



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

April 13 and 20, 2025 • Vol. 6 – Edition 8



Dear Parish Family and Friends, both near and far,

I'm sure many of you read the cover story in last week's Evangelist on factors influencing life in our diocese and our parishes. A few days later, Bishop Scharfenberger issued a pastoral letter to the people of our Diocese <https://evangelist.org/news/2025/apr/02/the-challenge-before-us/>. (I've enclosed his letter for your reference on page 2 and 3.) Fr. Jay Atherton, our pastor, sent a letter; let me reprint the key excerpt below:

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In recent days, Bishop Scharfenberger has issued a pastoral letter to all the faithful of our Diocese. I am including a copy of that letter with this message, and I encourage you to read it prayerfully and attentively.

The bishop's letter speaks frankly about the challenges we face as a Church – especially the need to strengthen our mission, support one another in faith and evaluate the stewardship of our resources. While the letter mentions the possibility of relinquishing some buildings or even churches across the Diocese, I want to reassure you, this is not the imposition of a “closure quota.” Rather it is a call to all parishes and networks to assess how we can most faithfully and sustainably carry out our mission.

I have personally spoken with the bishop and he has expressed his strong support for the work we are already doing in our parish network. He has encouraged us to continue in the direction we're headed-focusing on collaboration, wise stewardship and forming mission-minded disciples...

Please pray with me that we may continue to act with wisdom, unity, and courage. Our mission of evangelization is both our highest calling and greatest privilege. I believe wholeheartedly that God will lead us, as He always has – both challenging us to grow and strengthening us with His grace.

~Fr. J, Pastor

St. Patrick's will be hosting a pizza party for **John Vasto** on this Sunday at 6 pm in our Parish Center. Please come to thank him for his service and wish him well in the future!

Many thanks to everyone who made St. Patrick's **Festival of Baskets** such a wonderful day. (Please see the thank you notice on page five.) \$12,183 was raised for the parish!

Please support the Diocesan Appeal at St. Mary's and St. Patrick's

Blessings, Fr. Joe O'Brien



Roman Catholic Diocese of Albany

Office of the Bishop

April 7, 2025

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Our Diocese of Albany, in the heart of a secularized region, is faced with the challenge of reimagining its fundamental approach to spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Inspired by the example of St. Francis of Assisi, as articulated in the visionary teaching of Pope Francis, we aim to revitalize and strengthen our parish, regional and diocesan-wide communities, bringing the poor and marginalized into the center of our mission. With a longstanding history of vibrant parish life up until the 2000's, we now face a financial and maintenance crisis as well — we have too many buildings! — which is leading us to realign or relinquish perhaps one-third of 126 parish churches and other buildings, even some of our remaining parish schools.

If we are to have a solid, long-term future, we cannot NOT act. We are now launching a process in an effort to implement a newly envisioned future for long term growth and the formation of mission-focused disciples. Following this model throughout the Diocese, in every parish, network of parishes and region simultaneously, we can be proactive, rather than reactive, with the realities our parishes are facing. Clergy health and wellbeing, quality sacramental ministry, consistent attendance, participation and volunteerism, well maintained properties and assets have been heading in the wrong direction. The Church is Christ's beloved spouse (cf. Ephesians 1:23) which we have been entrusted to care for — all of us, by virtue of our discipleship, our baptismal priesthood. Our "Great Commission" is to follow and proclaim Christ as he leads us through this storm to the "promised land" that lies ahead (Matthew 28: 16-20). It is a challenge and an opportunity to re-channel our efforts and resources towards a healthier Church focused on service, growth in our relationship with Jesus Christ, personally and communally, and sustainable for the needs we have inside and outside our walls. Through a prayerful, comprehensive and participatory evaluation process, we can ensure that the mission of the Church is carried forward, not left to decline. Together we can lead so that all the faithful remain engaged and committed to our Catholic faith, identity and mission, regardless of any parish realignments or changes to centers of worship that prove necessary.

Our main objective is that every parish in the Diocese take part in a transparent, honest — and difficult! — decision-making process over several months of discernment about the mission and resources of each parish toward a realistic vision for its future. This is not a plan with a narrow focus on mergers and closures. Reconfiguration or merging of parishes and the repurposing, closing or sale of some churches, rectories and schools must surely be anticipated as part of the outcome. More importantly, however, this is a process to focus each parish on its mission as the Church, making best use of its personal and material resources.

We need to move from crisis to conversion, to think bigger, looking at everything we have in place, beyond a Sunday morning. How are we held back from our greatest potential by wanting to hold onto the very things that stand in our way? This is our chance to look at and develop our mission and how our resources currently align with it. Every resource or asset — buildings, personnel, services, holdings and expenses — must point to fulfilling the mission Christ entrusts to us.

This is our moment, a call to action! It requires sacrifice and a commitment to listen in a synodal way, working together as the one Body of Christ. The more we open our hearts to the Holy Spirit, resolving to participate fully and fearlessly — yes, sacrificially! — acknowledging sins and failures that have led to decline, we will live the Lord's Prayer. We unite with Jesus as a people who want nothing more than to proclaim by our actions that hope and desire, "thy will be done."

Our hard-working, dedicated pastors and parish leaders will take up new challenges and opportunities to show their boundless love for their people. As visionaries — with the patience of saints at times! — they will continue walking with them towards a future that can be handed on to their successors and to younger generations that will take up their pew and go forth to serve their community.

Our youth and young adults must be warmly welcomed and involved in this process not only for their own unique perspectives and valuable insights, but also since our decisions will strongly impact their future. Special care must be given to include the poor, persons with disabilities and the more vulnerable among us. Their stories and challenges will help us stay focused on the healing and redemptive mission of Christ. In this Holy Year of Hope, all of us must walk on this pilgrimage with Jesus Christ, trusting his guidance on building a stronger foundation for future generations, longing to bear active witness to his saving word.

The details of the process will be unfolded in weeks to come and launched on Pentecost Sunday. It is centered on sound principles of pastoral care, unified action and evangelization, ensuring every participant feels heard, valued and supported as we walk together with Christ in this transition. If it seems like something we already do, or have done before, consider that we live in a landscape of more difficult circumstances, very much like the first Christians in a pagan world, skeptical and hostile to a message of hope in life beyond death and of freedom from the shackles of sin. This will not be another "Called to be Church," which served other needs in another time. So much has changed for our people whose care and well-being we are responsible for. The faith and trust of so many have been shaken. We need to focus now on re-evangelization, re-education and becoming the mission Church we long for and know we can be.

My prayers for you now are for a fruitful and richly blessed Holy Week and a joyful Easter season. We have every reason to be confident that the graces yet to unfold throughout and beyond this Holy Year of Hope will reveal that our best days are yet to come. In the beautiful words from the Hebrew Scriptures (Numbers 6:24-26), I pray: "The Lord bless you and keep you! The Lord let his face shine upon you, and be gracious to you! The Lord look upon you kindly and give you his peace!"

Sincerely yours in Christ,


+Edward B. Scharfenberger

Edward B. Scharfenberger
Bishop of Albany

Schedule

SUNDAY 4-13	7:30 Mass at St. Mary's 9:30 Mass at St. Patrick's (also St. Patrick's YouTube channel or Mid-Hudson 901) Hospitality provided by Mother McAuley Columbiettes immediately after Mass 11:30 Mass at St. Mary's (also St. Mary's YouTube channel)
MONDAY 4-14	8:00 Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at St. Mary's is Cancelled
TUESDAY 4-15	8:00 Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at St. Mary's Rectory 8:30 Weekday Mass at St. Patrick's, Rosary following Mass 11:00 Women's Bible Study at room 5 of St. Patrick's Parish Hall 5:30 Reconciliation Service at St. Mary's 6:00 Rosary at St. Mary's
WEDNESDAY 4-16	8:00 Weekday Mass at St. Mary's Rectory 8:30 Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at St. Patrick's 6:00 Choir rehearsal at St. Patrick's
THURSDAY 4-17	8:30 Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at St. Patrick's 1:00-2:00 St. Patrick's Men's Prayer Meeting 6:00 Mass of the Lord's Supper n at St. Patrick's
FRIDAY 4-18	8:00 Morning Prayer at St. Mary's Rectory 12:00 Stations of the Cross at St. Mary's and at St. Patrick's 3:00 Celebration of the Lord's Passion at St. Patrick's
SATURDAY 4-19	4:30 <i>No Mass at St. Patrick's</i> 8:00 The Easter Vigil in the Holy Night at St. Mary's
EASTER SUNDAY 4-20	7:30 NO Mass at St. Mary's 9:30 Mass at St. Patrick's (also St. Patrick's YouTube channel or Mid-Hudson 901) 11:30 Mass at St. Mary's (also St. Mary's YouTube channel)
MONDAY 4-21	8:00 Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at St. Mary's <i>St. Mary's, St. Patrick's and Network offices will be closed.</i>
TUESDAY 4-22	<i>St. Mary's, St. Patrick's and Network offices will be closed</i> 8:00 Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at St. Mary's 8:30 Weekday Mass at St. Patrick's, Rosary following Mass 11:00 Women's Bible Study at room 5 of St. Patrick's Parish Hall 5:30 Reconciliation at St. Patrick's
WEDNESDAY 4-23	8:00 Weekday Mass at St. Mary's 8:30 Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at St. Patrick's 6:30 NO choir rehearsal at St. Patrick's
THURSDAY 4-24	8:30 Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at St. Patrick's 1:00-2:00 St. Patrick's Men's Prayer Meeting 6:30 NO Choir rehearsal at St. Mary's
FRIDAY 4-25	8:00 Morning Prayer at St. Mary's
SATURDAY 4-26	4:30 Mass at St. Patrick's
SUNDAY 4-27	7:30 Mass at St. Mary's 9:30 Mass at St. Patrick's (also St. Patrick's YouTube channel or Mid-Hudson 901) 11:30 Mass at St. Mary's (also St. Mary's YouTube channel)

If you have news of interest for either of our parishes and would like it to appear in our newsletter, please email your suggested article directly to Bill Halstead at weh058@mac.com The deadline for sending all news articles is the Monday, 6:00 pm, before the publishing of the newsletter Thank you.

Thrift Shop at St. Patrick's

Mary Ann McCool | 518-756-9184

Come visit Thursdays from 1 – 3 pm or Saturday from 9 am – Noon. We are closed on holidays.

Food Pantry, Cossackie

Lorraine Camurati | 917-572-3300

Please remember the Cossackie Food Pantry on the first Sunday of the month. Food costs are soaring and those with limited resources are struggling more than ever. There are baskets in the back of the church for your donations including personal care items and pet food. Thank you for your generosity. Cossackie Food Pantry hours: Tuesday 1-2 pm, Thursday 7-8 pm & Saturday 10-11 am. Cash donations are always welcome. Your gift has greater purchasing power at the regional food bank.

Food Pantry at St. Patrick's Ravena

Diane Hoffman | 518-330-6789

Hours of Operation: Tuesday and Friday 10 to 11 am and Wednesday 6 to 7 pm. Reminder, there is a food pantry basket in the vestibule. Please help replenish our stock by providing the following items:

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| •Lunchbox snacks | Mustard | Cookies | Cake mix | Bar Soap |
| •Canned Spaghetti O's | Powdered Milk | Brownie mix | Jello | Tooth brushes |
| •Canned spaghetti & meatballs | Paper Towels | Deodorant – both men's and ladies | | |

Mother McAuley Columbiettes will be remembering our deceased members on April 13th at the 9:30 Mass. Our next meeting will be held April 22, 6:30 pm in room 4 of St. Patrick's Parish Center.

A BIG THANK YOU!!!

To all who attend the Annual Festival of Baskets, and to those of you that made the baskets to make this all possible .

Huge thanks to the Knights & Columbiettes for preparing lunch - and to Marianne McCool for organizing the Bake Sale, and Joan Thompson for helping and of course to those who baked.

Many thanks to Diane Hoffman, Mary Tice, Michelle Hagen, Joanne Nunziato, Judy Reischer, Gina McGrath, Eileen Vosburgh, MaryAnn & Jack Dennis, Audrey Beaver, Jeanne Biernacki, & Carol Mason for selling tickets, to Christa Desrosiers for calling numbers.

This could not have been done without everyone **\$12,183.00**

Donna Hagen, Chairperson

Deacon Mike is pleased to announce that beginning Wednesday May 7 our Network will be offering Part 2 of the Adult Bible Study Program: "God's Plan For Salvation." It will be held, like last year, in the Catskill Office each Wednesday from 6:30 PM to 8PM through to September 3rd. It is open to everyone in the Network age 18 and over. You needn't have attended last year.

Riverview Missionary Baptist Church

7 Last Words Of Jesus

**Friday April 18, 2025
7:00 PM**

**Host
Pastor**



Rev Reginald E. Graham

PASTOR Jim Williams Congregational Church	Min Carmine Frankson New Hope Baptist Church	Min LEISHA GRAHAM-Perry Sweet Pilgrim Baptist Church	Deac Steven Young Church of St Patricks	PASTOR Noel John South Bethlehem United Methodist	PASTOR Jennifer Legg First Reformed of Bethlehem	PASTOR Clarence Thomas Bay Road Church
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11 Riverview Dr Coeymans, NY 12045

Coxsackie CROP Walk: Our Coxsackie-Athens Ecumenical Group is sponsoring the Annual CROP Walk on Sunday May 4th beginning at 2 pm from the Gospel Community Church. We walk to raise awareness of world poverty and to raise money to help battle poverty. The money goes to Church World Service who sends resources to places who need it most (25% remains with our own Food Pantry). Information is available in the vestibule of church. There are Walker Packets available as you enter Church and also a sign-up form to sponsor Bob Desrosiers if you prefer.

Save the date: St. Patrick's to hold a Chicken BBQ Take Out Dinner May 6th. More information in upcoming issues. Tickets available after Mass beginning this weekend at St. Patrick's.

Mass Intentions

Week of April 12, 13, 2025

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

Apr 12 4:30 Ravena Joesph Campoli by Gloria
Frances and Sandrino Zanetti by Lucretia Harvey
Apr 13 7:30 Cocksackie Jeanne Cary by Gene and Jeannene Albright
Frank Reda by the Reda family
Deceased members of the Reda and Buffone families
9:30 Ravena Deceased members of the Columbiettes
Deceased members of the DePuccio and Catello families by Anne Marie
Marcia Bottachiari by her family
11:30 Cocksackie Avaleta Veeder by her family
Regina Donovan by St. Mary's Parish

Week of April 19, 20, 2025

Happy Easter

Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday

Week of April 26, 27 2025

Second Sunday of Easter

Apr 26 4:30 Ravena Hausler family by their family
Mary Ann Jones by Kathy Jones
Deceased members of the Miller family by Judy Miller
Apr 27 7:30 Cocksackie Alfred Daoust by his children
Dennis Degnen by Gene and Jeannene Albright
9:30 Ravena None at this time
11:30 Cocksackie Christine Trabucco by Robert and Sharon Navarra
Mary Ellen McDermott by her husband

Diocesan Appeal 2024-2025 Campaign

There are things God does for us as well as things that God calls us to do...getting back to Mass, participating actively in our parish community, living as a joyful disciple, being constant in prayer, investing in our parishes & diocese...if not each of us, then who? Please don't wait! Making your gift or pledge today to the Diocesan Appeal shows you have stepped forward by personally committing and participating in Christ bringing about His Kingdom here on earth. Thank you – with patience and your support, a brighter future is near!

Payments can be made on-line by going to <https://thediocesanappeal.org/>

ST. PATRICK'S

80 gifts so far
Goal \$ 41,506
Total donations = **\$ 28,402**
68% of goal
Average Gift \$ 355.03
Shortfall = **\$ 13,103.90**

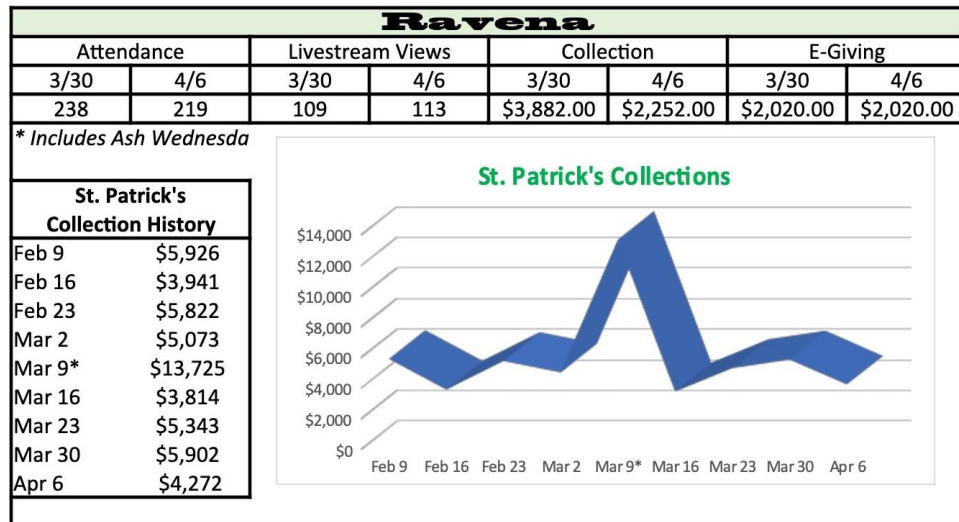
ST. MARY'S

83 gifts so far
Goal \$ 40,775
Total donations = **\$ 22,283**
55% of goal
Average Gift \$ 268.47
Shortfall = **\$ 19,262**

All funds raised for the Diocesan Appeal are applied immediately to underwrite the current Diocesan programs, services and ministries for parishes as well as vocations, not for the settlement of legal cases.

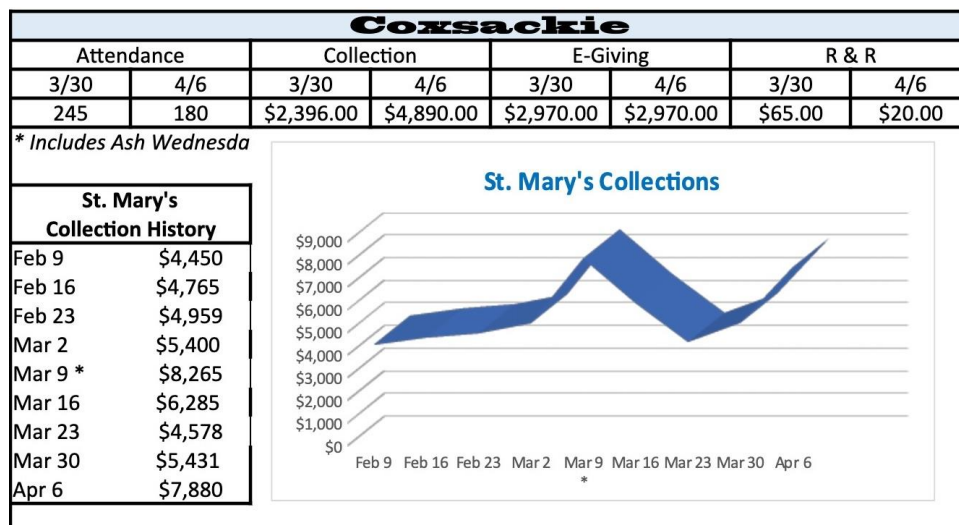
Collections & E-Giving

E-Mail Dawn Brownson parishbusinessmanager@gmail.com



ENVELOPES ARE GREAT, BUT E-GIVING HELPS YOUR PARISH MAKE BETTER FINANCIAL DECISIONS

The Church is just like your family when it comes to managing our finances. We need to know what our income will be in order to budget and plan for on-going operational needs and building maintenance projects. E-giving provides a steady stream of income that we know we can depend on week after week. Many things can throw us off track in maintaining our commitment to weekly giving. Weather, illness, delays in envelope delivery and vacations to name a few. Plus, with the increased use of debit/credit cards, many of us don't carry cash. **You can cover both your regular weekly giving and any special collections with just one deduction.** Sign up once and leave the rest to us. The deduction will occur at the interval you choose from the bank account you provide. Enrollment forms are in the back of the church along with descriptions of the second and special collection. Please do not hesitate to call the office with any questions. ***Try it risk free and change your mind at any time:*** [Click Here](#)



Connecting with the Parishes

Online | Phone | E-Mail

WEEKEND MASSES (ALL ARE WELCOME):

4:30 pm Saturday Mass at St. Patrick's

7:30 am Sunday Mass at St. Mary's

9:30 am Sunday Mass at St. Patrick's

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

11:30 am on **St. Mary's YouTube** channel [Click here](#) and then please subscribe

WEEKDAY MASS (Except for Holy Days & days of funeral at a parish): St. Patrick's Tuesday 8:30 am

St. Mary's Wednesday 8 am

HUDSON VALLEY VICARIATE WEST FAITH FORMATION Online hvwwff.org

FR. JAY'S YOUTUBE CHANNEL FOR HOMILIES AND MESSAGES: [Click here](#) and then please **SUBSCRIBE**

FR. JOE'S YOUTUBE CHANNEL FOR HOMILIES AND MESSAGES: [Click here](#) and then please **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)



EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT First Sunday of the month 6:30-7:30 pm at St. Patrick's

Monday and Tuesday 8:00 am at St. Mary's

Wednesday and Thursday 8:30 am St. Patrick's

MORNING PRAYER (Following the Liturgy of the Hours format) Friday mornings at 8:00 at St. Mary's

WOMEN'S TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY 11 am - 12 pm on Tuesdays St. Patrick's School – Classroom 5

MEN'S PRAYER MEETING 1 – 2 pm on Thursdays St. Patrick's School – Classroom 5

ST. MARY'S STAFF

80 MANSION STREET | COXSACKIE, NY 12051

(518) 731-8800 | www.stmaryscoxsackie.com

FR. JOSEPH O'BRIEN	DEACON MIKE MCDONALD
Parochial Vicar revjosephobrien@nycap.rr.com	Parish Deacon michael.mcdonald@rcda.org
LISA D'ARCANGELIS	OFFICE VOLUNTEERS
Music and Prayer and Worship ldarc55@gmail.com	Judy Halstead - judyrosa@mac.com Bill Halstead - weh058@mac.com Karen Cole Judy Zoller Colleen Cole General Office Inquiries stmoff@aol.com

ST. PATRICK'S STAFF

21 MAIN STREET | RAVENA, NY 12143

(518) 756-3145 | www.stpatricks-ravena.org

FR. JOSEPH O'BRIEN	DEACON STEVE YOUNG
Parochial Vicar extension 103 revjosephobrien@nycap.rr.com	Parish Deacon extension 102 steve.richard.young@gmail.com
JOHN VASTO	CHRISTA DESROSIERS
Director of Music and Liturgy extension 104 Mobile: (518) 533-8524 tcospmusic@icloud.com vastoj@rcda.org	Coordinator of Faith Formation extension 105 derobccr@gmail.com
OFFICE VOLUNTEERS	COMMUNITY OUTREACH
Donna Hagen Michelle Fralick extension 102 office@tcosp.org	Food Pantry Diane Hoffman - (518) 330-6789 Thrift Shop MaryAnn McCool - (518) 756-9184