



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

February 21 & 18, 2021 • Edition 29 • Weeks 49 & 50



Keeping us connected during the Coronavirus Pandemic

Fr. Scott's Sharing Spot

Dear Parish Family....

Sometimes, as we go about our day-to-day here in Cocksackie and Ravena, we can start to think of our parish churches as cozy congregations, as islands of faith. But every Catholic parish in the world is part of a huge family of faith that networks people on every continent of the world, with our spiritual homeland in Israel & Palestine and our headquarters in Rome.

One way to think of a parish's place in the global Church is nesting dolls. The **parish** is the center of it all – the place where Catholics living in a particular community live out this ancient faith right where we are.

A group of parishes are led by a single Apostle, someone who follows in the footsteps of "The Twelve," who today is called a bishop. Just as priests lead parishes, bishops lead a group of parishes and parish priests in a family known as a **diocese**. Every diocesan bishop goes to periodic meetings with the other bishops of his region, and with all the bishops of his country so they can organize, compare notes and respond strategically to issues that come up.



All the dioceses of the world see one diocese as the "big sister," so to speak. It's the place where Peter and Paul, the two strongest figures of the first generation of the Church, came to preach to the citizens of the world's largest empire at the time, and to give their lives for their faith. It's the Diocese of Rome. Like all dioceses, Rome has a bishop, and that bishop is always recognized also as the Pope of the whole global Church, often called the **Church Universal**.

The more active you are in the life of the parish, the more you see the connections between the different levels of the Church. They are part of our life in every way. But even those people who come to Church only for Mass will hear the connection when we pray at every liturgy for "*Francis, our pope... and Edward, our Bishop.*"

Ten years ago, you'll remember that the Church Universal made the decision to change some of the prayers we say at Mass. (In case you've forgotten that, a great example is when someone who rarely comes to Church hears the priest say, "*The Lord be with you,*" and responds from memory, "*And also with you.*") 😊

When those changes were made, some people liked it much better, while others didn't care for it. Here's some background on that: all Mass prayers come to us from the Latin and are translated to the language of the country or region where the parishes are located. Before the 1960s, there was no need for translation because all the Masses were in Latin. At the time Masses began to be celebrated in English, the method of translation was known as "Dynamic

Equivalence.” That means that the Latin prayers were studied and the question was asked, “*What’s a modern way to say what this prayer is conveying so that modern people will get it?*”

But over time, Latin scholars became less comfortable with some of the wording they heard at Mass. They felt that some of the word choices or phraseologies were not as accurate as they could be; that they weren’t fully capturing the prayers. So over the course of many years, a Church Universal committee in Rome studied the Mass prayers that had been translated using Dynamic Equivalence and re-translated them using a method known as “Formal Equivalence,” which strives to make sure that every word is translated to its exact English word, even if, at times, that requires phrases that sound a bit unusual to the ears of modern people. (That’s why the Creed changed to include words like “incarnate” and “consubstantial.”) Although some of the words and phrases are unfamiliar, some Catholics like the sound of the prayers better because it seems to them that the language of prayer ought to be more poetic and exalted than the standard phrasing of more common speech.

The Bishops of the United States recently met (including our Bishop, Edward Scharfenberger of Albany) and they voted to make a small change to one of the prayers at Mass – the opening prayer before the readings. The change is the removal of the word “one” during the last part of the prayer, where the priest says, “*in the unity of the Holy Spirit, **one** God, forever and ever.*” It turns out that is no mention of “one” in the Latin text. This same issue had been debated when the new translation of the Mass came out 10 years ago, but at the time it was tabled. In the time since, this same change has already been made for the Catholic dioceses of England, Wales, Ireland and Canada.

It may seem like saying “One God forever and ever” is not so different than “God, forever and ever” – and that’s true – but the bishops gave a compelling argument about why this makes sense. They said that *Deus* (God) in the Latin text refers to Christ. Therefore, removing “one” helps to avoid possible misunderstandings about the identity of the Son within the Trinity and also the possible misconception that Jesus Christ is just “one God” among others.

After the vote, the American bishops sent their decision to Rome and the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments confirmed it on behalf of the Church Universal. (An example of the nesting dolls in action!)

This change went into effect on Ash Wednesday. You may hear me flub at times, since it will be years before the new ritual books are published that reflect the change. But I’ll do my best, and in time, it will be natural. And the Church will journey on... as we always do.

Faithfully,
Fr. Scott ☺

P.S. Mark your calendars for **a DAY OF RECONCILIATION, Wednesday March 10 from 2 PM to 7 PM at both churches.** Come whenever you want between 2 PM and 7 PM on March 10 and a priest will be present to celebrate God’s gift of forgiveness and healing with you!

Schedule

SUNDAY 2/21	FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT 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 6:30 = Eucharistic Adoration (St. Patrick's)
MONDAY 2/22	By Noon = New Prayer Service for small groups posted on parish Homepages
TUESDAY 2/23	11:00-12:00 = St. Patrick's Women's Prayer Meeting – Classroom 5 2:00 = New Content posted on Fr. Scott's YouTube Channel 2:00 = Rosary, St. Patrick's 3:00 = Praying in your home 5:30 = Confession (St. Patrick's) 6:30 = Rosary, St. Mary's (All are welcome!)
WEDNESDAY 2/24	3:00 = Praying in your home
THURSDAY 2/25	1:00-2:00 = St. Patrick's Men's Prayer Meeting – Classroom 5 3:00 = Praying in your home
FRIDAY 2/26	3:00 = Praying in your home 6:00 PM = Stations of the Cross (St. Patrick's) 6:00 PM = Stations of the Cross (St. Mary's)
SATURDAY 2/27	3:00 = Praying in your home 4:30 = Public Mass at St. Mary's (for St. Mary's Parishioners M-Z)
SUNDAY 2/28	SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT 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 3/1	By Noon = New Prayer Service for small groups posted on parish Homepages
TUESDAY 3/2	11:00-12:00 = St. Patrick's Women's Prayer Meeting – Classroom 5 2:00 = Rosary (St. Patrick's Church) 3:00 = Praying in your home 5:30 = Confession (St. Mary's) 6:30 = Rosary, St. Mary's (All are welcome)
WEDNESDAY 3/3	3:00 = Praying in your home

THURSDAY 3/4	1:00-2:00 = St. Patrick's Men's Prayer Meeting – Classroom 5 3:00 = Praying in your home
FRIDAY 3/5	3:00 = Praying in your home 6:00 PM = Stations of the Cross (St. Patrick's) 6:00 PM = Stations of the Cross (St. Mary's)
SATURDAY 3/6	3:00 = Praying in your home 4:30 = Public Mass at St. Mary's (for St. Mary's Parishioners A-L)
SUNDAY 3/7	THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT 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

Opportunities For You – To Serve/Pray/Grow

STATIONS OF THE CROSS – BOTH PARISHES

Come join us at **6 PM on the Fridays of Lent** for the Stations of the Cross. We will follow social distancing protocols and may ask for your help with sanitization after the prayers are done/

BEST LENT EVER

You can receive short daily video reflections in your e-mail inbox! Sign up by [clicking here](#).

LITTLE BLACK BOOKS

These books of daily Lenten reflections have been mailed to the homes of our parishioners. Did you get yours? If not, call the parish office and we'll get you one ASAP!

WOMEN'S TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY – **TRY IT FOR THE WEEKS OF LENT!**

11:00-12:00 Noon on Tuesdays at St. Patrick's in classroom 5 of the school. Open to all!
Just show up! For more info, please contact the rectory or Christa derobccr@gmail.com

MEN'S THURSDAY BIBLE STUDY – **TRY IT FOR THE WEEKS OF LENT!**

1:00-2:00 PM on Thursdays at St. Patrick's in classroom 5 of the school. Open to all!
Join us also for the **Rosary 2:00 PM on Tuesdays** in St. Patrick's Church.
Just show up! For more info, please contact the rectory or Christa derobccr@gmail.com

Food Pantry at St. Patrick's

Diane Hoffman | 518-330-6789

The Food Pantry would especially welcome donations of:

Tomato soup, Vegetable soup, Chicken noodle soup, Spaghetti sauce, Lunch box snacks, Shampoo & Saltine Crackers.

And your monetary donations are always gratefully received.

ST. PATRICK'S

144 gifts so far
76% of goal (out of 190 gift goal)
Base gift = **\$25**
Highest gift so far = **\$3,000**
Average gift = **\$316**
Total donations to date = **\$43,941**

ST. MARY'S

140 gifts so far
80% of goal (out of 175 gift goal)
Base gift = **\$25**
Highest gift so far = **\$1,600**
Average gift = **\$295**
Total donations to date = **\$39,512**

Help us meet our goal!

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

If you choose to make your gift via a check, please make your check payable to the **Diocesan Appeal** and mail your donation directly to the Diocese at the following address:

**Diocesan Appeal
40 North Main Ave.
Albany, NY 12203**

What do you like about this year's new format? What would you like to see tweaked?
Your opinion matters! Contact Bob with feedback... he's all ears and eager to hear!

NEW CATHOLICS JOINING OUR CHURCH (RCIA):

Fr. Scott will bless **Camlynn Corbett** and **Juan Colon** (Catechumens - never Baptized) on Sunday February 21 at the 9:30 Mass in Ravena as they go up to the Cathedral for the Rite of Election. They will join all other Catechumens from around the Albany Diocese. **Lori LePage**, who was baptized as a Christian but is new to our Catholic faith will join them for full initiation in the Church at the Easter Vigil! Please keep them in your prayers as they continue in the preparation process!

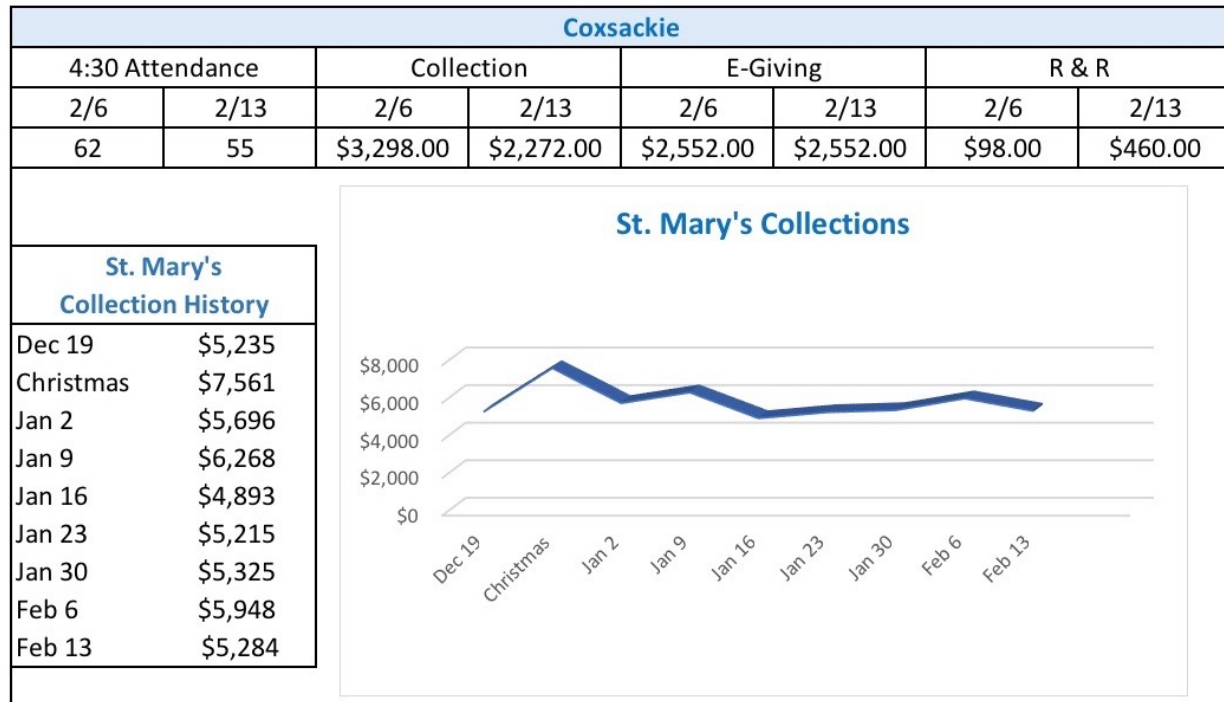
ENVELOPES, CHECKS & CASH GIFTS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME, BUT E-GIVING DOES WORK BEST

Might you like to give e-giving a try, knowing how much it helps the parish budget for the future and be assured of support, regardless of the weather, COVID restrictions or other unforeseen challenges? If so, [Click Here](#). Know that you can give it a try and later change your mind at any time.

Thank you all for your incredible generosity!

SPECIAL COLLECTION – FEBRUARY 20/21

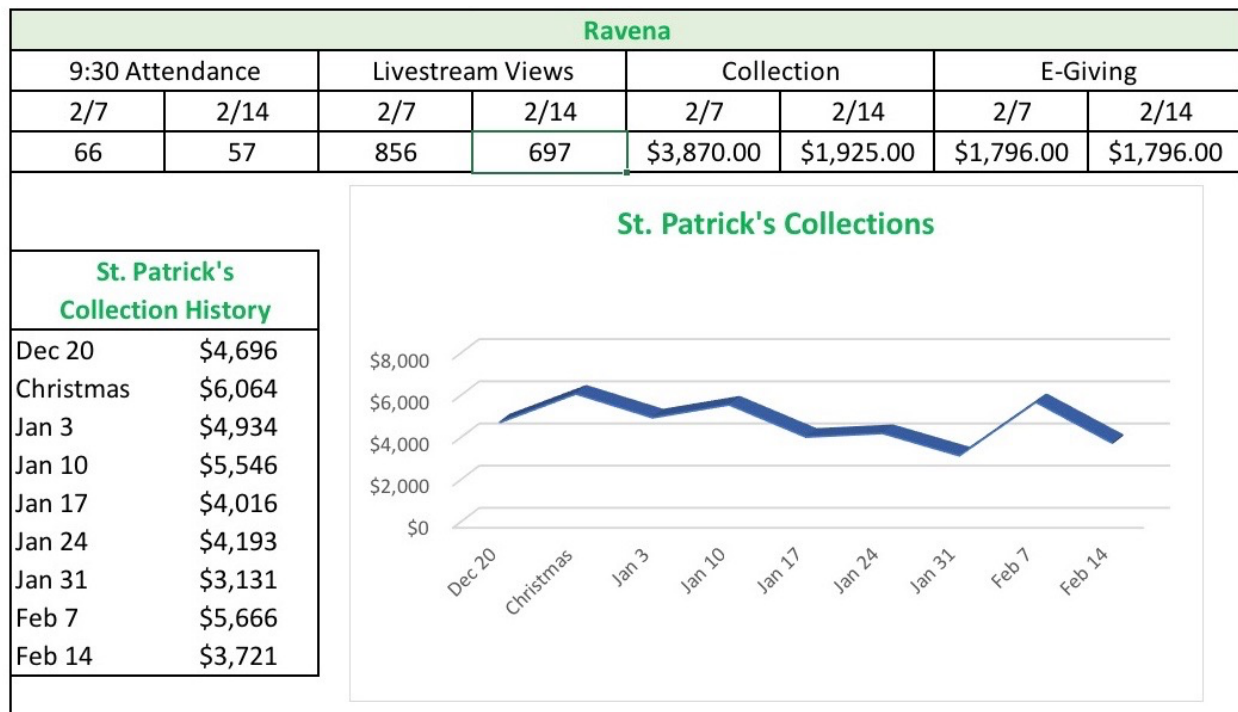
All donations to this annual special collection will benefit the Church's outreach to Black, Native American & Latin American Catholics. Your support provides lay leadership training, catechesis, priestly and religious formation, seminarian training and other programs to share our Catholic faith. By contributing to the collection, you will provide seeds to grow the faith for years to come.



REPAIRS & RENOVATIONS ACCOUNTS ARE LOW

We like to alert our loyal parishioners when we've discovered an indicator that our parish finances need attention. Recently St. Mary's parish Finance Council met and analyzed our parish income collection from the beginning of our new fiscal year on July 1 through December 31. In doing so, we rejoiced to see that our weekend income was just a little below our budgeted expectations (which, considering the COVID surge we've been experiencing recently, is not any reason for alarm). But our monthly **Repairs and Renovations** collection has fared less well. **We are currently about \$12,000 below budget** for the first half of the fiscal year. This loss may soon be somewhat offset by the number of families who lost a loved one recently that have chosen to ask the community to give to the Repairs & Renovations account in their loved one's memory "in lieu of flowers," but a deficit will likely remain, nonetheless.

We continue to have R&R collections once a month and your gifts mean more than ever since we have fewer people at Mass giving cash offerings. If you are able to make an offering to the R&R account, 100% of your donation will go to contribute to the upkeep of St. Mary's 120-year-old church, 135-year-old rectory and beautiful campus. (Please be sure to note that the contribution is for Repairs and Renovations in the memo field or your check or on the envelope.) We are so grateful for your loving attention to the needs of our parish family home.



"If I've been out of state, can I go to Mass?" E-Mail Christa Desrosiers | derobccr@gmail.com

Currently, the answer is **NO** – The NYS DOH is trying to stop the surge of COVID-19 by requiring a mandatory quarantine if you cross state boundaries. Residents of NYS may only visit contiguous states for less than 24 hours in order to avoid a quarantine. So please instead watch our livestream Mass on YouTube. The list includes all non-contiguous states, but states will be removed as the numbers drop. [Please keep updated by checking that list here.](#)

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)

FR. SCOTT'S HOMILIES AND VIDEO MESSAGES **(New postings multiple times each week):**

[Click here](#) and then please hit

SUBSCRIBE

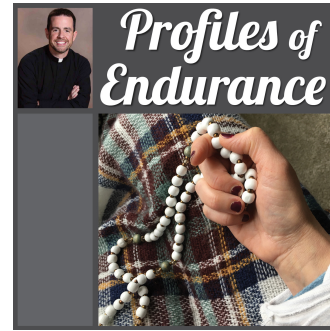
WEEKDAY MASS (On Facebook Live from Our Lady of Victory Parish, Troy)

[Click here](#) to watch live at 8:30 AM Monday – Friday or on demand later in the day

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:

[Click here](#) for St. Patrick's Parish Website

[Click here](#) for St. Mary's Parish Website

Parish Facebook Pages (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)



EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

First Sunday of the month 6:30-7:30 PM at St. Patrick's

WOMEN'S TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY

1:00-2:00 PM on Tuesdays at St. Patrick's in classroom 5 of the school

MEN'S THURSDAY BIBLE STUDY

1:00-2:00 PM on Thursdays at St. Patrick's in classroom 5 of the school