



# ***ST. MARY'S AND ST. PATRICK'S NEWSLETTER***

*December 7, & 14 2025 • Vol. 6 – Edition 25*



*Looking for  
Answers*

Your Questions Addressed

## **How were you called to the priesthood?**

Answered by: Father Pat

December 6 & 7

I talked in October about how my family planted the seeds of faith within me, and how after working in the tire industry for 27 years I began attending daily Mass and saying the Rosary. I may have been slow to it, but I was catching on! Over time in my renewed prayer life, I began to think God was calling me to still more – it was time to explore if I should be a priest. Maybe I could even do so closer to my Mom. But I had to tell her first.

I called my older sister Mary Jane — a numerary with Opus Dei, residing in Boston. I knew she could help me with the best approach to tell Mom about my aspirations. She had but one question for me, however: "Do you have a spiritual director?" I responded "What is that?" She finished the call by saying "Good Luck" with Mom!

I arrived at my Mom's house that Friday in time for dinner. Afterwards we sat chatting on the couch, and I told her I have something to tell you. I said I was thinking about becoming a priest. Her immediate response was "How is your job going?" I replied awesome — best it's been and growing. We discussed the process, and then she said, "I always pictured you as a missionary."

I told her I had an appointment with the Vocation Director in Newark, scheduled for the next morning. To which she replied, Newark you live and own a home in Albany NY, why are you starting in Newark? I expressed the desire to be closer to her during my studies.

Mom was right as usual, of course — I may have thought I had a plan, but this was not about what *I* might plan. The appointment the next morning went sadly, as I recall. The Vocations Director was running late, and started with "I cannot ask you how old you are, but are you older than 40?"

Of course I was. He said Newark could not afford to offer me anything, but pointed me back home, to the Albany Diocese where they have a program for second career vocations. He said contact their Vocations Director and I was off to my next adventure. I left with a smile on my face!

What I hadn't realized was that anyone over 50 is considered to be on their second career when becoming a priest — although I don't think that is a steadfast rule for every diocese. So, I had a new opportunity ahead — more to come!

*If you have news of interest for either of our parishes and would like it to appear in our newsletter, please email your suggested article **directly** to Bill Halstead at [weh058@mac.com](mailto:weh058@mac.com) The deadline for sending all news articles is the Monday, 6:00 pm, before the bi-weekly publishing of the newsletter. Thank you.*

Sunday 12-7	7:30 Mass at St. Mary's 9:30 Mass at St. Patrick's (also <a href="#">St. Patrick's YouTube channel</a> or Mid-Hudson 901) 11:30 Mass at St. Mary's (also <a href="#">St. Mary's YouTube channel</a> ) 6:30 Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at St. Patrick's
Monday 12-8	8:00 Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at St. Mary's <b>6:00 Mass at St. Mary's The Immaculate Conception of The Blessed Virgin Mary</b>
Tuesday 12-9	8:00 Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at St. Mary's <b>9:00 Weekday Mass for both Parishes (1<sup>st</sup> &amp; 3<sup>rd</sup> at St. Mary's; 2<sup>nd</sup> &amp; 4<sup>th</sup> at St. Patrick's)</b> <b>Cancelled 11:00 Women's Bible Study in St. Patrick's Rectory</b> 6:00 Rosary at St. Mary's
Wednesday 12-10	8:30 Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at St. Patrick's
Thursday 12-11	8:30 Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at St. Patrick's 1:00-2:00 St. Patrick's Men's Prayer Meeting <b>6:30 Choir rehearsal at St. Mary's</b>
Friday 12-12	8:00 Morning Prayer at St. Mary's
Saturday 12-13	4:30 Mass at St. Patrick's
Sunday 12-14	7:30 Mass at St. Mary's 9:30 Mass at St. Patrick's (also <a href="#">St. Patrick's YouTube channel</a> or Mid-Hudson 901) 11:30 Mass at St. Mary's (also <a href="#">St. Mary's YouTube channel</a> )
Monday 12-15	8:00 Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at St. Mary's
Tuesday 12-16	8:00 Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at St. Mary's <b>9:00 Weekday Mass for both Parishes (1<sup>st</sup> &amp; 3<sup>rd</sup> at St. Mary's; 2<sup>nd</sup> &amp; 4<sup>th</sup> at St. Patrick's)</b> <b>Cancelled 11:00 Women's Bible Study in St. Patrick's Rectory</b> 6:00 Rosary at St. Mary's
Wednesday 12-17	8:30 Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at St. Patrick's 6:30 Choir rehearsal at St. Patrick's
Thursday 12-18	8:30 Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at St. Patrick's 1:00-2:00 St. Patrick's Men's Prayer Meeting 6:30 Choir rehearsal at St. Mary's
Friday 12-19	8:00 Morning Prayer at St. Mary's
Saturday 12-20	4:30 Mass at St. Patrick's
Sunday 12-21	7:30 Mass at St. Mary's 9:30 Mass at St. Patrick's (also <a href="#">St. Patrick's YouTube channel</a> or Mid-Hudson 901) 11:30 Mass at St. Mary's (also <a href="#">St. Mary's YouTube channel</a> )

**Our snow policy:** Our Network and Parish offices follow the local school districts. If the district has a two hour delay we open two hours later. If there is a school closure we are closed. If there is either a delay or closure, weekday morning Mass and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament are cancelled.

If you have news of interest for either of our parishes and would like it to appear in our newsletter, please email your suggested article **directly** to Bill Halstead at [web058@mac.com](mailto:web058@mac.com) The deadline for sending all news articles is the Monday, 6:00 pm, before the bi-weekly publishing of the newsletter. Thank you.

**The Mother McAuley Columbiettes will not be meeting in the month of December.**

Our next meeting will be held Tuesday, January 27th, at 6:30 pm. Please share with your friends, neighbors and relatives: *Brother Knights and Columbiettes, will be hosting a Red Cross Blood Drive on Wednesday, February 11, from 9am -1pm.* Donating blood is one way we can give back to our community needs. Spread the word.

**Job Opening: Assistant Director of Faith Formation**

The Hudson Valley Vicariate West is seeking a part-time Assistant Director of Faith Formation to coordinate and evaluate Faith Formation activities for Pre-K thru 12 in Ravena, Coxsackie, Athens, and Catskill.

Pay Rate: \$17/hr - \$22/hr (\$15,912/yr - \$20,592/yr) based on experience and qualifications

Full job description available at <https://www.hvwwff.org> or at Mission Central.

**K-4 Faith Formation Schedule**

St. Mary's – every week during 11:30 Mass

St. Patrick's – November 9, November 23, December 7, and December 21 during 9:30 Mass

*(spring schedule to be released after Christmas break)*

**Thrift Shop at St. Patrick's**

**Mary Ann McCool | 518-756-9184**

Come visit Thursdays from 1 – 3 pm or Saturday from 9 am – Noon. We are closed on holidays.

**Food Pantry, Coxsackie**

**Lorraine Camurati | 917-572-3300**

**Annual Christmas Giveaway – Dessert Donations Needed!**

Help Us Make the Holidays Special for Our Community. We are excited to announce that we are preparing for our annual Christmas giveaway, which will take place on December 20. This year, as always, we aim to spread holiday cheer by providing our pantry patrons with everything they need for a complete Christmas dinner. **Dessert Donations Needed** The only component we are still in need of is dessert. We kindly ask for your help in donating non-perishable desserts such as candy, cookies, or cake. Please remember that only non-perishable, store-bought items are allowed. Unfortunately, we cannot distribute homemade goods due to pantry policies. *Please drop off your donations in the St. Mary's "Food Pantry Basket" by December 18.* Your generosity makes a real difference in our community. Thank you for helping us bring joy and a complete holiday meal to those in need this Christmas season!

**St. Patrick's Food Pantry, Ravena**

**St. Patrick's Office | 518-756-3145**

Hours of Operation: Tuesday and Friday 10 to 11 am and Wednesday 6 to 7 pm. Reminder, there is a food pantry basket in the vestibule. Please help replenish our stock by providing the following items: Juice

*The Food Pantry has been busy and has fed the following: Nov. – 334 people*

*The Food Pantry handed out 105 Thanksgiving dinners.*

**Christmas Concert**

Featuring The Rip Van Winkle Brass Quintet

Friday, December 12 @ 7pm – St. Theresa's Windham

Free admission - all are welcome!

*If you have news of interest for either of our parishes and would like it to appear in our newsletter, please email your suggested article **directly** to Bill Halstead at [weh058@mac.com](mailto:weh058@mac.com) The deadline for sending all news articles is the Monday, 6:00 pm, before the bi-weekly publishing of the newsletter. Thank you.*



The Giving Tree is up! Please take a tag(s) for Catholic Charities children, Stewarts Gas cards for CC clients and our own shut-ins and follow the directions on the instruction page. All gifts need to be returned no later than **December 14th**. Any questions, please contact Gina McGrath @ 518-708-4689. Together we can "clean" the tree and make Christmas brighter for many of our neighbors!



## **Your Support is Important**



If you give cash when you attend Mass, please use envelopes. If you put your parish's envelope in the collection basket at any location within our network, the money will go to your home parish. If you don't receive envelopes, please call Donna Hagen at St. Patrick's office at 518-756-3145 or Bill Halstead for St. Mary's at 518-852-2520 and they will get you signed up.

You might also choose to mail a check to your church periodically, or even set up the parish as an automatic payee with your bank, so that the bank mails the check. Make the check out to the parish you are donating to – NOT the network, as each parish has its own accounts and the network does not hold any money – and send to:

St. Mary's Church

80 Mansion Street, Coxsackie, NY 12051

or

St. Patrick's Church

21 Main Street, Ravena, NY 12143

*All are invited to take a baby bottle home to fill with your spare change during the Advent season. Please return the bottles to the church by Christmas to benefit the Aight Center in Hudson.*

*If you have news of interest for either of our parishes and would like it to appear in our newsletter, please email your suggested article **directly** to Bill Halstead at [weh058@mac.com](mailto:weh058@mac.com) The deadline for sending all news articles is the Monday, 6:00 pm, before the bi-weekly publishing of the newsletter. Thank you.*

## **Weekly Justice Challenges for Advent!**

### **December 7, 2025 • 2<sup>nd</sup> Week of Advent**

The first reading for the Second Sunday of Advent is from the prophet Isaiah. It includes these words: "Then the wolf shall be a guest of the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; the calf and the young lion shall browse together...There shall be no harm or ruin on all my holy land; for the earth shall be filled with knowledge of the Lord..." (Isaiah 11:1-10). Isaiah portrays a powerful image of cooperation and peace in this reading. Your challenge this week is to go to the Catholic Relief Services website, read a real-life story of people helping people, research the work which CRS is doing to bring peace and justice to our world, and choose one action you can take as a family or household to support the work of this great organization ([www.crs.org/peacebuilding](http://www.crs.org/peacebuilding)).

*©Center for Ministry Development. Published by the Pastoral Center. <http://pastoral.center> All rights reserved.*

### **December 14, 2025 • 3<sup>rd</sup> Week of Advent**

Sunday's Gospel has Jesus answering the question of who he is by stating: "Go back and report to John what you hear and see: the blind recover their sight, cripples walk, lepers are cured, the deaf hear, dead men are raised to life, and the poor have the good news preached to them" (Mt. 11:2-11). Jesus equates his very identity with care for the poor and marginalized. Your challenge this week is to identify the blind, the lepers, and the poor in your life. Discuss one particular person in need whom God is calling you and your family to serve. Select an action you can do for this person, just as Jesus did. And remember that Pope Francis said that having a friend who is poor is a pathway to heaven. So... just do it!

*©Center for Ministry Development. Published by the Pastoral Center. <http://pastoral.center> All rights reserved.*

## **Immaculate Conception Mass Schedule | Monday, December 8**

9am – St. Theresa's Windham | 12pm – Our Lady of Knock East Durham | 6pm – St. Mary's Coxsackie

## **Christmas Eve Mass Schedule | Wednesday, December 24**

3pm – St. Patrick's Ravena | 4pm – St. John's Greenville | 4pm – St. Patrick's Athens  
5pm – St. Mary's Coxsackie | 5pm – St. Theresa's Windham | 8pm – Our Lady of Knock East Durham  
9pm – St. Patrick's Ravena

## **Christmas Day Mass Schedule | Thursday, December 25**

9am – Sacred Heart Palenville | 10:45am – St. Patrick's Catskill | 11am – Sacred Heart Cairo  
11am – Immaculate Conception Haines Falls  
11am – Sacred Heart Cairo

## **Solemnity of Mary Mass Schedule**

Wednesday, December 31 @ 6pm – St. Theresa's Windham  
Wednesday, December 31 @ 6pm – St. John's Greenville  
Thursday, January 1 @ 12pm – St. Patrick's Catskill  
Thursday, January 1 @ 6pm – St. Patrick's Ravena

*If you have news of interest for either of our parishes and would like it to appear in our newsletter, please email your suggested article **directly** to Bill Halstead at [web058@mac.com](mailto:web058@mac.com). The deadline for sending all news articles is the Monday, 6:00 pm, before the bi-weekly publishing of the newsletter. Thank you.*

## Mass Intentions

***Week of December 6, 7, 2025***

***Second Sunday of Advent***

- Dec 6 4:30 Ravena Justin Bonafide by Grammy  
Guy Anatriello by Rose
- Dec 7 7:30 Coxsackie Heim family by Anne Heim  
Gary Hillicoss by the Stockmans  
Memorial Society
- 9:30 Ravena Diane Hoffman by Rick and Kathi Touchette  
Maureen Steenburn Tate by Kathy Beers  
Deceased members of the Miller family by Judy Miller
- 11:30 Coxsackie Ray and Gina Donovan by Sean and Penny Gager  
Joan Draiss by Robert Piano

***Week of December 13, 14, 2025***

***Third Sunday of Advent***

- Dec 13 4:30 Ravena John and Lena Anatriello by Rose  
Thomas Fitzgerald Sr. and Jr. by Barbara Burrows  
Thomas Piccirello by Barbara Burrows
- Dec 14 7:30 Coxsackie Richard Bruno by Tom and Joan Burke
- 9:30 Ravena Lee Miller by family  
Olivia Booker by Rita Ablett  
Jim Frueh, Brother by Elaine Christopher
- 11:30 Coxsackie John and Paula Grogan by Karen Cole

***Week of December 20, 21, 2025***

***Fourth Sunday of Advent***

- Dec 20 4:30 Ravena Krista Visconti by family  
Joseph Campoli by Gloria
- Dec 21 7:30 Coxsackie Leo Synakowski by his wife  
Ray and Regina Donovan by their family
- 9:30 Ravena Patricia & Bill McMullen & Anne McNessor by McMullen Family
- 11:30 Coxsackie Matt and Jackie Kennedy by Alice and Michael Gatt

*If you have news of interest for either of our parishes and would like it to appear in our newsletter, please email your suggested article **directly** to Bill Halstead at [weh058@mac.com](mailto:weh058@mac.com) The deadline for sending all news articles is the Monday, 6:00 pm, before the bi-weekly publishing of the newsletter. Thank you.*



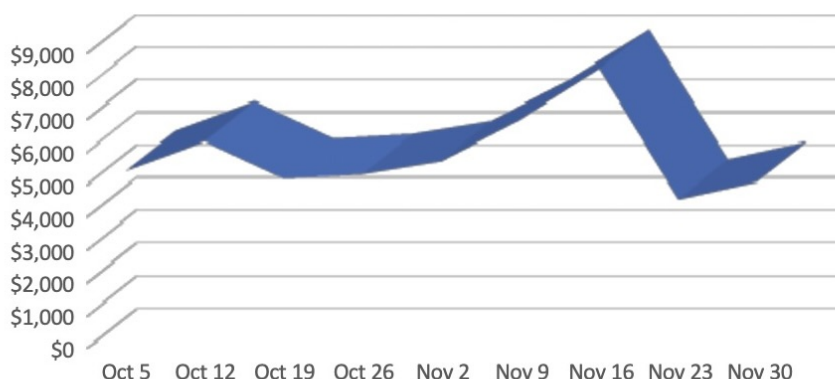
## Ravena

Attendance		Livestream Views		Collection		E-Giving	
11/23	11/30	11/23	11/30	11/23	11/30	11/23	11/30
213	208	122	142	\$2,548.00	\$3,093.00	\$2,020.00	\$2,020.00

### St. Patrick's Collection History

Oct 5	\$5,443
Oct 12	\$6,350
Oct 19	\$5,198
Oct 26	\$5,327
Nov 2	\$5,740
Nov 9	\$7,010
Nov 16	\$8,558
Nov 23	\$4,568
Nov 30	\$5,113

### St. Patrick's Collections



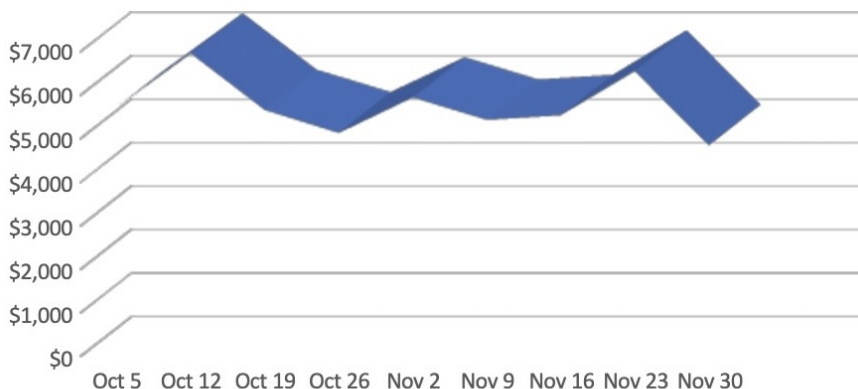
## Coxsackie

Attendance		Collection		E-Giving		R & R	
11/23	11/30	11/23	11/30	11/23	11/30	11/23	11/30
212	210	\$3,400.00	\$1,895.00	\$2,970.00	\$2,970.00	\$200.00	\$0.00

### St. Mary's Collection History

Oct 5	\$5,733
Oct 12	\$6,977
Oct 19	\$5,671
Oct 26	\$5,150
Nov 2	\$5,961
Nov 9	\$5,447
Nov 16	\$5,555
Nov 23	\$6,570
Nov 30	\$4,865

### St. Mary's Collections



If you have news of interest for either of our parishes and would like it to appear in our newsletter, please email your suggested article **directly** to Bill Halstead at [weh058@mac.com](mailto:weh058@mac.com). The deadline for sending all news articles is the Monday, 6:00 pm, before the bi-weekly publishing of the newsletter. Thank you.

## Connecting with the Parishes

Online | Phone | E-Mail

### WEEKEND MASSES (ALL ARE WELCOME):

4:30 pm Saturday Mass at St. Patrick's

7:30 am Sunday Mass at St. Mary's

9:30 am Sunday Mass at St. Patrick's

9:30 am on **St. Patrick's YouTube** channel (also on-demand)

[Click here](#) and then please subscribe and on **Mid-Hudson Cable Channel 901** (live at 9:30 only)

11:30 am Sunday Mass at St. Mary's

11:30 am on **St. Mary's YouTube** channel [Click here](#) and then please subscribe

### WEEKDAY MASS (Except for Holy Days & days of funeral at a parish):

St. Mary's 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday 9:00 am

St. Patrick's 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday 9:00 am

HUDSON VALLEY VICARIATE WEST FAITH FORMATION Online [hvvwff.org](http://hvvwff.org)

FR. JAY'S YOUTUBE CHANNEL FOR HOMILIES AND MESSAGES: [Click here](#) and then please **SUBSCRIBE**

FIND US ONLINE: [Click here](#) for St. Patrick's Parish Homepage [Click here](#) for St. Mary's Parish Homepage  
Parish Facebook Pages (updated daily)

CONTACT US BY PHONE: St. Patrick's Office: 518-756 -3145 St. Mary's Office: 518-731-8800

NETWORK FACEBOOK <https://www.facebook.com/hvvw.network/>

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT First Sunday of the month 6:30-7:30 pm at St. Patrick's

Monday 8:00 am at St. Mary's

Tuesday 8:00 am at St. Mary's except on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays when there is Mass

Wednesday and Thursday 8:30 am St. Patrick's

MORNING PRAYER (Following the Liturgy of the Hours format) Friday mornings at 8:00 at St. Mary's

**WOMEN'S TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY** 11 am - 12 pm on Tuesdays St. Patrick's School – Rectory

**Cancelled until 2026**

**MEN'S PRAYER MEETING** 1 – 2 pm on Thursdays St. Patrick's School – Classroom 5

**Reconciliation**, in both Coxsackie and Ravena, is cancelled until further notice. Reconciliation will still be available on Saturdays at 3pm, in Athens on the first and third Saturdays of the month and Catskill on the second and fourth Saturdays of the month.

*If you have news of interest for either of our parishes and would like it to appear in our newsletter, please email your suggested article **directly** to Bill Halstead at [weh058@mac.com](mailto:weh058@mac.com) The deadline for sending all news articles is the Monday, 6:00 pm, before the bi-weekly publishing of the newsletter. Thank you.*