



# 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

February 11, 2024



## 6TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

A leper came to Jesus and kneeling down begged him and said, "If you wish, you can make me clean."

- Mk 1:40

**WEEKLY CALENDAR****Tuesday, February 13**

3:45 p.m.--Faith Formation classes--school

**Thursday, February 15**

7:00 p.m. --Adult Choir Rehearsal--church

**Friday, February 16**

5:15 p.m. --Stations of the Cross--chapel

**Saturday, February 17**

3:30 p.m. Sacrament of Penance--Church

**MEMORIALS:**

The Altar Wine for this week of February 11, 2024 has been donated by Jim & Mary Carr in memory of Josephine and Henry Ryan.

The Eucharistic Breads or Hosts for the week of February 11-17, 2024 have been donated in memory of Bernie Matterazzo by Cathy and David Peckham.

**IN THE PEACE OF CHRIST:**

Henry Ginnetti

**PRAYER PLAQUE FOR THE SICK:**

The prayer plaque listing the names of persons who have asked for our prayers is posted across from the bulletin board.

If you wish to be listed or know of someone who has asked for our prayers, please call the parish office at 607-739-3817.

**ST. MARY OUR MOTHER SCHOOL REGISTRATION**

St. Mary Our Mother School is accepting student registrations for the 2024/2025 school year for grades pre-k3 through grade six. Openings will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis. Parents or guardians who are new to St. Mary Our Mother School will need: birth certificate, baptismal certificate, immunization records and a completed parish commitment form for members of the parish. The non-refundable registration fee is \$200 per family. Both before and after school care are available. For further information, call St. Mary Our Mother School at 739-9157 during school hours from 8:30 a.m. until 3:00 p.m.

**VALENTINES FOR VETS:**

Valentines for vets is a local project to support veteran's at the Bath VA Medical Center. The purpose of this project is to wish veterans a Happy Valentines Day and thank them for their service. St. Mary Our Mother Social Ministry Committee has been involved in this project for many years. Although our participation looked different during Covid, we once again invite the parish family to be involved in this project.

We ask that you create handmade cards or letters, thanking our veterans for their service and wishing them a Happy Valentines Day. Please use the salutation, "Dear Veteran" or "Thank You Veteran." Do not include a last name or personal photos on your valentines..

We have placed a red box on the table across from the bulletin board in the main vestibule to collect your valentine cards. Please do not put your valentines in envelopes. These valentines will be hand delivered to the veterans

Sample cards and any additional information are attached to the box in the vestibule. THANK YOU!

**The Unfailing Goodness of God**

I have always wondered why Jesus told the cleansed leper not to publicize how he had been healed by the Son of God. It's not that I can't understand why Jesus would want to keep the matter quiet — after all, he knew that as soon as people heard, he would be mobbed with requests for healings, and his movements restricted.

What gets me is the fact that Jesus simply must have realized the leper would not listen to him. Why give someone a command you know they will ignore? It's a complicated question, and when I reflect on it, I can't help but connect it to another equally complicated question: why does God, all-good and all-knowing, allow bad things to happen?

Yes, God is all-good and all-knowing. So when He gives us free will, He knows what we will do with it. However, He is also all-powerful. He can and will bring good from any situation, any tragedy, or even any instance where someone ignores Him.

Was it a sin for this leper to do other than what Jesus had said? That's a heavy question for a Sunday morning! But it's plain to see that, even though this man ignored Jesus' command, God still used his actions. How many were brought to Christ because of the news spread by this leper!

As someone trying to live out a stewardship way of life, what is God requesting of you right now?



**PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE:**

Wednesday of this week is **Ash Wednesday**, the beginning of the season of Lent. This season is a sacred time for all Christians, leading to the celebration of Easter. For those preparing to celebrate the sacraments of Christian initiation at Easter, as well as those preparing to be received into full communion in the Church, it is a time of prayer and preparation for those sacraments. For those who regularly participate in the life of the Church, the season of Lent offers us an opportunity to embrace the Lenten disciplines of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, so that we can recommit ourselves to living fully our baptismal promises which we will renew on Easter Sunday. For those who have been away from the Church for any other reason, Lent is a time to reconsider renewing that relationship once again. If you know of someone in this latter category, please offer a word of encouragement, invitation, and welcome to our parish. A great deal has been written about the "New Evangelization" that is needed in today's church. Evangelization begins with a word of encouragement and welcome. Wherever you find yourself in your faith journey, please use Lent 2024 as a time of spiritual growth and renewal.

Today's bulletin provides information on Lenten opportunities available to you at St. Mary Our Mother, as well as a Lenten calendar for your home. There also will be a Lenten Adult Education Series at St. Mary, Elmira on March 4-6th, with Father Robert Kennedy,

For the past years, we have offered publications for your use during the Lenten season. Two of these you are familiar with. The first is "**The Word Among Us**," which offers a complete liturgical guide for the Lenten season, including scripture readings, Mass texts, and meditations. The second publication is "**The Little Black Book for Lent**," which offers unique meditations for each day of Lent. There is a children's version of this book entitled "**The Little Purple Book for Lent**," which will be distributed to our children in both our school and faith formation programs. These books will be available on the table in the vestibule.

A traditional devotion in the Church during the Lenten season is the public praying of the **Stations of the Cross**. We will publicly pray this devotion each Friday at 5:15 p.m. in the chapel. I invite you and your family to join us for this Lenten devotion. We also have a long standing practice of the sixth grade students from St. Mary Our Mother School offering a rendition of the "**Living Stations of the Cross**." This will be offered on Friday, March 22nd at 1:30 and 5:15 p.m.

As we begin this Lenten season, let us remember that we are called to reach out in love to our neighbor. Lent, as a season where we incorporate the disciplines of fasting, prayer and almsgiving, is also a time to reflect on how we can change and work towards loving others more readily. The ashes we receive this Wednesday are an outward sign of our commitment of showing our love for others in all we say and do.

Have a great Week and a good Lent. Fr. L

**MASSES FOR THE WEEK:**

**Monday: February 12, Weekday**  
6:45 A.M. Robert MacBlane--Beverly & Dennis Sullivan

**Tuesday: February 13, Weekday**  
6:45 A.M. Margaret Bellizia--family

**Wednesday: February 14, Ash Wednesday**  
6:45 A.M. Joseph Ruhmel--Janet & family  
9:00 A.M. Bernie Matterazzo--Jackie & Warren Conklin  
5:30 P.M. Joseph Along--Bob & Mary Ann Kosty

**Thursday: February 15, Thursday after Ash Wednesday**  
6:45 A.M. Frances Ann Cavanaugh--Robert & Dawn Fischer

**Friday: February 16, Friday after Ash Wednesday**  
6:45 A.M. William Quinn--Ann Gresock

**Saturday: February 17, Saturday after Ash Wednesday**  
5:00 P.M. Bob VanBurger--Barb

**Sunday, February 18--First Sunday of Lent**  
8:30 A.M. Father Robert MacNamara--the Dobek's  
10:30 A.M. Madeline White--the Wright Family

**2024 LENTEN SCHEDULE****Ash Wednesday, February 14, 2024**

6:45 a. m.-- Mass  
9:00 a.m. -- Mass  
5:30 p.m. -- Mass

**Daily Mass:**

6:45 a.m. - Monday thru Friday

**Sacrament of Penance:**

3:30 p.m. Saturdays  
11:30 a.m. Thursday, February 22nd--Diocesan Day of Penance & Mercy  
*Sacrament available until 5:30 p.m.*

**Stations of the Cross:**

1:30 p.m. Fridays with St. Mary Our Mother School (*when school is in session*)  
5:15 p.m. Fridays of Lent  
St. Mary Our Mother School Living Stations  
1:30 & 5:15 p.m.--Friday, March 22, 2024

**RITE OF ELECTION:**

1:00 p.m.--Sunday, February 18, 2024  
Sacred Heart Cathedral

**Adult Education Series:**

March 4-6, St. Mary, Elmira (Times TBA)  
Meditations of Eucharist: Eucharistic Presence, Eucharistic Sacrifice, Eucharistic Living  
Father Robert J. Kennedy, Presenter



The Wounded Healers meeting will be offered this week on Tuesday, February 13th, at 7:00 p.m. in St. Mary Our Mother School, 811 Westlake St., Horseheads. This will be our annual service of remembering. You may wish to bring a picture or two of your loved one who died, or a memento of significance. 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.



**LENT IS COMING!** Join our faith community in a transformative Lenten Journey through CRS Rice Bowl to meet people in Uganda, El Salvador and Indonesia who are working hard to overcome the challenges of hunger and the impact of climate change. Pick up your family's CRS Rice Bowl from the table in the vestibule. During the 40 days of Lent, we will reflect on our connectedness as one family in Christ and work together to ensure our sister and brothers worldwide can thrive. Visit [crsricebowl.org](http://crsricebowl.org) to learn more.

On February 17/18th we will welcome Deacon Kevin Carges to speak at our weekend liturgies. As a Catholic Relief Services (CRS) Global Fellow, Deacon Kevin happily visits faith communities to share his passion for Catholic social teaching as expressed through Catholic Relief Services work around the world.

Catholic Relief Services is the official international humanitarian agency of the Catholic community in the United States (us!). It provides humanitarian and development assistance to millions of people in need in more than 100 countries, responding to emergencies, fighting disease and poverty and nurturing peaceful and just societies. Don't miss this great opportunity on February 17/18 to hear about the impact of your prayers and support on the lives of our global family members.

Thank you for journeying through Lent with Catholic Relief Services (CRS) Rice Bowl.

## NOTRE DAME RETREAT OFFERINGS

### Couple's Retreat - February 16-18

**"Just as you Are"- encountering God in the Sacred Heart of Jesus.** Join other couples on this wonderful opportunity to grow closer to God and to each other.

**Retreat team:** Father John McKenna, C.Ss.R, Fr. Robert Kennedy, Deacon Jonathan and Jodi Schott and Jodie Scordo.

### FILL YOUR SOUL DAY - March 5th

**'Practicing Lent One Day at a Time' with the Not So Typical Church Ladies** (Ann Gallagher, Karen Luke and Vicky Wejko)

**Register on line:** <https://notredameretreat.org/>

## MINISTERIAL STAFF

**Rev. Christopher E. Linsler**, Pastor  
**Rev. Richard F. Kajiru**, In Residence  
**Mrs. Amanda Reeves**, Coordinator of Faith Formation  
**Miss Lily Barr**, Faith Formation Assistant  
**Mrs. Cathy Peckham**, Director of Music  
**Mrs. Heather Bill**, School Principal  
**Mrs. Adriana Enright**, School Secretary  
**Michelle Card**, Business Manager  
**Mrs. Joyce Pirozzolo**, Parish Secretary  
**Ms. Wendy Slater**, Office Assistant  
**Mr. Doug Johnson**, Cemetery Manager  
**Mrs. Barbara Matterazzo**, Bulletin Editor  
**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](mailto:smomc@dor.org)  
 Parish Web Site..... [www.StMaryOurMother.com](http://www.StMaryOurMother.com)  
**St. Mary Our Mother School**  
 811 Westlake Street ..... (607)-739-9157  
 E-mail..... [smoms@dor.org](mailto:smoms@dor.org)  
 School  
 Web Site..... [www.stmaryourmother.school](http://www.stmaryourmother.school)  
**Religious Education Office**  
 816 West Broad Street ..... (607)-739-8214

## REGIONAL/DIOCESAN EVENTS:

**PLEASE JOIN THE CATHOLIC ACTION NETWORK:** The Catholic Action Network (CAN), an arm of the New York State Catholic Conference, gives us all a voice in the halls of government. Through email and social media alerts, CAN reaches tens of thousands of Catholics across New York State to provide educational updates on the important issues being debated and to provide the tools to simplify the process of contacting our elected officials. At present, you will find information on Catholic community efforts to stop the legalization of physician assisted suicide and state aid to Catholic schools. Please consider signing up for the Catholic Action Network: [nyscatholic.org/action-center/](http://nyscatholic.org/action-center/)



## 2024 Lenten Sessions

Held at Most Holy Name of Jesus Parish Faith Formation Center, 1010 Davis St., Elmira. For more information and to register go to: [www.ElmiraCatholic.org/](http://www.ElmiraCatholic.org/)

## NO COST LENTEN CHANGEMAKER SERIES AT NOTRE DAME SCHOOL.

Weekday evening with simple supper and one hour presentation.

- |               |  |
|---------------|--|
| February 22nd | “A migrant journey, Latino farm workers” with Fr. Jesus Flores |
| February 29th | Food insecurity an Invasive Injustice” with Marcus Ebenhoe     |
| March 4th     | “Caring For God’s Creation” with Patrick Lynch                 |
| March 18th    | “Ethical Purchasing” with Grace Adams                          |

To register or to learn more about each evening’s focus and presenter, visit our website: <http://notredameretreat.org>

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