



# 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 2, 2025



## THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

“Behold, this child is destined for the  
fall and rise of many in Israel.” - Lk 2:34

**WEEKLY CALENDAR:****Monday, February 3**

6:00 p.m.—Hands of Christ Recognition Service—church

**Tuesday, February 4**

3:45 p.m.—Faith Formation Classes—school

**Saturday, February 8**

3:30 p.m.—Sacrament of Penance—church

Frances Bechard  
Donna Koehler  
Carol Zielinski



Our main altar flowers for February 2-8th have been donated in support of and in thanksgiving to all the recipients of the HANDS OF CHRIST awards this year of 2025!

**MEMORIALS:**

The Eucharistic Breads or Hosts for the week of Feb 2-8, 2025 have been donated in memory of Lyn Nalbach by Fran Beering.

*Any one of our regularly scheduled Masses may be offered for a specific intention—in memory of a deceased person, for a sick person's recovery, for a special birthday or anniversary or other occasion. Arrangements may be made by contacting the parish office at 607-739-3817.*



**QR GIVING CODE:** Use your photo app, or your QR reader app to scan the image below and it will bring you to our online donation website. Once your account is set-up, future donations require just a few clicks to complete.

**A SUPER BOWL FOR THE FOOD PANTRY:**

Super Bowl Sunday is soon approaching. Once again, Social Ministry will be taking up a collection at the doors of the church after the Masses on Super Bowl weekend, February 8th and 9th. The donations will go to the food pantry for the purchase of meat, produce, and dairy items for distribution to their clients.

Again, there will be a separate bag at the two church entrances for each team. Please place your donation in the bag of the team for whom you will be rooting. We will let you know in two weeks the winning team of our "Pantry Bowl."

So, in reality, no matter who wins the Super Bowl on the field, the clients of the Horseheads pantry will be the winners. You too, will be a winner for your generosity to those in need.



The Wounded Healers' Bereavement Support Group meeting will be offered on Tuesday, February 11, 2025 at 7:00 P.M., in person, at St. Mary Our Mother School, 811 Westlake St. Horseheads, NY. 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 not to dogmatize with "should." 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."

**GUEST HOMILIST**

Next weekend, we will welcome Father William Donnelly, a priest from the Diocese of Rochester, who will be with us to celebrate our Sunday liturgies and to tell us about the work of "Unbound," a lay Catholic sponsorship ministry that helps children and the elderly in 17 developing countries. We look forward to Father Donnelly's presence with us next weekend and his message on the ministry of "Unbound"

**PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE:**

This past week's observance of **Catholic Schools Week** also marked the beginning of registration for students currently enrolled at **Saint Mary Our Mother School** for the 2025-2026 academic year. Registration for all new students to our school will begin on Monday, February 10th. If you know of families who have children three years of age through sixth grade this coming September, now is the time to contact the school office for further information.

The following are some "**Did You Know**" facts about Saint Mary Our Mother School:

*We offer pre-school for children ages 3 and 4, as well as elementary education and faith based education through grade six, (these formative years provides the strongest educational foundation for our children), facilitating the importance of life-long learning.*

*We promote the intellectual, personal, social, and spiritual growth of each student.*

*We provide a safe and welcoming, yet challenging and loving faith based environment for children of all faiths. (15% of our current families who have chosen St. Mary Our Mother School actively practice a faith other than Catholicism).*

*Our current enrollment is 152 students, and enrollment trends indicate increasing enrollment likely for the next decade.*

*We are a multi-cultural student body, with children from numerous ethnic/racial background. Such an environment instills acceptance and appreciation for all people, and encourages our children to focus on things we have in common.*

*Character traits of respect, trustworthiness, fairness, responsibility, and citizenship are taught to every student every day, helping instill these traits and values in each student. Each day begins with prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance; each day concludes with prayer and reflection.*

*Our faculty and staff are dedicated, caring, and effective people, many with multiple New York State certifications while remaining active with their ongoing professional development. Several of our staff have enrolled their children here because they have seen the academic successes St. Mary Our Mother School provides.*

*Our school has scored higher than other area schools in New York State testing in ELA (English and language Arts) and Math. Technology and proficiency begins in kindergarten.*

*Financial assistance is available for students. No child will be refused a St. Mary Our Mother School education due to a family's inability to pay.*

**MASSES FOR THE WEEK:**

<b>Monday,</b> 6:45 A.M.	<b>February 3— Weekday</b> Our Faithful Departed
<b>Tuesday,</b> 6:45 A.M.	<b>February 4—Weekday</b> Our Faithful Departed
<b>Wednesday,</b> 6:45 A.M.	<b>February 5— St. Agatha, Virgin and Martyr</b> Louise Lordi—Patti Pautz
<b>Thursday,</b> 6:45 A.M.	<b>February 6 —St. Paul Miki and Companions, Martyrs</b> Our Faithful Departed
<b>Friday,</b> 6:45 A.M.	<b>February 7—Weekday</b> Living and Deceased members of the 6:45 a.m. Mass family
<b>Saturday,</b> 5:00 P.M.	<b>February 8—Weekday</b> Josephine and Henry Ryan—Mary and Jim Carr
<b>Sunday,</b> 8:30 A.M. 10:30 A.M.	<b>February 9—Fifth Sunday In Ordinary Time</b> Fr. Robert MacNamara—The Dobek's Special Intention—Mary Navone

**Pastor's Perspective continued:**

*Our school has been an integral part of our community since 1959; with some of our students being the 2nd or 3rd generation families who have attended our school.*

We continue to be blessed to have Saint Mary Our Mother School an integral and vital part of both our parish and greater community. If you are considering our school for your child, please call the school office to arrange a visit and tour. After all, this visit could make all the difference in your child's life.

Have a great week. Please continue to take care of yourself and each other.

Fr. L



**GOSPEL MEDITATION: Luke 2:22-40**

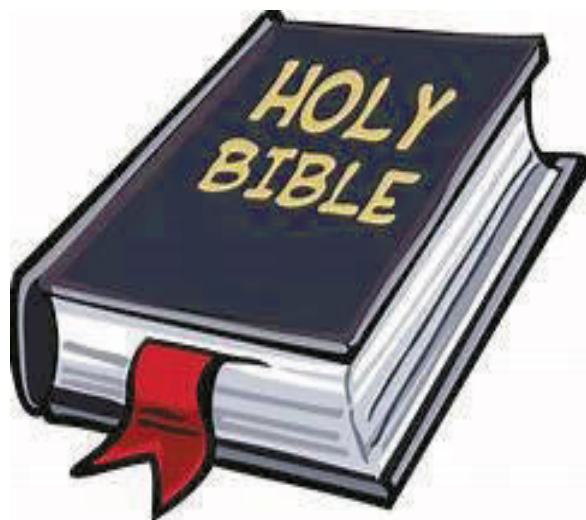
What is the secret to sharing in God’s power to overcome our difficulties?

Mary teaches us this in the prophecy of her pierced heart. This Sunday, the old man Simeon prophesies that when her son faces opposition, Mary’s soul will be pierced by a sword. The seemingly pointless agony of a mother helplessly watching her son be mocked, tortured, killed and then cruelly desecrated in death by a spear — somehow this piercing of her heart releases a power by which “the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed” (Luke 2:35). What to make of this?

Whatever problems we currently face, the deepest threat is finally that evil thoughts are hidden in the human heart: hatred, envy, pride, lust, greed and so on. Behind every tyrant’s injustice, for example, is a heart unpierced by love. Evil hides in our hearts. Mary’s pierced heart, and its suffering love for her son, reveals and scatters these evil thoughts, and replaces them with love, forgiveness, generosity and peace.

This week, I invite us to ponder Mary’s pierced heart. Her heart is quietly at work for us in the Church and world, exposing our evil thoughts and making a path for her son’s divine love. This is how she gently cooperates in our salvation. Closed hearts are our biggest problem; love-pierced hearts are the ultimate power to overcome every difficulty.

— Father John Muir



**NOTRE DAME UP COMING RETREATS AND SPECIAL EVENTS:**

**February 11th:** Fill Your Soul Day—  
”Stations of the Cross: An African American Saint Worthy Journey”

**February 21:** Faith-Based Counseling Resource for Parish Staffs and Volunteers—”Spiritually Informed Communication and Self-Care Workshop”  
(Deborah Lynch, LCSW and Phil Miller, DSW, LCSW)

**February 24:** Senior Luncheon Series (FREE)  
The Heart of Care: Finding Balance and Renewal”.(Susan Barbet Skinner, PhD)

**February 28-March 2:** Couple’s Retreat  
“Walking in Friendship with God: Pilgrims of Hope”  
Fr. Bob Werth, Joe and Aline Clement, Jodie Scordo

**MINISTERIAL STAFF**

- Rev. Christopher E. Linsler**, Pastor
- Rev. Peter T. Singano**, in Residence
- 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



During this holy Jubilee Year, we are alert to the opportunities to be a tangible sign of hope for brothers and sisters who experience hardships of any kind. One distressing reality is that in a world with enough food for all, millions of children (in the United States and globally) suffer from severe hunger and nearly half of all preventable deaths among children under age five worldwide are attributed to malnutrition. This is intolerable. Let us use our voices to speak up for the children.

Contact our US House Representative, Nick Langworthy (Corning office 607-377-3130) and leave this message: *I ask you to pass legislation in the Congress that fully funds the WIC program (Women, Infants, Children Supplemental nutrition); expands the Child Tax Credit to cut poverty in families with children; increase funding for global child nutrition programs; help reduce food insecurity on college campuses. Be sure to leave your name and county. This phone call will take a minute or two, but can make a big impact.*

Thank You—Social Ministry Committee

## VALENTINES FOR VETS

Valentines for Vets is a local project to support veterans 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.

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 and do not include last names or personal photos.

A red box has been placed on the table across from the church bulletin board to collect the valentines. Cards should not be in envelopes and are hand delivered to the veterans. Sample cards and any additional information are attached to the box.

Thank you!

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK:

### African American Read-Ins

We are pleased to announce that our African American Read-In program is back for another year! From February 5th to February 7th, 2025 community volunteers will visit our school to read to students in grades K-6 as part of our celebration of Black History Month.

The program highlights African American authors and culture through a carefully selected lineup of books. This year, we are excited to introduce a new book for our pre-k students: **We're Different, We're the Same** by Bobbi Jane Kates. These readings provide our students with the opportunity to explore important cultural stories and foster a deeper understanding of the diverse voices that have shaped our nation's history.

Each class will participate in a half-hour reading session, with volunteers reading age-appropriate books and engaging in meaningful conversations about the stories. The event helps our students gain exposure to diverse perspectives and encourages a love for reading.

We look forward to this enriching experience for our students, and we are grateful to the volunteers from our local community who make this program a success each year.

Thank you for your continued support of our school and its educational programs!

Blessing,  
Mrs. Heather Bill,  
Principal, St. Mary Our Mother School

## THANK YOU FOR CARING

A big thank you for the generous donations of food, and money to buy meat and fresh food, and the beautiful ornaments and children's books to our Christmas distribution. We were able to send to the pantry \$3,358 to purchase meat and fresh food for needy area families over the holidays.

The Horseheads Food Pantry serves the needy in Horseheads and the surrounding small towns and rural areas all year long. We have worked with the pantry for years to provide additional assistance to needy families during the holiday seasons.

Thank you again for your generous response.  
St. Mary Our Mother Social Ministry Committee.

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