



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

Feb 20 & Feb 27, 2022 • Edition 55 • Weeks 101 & 102



A Word (or Two) From Fr. Joe

Dear Parish Family, both near and far,

Last Thursday, Gov. Hochul announced that the state's indoor mask mandate was being lifted. The Diocese of Albany announced their [policy](#) that evening, giving our parishes guidance. I spoke with members of our Reopening Committee and our Parish Council Chairpersons about how we would proceed in light of this news on COVID protocols. After conferring with them through the weekend, we are ready to go forward. Effective February 19/20:

- Masks are optional for fully vaccinated parishioners.
- Masks are required for parishioners who are not fully vaccinated.
- Parishioners are welcome to continue to wear a mask out of concern for the health and safety of others.
- At this time, pews on one side (rectory side) of the church will continue to provide for distanced seating and the opposite side (St. Mary's: Washington Avenue side, St. Patrick's: school side) will not. In the coming weeks, this will be evaluated and adjusted to ensure adequate seating is available for both groups.
- The offertory gifts will process up the main aisle as in the past.
- The offertory collection will be taken up as in the past.
- To receive communion: On the distanced seating side of the church, parishioners will remain in their pews to receive communion. On the other side of the church, parishioners will process to the front of the church to receive communion.
- Your priest and deacon will continue to wear a mask when distributing communion.
- Hand sanitizer and masks will continue to be available at our church entrances.
- Regarding Faith Formation, for catechesis and gatherings, we will continue to observe State Education guidelines for children and young people.

We're looking to reintroduce some parish gatherings (such as Sunday coffee hours, Lenten Stations of the Cross, etc.) in the coming weeks. Please listen for announcements at Mass or check our parish websites for more information.

Soon we hope to have more of our neighbors returning to Mass. Let's welcome them back and invite them to sit in the pew with you.

It's been a difficult winter. Local COVID cases and positivity rates are in decline. Let's continue to pray for everyone's safety. We take these steps now in view of the changes around us.

Blessings, Fr. Joe O'Brien P.S. Ash Wednesday information is on the Schedule page.

Schedule

SUNDAY 2/20	7:30 Mass at St. Mary's (All are welcome!) 9:30 Mass at St. Patrick's (All are welcome!) (also St. Patrick's YouTube channel or Mid-Hudson 901) 11:30 Mass at St. Mary's (All are welcome!) (also St. Mary's YouTube channel)
MONDAY 2/21	<i>Presidents' Day: Parish Offices closed</i> 8:00 Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, St. Mary's By Noon New Prayer Service for small groups posted on parish homepages
TUESDAY 2/22	8:00 Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, St. Mary's 8:30 Weekday Mass at St. Patrick's Rosary following Weekday Mass, St. Patrick's (All are welcome!) 11:00 Women's Bible Study St. Patrick's – Classroom 5 5:30 Reconciliation St. Patrick's 6:30 Rosary, St. Mary's (All are welcome!) 7:00 Prayer and Worship St. Mary's Rectory
WEDNESDAY 2/23	8:00 Weekday Mass at St. Mary's 1:00 Combined Parishes Staff Meeting Maria Hall – Offices Close at 12:30 8:30 Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, St. Patrick's
THURSDAY 2/24	8:30 Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, St. Patrick's 1:00-2:00 St. Patrick's Men's Prayer Meeting – Classroom 5
FRIDAY 2/25	8:00 Morning Prayer (St. Mary's)
SATURDAY 2/26	4:30 Mass at St. Patrick's (All are welcome!)
SUNDAY 2/27	7:30 Mass at St. Mary's (All are welcome!) 9:30 Mass at St. Patrick's (All are welcome!) (also St. Patrick's YouTube channel or Mid-Hudson 901) 11:30 Mass at St. Mary's (All are welcome!) (also St. Mary's YouTube channel)
MONDAY 2/28	8:00 Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, St. Mary's By Noon New Prayer Service for small groups posted on parish homepages
TUESDAY 3/1	8:00 Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, St. Mary's 8:30 Weekday Mass at St. Patrick's Rosary following Weekday Mass, St. Patrick's (All are welcome!) 11:00 Women's Bible Study St. Patrick's – Classroom 5 5:30-6:30 Reconciliation, St. Mary's 6:30 Rosary, St. Mary's (All are welcome!)

WEDNESDAY 3/2	Ash Wednesday (<i>Ashes will be available at all gatherings</i>) 7:00 Mass St. Patrick's 8:00 Morning Prayer Service St. Mary's Noon Midday Prayer Service St. Mary's 6:00 Mass St. Mary's 6:00 Evening Prayer Service St. Patrick's
THURSDAY 3/3	8:30 Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, St. Patrick's 1:00-2:00 St. Patrick's Men's Prayer Meeting – Classroom 5
FRIDAY 3/4	8:00 Morning Prayer (St. Mary's) 6:00 Stations of the Cross St. Mary's 6:00 Stations of the Cross St. Patrick's
SATURDAY 3/5	4:30 Mass at St. Patrick's (All are welcome!)
SUNDAY 3/6	7:30 Mass at St. Mary's (All are welcome!) 9:30 Mass at St. Patrick's (All are welcome!) (also St. Patrick's YouTube channel or Mid-Hudson 901) 11:30 Mass at St. Mary's (All are welcome!) (also St. Mary's YouTube channel)

Please Note: When RCS or CA schools are closed or delayed due to bad weather the respective Churches will not have Mass or prayer and the respective Parish Office will be closed.

Opportunities For You – To Serve/Pray/Grow

Calling Potential Choir Members! St. Mary's and St. Patrick's choirs are looking for members to help with their music ministry. Did you know along with the social benefits of joining a choir there are several health benefits too? Singing releases endorphins which reduce stress and anxiety levels and also lifts your mood! Some studies even indicate regular singing can increase life expectancy due to beneficial effects on lungs and breathing. Lastly, many of us have heard that singing is like praying twice! If you enjoy singing and wish to dedicate yourself to our parish music ministry through regular or seasonal attendance at rehearsal please reach out.

St. Mary's - Music Director Lisa D'Arcangelis, (518) 567-3620 ldarc55@gmail.com
Sunday Masses at 7:30am and 11:30am Rehearsals Thursdays from 6:30 to 7:45pm

St. Patrick's - Pastoral Associate for Music and Liturgy, John Vasto, (518)756-3145 x 104,
tcospmusic@icloud.com Sunday Mass at 9:30am Rehearsals Wednesdays from 6:30 to 8:00pm



HELP WANTED! The St Patrick's Video Camera Ministry needs volunteers to operate the camera for Masses. No special skill necessary. You will be trained. Confirmation Candidates are especially encouraged. If interested, call the St. Pat's Rectory or Bill Horton directly at 518 768-2693.

COFFEE HOUR AFTER MASSES AT ST. MARY'S

We would like to resume this community building activity once COVID-19 diminishes. Some volunteer teams are needed to make this happen. First, we need an overall coordinator to set up the schedule. This can be done on a quarterly or semi-annual basis. A weekend team consists of a set up person and (2) persons (per Mass) to facilitate serving after each Mass (5 total). After the 11:30 Mass Coffee hour, the servers for that Mass clean-up (which is minimal). Right now we have one full team and Patty McCarroll is a Set-up person for a second team. If you feel called to serve our church in this ministry, please contact Bob Desrosiers at 518 731-9268 or stmaryffo@aol.com.

Pyramid Life Center Youth and Family Activities

Pyramid Life Center's youth and family ministry is committed to provide quality extended event programming that facilitates a deeper experience of faith for young people and families. Recent research shows that extended time away from daily life for young people and families is an important component for developing life-long faith. In addition to Breakaway, we offer Mom's Camp, Dad's Camp, F.O.A.M (family service weekend) and a Family Retreat in October. To see a full listing of our programs please visit www.pyramidlife.org.

Catholic Charities Food Distribution – Thursday, February 24

RCS Middle School - High School parking lot. Volunteers report 8:45 am. Distribution begins at 10:00 am. Contact Fr. Joe for information.

Food Pantry at St. Patrick's Ravena

Diane Hoffman | 518-330-6789

Thank you to all that support the Food Pantry with your food and monetary donations!

Food Pantry is Open: Tuesdays & Fridays 10–11 am and Wednesdays 6–7 pm.

Food Pantry, Coxsackie

Lorraine Camurati | 917-572-3300

Coxsackie's Food Pantry hours are Tuesday afternoons 1 - 2 pm, Thursday nights, 7 - 8 pm and Saturday mornings 10 - 11 am. The food pantry is located at 117 Mansion Street in the D.M. Hamilton Steamer #2 Fire Station, next to McQuade Park.

Thrift Shop at St. Patrick's

Mary Ann McCool | 518-756-9184

The Thrift Shop will be closed until Thursday, March 3rd. In case of an emergency Mary Ann McCool (518-756-9184) can be called and she will gladly help them with their needs from the Thrift Shop.

Faith Formation of St. Patrick's

Christa Desrosiers | 518-756-3145

Please pray for our students who will be making their First Reconciliation on **March 8th**, during the normal time for Tuesday Reconciliation. Please also note, there are 13 of them, so if you are a regular attendee, it may be a few minutes wait on that date.

Youth & Faith Formation of St. Mary's

Bob Desrosiers | 518-731-9268

FAITH FORMATION 2022:

Please continue to pay attention to Faith Formation Schedules. If you haven't received the schedules for Grades K-6, Grades 7-9 and Grade 10, please contact Bob Desrosiers at stmaryffo@aol.com.

Grade 10/Confirmation Group: By now you should have chosen your sponsor. If they are from St. Mary's then you need to fill out the form for sponsors that has been handed out. If you still need one, ask Bob Desrosiers (stmaryffo@aol.com) for one. If the sponsor is from another Catholic Church, please ask the sponsor to get a certificate of sponsorship from their Church Administration Office (Rectory).

CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD: We hope to resume the Children's Lectionary Program (Children's Liturgy of the Word) at the 11:30 am Mass. Since the last time we offered this program, we have lost almost all of our Teen Catechists to graduation! Now we have **3** teams; it works best with **4 or 5** so that each team facilitates about once a month. If there are any youth (7th grade or higher) who wishes to serve in this capacity, please let Bob Desrosiers know. The goal is to resume the program with a full complement of teams as soon as possible. We can't resume the program unless we have children ages 4-6 years old come to Mass to participate in the program. Families, please come to Mass so we can connect our young with the Gospel!

VOLUNTEER CATECHISTS still NEEDED FOR GRADES 7 & 8

Could God be calling you to this vital work for our young people? Please contact Bob Desrosiers at stmaryoff@aol.com or 518-731-9268.



Help us meet our goal! 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** or donate on-line here: [Diocesan Appeal](https://thediocesanappeal.org/donate/) or type the following: <https://thediocesanappeal.org/donate/>

To date: St. Mary's has raised \$23,393 in pledges and gifts towards its goal of \$46,975.
St. Patrick's has raised \$30,395 in pledges and gifts towards its goal of \$42,089.

Use Your IRA to Support Your Parish: As we begin a new year it's good practice to look ahead and formulate a plan for our finances. For parishioners with Individual Retirement Accounts (IRA), there is an option available to you that permits you to support your parish and enjoy a tax benefit.

At age 72 Individual Retirement Account (IRA) owners must withdraw an annual required minimum distribution (RMD) from their accounts. These withdrawals are normally taxable pushing people into a higher tax bracket.

Did you know you can make a Qualified Charitable Donation (QCD) to a registered non-profit using the funds from your RMD? Your Catholic Parishes are considered non-profits. QCDs are generally not considered taxable income and do count toward fulfilling your annual RMD. QCDs must be paid directly from your IRA to the charity of your choice. You can benefit regardless of whether you itemize or take the standard deduction. Consult with your financial advisor for any questions you may have.

St. Mary's of Coxsackie EIN: 14-1464470
St. Patrick's of Ravena EIN: 14-1341164

Collections & E-Giving

E-Mail Dawn Brownson parishbusinessmanager@gmail.com

Ravena							
Attendance		Livestream Views		Collection		E-Giving	
2/6	2/13	2/6	2/13	2/6	2/13	2/6	2/13
191	225	209	184	\$4,629.00	\$2,227.00	\$2,020.00	\$2,020.00

St. Patrick's Collection History	
Christmas	\$4,105
Dec 26	\$2,569
Jan 2	\$4,521
Jan 9	\$5,991
Jan 16	\$4,813
Jan 23	\$6,590
Jan 30	\$4,024
Feb 6	\$6,649
Feb 13	\$4,247

ENVELOPES ARE GREAT, BUT E-GIVING HELPS YOUR PARISH MORE

Try it risk free and change your mind at any time: [Click Here](#)

Coxsackie							
Attendance		Collection		E-Giving		R & R	
2/6	2/13	2/6	2/13	2/6	2/13	2/6	2/13
103	130	\$1,772.00	\$2,310.00	\$2,970.00	\$2,970.00	\$75.00	\$30.00

St. Mary's Collection History	
Christmas	\$5,165
Dec 26	\$4,597
Jan 2	\$4,833
Jan 9	\$5,533
Jan 16	\$5,420
Jan 23	\$6,894
Jan 30	\$4,832
Feb 6	\$4,817
Feb 13	\$5,310

Connecting with the Parishes

Online | Phone | E-Mail

WEEKEND MASSES:

4:30 pm Saturday Mass at St. Patrick's (All are welcome)
7:30 am Sunday Mass at St. Mary's (All are welcome!)
9:30 am Sunday Mass at St. Patrick's (All are welcome!)
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)
11:30 am Sunday Mass at St. Mary's (All are welcome!)
11:30 am on **St. Mary's YouTube** channel (also on-demand)
[Click here](#) and then please subscribe

WEEKDAY MASS (Except for Holy Days)

St. Patrick's Tuesday 8:30 am
St. Mary's Wednesday 8 am

FR. JOE'S YOUTUBE CHANNEL FOR HOMILIES AND MESSAGES:

[Click here](#) and then please hit

SUBSCRIBE

FIND US ONLINE:

[Click here](#) for St. Patrick's Parish Homepage
[Click here](#) for St. Mary's Parish Homepage
Parish Facebook Pages (updated daily)

CONTACT US BY PHONE:

St. Patrick's Office: 518-756 -3145
St. Mary's Office: 518-731-8800

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)



st.mary's
st.patrick's.

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

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

MORNING PRAYER (Following the LITURGY OF THE HOURS)

Friday mornings at 8:00 at St. Mary's

WOMEN'S TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY

11 am - 12 pm on Tuesdays at St. Patrick's in classroom 5 of the school

MEN'S THURSDAY BIBLE STUDY

1 – 2 pm on Thursdays at St. Patrick's in classroom 5 of the school