. Read More: VaticanNews.VA

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!*)

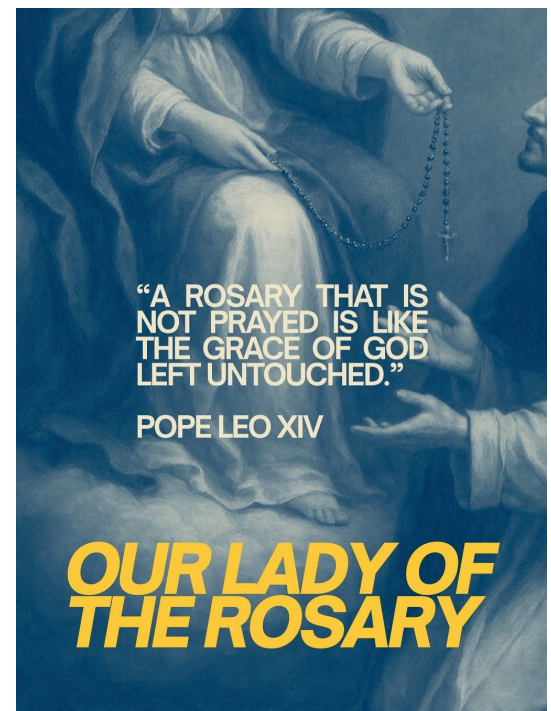
Our parish needs you! No experience necessary!

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 October Calendar

- 10-4 Faith Formation Meeting at 11:30
- 10-6 Tuesday Program 4-5
- 10-10 OCIA & OCIC Meeting 6-7:15
- 10-13 Tuesday Program 4-5
- 10-17 First Penance Retreat 1:30-6:00
- 10-17 Youth Group (Gr. 6-12) & Confirmation 6-7:30
- 10-18 Donuts & Crafts 11:30 "Halloween & All Saints Edition"
- 10-20 Tuesday Program 4-5
- 10-23 First Penance Practice 4-5
- 10-24 OCIA & OCIC Meeting 6-7:15
- 10-25 Home Study Meeting 9:30-10:15
- 10-25 Rosary & Confirmation Class 11:30
- 10-27 Tuesday Program 4-5
- 10-31 Halloween



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

816 West Broad Street (607)-739-3817
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 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

HAHA!

Q: Why didn't they play cards on the Ark?

A: Because Noah was standing on the deck.



ST MARY OUR MOTHER SCHOOL

Fall Open House

We are so excited to invite all parish families, friends, and community members to our Open House at St. Mary Our Mother School on Wednesday, October 7th, from 6:00–7:30 p.m.

Our Open House is more than just a tour—it's a chance to experience the warmth, faith, and joy that fill our school each day. Visitors will have the opportunity to step inside our classrooms, see student work on display, and talk with our dedicated teachers and staff who work so hard to nurture both the hearts and minds of our students.

Catholic education is a gift that lasts a lifetime, and we are blessed to be able to share that gift here at St. Mary Our Mother School. Whether you are already part of our school family, a parishioner who would like to see the wonderful things happening inside our walls, or a family interested in exploring Catholic education for the first time, we warmly welcome you to come and see what makes our school such a special place.

We hope you'll join us for this evening of community, connection, and celebration.

Together, let us continue building a strong foundation of faith and learning for the children of our parish and beyond.

With joy,

Mrs. Heather Bill

Principal, St. Mary Our Mother School



SMOMS Welcome Dinner



GOOD IS GOOD, ALL THE TIME: EXPLAINED!

Perhaps you have been a member of a congregation to whom the pastor says, expectantly, “God is good!” The congregation responds, faithfully, “All the time.” In turn, the speaker repeats: “All the time.” And the congregation affirms: “God is good!”

A collective affirmation of God’s faithfulness amidst the trials of life, this refrain communicates a theme presented again and again in Scripture: Come what may, God will be with us.

There is no official consensus on the origins of this saying, though it is often associated with African Christianity. Whatever this saying’s roots, its message is truth: “For the Lord is good; His mercy is everlasting; and His truth endures to all generations,” says Psalm 100:5. “Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever,” echoes 1 Chronicles 16:34. Jesus confirms this in Matthew 28:20: “I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

THIS WEEKEND’S GOSPEL REFLECTION:

Have you ever felt like your attempts at prayer are a waste of time? I have. Early in my priesthood, I noticed that my prayer life was weakening. Awe and eager expectancy of contact with God had given way to routine. I gradually spent less and less time praying. Nothing dramatic had happened, but my attitude toward God had changed, and I was losing the desire to pray.

Jesus’ parable of the insane vineyard tenants speaks into this kind of experience. He says the landowner “leased it to tenants and went on a journey” (Matthew 21:33). The key to this message is that the vineyard does not belong to those who work it — they are entrusted with it. But little by little, they view it as their possession, and ungrateful entitlement follows. The servants sent by the owner are treated as intrusions. Even the owner’s son becomes a means to their delusional self-will. The central tragedy is not violence but the forgetfulness that spawns it. They need reminding how lucky they are to be given so much.

Eventually, God sent friends to remind me that my relationship with Him and my prayer time are not my possessions, but rather God’s tremendous gifts to me. Perhaps you are feeling discouraged for some reason or other these days in your walk with God. Ponder this parable and let it be a gentle reminder that you and I are fortunate stewards, and God is the generous giver. This allows us to rediscover the beauty of the vineyards in our lives and to remain energetic in cultivating his gifts.

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