



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

July 19 & 26, 2020 • Edition 14 • Weeks 18 & 19



Keeping us connected during the Coronavirus Pandemic

Fr. Scott's Sharing Spot

Dear Parish Family....

Despite the challenges of Coronavirus, our parishes have continued to reach out to respond to the needs of our community in these unpredictable months. I thought you would appreciate an update on the main outreach initiatives going on at each parish.

St. Mary's: "CC MOVE" Program

Catholic Charities applied for and received a grant to purchase and outfit a mobile outreach vehicle, called the "CC MOVE" RV. Imagine it as a clinic / social service agency / outreach office on wheels. Since the Diocese of Albany encompasses 14 counties, (many of which are completely rural) covering 10,000 square miles, CC MOVE brings the compassion and services of the Church out of bricks and mortar and right to where people are suffering. It's the closest modern version of living out the way Jesus lived I can think of. It inspired all of us so much, we decided to tithe St. Mary's collections from the five Sundays of Lent this year and donate it to the program. On March 15 (the last day of public Masses in NYS) the CC Move RV parked in front of St. Mary's so everyone at Mass could see exactly what our donations were going to support.

Naturally, since Coronavirus prevented us from gathering for the last weeks of Lent, we assumed with disappointment that our collections would be way down, thus reducing our contribution to CC MOVE. But when we totaled all the e-giving, together with the envelopes people mailed in or delivered to the rectory, we were delighted to find that **the people of St. Mary's had donated \$2,645 to CC MOVE!**

On July 9, CC MOVE was parked at Cairo-Durham High School, offering a Mass food distribution of thousands of donated food items to anyone in need. I was honored to be able to be on site there and present them with our sacrificial donation.



St. Patrick's: CARE PORTAL for Local Foster Children


Ravena is home to a grassroots organization called Justice for Orphans (JFO), which began as a desire to help children whose parents had died and to advocate for adoption as an alternative to terminating an unexpected pregnancy. In time JFO realized that there is a tremendous need in our area to support the sagging foster care system, in which a lot of the children JFO aims to help are being cared for. In researching how they could help, JFO learned some stunning facts.

In 2018, there were over **3,300 calls to Child Protective Services in Albany County alone**. Most of those calls came from a family in hardship. For example, there were repeated instances of mothers who had been living in a domestic violence shelter who were now rebuilding their life without their abusive spouse and who wanted their kids back from foster care, but lacked much of what they needed to rebuild a household from scratch. They discovered that the #1 item parents in that kind of situation needed were **kids' beds**, since kids can't leave foster care without a bed to sleep in. Many kids in underprivileged homes sleep on air mattresses on the floor. Other poor mothers were not able to bring their babies home from the maternity ward of the hospital because they lacked a car seat, so the child had to be brought to a foster family instead. One family's home had been vandalized and they had garbage bags where their windows were broken. The kids' mom slept on couch downstairs so she could leap to defend her children in case of home invasion. Their social worker saw the situation and knew that the house needed replacement windows in order for the kids to live there safely.

So JFO worked to get linked up with an online tool called the CARE PORTAL to connect donors with situations like these and began gathering individuals and churches to come together to meet the needs of some of these families. **In the first year, JFO supporters served over 530 Capital Region children!**

Up until earlier this year, JFO had only been operating within Protestant churches. But in the winter, JFO began a relationship with Catholic Charities. **That opening allowed St. Patrick's to become the first Catholic parish to begin supporting the Care Portal families!** We as a parish donate \$100 a month to the Care Portal and now have a parish coordinator, **Sherry Wells**, who is leading our parish ministry to find specific family situations on the Care Portal that seem to be suited to our ability to help. Just by using Facebook, Sherry has already been able to gather support from St. Patrick's parishioners to meet the needs of a poor area family who, with no notice, had to begin fostering three children of another member of their family in a temporary crisis and faced a real lack of resources. This ministry is in its infant stages, and COVID-19 has prevented us from yet unveiling it in a formal way, but if you are interested, please check St. Patrick's Facebook page for Care Portal requests. We will also gladly accept gift cards at the rectory (marked for Care Portal).

Our parishes continue to make a difference in the community despite our limitations. Thanks be to God for the abundance of our blessings and the goodness of our people.

Faithfully,
Fr. Scott 

Online Schedule

SUNDAY 7/19	9:30 = Public Mass at St. Patrick's (for St. Pat's Parishioners A-M) (also St. Patrick's YouTube channel or Mid-Hudson 901) 3:00 = Praying in your home
MONDAY 7/20	By Noon = New Prayer Service for small groups posted on parish Homepages 3:00 = Praying in your home
TUESDAY 7/21	2:00 = New Content posted on Fr. Scott's YouTube Channel 3:00 = Praying in your home 5:30 = Confession (St. Mary's) 6:30 = Rosary, St. Mary's (All are welcome!)
WEDNESDAY 7/22	3:00 = Praying in your home
THURSDAY 7/23	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 7/24	3:00 = Praying in your home
SATURDAY 7/25	3:00 = Praying in your home 4:30 = Public Mass at St. Mary's (for St. Mary's Parishioners N-Z) 6:00 = A Few Minutes in the Church: The Mass (Facebook Live)
SUNDAY 7/26	9:30 = Public Mass at St. Patrick's (for St. Pat's Parishioners N-Z) (also St. Patrick's YouTube channel or Mid-Hudson 901) 3:00 = Praying in your home
MONDAY 7/27	By Noon = New Prayer Service for small groups posted on parish Homepages 3:00 = Praying in your home
TUESDAY 7/28	2:00 = New Content posted on Fr. Scott's YouTube Channel 3:00 = Praying in your home 5:30 = Confession (St. Patrick's) 6:30 = Rosary, St. Mary's (All are welcome!)
WEDNESDAY 7/29	3:00 = Praying in your home

THURSDAY 7/30	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 7/31	3:00 = Praying in your home
SATURDAY 8/1	3:00 = Praying in your home 4:30 = Public Mass at St. Mary's (for St. Mary's Parishioners A-M) 6:00 = A Few Minutes in the Church: The Mass (Facebook Live)
SUNDAY 8/2	9:30 = Public Mass at St. Patrick's (for St. Pat's Parishioners A-M) (also St. Patrick's YouTube channel or Mid-Hudson 901) 3:00 = Praying in your home

Collections & E-Giving

E-Mail Dawn Brownson | parishbusinessmanager@gmail.com

Our Parish Finance Councils will be meeting in the next two weeks to discuss our plans for the uncertain weeks and months ahead. All Catholic parishes in the Diocese of Albany start a new fiscal year on July 1, and because this year is going to involve limitations we've never faced before, we (like all organizations) are unsure how best to budget. Also, **we can see that our income is going down each month as Coronavirus drags on.** Our expenses are also lighter because our operations are not in full force, but now that our PPP payroll support has expired, we'll be tightening our belts more than before. We'll give you an update on what our Finance Councils and Trustees determine is the best route forward for our parishes.

One thing we know for sure is that uncertain times and the looming possibilities of another lockdown means that **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!

Faith Formation This Fall: Fr. Scott, Christa and Bob are continuing to put together options for Faith Formation for the coming year. It may be a mix of small gatherings and online. More to come soon.

Confirmation 2020: We now have a date for Confirmation: **Saturday, November 21 at 1 PM** at St. Mary's (which provides more seating). Christa and Bob are still planning to have a retreat and a session or two with Candidates and Sponsors before Confirmation. More to come.

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.

Coxsackie Community Food Pantry Delivers [Contact Village Clerk -or- lcamurati@hotmail.com](mailto: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](tel:5183306789)

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:

Mayo, ketchup, mustard, bathroom tissue, and canned potatoes

Connecting with the Parishes

[Online](#) | [Phone](#) | [E-Mail](#)

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

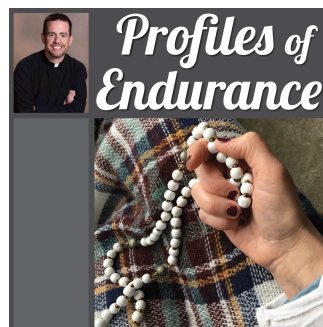
FR. SCOTT'S HOMILIES AND VIDEO MESSAGES:

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

Interviews with parishioners about facing life's challenges

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[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