



ST. MARY'S & ST. PATRICK'S NEWSLETTER

July 5 & 12, 2020 • Edition 13 • Weeks 16 & 17



Keeping us connected during the Coronavirus Pandemic

Fr. Scott's Sharing Spot

Dear Parish Family....

What a joy it was to get to celebrate Mass together last week!

Several people told me some version of:

*"I really do like having the chance to watch Mass on the livestream,
but being here proved to me that there is NOTHING like being together in person."*

And my experience was the same – celebrating Mass with a church full of people is so much better than presiding alone in front of a camera! Having the Body of Christ with the Body of Christ present – there truly is nothing like it.

Having our first weekend under our belt is also a big relief because we worried about making sure that we had planned enough, thought through enough "what ifs," were prepared enough for the unexpected. I am happy to say that it turns out that we were. One parishioner told me that she had decided ahead of time not to receive communion as a precaution, but when she saw how safe she felt, she changed her mind and received, and felt a huge infusion of grace when she did. I love hearing stories like that.

Our attendance was not very big. We had 36 people present at the 4:30 Mass at St. Mary's on Saturday. And we had 46 in the pews at St. Patrick's on Sunday. With social distancing, we're able to fit between 60-70 into the churches for Mass, so we have some room to grow. Other parishes I've spoken with in other parts of our area and of the diocese have reported similar attendance in proportion to their seating capacity, but we honestly expected to be different because we called parishioners at home and made our invitation to families with last names A-C accordingly. I'm not sure what changed things between the calls and Masses, but it's true that the news about the virus has worsened in the last two weeks in states like Florida, Arizona and Texas, which reopened before we did. That may have caused people to want to redouble their efforts to stay safe and practice an abundance of caution.

It's for reasons just like this that the bishops have suspended the obligation to attend Mass during this pandemic. Some people have been surprised by this decision, but if you think about it, we shouldn't be. This policy totally fits with the "Consistent Ethic of Life" teachings that our church is famous for – that human life is sacred and inviolable from conception to natural death, or as many like to sum up, "from the womb to the tomb."

The reason the Church has temporarily suspended the Mass obligation is for the same reason the Church teaches about the moral danger of abortion, unnatural family planning, euthanasia and assisted suicide.

The Church always speaks in protection of life, because as the Haitian proverb says, “Life is God’s best gift. Everything else is gravy.” Because this virus has infected 10.5 million worldwide and killed 512,000, a quarter of whom are American, the Church’s decision again demonstrates a consistent value of life being paramount.

I saw this joke recently and I think it makes the point better than I ever could:

People keep asking, “Is this all that serious?”
Listen y’all. The casinos and the churches are both closed.
When heaven and hell agree on the same thing, it’s probably pretty serious. ☺

This weekend we’re inviting families whose last names begin with letters D-L... and unless we get overwhelmed by the numbers, next week we’ll invite letters M-Z. We’ll keep looking closely at all the data and work to make the best and most reasonable decisions to make it as simple and safe for everyone who feels comfortable to attend Mass able to do so as often as possible. Perhaps the alphabet guideline will soon be a thing of the past. Masks, however... pesky as they are... are here to stay for now. We promise to keep following the guidance of the Diocese and the State Department of Health and to keep you updated.

As a sign that there is reason for us who live in New York to be optimistic about our progress in flattening the curve, our volunteer mask makers have decided to suspend their efforts for now. It seems that everyone who needs a mask now has one and many have a selection of masks that even allow them to coordinate their mask with their outfit for a “killer look.” Good for you all!

We thank Maria Mintz at St. Mary’s and Diane Hoffman at St. Patrick’s for coordinating the mask making efforts. Along with the team of sewers they led, our parishes made literally THOUSANDS OF MASKS in three months and supplied even small businesses and veterans groups with homemade PPE. Talk about the Church finding practical ways to protect life during a critical time! I am so proud to be your pastor. It’s a great gift to shepherd these two parishes and I’m grateful to God for it everyday.

Happy Independence Day!

Faithfully,
Fr. Scott ☺

Online Schedule

SUNDAY 7/5	9:30 = Public Mass at St. Patrick’s (for St. Pat’s Parishioners D-L) (also St. Patrick’s YouTube channel or Mid-Hudson 901) 3:00 = Praying in your home
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MONDAY 7/6	By Noon = New Prayer Service for small groups posted on parish Homepages 3:00 = Praying in your home
TUESDAY 7/7	2:00 = New Content posted on Fr. Scott's YouTube Channel 3:00 = Praying in your home 5:30 = NEW: Confession (St. Mary's) 6:30 = Rosary, St. Mary's (All are welcome!)
WEDNESDAY 7/8	3:00 = Praying in your home
THURSDAY 7/9	3:00 = Praying in your home 7:00 = Family/Youth Prayer Service (Facebook Live) 7:00 = Adult Education Group led by Deacon Mike (Zoom) → Interested in the Group? E-mail Deacon Mike at dcnmcd@aol.com
FRIDAY 7/10	2:00 = New Profiles of Endurance Episode airs 3:00 = Praying in your home
SATURDAY 7/11	3:00 = Praying in your home 4:30 = Public Mass at St. Mary's (for St. Mary's Parishioners M-Z) 6:00 = A Few Minutes in the Church: The Mass (Facebook Live)
SUNDAY 7/12	9:30 = Public Mass at St. Patrick's (for St. Pat's Parishioners M-Z) (also St. Patrick's YouTube channel or Mid-Hudson 901) 3:00 = Praying in your home
MONDAY 7/13	By Noon = New Prayer Service for small groups posted on parish Homepages 3:00 = Praying in your home
TUESDAY 7/14	2:00 = New Content posted on Fr. Scott's YouTube Channel 3:00 = Praying in your home 5:30 = NEW: Confession (St. Patrick's) 6:30 = Rosary, St. Mary's (All are welcome!)
WEDNESDAY 7/15	3:00 = Praying in your home
THURSDAY 7/16	3:00 = Praying in your home 7:00 = Family/Youth Prayer Service (Facebook Live) 7:00 = Adult Education Group led by Deacon Mike (Zoom) → Interested in the Group? E-mail Deacon Mike at dcnmcd@aol.com

FRIDAY 7/17	2:00 = New Profiles of Endurance Episode airs 3:00 = Praying in your home
SATURDAY 7/18	3:00 = Praying in your home 4:30 = Public Mass at St. Mary's 6:00 = A Few Minutes in the Church: The Mass (Facebook Live)
SUNDAY 7/19	9:30 = Public Mass at St. Patrick's (also St. Patrick's YouTube channel or Mid-Hudson 901) 3:00 = Praying in your home

Prayers for Unity in Times of Strife

Call Bob Desrosiers | 518-444-8184

Coxsackie-Athens Ecumenical Clergy Associate will lead a Community Evening of Prayer for Peace and Unity on **Friday, July 10, at 7 PM** in the Coxsackie Village Building Parking Lot. Please join us in prayer for Peace and Unity in our country and world..

Collections & E-Giving

E-Mail Dawn Brownson | parishbusinessmanager@gmail.com

Our parishes have been so blessed by every dime of support you have so generously given during these past 15 weeks. Thank you for never giving up on your connection to your parish.

We have also benefitted from the SBA Payroll Protection Loan (PPP) from the Federal Government. Both of our parishes received 8 weeks of PPP funds to pay the salary and benefits of our staff, and the Diocese received PPP funding to pay for the priests' salaries and benefits – meaning our parishes have not been billed for Fr. Scott's income costs for 8 weeks either. Both of these are great blessings, and we thank Mark Maraglio and the Staff at the National Bank of Coxsackie, for assisting us with the labor of that process.

Although we are returning to Mass in small numbers, for the immediate future the livestream Mass will remain the manner in which most of us will be participating in the weekly celebration of the Eucharist. **Therefore, E-Giving remains the best method to consistently support your parish.**

If you'd give e-giving a try, knowing how much it helps the parish and that you can change your mind at any time, [Click Here](#)

And remember, those who wish can still always mail us your donations. Weekly collections and one-time donations will be collected and processed from our Rectory mail boxes regularly.

Thank you all for your enduring generosity!

Coxsackie Community Food Pantry Delivers**Call Village Clerk | lcamurati@hotmail.com**

The Coxsackie Food Pantry is in need of volunteers who are able to work the Thursday evening slot 7– 8pm. Those interested, please contact **Lorraine Camurati** at **(917) 572-3300**.

Free food is available to residents of Coxsackie, Climax, Earlton, Medway & New Baltimore. Anyone who needs food can get it — there are no low-income requirements.

The Pantry is at **117 Mansion Street**, next to McQuade Park.

Come, park and stay in your car. A volunteer comes to fill out your shopping list, then fills your order. If you are new, bring a piece of mail addressed to you.

Tuesday	1-2 pm
Thursday	7-8 pm
Saturday	10-11 am

Anyone who is quarantined or homebound can request home delivery, please call the Coxsackie Village Clerk Office at **518-731-2718**. You do not have to live in the Village of Coxsackie.

St. Patrick's Food Pantry Delivers**Call Diane Hoffman 518-330-6789**

We are here to serve – Home deliveries are available! New clients are always welcome! Thank you, one and all, for your incredibly generous donations to The Pantry.

The Pantry is open:

Tuesday	10 -11 am
Wednesday	6 -7 pm
Friday	10 -11 am

Donations can be picked up by a volunteer... please call us if you can donate:

Shampoo, Toothpaste, Toothbrushes Soap, and Ladies' Deodorant

Reaching Our Youth & Families**E-Mail Christa Desrosiers | derobccr@aol.com****FAMILY PRAYER TIME**

Bob and Christa send a family prayer time format each week that is based on Fr. Scott's homily and prayer service for small groups. We encourage families to check it out. It's short and meant to be adjusted however your family finds most useful. The Desrosiers family goes live almost every week on St Patrick's FB to share how they are using it. Normally at 7PM on Thursday, or a bit later.... It is always recorded, so if you miss it live, it's still available.

ONE MINUTE IN THE CHURCH: THE MASS

St Mary's FB Live on Saturdays at 6:15 PM. Learn a little bit about some aspect of the Mass. It's easy - it's fun - it's safe - and it's faith-building!

VIRTUAL BREAKAWAY

Normally, we would meet at the beautiful Pyramid Life Center with about 100 Middle and High School youth at this time of year. Because we can't meet in person - we are going VIRTUAL! If you have a Middle or High Schooler that would like to join in some virtual fun with Catholic youth from all over the Diocese, go to pyramidlifecenter.com and register now!

Deadline to receive the 'camp box' of supplies is July 8th.

Please email Christa derobccr@aol.com if you have questions.

The Sick, Elderly & Homebound

Call Bob Desrosiers or Michelle Fralick | 518-756-9779

If you know someone who is infected with COVID-19 or ill with another ailment, please let us know so we may all pray for them and reach out to their family, when appropriate.

ELDERLY & HOMEBOUND CONNECTIONS

Please volunteer to make phone calls to the elderly of our parish (those ill seniors on our Pastoral Care List and others who are not on the list but still would enjoy some conversation). Please contact Bob at stmaryffo@aol.com or 518-444-8184.

ST. PATRICK'S PRAYER CHAIN

Requests may be forwarded to Michelle Fralick via email chelli1126@aol.com or by phone at 518-756-9779. By request, Michelle will share names and telephone numbers of the homebound so we can send cards or make give them a call.

ST. MARY'S PRAYER CHAIN

Requests may be forwarded to Bob Desrosiers via e-mail at stmaryffo@aol.com or by phone at 518-444-8184. If anyone wishes to become a prayer chain team member, please contact Bob. There are lists of addresses of our homebound parishioners on a table as you enter church and it's updated bi-weekly so you can pray for them and send them cards.

Small Prayer Groups

E-Mail Christa Desrosiers | derobccr@aol.com

More than 20 Small Prayer groups are meeting on Zoom or over the phone across both parishes! Please contact Christa today and get connected to one... or form your own.

[Click here](#) to get a taste of how it works!

We post fresh prayer services every Monday by Noon on the Homepage of both parishes under the tab "Small Prayer Groups." There are brief audio instructions there as well that guide you through the process of praying as a group. We've made it easy! So if you don't want to join a formal group, go on our Homepage, get the materials, and do it yourself with family and friends.

WEEKEND MASSES:

4:30 PM Saturday at St. Mary's (by weekly invitation)

9:30 AM Sunday at St. Patrick's (by weekly invitation)

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

[Click here](#) and then subscribe

and on **Mid-Hudson Cable channel 901** (live at 9:30 only)

WEEKDAY MASS (On Facebook Live from Our Lady of Victory Parish, Troy)

[Click here](#) to watch live at 8:30 AM Monday - Friday

or on demand later in the day

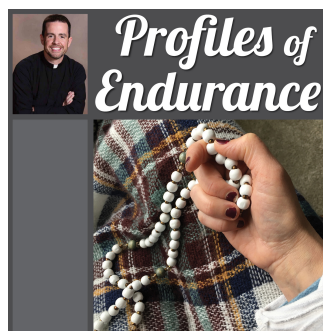
FR. SCOTT'S HOMILIES AND VIDEO MESSAGES:

[Click here](#) and then subscribe

"PROFILES OF ENDURANCE" (Fr. Scott's Podcast)

Interviews with parishioners about facing life's challenges

**SUBSCRIBE TODAY
ON APPLE PODCASTS**



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Parish Websites (updated regularly)

Facebook (updated daily)

MY PARISH APP (Two Parishes, One App):

Text **APP** to **88202** to subscribe

INSTAGRAM (Two Parishes, One Instagram):

[stmary's.stpatrick's](https://www.instagram.com/stmary's.stpatrick's)



CHURCH BUILDINGS:

Open daily from around dawn until around dusk

PHONE (voicemails checked daily):

St. Mary's Office = 518-731-8800

St. Patrick's Office = 518-756-3145

E-MAIL (checked daily):

St. Mary's Main Office e-mail: stmoff@aol.com

St. Patrick's Main Office e-mail: office@tcosp.org

Business Manager (Both Parishes): parishbusinessmanager@gmail.com

COMMUNITY PRAYER SERVICE FOR UNITY

FRIDAY, JULY 10TH, 7^{PM}

VILLAGE BUILDING PARKING LOT

WE OBSERVE STATE MANDATED
SAFE DISTANCING & MASKS
REQUIREMENTS

BRING YOUR OWN CHAIRS

PARKING AVAILABLE AT THE SENIOR CENTER

ORGANIZED BY THE COXSAKIE/ATHENS ECUMENICAL CLERGY COUNCIL