



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

August 16 & 23, 2020 • Edition 16 • Weeks 22 & 23



*Keeping us connected during the Coronavirus Pandemic*

### Fr. Scott's Sharing Spot

Dear Parish Family....

Here we are, completing month #5 of business-not-at-all-as-usual. It seems that if the "Spanish Flu" Pandemic of 1918-19 is any indication, we will be operating under these challenging circumstances for some time.

It struck me recently as I looked at the 1917 cornerstone of St. Patrick's Church that just when our ancestors were justifiably patting themselves on the back for achieving the ambitious task of building a brand-new church, suddenly the world shut down. And the 18 months that followed were hard and incredibly inconvenient for everyone. And at that point, St. Mary's Church was turning 20 years old. So right around when they were noticing that the sanctuary carpet might need to be replaced before long, everything went kerflew.



Our goal is to return to more normal operations as soon as we safely can, but it would be wise for us to consider how we can get as comfortable as possible while we wait. And, let's face it, we're learning to do many tasks in our lives in new and sometimes better ways that will serve us well in the future.

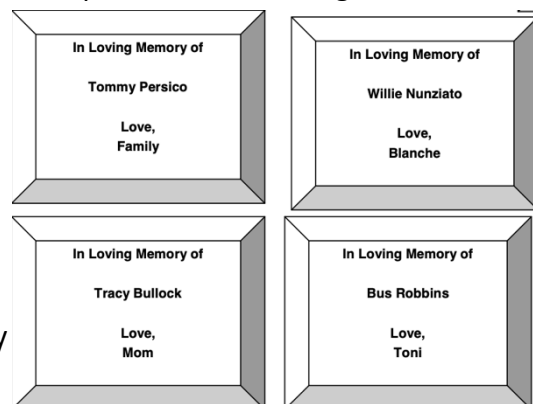
For instance, many parishioners in both Cocksackie and Ravena have said that they appreciate having the newsletter coming in an electronic form rather than picking up a bulletin each week. This was never our master plan, but it does seem that the benefits of receiving parish news electronically has been an unexpected blessing of this time.

One of the things that we miss from our bulletins is the weekly attendance and offering figures. All of us are understandably curious about the parishes' financial health and a regular snapshot really helps us take the temperature of two important indicators of parish health. So starting this week, you'll find a table with that data listed for the past two weeks and a line graph that gives some indication of the trends that are happening. One new feature is a snapshot of how

many views our 9:30 livestream Mass has had, which is another remarkable blessing of this time. While our in-person attendance is usually around 20% of what it once was, our weekly virtual assembly is **4 times** what we expect in person on a normal weekend! (And it's actually most certainly more like **10 times that number**, since we used to count "heads" at Mass and YouTube counts the number of devices tuning in. Since some families have three, four or even 10 people watching at once on one device, the viewing crowd of virtual Masses are huge.) Please keep that remarkable phenomenon in mind when you watch the number of views in that column of the table.

Another feature of the bulletin at St. Patrick's that Ravena parishioners have been missing lately is the opportunity to honor deceased loved ones with a memorial remembrance. Just as the beautiful stained-glass windows of our churches were donated in honor of loved ones who have died, the Ravena bulletin always had a page of memorial squares that represented a virtual gift that others could view and share in when they read the bulletin.

The squares were featured in a special section of the bulletin and were available for a set donation that was given to the church to pay for the bulletin and other expenses. It was sort of like when loved ones of students in a school play donate money to offer words of encouragement and pride in the Playbill. This was something that allowed families to honor their loved ones and express their grief in a supportive community forum.



We are now working to also include those memorials remembrances in the newsletter. And we plan to open this option up to St. Mary's parishioners too, who, up until now, have had a much shorter bulletin (St. Patrick's bulletin was regularly 9 pages long, including the front and back covers.) Please expect more information on this coming soon and consider publicly honoring a loved one while supporting your parish at the same time with a memorial remembrance.



In time, the Spanish Flu no longer held sway over the lives of people and life resumed. Those who lived through it never forgot the experience.

Coronavirus will eventually no longer dominate every aspect of society and we will find innovative ways to overcome this trial. But we'll never forget the experience.


Albert Einstein said, "In the middle of every difficulty lies opportunity." May God point out to us the way we should travel. And may we have the wisdom and humility to follow God's directions.

Faithfully,  
Fr. Scott ☺

## Fr. Scott's Homily

This weekend in his homily, Fr. Scott's homily talks about a social media meme that was a topic of discussion a couple of weeks back for the Small Prayer Groups that are meeting weekly across our two parishes. Since not everyone is in a Small Prayer Group and would not have necessarily seen this image, here it is:



And to hear this homily anytime Sunday afternoon or later, [Click here](#) and listen to the homily for the **20<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**. (When you do, if you haven't already, please hit .) 😊

If you would like to discuss how the weekly Scriptures intersect with real life with a group of fellow parishioners... you are officially invited! Please e-mail [Christa Desrosiers](#) at [derobccr@aol.com](mailto:derobccr@aol.com) if you would like to join a group or would like help forming a group.

If you'd prefer not to join a \*formal\* group, you are welcome to go on our Homepage, get the materials which are posted by Noon every Monday, and do it yourself with family and friends!

## Re-Opening Requests

E-Mail [Christa Desrosiers](#) | [derobccr@aol.com](mailto:derobccr@aol.com)

We have been so blessed to have had a very successful re-opening for in-person Masses. This is due to the outpouring of so many volunteers willing to do all the necessary tasks. We have developed 3 teams at each parish, with some people in reserve. **That is more than 80 parishioners volunteering!** There are a few things we would like to ask to keep our system running smoothly and keep us as safe as possible.

- **When you arrive at church, get your seat assignment and are seated - please stay seated until Mass is over**, or until you NEED to get up for an emergency. We know everyone is just so pleased to be 'reunited' with friends they have not seen in so long - but the reason we are meeting is for MASS.

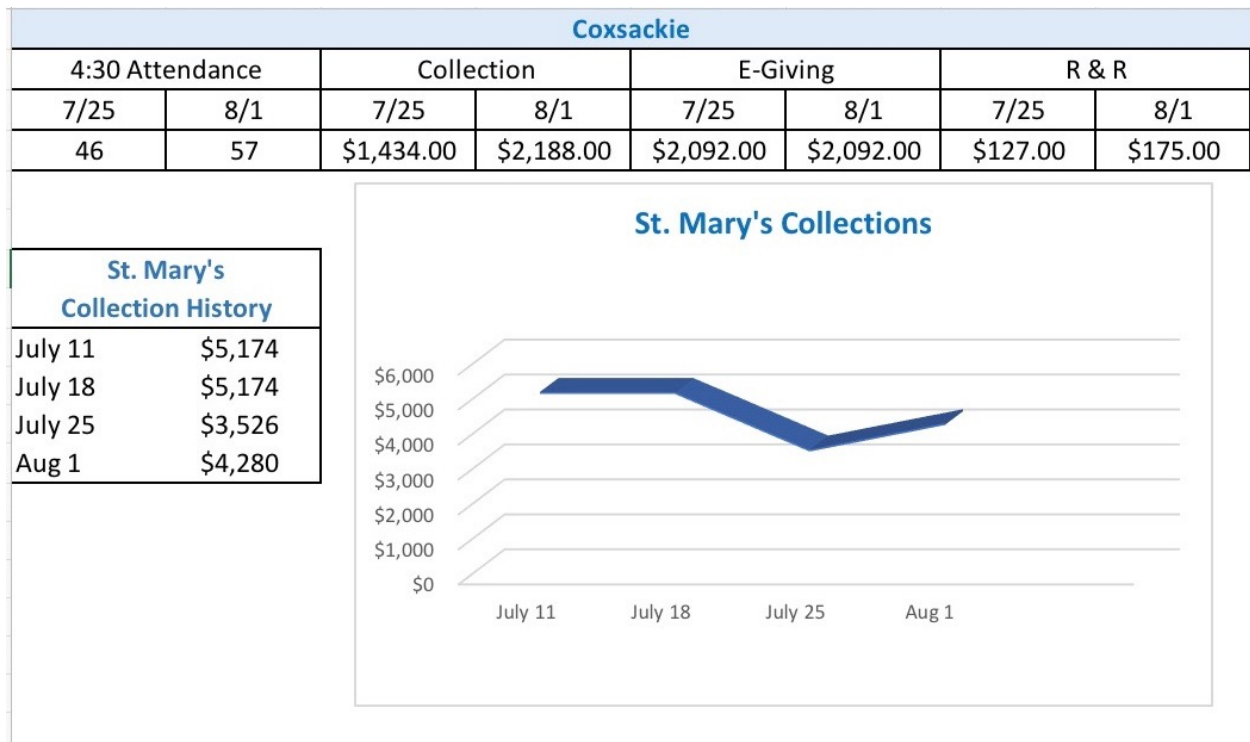
*If we become too lax with how we follow our procedures,  
we risk having an infection and losing the gift of attending in person!  
This has happened in some parishes. Let us learn from those lessons.*

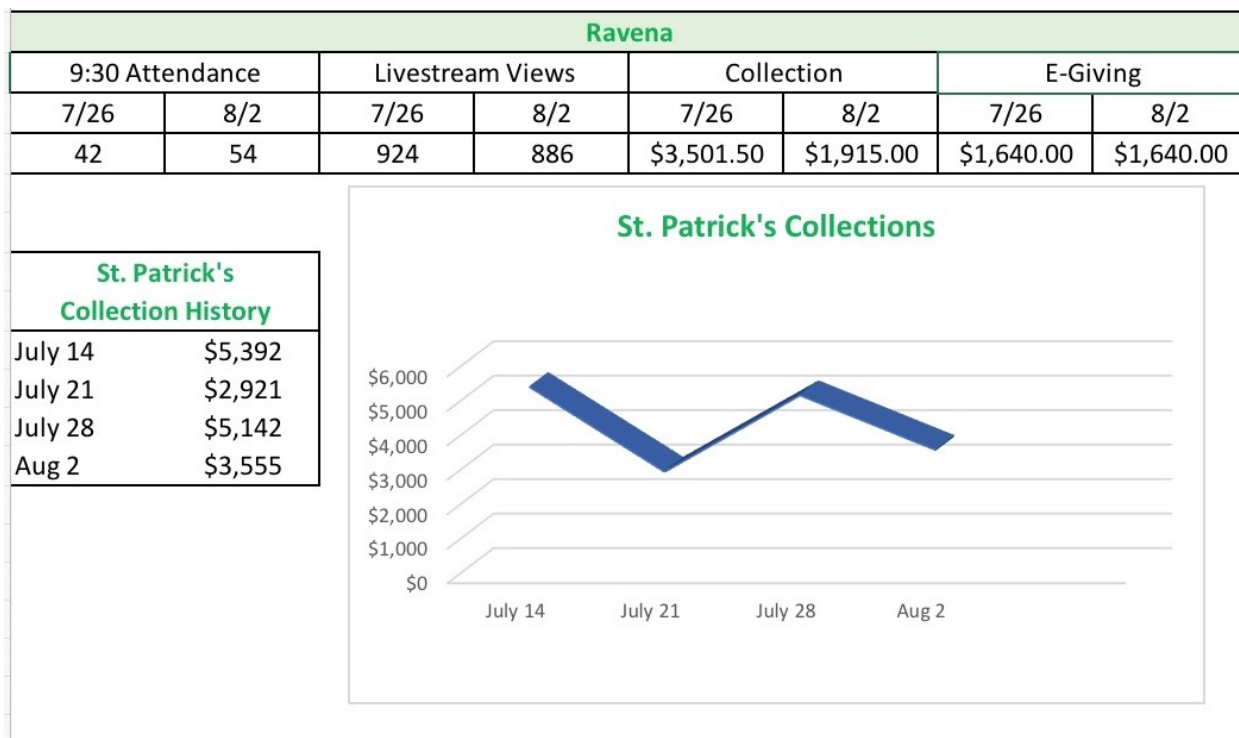
- If you are a volunteer with a name that is not the 'letters' for that week, please wait until a few minutes before Mass to see if there are available seats.
- If you are serving in music, lector or other ministry and are not the 'letters' for that week, we welcome your family members to attend, if there are seats available - again please have them wait until a few minutes before Mass to get a seat.

We are just starting to reach our capacity at each Mass, we have not had to turn anyone away yet. However, as more people decide they would like to attend, we want to make sure we are all following the same procedures to give the most possible parishioners the opportunity to attend.

**Collections & E-Giving**      **E-Mail Dawn Brownson | [parishbusinessmanager@gmail.com](mailto:parishbusinessmanager@gmail.com)**

We've added a new feature to the newsletter. We're now publishing graphs to track contributions. We hope these illustrations will be gentle reminders to keep us all on track with respect to parish support.





### 2020 CATHOLIC HOME MISSIONS APPEAL: Strengthening the Church at Home

At Masses on August 22/23, we will take up the Catholic Home Missions Appeal. Right now, over 40% of dioceses in the United States are considered mission territory because they are unable to fund essential pastoral work in their communities. Your support of this appeal eases the struggle and assists in forming vibrant faith communities.

Thank you for prayerfully considering how you can support this appeal.

### E-GIVING MADE EASY

Your generosity to the church spills out the community in a big way. And it helps keep our parishes strong, which means more than ever since relying on our faith is our only option.

E-giving remains the best way to give in these times. 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!

Annual Diocesan Appeal

E-Mail Dawn Brownson | [parishbusinessmanager@gmail.com](mailto:parishbusinessmanager@gmail.com)



For we  
walk by faith,  
not by sight.

The Diocesan Appeal, July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021

Big changes  
to the former Bishop's Appeal!

[Click here: donation made easy!](#)

- Expect to receive a **mailing sent to parishioners** from the Roman Catholic Diocese of Albany (RCDA) Office of Stewardship and Development between now and early September; it will include a pledge card and envelope.
- Pledges and payments will no longer be processed in the parish office.
- Monthly or one-time gifts by credit card can be made via secure website at <https://donate.thebishopsappeal.org/>.
- You can also make a pledge at that site as well as pledge payments.
- The appeal year runs through June 30, 2021 (rather than ending in March as in the past).
- For more information on the appeal, visit [www.thediocesanappeal.org](http://www.thediocesanappeal.org).

Questions - call the RCDA Office of Stewardship & Development at 518-453-6680 or email [stewardship@rcda.org](mailto:stewardship@rcda.org)

**Faith Formation at ST. PATRICK'S**

**E-Mail Christa Desrosiers | [derobccr@aol.com](mailto:derobccr@aol.com)**

Our catechists (teachers) have met and discussed innovative ways to get back on the Faith Formation Train this fall for all of our students and families. Look for an email from Christa the week of August 17th with some ideas we came up with and a chance to let us know how we can best serve your faith needs as we juggle so many balls – that seem to feel more like flaming torches – in 2020!!

**Faith Formation at ST. MARY'S**

**Call Bob Desrosiers | 518-731-8800 x4**

### **FIRST COMMUNION 2020**

We will complete First Communion preparation with the “Jesus Festival” on **Saturday, September 12**. We will celebrate First Communion at Mass on **Saturday September 26**.

### **CONFIRMATION 2020**

We will complete preparation for Confirmation 2020 as follows:

#### **Sunday, October 19**

Fr. Scott will lead a retreat-like night to restart us back into the Immediate Preparation Mode through a COVID-19 lens.

#### **Sunday, October 26**

The Limones (who recently celebrated the birth of their first baby Eve Bernadette) will present the Gifts of the Holy Spirit and Why They Are Needed

#### **Sunday, November 1**

Deacon Mike will present: Sacred Chrism as a sign of character seal

#### **Saturday, November 21 at 1 PM**

Confirmation Mass with Bishop Ed (Rehearsal: Date TBD)

## Online Schedule

SUNDAY 8/16	9:30 = Public Mass at St. Patrick's (for St. Pat's Parishioners A-L) (also St. Patrick's YouTube channel or Mid-Hudson 901) 3:00 = Praying in your home
MONDAY 8/17	By Noon = New Prayer Service for small groups posted on parish Homepages 3:00 = Praying in your home
TUESDAY 8/18	2:00 = New Content posted on Fr. Scott's YouTube Channel 3:00 = Praying in your home <b>5:30 = Confession (St. Mary's)</b> 6:30 = Rosary, St. Mary's (All are welcome!)
WEDNESDAY 8/19	3:00 = Praying in your home 7:00 = Adult Education Group led by Deacon Mike (Zoom) → Interested in the Group? E-mail Deacon Mike at <a href="mailto:dcnmcd@aol.com">dcnmcd@aol.com</a>
THURSDAY 8/20	3:00 = Praying in your home
FRIDAY 8/21	3:00 = Praying in your home
SATURDAY 8/22	3:00 = Praying in your home 4:30 = Public Mass at St. Mary's (for St. Mary's Parishioners M-Z)
SUNDAY 8/23	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 8/24	By Noon = New Prayer Service for small groups posted on parish Homepages 3:00 = Praying in your home
TUESDAY 8/25	2:00 = New Content posted on Fr. Scott's YouTube Channel 3:00 = Praying in your home <b>5:30 = Confession (St. Patrick's)</b> 6:30 = Rosary, St. Mary's (All are welcome!)
WEDNESDAY 8/26	3:00 = Praying in your home 7:00 = Adult Education Group led by Deacon Mike (Zoom) → Interested in the Group? E-mail Deacon Mike at <a href="mailto:dcnmcd@aol.com">dcnmcd@aol.com</a>
THURSDAY 8/27	3:00 = Praying in your home



FRIDAY 8/28	3:00 = Praying in your home
SATURDAY 8/29	3:00 = Praying in your home 4:30 = Public Mass at St. Mary's (for St. Mary's Parishioners A-L)
SUNDAY 8/30	9:30 = Public Mass at St. Patrick's (for St. Pat's Parishioners A-L) (also St. Patrick's YouTube channel or Mid-Hudson 901) 3:00 = Praying in your home

### 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 please 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:

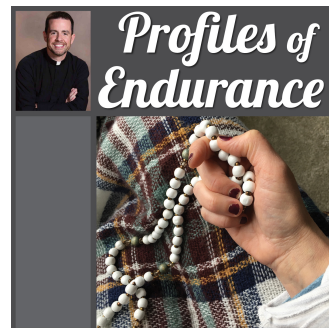
[Click here](#) and then please hit

**SUBSCRIBE**

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

Interviews with parishioners about facing life's challenges

**SUBSCRIBE TODAY  
ON APPLE PODCASTS  
OR ON SPOTIFY**



#### FIND US ONLINE:

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](#)



#### 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](mailto:stmoff@aol.com)

St. Patrick's Main Office e-mail: [office@tcosp.org](mailto:office@tcosp.org)

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