



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

April 21, 2024



4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER



"I am the good shepherd, and I know mine and mine know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I will lay down my life for the sheep." - Jn 10:14-15

MEMORIALS:

The Eucharistic Hosts, Sacramental Wine and the Icon candle have been donated in loving memory of Jean Ciprich for the week of April 21 - 27 by her family.

The main altar flowers for the week of April 21-27, 2024 have been donated in memory of John Kordyl on our wedding anniversary by his wife, Evie.

IN THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Linda Callahan
Carol Cardamone
Nancy Fazzary
Andrea Karabaich
Bridget Wetmore

A STEWARDSHIP MOMENT: The Good Shepherd and the Wolf

I remember very clearly the first movie I watched during my pregnancy with my eldest child. In this film, there is a scene where a young boy is kidnapped and shoved into the back of a van guarded by vicious dogs. His mother persists in trying to free him, even as the dogs snap at her. Their bared teeth and full-throated snarls don't slow her efforts in the slightest.

It wasn't a great movie or even a particularly great scene, but I'll never forget this scene. I'll never forget those dogs.

I had just learned that I was going to be a mother a few days ago. The life growing deep within seemed to me as frail as a whispered secret, but I loved it powerfully. I worried constantly if the baby was safe and healthy. I agonized over signs - real or imagined - that could tell me if the poppyseed-sized child was thriving or failing.

I understood, for the first time in my life, why a woman would charge a pack of attack dogs without hesitation — not because she should, but because she has to.

She could choose not to fight, certainly. She could walk away. But why would she? A future without her son is so much more painful than any physical wound. She may fear for her life, but she fears a life without her child so much more.

The Good Shepherd discourse reveals to us the motivation behind God's actions throughout all of salvation history. From Adam to Noah to Abraham, all the way down to the time of the Messiah and beyond, He keeps trying to get us back. He keeps braving the attack dogs, time after time. He never stops. He never grows weary. And it baffles us: what's in it for Him? we wonder, because we are quicker to give up on ourselves than He is. Why does He keep trying? He could choose not to fight, sure. But why would He? He doesn't want a future without us.

"I will lay down my life for the sheep." — John 10:11



Our Social Ministry Committee will once again be sponsoring their annual baby shower the weekends of April 27th & 28th, May 4th & 5th and May 11th & 12th. Please bring new, unwrapped baby items to Mass and place them in the bassinet. Monetary donations may also be placed in the provided.

In addition to welcoming the new babies, we would like to expand this event to include the new mothers. These new moms need encouragement, love and support while navigating the emotional and physical journey of pregnancy and childbirth. We have compiled a list of gifts that are needed.

These lists can be found in the basket near the bassinet. Your donations will be given to needy mothers-to-be, mothers, and their newborns through the work of the Elmira Pregnancy Resource Center.

**WHAT DO YOU NEED MOST IN YOUR FOOD CUPBOARD?**

That question was recently asked of the Horseheads Food Pantry. Their answer was a simple four items: chicken broth, saltine crackers, canned black beans, and Jiffy Corn Muffin Mix.

Can you help by donating one or more of these items? Thank you for your continuous generosity in supporting the pantry.



Next week we will take up the Catholic Home Missions Appeal. Today, nearly 40% of dioceses in the United States and its territories are unable to fund the essential pastoral work their communities need. Your support of this appeal helps them meet these faith formation and sacramental needs. Please prayerfully consider how you can support this appeal. More information can be found at www.usccb.org/home-missions.

CHURCH ROOF REPLACEMENT:

Work has begun to replace the original church roof, which has served us well since the church was opened and dedicated in November, 1979. The process will take a number of weeks to complete. Thank you all for your patience.

PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE:

This weekend we observe the World Day of Prayer for Vocations. As Catholics, we believe that through our Baptism God has a plan for our lives. God calls some to marriage, some to the ordained ministry as priests and deacons, and others to consecrated religious life and sisters or brothers, and others to live as generous single people. Fully living our own vocation - and teaching young people how to discern God's call - is a serious duty and responsibility, but also a joyful one.

The word "vocation" means "call". As Catholics, we believe God calls individuals to fulfill certain roles in the Church, both for their own holiness, and the good of the entire Church as the People of God. After the decision to follow Christ and seriously pursue holiness, our vocation is the most important decision in life.

Marriage: Most people are called to marriage - to wholeheartedly love their spouses and to joyfully welcome children. The purpose of marriage is for each spouse to bring out the best in their partners, help each other to one day reach heaven, and to teach their children to do the same. Like any vocation, marriage must be discerned, not assumed.

Consecrated Religious Life: Both women and men can join religious communities such as the Franciscans, Dominicans, Benedictines, the Sisters and Brothers of Mercy, the Sisters of St. Joseph, the school Sisters of Notre Dame, etc. The life, ministry, and work of religious orders varies greatly - some are primarily devoted to prayer; others work actively in schools, hospitals, orphanages, social services, pastoral ministry, prison and jail ministry, etc. Common to all religious communities are the vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience. The Sisters of Charity, founded by St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta adds one more vow; that of service to the poor.

Priesthood and/Diaconate: Priests being Jesus to people and people to Jesus through preaching and the sacraments. Priests are active as they counsel people, teach classes, celebrate the liturgy and sacraments, prepare homilies, administer parishes and much more. *Some surveys show that priests are the happiest people in the world!* Deacons also share in the sacrament of Holy Orders.

Dedicated Single Life: Some people serve God as single people, without marrying or making special promises or vows. Single people "*contribute greatly to the good of the human family.*" (CCC2231). There are many single people who serve the Church with incredible generosity.

During this week and beyond, let us take seriously our responsibility to encourage the young people in our lives to understand the various vocations open to them. Let us also encourage our young members to consider that they might have a vocation to the priesthood or vowed religious life. May we and our young be open to the vocation to which God may be calling them, as we all seek holiness and to build up the Kingdom of God in our world through our particular vocation in life. Have a great week! Fr. L

MASSES FOR THE WEEK:

Monday:	April 22-Easter Weekday
6:45 A.M.	Mary Amisano - her husband, Guy
Tuesday:	April 23-Easter Weekday
6:45 A.M.	Special Intentions
Wednesday:	April 24 - Easter Weekday
6:45 A.M.	Agnes & Jack Purcell - Jane & Joe Gallagher
Thursday:	April 25 - Easter Weekday
6:45 A.M.	Our Faithful Departed
Friday	April 26 - Easter Weekday
6:45 A.M.	Linda Mallare and Martha Valdriz - the Lapitan's
Saturday:	April 27 - Easter Weekday
5:00 P.M.	John Kordyl on our wedding anniversary - his wife, Evie
Sunday:	April 28 - Fifth Sunday of Easter
8:30 A.M.	Laura Merritt - sister, Jacqueline
10:30 A.M.	Billy Lowe - the White family

**A STEWARDSHIP MOMENT: FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER:**

In today's Gospel reading we hear Jesus referring to Himself as "the Good Shepherd." His sheep know Him, trust Him, listen to Him and follow Him; having faith that no harm will come to them as long as they stay close to Him. We reaffirmed our faith in Christ when we renewed our baptismal promises at Easter. As stewards of our relationship with Jesus Christ, are we, like the sheep, willing to listen to Jesus, trust Him, follow Him no matter the cost to our comfort?

**RICE BOWL RETURN:**

We appreciate the many parishioners, families, and students who have chosen to participate in the Rice Bowl program for their Lenten almsgiving sacrifice. Please bring your rice bowls with your donation to Church or the parish office as soon as possible.

Feel free to convert the coins in your Rice Bowl to bills or a check for easier transport. Thank you once again for responding to the call to assist our brothers and sisters in need.

A Mass of Recognition for the Sacrament of Matrimony

The Most Reverend Salvatore R. Matano, Bishop of Rochester and couples celebrating anniversaries of Matrimony
Sunday, April 28, 2024 at 11:15 a.m.
Sacred Heart Cathedral
296 Flower City Park, Rochester, NY, 14615

All married couples and their guests are welcome to attend and renew their wedding vows with Bishop Matano. Those celebrating milestone jubilees will be given special recognition. For more information and to register, go to <https://shorturl.at/rEGL3>, or email Donald.smith@dor.org.

NOTRE DAME RETREAT HOUSE SPRING RETREATS AND EVENTS:

Women’s Retreat Weekend---May 3-5:
“Just as You Are” - encountering God in the Sacred Heart of Jesus. (Fr. Kevin McDonald, C.Ss.R., Sr. Theresa Ruty, RSM, Margie Benza, Jodie Scordo)

Fill Your Soul Retreat - May 7: “A Morning Marian Pilgrimage” (Christine DiNovo).

Social Justice Day - May 20 “Everyday Peace” (Holly Rockwell--Justice & Care for Creation Coordinator for SSJ’s Rochester and Sr. Barbara Lum, Sister of St. Joseph Rochester.)



SIX CENTS AT A TIME!

Your clean, refundable cans and both plastic and glass bottles are worth six cents each to the Horseheads Food Pantry when you drop them off at our parish office. The pantry uses the money to purchase the needed items when food donations fall short. Social Ministry is collecting these deposit containers, redeeming them for 6 cents, and sending the money on to the Food Pantry. Consider joining the several families who have been doing this for years. It will give you a “feel good” feeling, knowing that you are helping out our neighbors in need.

CALL TO ACTION
Stop Physician-Assisted Suicide in NY

Proponents of doctor assisted suicide are continuing to try to legalize this deadly practice in New York. There is a BIG push this year and we need your help. Lawmakers need to hear from their constituents if we hope to avoid yet another assault on the dignity of human life. Assisted suicide is dangerous for patients, caregivers, and vulnerable populations such as the elderly and people with disabilities. Suicide is not medical care. Please tell your State Senator and Assembly representatives that you oppose this dangerous and deadly practice. **Contact your state legislators now!** Go to the New York State Catholic Conference Catholic Action Network (CAN) for more information and a link to state leaders. See sample message below:

Dear Senator O’Mara: I strongly oppose physician-assisted suicide and ask you to oppose any legislation that would legalize it in NYS. Please improve access to palliative care, hospice care, the training of doctors in pain management and diagnosis/treatment of depression. Sincerely - (your name).

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
- Parish Web Site.....www.StMaryOurMother.com
- St. Mary Our Mother School**
- 811 Westlake Street.....(607)-739-9157
- E-mail.....smoms@dor.org
- School
- Web Site.....www.stmaryourmother.school
- Religious Education Office**
- 816 West Broad Street.....(607)-739-8214

WE CARE FOR GOD’S CREATION: Part 2:

If you have recently walked down city streets, driven on rural roads, or even walked along a beach on a remote island, you might notice something in common: plastics. Plastics are some of the most commonly littered items in the world and they are drowning our planet. The invention of plastic in 1907 was considered a breakthrough. Plastic products soon become omnipresent in our family lives. For many years, we only perceived the benefits of plastic and knew little of the damaging consequences for human health, natural ecosystems and the climate. Plastics are a problem mostly due to their unbiodegradable nature, the materials used for plastic production (from the refining of oil), and the challenges behind properly discarding them. The main cause for the increase in production of plastics is its use in packaging. 79% of discarded plastic ends up in landfills or in the natural environment (roadsides, oceans, etc.) . Only 9% of discarded plastic is recycled. “I would like us all to make a serious commitment to respect and protect creation, to be attentive to every person, to counter the culture of waste and disposables, to promote a culture of solidarity and of encounter.” (Pope Francis - General Audience June 2013). How might we begin to address the challenge of a culture of plastic waste at home and in our parish activities?

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION INFORMATION:

Practice for May 4th Communion is Wednesday, May 1st at 6:00p.m., in the church.

Practice for May 5th Communion is Thursday, May 2nd at 6:00 p.m., in the church.

CONFIRMATION INFORMATION:

Confirmation with the Bishop is scheduled for Tuesday, May 7th , 7:00 p.m., at Immaculate Conception Church, 113 N Geneva St., Ithaca, NY. Candidates must arrive at least 15 minutes prior to the start of Mass.



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