



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



Oct. 25 & Nov. 1, 2020 • Edition 21 • Weeks 32 & 33

Keeping us connected during the Coronavirus Pandemic

Fr. Scott's Sharing Spot

Dear Parish Family....

Are you trying to figure out how Jesus would vote in this crazy election? If so, this is a perfect time to explain what we mean when we say that the Catholic Church is a "teaching church," which differentiates the Catholic faith from some other denominations, which have beliefs about God, but that stay out of the details of people's lives. You've probably noticed (and maybe even joked a bit about the fact) that the Catholic Church is *very involved* in the details of your life. That's what the "teaching church" description means: the Catholic faith guides the way we live, the way we spend money, the ways we express love and affection, the choices we make with our time and the way we participate in American society as Catholic citizens.

Jesus taught very clear principles of how to best live our human lives. Much of how he taught was by his example through how he faced situations:

("Turn the other cheek," "Become like a child," "Love your enemies," "Forgive them, they know not what they do," "Love your neighbor as you love yourself.")

...and through stories: *("The Kingdom of heaven is like: a merchant looking for fine pearls... a widow in search of a lost coin... a field of weeds and wheat... a king who threw a great banquet...").*

Jesus never specifically spoke about many issues that are a part of our society today, such as nuclear weapons (there were none in 33 AD), abortion (not mentioned in the Bible), Medicaid (that only applies to the United States) or how we define marriage, to name a few.

So the Church has taken the teachings of Jesus and studied them to find out:

- What consistent themes are in his teaching?
- Which values does Jesus consider non-negotiable?
- Which values does Jesus leave up to a person's conscience?
- How can we apply what he said and did to the complex situations we face as citizens of a superpower country with the largest economy in the world?

The Church has organized these teachings into four themes:

- 1) **The inherent dignity of each human person** (*no exceptions*)
- 2) **The overriding value of the common good** (*individualism has limits*)
- 3) **Subsidiarity** (*making decisions at the most grassroots level possible*)
- 4) **Solidarity** (*seeing and caring for others as brothers & sisters*)

The four principles of the Church's social doctrine



These four principles make up the Church's "Social Doctrine" – the teachings that regulate the way we best participate as people of faith in society. They are recognized by Catholics worldwide, from Pope Francis to every small town parish and mission around the globe.

The Catholic bishops of every country of the world gather at least once a year for a National Bishop's Conference, so they can apply these doctrines to the particular challenges of the country they serve. They often create guidelines that are specific to that country and its unique context. Because the participants are bishops, who have the responsibility to teach and legislate in their dioceses, their writings and teachings have legitimacy and weight in the lives of Catholics in those countries.

Here we have the USCCB (United States Conference of Catholic Bishops), which has offered a number of significant teachings during our lifetimes, but perhaps none more important than their teaching about being a faithful citizen in our democracy. The USCCB has published [Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship](#), which takes the four principles of Catholic Social Doctrine and breaks it down into 13 categories of topics that affect American life:

- **Human Life** (Abortion, euthanasia, cloning, embryo research)
- **Promoting Peace** (Reject: war, torture, preemptive & non-combatant strikes, nuclear/biological/chemical weapons)
- **Marriage & Family Life** (Traditional definition of marriage, valuing/protecting children, just wages)
- **Religious Freedom**
- **Option for the Poor & Economic Justice**
(Federal job guarantee, equal pay for women, right to unionize, humane welfare policy, improve tax credits, Support: faith-based charity groups, Social Security, affordable housing, agricultural policy that ends hunger)
- **Health Care** (Affordable care, accessible care, stronger Medicare, stronger Medicaid)
- **Migration** (Broad path to citizenship, reunite families, use due process, asylum for refugees, address root causes)
- **Catholic Education** (Protect good quality, let parents choose type of education, just teacher salary/benefits)
- **Promoting Justice & Countering Violence** (Fix prison system, make reasonable gun laws, end death penalty)
- **Combatting Discrimination** (End discrimination due to religion, sex, disability, age, race, ethnicity)
- **Care for the Earth** (Acknowledge and address climate change, invest in renewable, clean energy)
- **Communications, Media & Culture** (Balance the need for free speech with need for standards of decency)
- **Global Solidarity** (Development aid, fair trade, fund UN programs, seek a 2-state solution: Israel & Palestine)

As you can see, these 13 categories cover 47 issues we all face as American citizens in society. I don't know anyone who finds themselves just naturally agreeing with the Church teaching on all 47 issues. In fact, it's likely that you may wince when you see a few of the issues listed here, saying, *"I like that they said THAT one, but I wish they hadn't said THAT one."* As Catholics, we are called to accept that this is the teaching of our Church; that it isn't random or based on a fad, it is the teaching of Jesus applied to our society, as our Pope and Bishops (the legitimate teachers of our faith) have together discerned it.

The Bishops will not tell us who to vote for in any election. Instead, they tell us that: (1) we are not one-issue voters; (2) all 47 issues matter, though some issues (like abortion) have more importance than others; (3) we must individually discern which candidate's policies and decisions are, on the whole, more aligned with the way Jesus lived and taught.

[Click here for a helpful issue-by-issue breakdown of the candidates' policies.](#)

Abstaining is not a valid option. The time is now. Let us study... and pray... and then vote.

Fr. Scott ☺

Schedule

SUNDAY 10/25	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 10/26	By Noon = New Prayer Service for small groups posted on parish Homepages 3:00 = Praying in your home
TUESDAY 10/27	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 (All are welcome!) 3:00 = Praying in your home 5:30 = Confession (St. Patrick's) 6:30 = Rosary, St. Mary's (All are welcome!)
WEDNESDAY 10/28	3:00 = Praying in your home
THURSDAY 10/29	1:00-2:00 = St. Patrick's Men's Prayer Meeting – Classroom 5 3:00 = Praying in your home
FRIDAY 10/30	3:00 = Praying in your home
SATURDAY 10/31	3:00 = Praying in your home 4:30 = Public Mass at St. Mary's (for St. Mary's Parishioners M-Z)  CLOCKS BACK ONE HOUR
SUNDAY 11/1	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 11/2	By Noon = New Prayer Service for small groups posted on parish Homepages 3:00 = Praying in your home
TUESDAY 11/3	11:00-12:00 = St. Patrick's Women's Prayer Meeting – Classroom 5 2:00 = Rosary, St. Patrick's (All are welcome!) 5:30 = Confession (St. Mary's) 6:30 = Rosary, St. Mary's (All are welcome!)

WEDNESDAY 11/4	3:00 = Praying in your home
THURSDAY 11/5	1:00-2:00 = St. Patrick's Men's Prayer Meeting – Classroom 5 3:00 = Praying in your home
FRIDAY 11/6	3:00 = Praying in your home
SATURDAY 11/7	3:00 = Praying in your home 4:30 = Public Mass at St. Mary's (for St. Mary's Parishioners A-L)
SUNDAY 11/8	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

Catholics In American Society in 2020

VOTE WITH AN INFORMED CONSCIENCE

The U.S. Catholic bishops state clearly that *"In the Catholic Tradition, responsible citizenship is a virtue, and participation in political life is a moral obligation."* You can [read more of what the bishops have to say about informing our consciences before we vote here.](#)

☐ VOTE BY MAIL

If you are steering clear of public crowds, be sure to [request an absentee ballot](#) by the **Tuesday deadline** (everyone is eligible for one this year because of the dangers posed by COVID-19).

☐ VOTE BEFORE NOVEMBER 3

You can also vote early in [Albany County](#) or in [Greene County](#), depending on where you reside.

☐ VOTE ON NOVEMBER 3

Election day is Tuesday, November 3. Find your [assigned polling place here.](#)

ELECTION DAY HOLY HOUR

Join us on **Tue. Nov. 3 from 2:00-3:00 at St. Patrick's Church** for a Eucharistic Holy Hour, where we will ask God to bestow peace upon our nation, regardless of the outcome of the election.

GETTING A FLU SHOT SHOWS RESPECT FOR LIFE

Make an appointment with your or click here for is a list of [Greene County Pharmacies](#) where walk-ins are welcome and here's the list for [Albany County locations.](#)

Parish Excellence During Coronavirus

Call Bob Desrosiers | **518-444-8184**

PARISH EXCELLENCE SUMMIT

Are you a parish volunteer or ministry leader? Would you like ideas for how to be as excellent as possible during these unprecedented times? Register for this [free virtual conference](#) for

parish staff and ministry leaders. Learn best practices on deepening online engagement, great parish communications practices, recovering lost donations and offerings and much more. The Conference will take place November 9-13 for 4 hours each day. Recordings of the presentations will be available through November 15. Register at [ParishExcellence.com](https://www.parishexcellence.com).



ST. PATRICK'S ANNUAL SPAGHETTI DINNER

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25
1:00 - 5:00 pm

TAKE OUT ONLY

ADULTS = \$12 AGES 5 TO 10 = \$6
UNDER 5 = FREE

Yes, you can buy tickets at the door!

ST. PATRICK'S

67 gifts so far
35% of goal (out of 190 gift goal)
Base gift = **\$25**
Highest gift so far = **\$2,250**
Average gift = **\$330**
Total donations to date = **\$22,413**

ST. MARY'S

71 gifts so far
41% of goal (out of 175 gift goal)
Base gift = **\$25**
Highest gift so far = **\$1,600**
Average gift = **\$290**
Total donations to date = **\$21,145**

Help us meet our goal!

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

- Monthly or one-time gifts by credit card [can be made via secure website](#).
- For more information on the appeal, visit www.thediocesanappeal.org
- Questions? Call **518-453-6680** or email stewardship@rcda.org
- 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**

HELP CATHOLIC CHARITIES & LOCAL RESTAURANTS BY "DINING OUT FOR OTHERS"

Catholic Charities of Columbia & Greene Counties 8th annual "Dining Out for Others" will take place during November. The group raises awareness and funds to eliminate hunger while promoting local businesses like Red's & Pegasus. Support local restaurants at the same time your support Catholic Charities... a win-win! [Click here for details](#).

CATHOLIC CHARITIES COLLECTION

We are partnering with Catholic Charities for a second collection on November 7th and 8th to benefit their work in supporting families affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Please consider a generous response to help your neighbors in the Albany Diocese. More information can be found online at ccrcda.org and in the most recent issue of [the Evangelist](#).

E-GIVING WORKS BEST

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!

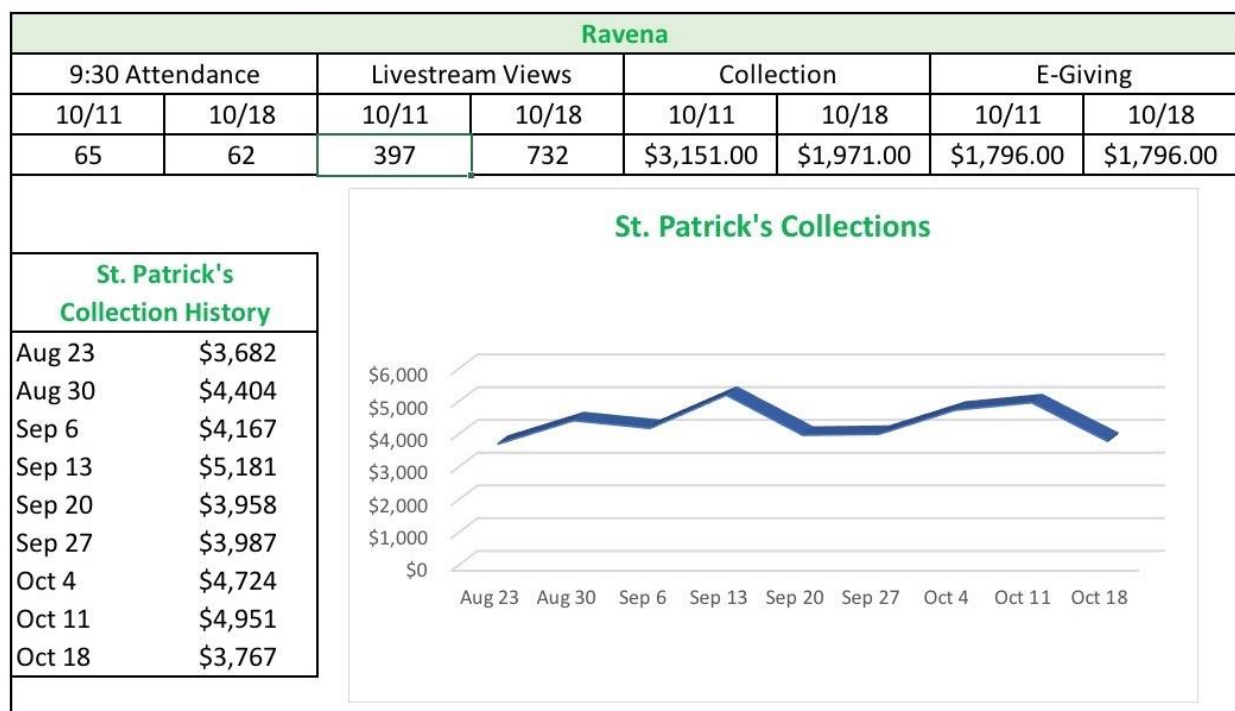
Coxsackie							
4:30 Attendance		Collection		E-Giving		R & R	
10/10	10/17	10/10*	10/17	10/10*	10/17	10/10*	10/17
63	61	\$4,775.00	\$1,682.00	\$4,504.00	\$2,552.00	\$515.00	\$86.00

* includes last week

St. Mary's Collection History	
Aug 15	\$4,166
Aug 22	\$4,282
Aug 29	\$4,031
Sep 5	\$3,523
Sep 12	\$6,383
Sep 19	\$4,956
Sep 26	\$5,876
Oct 3 & 10	\$9,279
Oct 17	\$4,234

St. Mary's Collections

Date	Collection Amount
Aug 15	\$4,166
Aug 22	\$4,282
Aug 29	\$4,031
Sep 5	\$3,523
Sep 12	\$6,383
Sep 19	\$4,956
Sep 26	\$5,876
Oct 3 & 10	\$9,279
Oct 17	\$4,234



Confirmation 2020

Call Bob Desrosiers | 518-444-8184

We have resumed Final Preparation for Confirmation 2020 as follows:

October 26: The Limones (who celebrated the birth of their first baby Eve Bernadette in July) will present the Gifts of the Holy Spirit and Why They Are Needed

November 1: Deacon Mike will present: Sacred Chrism as Character Seal

November 21 at 1 PM: Confirmation Mass – St. John The Baptist in Greenville (rehearsal TBD)

Faith Formation 2021

Call Bob Desrosiers | 518-444-8184

We will **tentatively** begin the new year (**in-person**) as follows (all sessions K-10 will normally be an hour long):

Grades 1-3: Will tentatively begin on **Monday, November 2 at 6:30 PM.**

Grades 4-6: will tentatively begin on **Sunday, November 8 at 10:15 AM.**

Grade 7: will tentatively begin on **Sunday, November 22 at 6 PM.**

Grade 8: will tentatively begin on **Monday, November 9 at 6:30 PM.**

Bob is working with those who chose to do FF this year online to begin that media mode and will be in contact with families with instructions and support as needed.

Box of Joy

E-Mail Christa Desrosiers | derobccr@aol.com

"FOR CHILDREN WHO WISH FOR JUST ONE GIFT"

Once again this year, both parishes will participate in this Cross Catholic Outreach program to fill small boxes with Christmas gifts that are delivered to 8 countries along with the love of Jesus Christ. Look for more details and get your box starting on Oct 24th.

[Visit this website to find out more!](#)

St. Patrick's Bible Studies

E-Mail Christa Desrosiers | derobccr@aol.com

Just a shout out to the men and women of St Patrick's who have resumed meeting in person for their Bible Study groups. The women meet from 1-2 PM on Tuesdays and the men meet from 1-2 PM on Thursdays in classroom 5 of the school.

Please contact the rectory or Christa if you need more info.

Food Pantry at St. Patrick's

Diane Hoffman | [518-330-6789](tel:518-330-6789)

"The Pantry" is in need of donations of:
Stuffing. Gravy (jar or can) baked beans

"If I've been out of state, can I go to Mass?"

E-Mail Christa Desrosiers | derobccr@aol.com

Please be mindful when traveling and planning to return to church.

The NYS DOH restricted travel list requiring quarantine changes often. [Please check it here](#) so you can make sure the area you traveled is not included or take the required precautions if it is.

Thank you for continuing to be vigilant!

Quarantine Space Needed

Call Karen Lewis | [518-731-8093](tel:518-731-8093)

As we enter fall and the winter months approach, we anticipate an increase in the number of COVID diagnoses. That increase may trigger a need for people to quarantine away from family members. If you have a separate space in your house that could be used to quarantine a health

care professional, an essential worker or community member who needs to protect their family from exposure, please call **Karen Lewis** at **518-731-8093**.

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:

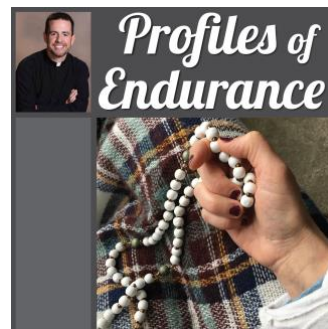
[Click here](#) and then please hit

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:

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

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

<https://stmaryscoxsackie.com>

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](#)

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