



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 9, 2025



5th Sunday IN ORDINARY TIME

Simon said in reply, "Master, we have worked hard all night and have caught nothing, but at your command I will lower the nets." - Lk 5:5

WEEKLY CALENDAR:**Tuesday, February**

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

Thursday, February 13

7:00 p.m.—Adult Chor Rehearsal—church

Saturday, February

3:30 p.m.—Sacrament of Penance—church

Henry J. Weachock

**MEMORIALS:**

Our main altar flowers for February 9th-15th have been donated with prayers for a very special intention.

The Eucharistic Breads or Hosts for the week of February 9—15, 2025 have been donated in memory of Josephine and Henry Ryan by Mary & Jim Carr.

The votive light before the Icon is burning for the week of February 9—15, 2025 in memory of Josephine and Henry Ryan by Jim and Mary Carr.

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.

WE WELCOME FATHER DONNELLY

This weekend, we welcome **Father William Donnelly**, a priest from the Diocese of Rochester, as our guest homilist at our weekend Masses. Father Donnelly's message will highlight the ministry work of "**Unbound**," a lay Catholic sponsorship ministry that helps children and the elderly in 17 developing countries. We welcome Father Donnelly to our parish and look forward to his message on the ministry of "**Unbound**."

**HANDS OF CHRIST RECIPIENTS**

Eleven of our high school seniors have been named recipients of this year's **Hands of Christ** recognition. These young people have been recognized for their service to God, our parish and the greater community.

We congratulate this year's **Hands of Christ** recipients from St. Mary Our Mother:

Jessica Als
Kirafiki Alsworth
Subha Alsworth
Jack Fesetch
Olivia Gavin
Allison Ruhmel
Annalee Ruhmel
Danika Morehouse
Catherine Woodhouse
Miles Woodhouse
Braden Woodworth

The **Hands of Christ** recognition ceremony was held at St. Mary Our Mother Church on Monday, February 3rd with Bishop Salvatore Matano.



PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE:

This weekend, we welcome **Father William Donnelly**, a priest of the Diocese of Rochester, as our guest homilist at our Sunday liturgies. Father Donnelly is no stranger to St. Mary Our Mother, as he served as pastor of St. Mary Church in Elmira, from June 1992, to June 1997. Before his two stints as a pastor he also served a six-month period of time here at St. Mary Our Mother. We look forward to Father Donnelly's presence with us, as well as his message on ministry of "Unbound," a Catholic sponsorship ministry that serves children and the elderly in a number of developing countries.

Last Monday, St. Mary Our Mother hosted one of three diocesan recognition ceremonies for the **Hands of Christ Award**. This award is given annually to high school seniors who have consistently lived and incorporated Catholic values in their local parishes, schools, and the grater community. This year, we have eleven high school seniors who received this recognition. Their names are printed in today's bulletin. We offer our sincere congratulations to these high school seniors, their parents, families, and friends.

The topic of **Immigration** was a very controversial subject in the recent elections, and continues to be so. Since the elections, many, if not all, Roman Catholic Bishops have written pastoral letters to their people on this subject. On January 30th, **Bishop Matano** sent an extensive letter to the people of the diocese on this topic. Toward the end of his letter, the Bishop writes:

Reasonable people, yes, including Catholics, see the need for law and desire a well-ordered society, but these laws must be just. And "Justice," true justice must be accompanied by faith, the faith that gave us the immortal Ten Commandments, beautifully summed up by Jesus: "Love God, love your neighbor" (Matthew 22: 36-40, Mark 12:30-31). Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life." (John 14:1-6), the foundation upon which just laws rest, laws respecting the dignity of every person, laws that call us to accountability, laws that punish crime, laws that do not paint broadly with the same brush as individual persons, neither grouping them as "deplorables" or "illegals." Rather, as the true jurisprudence, it "will produce the greatest advantage to the community."

Copies of Bishop Matano's complete letter on Immigration are available in the church vestibule. It is well worth your reading.

As I look at the calendar, I realize that we are already 40 days into the new year of 2025. I also realize that the beginning of Lent is less than one month away. It is never too early to begin to think what you will do to make the season of Lent, 2025, a time of spiritual renewal and growth during this sacred season.

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

Fr. L

MASSES FOR THE WEEK:

Monday, 6:45 A.M.	February 10— St. Scholastica, Virgin Our Faithful Departed
Tuesday, 6:45 A.M.	February 11—Weekday Joseph Ruhmel—wife, Janet & family
Wednesday, 6:45 A.M.	February 12— Weekday Margaret Bellizia—family
Thursday, 6:45 A. M.	February 13 —Weekday Happy Birthday Bernie Matterazzo— his family
Friday, 6:45 A.M.	February 14—St. Cyril, Monk an Bishop Joe & Jovencio Sobremonte—Lapitans
Saturday 5:00 P.M.	February 15—Weekday Donald Kosty—Marianne Kosty
Sunday, 8:30 A.M.	February 16, Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time Living and deceased members of the Gates family—Robert Gates
10:30 A.M.	Angie Barbito—her loving family



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."



PRACTICING CATHOLIC – THE CATCH:

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Mini Reflection:

What does it mean to lower your net? It means to listen to God, even when you don't understand Him. It means to keep trying the hard thing that you know is the right thing. It means to keep loving the person who is making life hard on you.

The Catch

I love today's Gospel passage, and not just because I love a good fish fry.

I love it because I am Peter. Over and over again, I am Peter, standing here exhausted because I relied on my own abilities, and it got me nowhere. I'm ready to call it quits. I'm ready to say it's too hard. And here comes Jesus, asking me to lower my net. To keep trying.

And I try to talk sense into him. "It's not going to work, God," I insist. "I've been trying."

"You've been trying," Jesus agrees. "But you haven't asked for my help yet."

What does it mean to lower your net? It sounds so simple and so easy, but it takes a great deal of humility and trust. I think I'm the expert on my own life, the captain of my own ship. Peter probably thought so, too — he was the fisherman, after all. Why would a fisherman listen to a carpenter on matters of fishing?

Lowering your net means giving God control and letting yourself be changed by what He chooses to show you.

It means to listen to God's instructions, even when you don't understand them, even when you find them frustrating. It means to keep trying the hard thing that you know is the right thing, even when it hasn't born much fruit. It means to keep loving the person who is making life hard on you, even when all you want to do is give into feelings of bitterness and distrust.

If we would only lower our nets, the catch would astound us.

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

February 24: 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 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**
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- 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:



ST. MARY OUR MOTHER SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE:

We are excited to invite you to our **Open House at St. Mary Our Mother School on Wednesday, February 12th from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.** This event is an excellent opportunity for families who are interested in learning more about our school to come see our classrooms, meet our dedicated staff, and discover what makes our school community special.

Registration for new families opens on February 11th, and we encourage any interested families to attend the Open House to learn more about our programs and begin the registration process.

If you know of any families who might be interested in joining our school, please let them know about this event! We would love to share with them the many academic, spiritual, and extracurricular opportunities we offer our students.

We also extend a warm invitation to our parishioners to join us for the evening, explore the school, and learn more about the incredible programs available to our students.

We look forward to welcoming you and any prospective families to our school!

Blessings,

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

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