



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



June 7 & 14, 2020 • Edition 11 • Weeks 12 & 13

Keeping us connected during the Coronavirus Pandemic

Fr. Scott's Sharing Spot

! When Will We Reopen?

Just as this newsletter was going out on June 6, NYS made a surprise announcement that churches will be able to have services at up to 25% once they are ready. When you read the message below, you'll see that we're not yet able to open, but we are actively and excitedly working toward it!

Dear Parish Family,

This week we had our second Zoom meeting of the Project Team that is putting together the plan to eventually return to celebrating weekend Masses in the safest way possible. Each member of the team is a parishioner with a specific form of expertise that we need in order to get all the details right for making a plan for gatherings that are both prayerful and safe.

Along with me, the team is:

- **Ellen Bradt**, trustee of St. Patrick's Church and an administrator at the NYS Department of Health
- **Dr. Stephen Hassett**, trustee of St. Mary's Church and veteran physician, founder of Albany Med EmUrgent Care, currently overseeing medical care at 12 locations
- **Claudine Potvin-Giordano, RN**, Director of Health Services at Hudson Valley Community College; directs the campus' COVID-19 response
- **Josh Welch**, nursing student at the University at Buffalo and a medical technician at St. Peter's Hospital in Albany
- **Christa Desrosiers**, Faith Formation Coordinator and retired U.S. Army military police officer, specializing in crowd management



You've got to admit... aren't they an impressive group? God has blessed our parishes with so much talent – it's really staggering.


If you saw [the video I posted on YouTube](#) about all the issues we're being asked by the Department of Health and the Diocese to consider, you know our task is a big one. We're do not yet know exactly what the policies will be in their final stage, but among the issues we tackled in our first meeting were the following:

- Recruiting a **Cleaning Team** that thoroughly disinfects the church before/after Mass
- Recruiting a **Sidewalk Team** of volunteers to greet people, ask them to stand 6 ft. apart, distribute masks to anyone without one, explain the entrance process and possibly offer hand sanitizer
 - Goals: providing a warm greeting, information, assurance of masking/sanitization, avoidance of congregating, visually searching for symptoms of illness
- Having all check in at one or two podiums (kind of like TSA at the airport)
- Each **check-in volunteer** would have a printed list of parishioners and highlight the name
 - If visiting/not registered, agent would write down names and contact information
 - The County Health Department has recommended that we use a seating chart so that contact tracing would be easier should someone become ill after Mass, so they could determine who would need to be on quarantine because of possibly being exposed. (This would help us not have to quarantine the whole assembly because of just one person's positive test result.)
- Volunteer would highlight seats on seating chart (like a host or hostess would at Applebee's)
- Volunteer would then write a seating assignment on index card & hand it to parishioner/visitor (like a boarding pass for a plane)
- At door, volunteer **usher or greeter** would ask for boarding pass with seat assignment and seat parishioners
- Pews would be labeled by row with numbered seats
- Each household would be seated in the section for their size group, to maximize space while keeping social distance

These are just the procedures for getting in the doors of the church. Obviously, more planning is needed for us to know what the procedures might look like for singing... the scripture readings... the collection... the Consecration... the distribution of communion... and how people should safely exit the church. We're getting lots of helpful direction from the Diocese, the Department of Health and some great tips from parishes around the country that are a few steps ahead of us in the returning process. So it's a big task, but we are ON IT!

Please pray that we receive the inspiration to create a plan that gathers us for the Eucharist in as safe and prayerful a way as possible. I so look forward to gathering with you all. Never again will we forget what a treasure it is to worship God and receive the Eucharist as a family.

This comes with love...

Fr. Scott 

A Word From Bishop Edward B. Scharfenberger, Bishop of Albany

Bishop Ed has written a column addressing the killing of George Floyd, the subsequent violence in our country, and America's "original sin" of racism. The column is posted in its entirety on the website of *The Evangelist* and is in print in the most recent edition as well.

Here are excerpts from the Bishop's column:

"Scratch the surface and we see that racism and its vestiges persist. America's "original sin," as it has been called, must be not only acknowledged but vigorously resisted and corrected. Yes, the use of excessive force by some police is intolerable and must be addressed, especially as, racially and ethnically, it is systemically applied differently....

"...In the current crisis, however, the manner of response of public officials cannot be dismissed as an insignificant factor. Was there ever any doubt about what we all saw in that viral video? Then why did it take so long to remove the offending officers and finally place one under arrest? Recall that, before the violence escalated, protestors were simply demanding justice, for the most part, peacefully. Why did it take five days to respond? Why this and similar delays in other cases with apprehension of law officials acting violently against someone offering no resistance?

"...Justice delayed is justice denied. In this, everyone must play a part. If history teaches us anything, it is that the man with his head held to the ground could have been you or your brother. Where the police power of the State is not subject to restraint and the rule of equal treatment under the law, that man, black or white, could be you or me, Christian, Muslim or Jew. In pursuit of justice, all must ante up."

Read the full column by clicking here: [Bishop Ed's Column](#)

Online Schedule

SUNDAY 6/7	9:30 = Mass (St. Patrick's YouTube channel or Mid-Hudson 901) 3:00 = Praying in your home
MONDAY 6/8	By Noon = New Prayer Service for small groups posted on parish Homepages 3:00 = Praying in your home
TUESDAY 6/9	2:00 = New Content posted on Fr. Scott's YouTube Channel 3:00 = Praying in your home
WEDNESDAY 6/10	3:00 = Praying in your home 4:00 = Hymn sing led by Lisa & Bob (Facebook Live)
THURSDAY 6/11	3:00 = Praying in your home 7:00 = Family/Youth Prayer Service (Facebook Live) 7:00 = Adult Education Group led by Deacon Mike (Zoom) ➔ <i>Interested in the Group? E-mail Deacon Mike at dcnmcd@aol.com</i>
FRIDAY 6/12	2:00 = New Profiles of Endurance Episode airs 3:00 = Praying in your home
SATURDAY 6/13	3:00 = Praying in your home 3:30 = Hymn sing led by John Vasto (Facebook) 6:00 = A Few Minutes in the Church: The Mass (Facebook Live)
SUNDAY 6/14	9:30 = Sunday Mass (St. Patrick's YouTube channel or Mid-Hudson 901) 3:00 = Praying in your home
MONDAY 6/15	<i>Seminarian Dan McHale's 40th Birthday</i> By Noon = New Prayer Service for small groups posted on parish Homepages

	3:00 = Praying in your home
TUESDAY 6/16	2:00 = New Content posted on Fr. Scott's YouTube Channel 3:00 = Praying in your home
WEDNESDAY 6/17	3:00 = Praying in your home 4:00 = Hymn sing led by Lisa & Bob (Facebook Live)
THURSDAY 6/18	3:00 = Praying in your home 7:00 = Family/Youth Prayer Service (Facebook Live) 7:00 = Adult Education Group led by Deacon Mike (Zoom) ➔ <i>Interested in the Group? E-mail Deacon Mike at denmcd@aol.com</i>
FRIDAY 6/19	2:00 = New Profiles of Endurance Episode airs 3:00 = Praying in your home
SATURDAY 6/20	3:00 = Praying in your home 3:30 = Hymn sing led by John Vasto (Facebook) 6:00 = A Few Minutes in the Church: The Mass (Facebook Live)
SUNDAY 6/21	9:30 = Sunday Mass (St. Patrick's YouTube channel or Mid-Hudson 901) 3:00 = Praying in your home

Service to the Community

Call Bob Desrosiers | 518-444-8184

VOLUNTEERS FOR MASS (WHEN WE ARE ALLOWED TO REOPEN)

As the Re-opening Project Team continues planning, we will need volunteers to serve on teams that will be needed to ensure the safety and security of parishioners coming to church. We will need volunteers to do the following:

1. Serve on a **welcome team** that will welcome parishioners, ensure they have masks and receive sanitizer.
2. Serve on a **check-in team** to give those arriving a seat designation.
3. Serve on a **team of ushers & greeters** who will seat parishioners based on number and seat designation.
4. Serve on a **team who will disinfect the church** before and after each Mass.

Please prayerfully consider if you would be able to serve in one of these capacities

BLOOD DRIVE

Mark your calendars: Red Cross Blood Drive at St. Mary's (Maria Hall) **Friday, June 26th 2:00-7:00 PM**. Walk-ins welcome and Power Red available. All donors also get a free pint of Stewarts ice cream! The need for blood is great! To schedule an appointment, please visit www.redcrossblood.org and use Sponsor Code **8631nyp**. You can make a difference!

THE 2020 ANNUAL CROP WALK TO ADDRESS HUNGER

Weekend of June 26th - June 28th.

St. Patrick's team walk will be on Sat. 6/27 at 10:30 am meeting at St. Patrick's.

The walk is 1.5 miles. Please bring your mask.

You can register and/or donate with **St. Patrick's Church Team**

at: <https://www.crophungerwalk.org/ravenany/Team/View/131368/st-patricks-church>.

Please contact Eileen Vosburgh if you plan on walking.

She will arrange to get you a t-shirt. keltoneov@aol.com or **518-756-8113**.

People can also donate by mail by sending a check made out to CWS/CROP and mail to:

Fran Lobdell
c/o Grace United Methodist Church
16 Hillcrest Drive
Ravena, NY 12143

This walk is sponsored by the RCS Council of Churches. This year, like everything COVID-19, you can join us as a team, walk virtually, or walk alone or with a friend anytime during the weekend. Together, we can raise funds, walk together and help end hunger in our community and around the world.

FACE MASKS

Coordinators: Maria Mintz (St. Mary's) and Diane Hoffman (St. Patrick's)

Safety note: We received a report that some people are having allergic reactions to some of the masks. Masks should be made of cotton, but some might be treated cotton. Please wash any mask before wearing it.

There is a labeled box at the church entrances for your completed face masks. You can leave fabric donations on the tables next to the boxes. For assistance, please call **Maria Mintz** who began this ministry (and whose hands are surely aching from sewing) at **518-731-6704**.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR SERVICE:

If you wish to volunteer for any task that could be helpful, please contact Bob at stmaryffo@aol.com or 518-444-8184 to match your skills and abilities with people's needs.

Reaching Our Youth & Families

E-Mail Christa Desrosiers | derobccr@aol.com

ONE MINUTE IN CHURCH: THE MASS.

Join us live each Saturday at 6 PM on St Mary's FB page and IG live. Learn a little bit about some aspect of Mass and have a chance to take the weekly challenge! It's easy - it's fun - it's safe - and it's faith-building.

FAMILY PRAYER TIME

Wondering how to actually DO a prayer time in your home - with your own family? Join a 'real Catholic family' every Thursday at 7 PM on St Patrick's FB live. It's just us, welcoming you, to sit in our living room (or dining room, or car) as we read and chat our way through the week's prayer service.

FALL FAITH FORMATION IDEAS

Bob is really looking for feedback on what Faith Formation might look like in the fall. Please see the e-mail he sent out and let him know what you feel an ideal distance learning scenario would be.

Dawn, our new Business & Operations Manager, was blown away by the incredible level of giving here in our parishes. She can see that this is a generous family that LOVES their parishes and will do whatever it takes to support them.

We have no idea how to forecast what the giving will look like as the Pandemic wears on. With unemployment rising and many people in financial hardship, projecting income is difficult. But our increase in e-giving is a great consolation! Take a look...

St. Patrick's E-Givers:

- Total # of e-givers = 57 (45 new since Coronavirus)
- Total e-giver income monthly: \$6,698
- Total e-giver income annually: \$80,386
- St. Patrick's Annual Budget for Collections is: \$237,500
- E-givers are currently contributing **34% of our total budget for collections.**

St. Mary's E-Givers:

- Total # of e-givers = 77 (30 new since Coronavirus)
- Total e-giver income monthly: \$9,870
- Total e-giver income annually: \$118,441
- St. Mary's Annual Budget for Collections is: \$246,000
- E-givers are currently contributing **48% of our total budget for collections.**

Might you like to give e-giving a try, knowing how much it helps the parish and that you can change your mind at any time? If so, [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 incredible generosity!

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.

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:

Tuna, mayonnaise, cookies, lunch box snacks, chicken noodle soup, shampoo or toothbrushes

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.

If you know someone who is infected with COVID-19,
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.

SUNDAY MASS:

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:

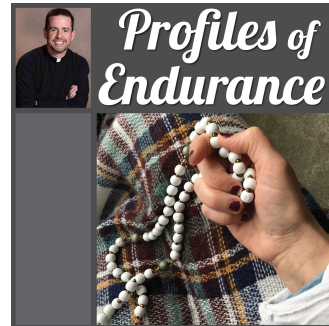
[Click here](#) and then subscribe

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

Interviews with parishioners about facing life's challenges

This week: Christa Desrosiers

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[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