



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



March 22, 2020 • Edition 1

Keeping us connected during the Coronavirus epidemic

Fr. Scott's Sharing Spot

Dear Parish Family,

There are no words for the shock we feel at the way our lives have been turned upside down by this pandemic. It's devastating to our bodies, our emotions, our thoughts, our future plans, our sense of security and stability... to everything.

The one thing this pandemic can't touch, however, is our souls. Our souls are not susceptible to this virus. In fact, our souls can flourish and be strengthened by all the ways this kind of catastrophe can strip away all but what is most essential in our lives. If we play this right, our faith and virtue can't help but grow from this.

These days, now that everything we were building has come tumbling down, aren't the essentials all we care about? What else deserves our attention right now?

However, we must work to keep our focus, because there is another contagious virus that is being spread, and it is even more debilitating than Corona. It's fear. And it can cause us to see our neighbors as adversaries. We might see other suffering people as rivals, who are likely to take the essential supplies that we need to survive this. **Coronavirus can't touch our souls, but fear could.** If we're not careful, fear may cripple our souls from being able to do their job as the Divinely-guided internal force of life inside of us.

The soul is nourished and strengthened by gratitude. Grateful thoughts immediately connect us to God and remind us that we are not in charge of our lives – all good gifts come from God’s hand.

And because we have the “indigestion” that comes from eating from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil (Genesis 2-3), we can’t yet see that no experience in our life is beyond being able to reveal God’s glory.

I recently received a prayer from a friend who, despite his suffering from this experience, is working hard to nurture the grateful thoughts that feed his soul.

**May we who are merely inconvenienced
remember those whose lives are at stake.**

**May we who have no risk factors,
remember those most vulnerable.**

**May we who have the luxury of working from home,
remember those who must choose
between preserving their health or making their rent.**

**May we who have the flexibility
to care for our children when their schools close,
remember those who have no options.**

**May we who have to cancel our trips,
remember those who have no safe place to go.**

**May we who are losing our margin money
in the tumult of the economic market,
remember those who have no margin at all.**

**May we who settle in for a quarantine at home,
remember those who have no home.**

As fear grips our country, let us choose love.

During this time when we cannot physically wrap our arms around each other, may we find ways to be the loving embrace of God to our neighbors. AMEN.

If you would like to be able to find a loving embrace from your parish community during this time when we cannot physically wrap our arms around each other, consider joining a small prayer group of parishioners that meets each week over the phone, Zoom, Skype or other form of technology. The parish staff and I are preparing a prayer group service each week that we will post on our parish Facebook pages tailored to these kind of gatherings. When the day comes that we're able to go out but not yet able to have Mass, these small groups (of perhaps 6-8) can meet in peoples' homes to keep us strong.

And some parishioners have decided to **pray every day at 3 PM in their homes**, knowing that other parishioners are doing the same thing. Isn't that beautiful? Some are doing the Rosary at the time. Others are doing Centering Prayer, or the Divine Mercy Chaplet, or the Three C's. What a great way to love God and stay connected to the great river of love we call the Mystical Body of Christ.

And please **tune in to our 9:30 parish livestream Mass**, which I plan to celebrate every week. You can find it by going to the website for St. Patrick's, Ravena and clicking on the button on the main page. It's also available later anytime on demand. Or if you have Mid-Hudson Cable, watch it on **channel 901**.

This has stripped us down to only the essentials.

And one essential thing for me is to tell you now that I love you and I am praying for and with you.

Fr. Scott 😊

Church Hours

Our churches continue to be **open daily from dawn until dusk.**

Come pray... and leave any extra hand sanitizer, toilet tissue, baby wipes or other essential items in the labeled pews so those who lack those essentials can come receive them.

9:30 Sunday Mass on TV / YouTube

Fr. Scott will continue to celebrate the **9:30 Sunday Mass** at St. Patrick's in Ravena so it can be broadcast to everyone at home.

It is available Live at 9:30 on **Mid-Hudson Cable channel 901**

Also, anyone can access it on the **St. Patrick's YouTube** channel, which can be accessed through the home page of the St. Patrick's parish website. Subscribe to the channel and receive alerts when a Mass or video is posted.

Parish App

Have a smart phone? Text **App** to **88202** and subscribe.
You won't believe all that's there!

(It's a St. Patrick's App, but most of the information applies to St. Mary's as well.)

Fr. Scott's Posted Video Messages – Do Not Miss Out!

Fr. Scott has a YouTube channel that you should please subscribe to. Go to YouTube and in the search bar, type “Fr. Scott VanDerveer” and subscribe.

He is regularly posting video messages to the parish that offer encouragement as well as instructions about how to stay involved in the parish & grow in faith during these hard times.

This is an important source of information, please check out his newest messages and all of his homilies on YouTube!

Supplies Needed – St. Patrick's Food Panty

For their safety, our volunteers are avoiding being in public these days, but please set aside some of these needed items:

Soup, Crackers, Pasta, Tuna, Powdered Milk, Jelly, Cookies, Ramen Noodles, Instant Potatoes (Individual Size), Shampoo, Bar Soap, Deodorant, Toothpaste, Toothbrushes, Baby Wipes, Clorox Wipes

Best Ways to Help the Community

Our social service agencies are overwhelmed by the immediate need to provide social distancing for all their volunteers. The local Food Pantries will have a lot of work ahead of them, but cannot accept many donations now when the volunteer help they rely on is unavailable.

So for now, the best way to help is to please bring any extra essential items you have (TP, sanitizer, Clorox wipes) to the church and leave them on the labeled pews for those in need.

And please consider making donations to our local Catholic Charities office using their website. They are geared up to help.

Collections & E-Giving – Your Parish Needs Your Help

We're all in financial hardship because of this epidemic. So many people are laid off, while others have watched their assets disappear. It's frightening to feel that we can't meet our needs. The shock of what we're facing has barely set in yet.

Our reality is that without Masses, there are no collections, which means the parishes do not have long before they will run out of operating revenue. We know that right now giving will be harder than ever for many parishioners. But it is not the amount anyone gives that will save us, it's simply that everyone gives what they can from what they have.

What your parish needs from you this week is for you to enroll in e-giving and then to select an amount that is possible for you to give at this time.

To make it easy and fast, we have attached "quick enrollment" forms for both parishes to assist anyone wishing to continue their giving without interruption. **Our e-giving parishioners will become our financial life support during this time closures and quarantines.**

We are so grateful to have such a generous family of parishioners who are willing to adapt to the times and continue to support us.

If you would like to enroll, please...

- 1) Use the appropriate form to do so (attached)
- 2) Resave and e-mail it back to our Parish Business Manager parishbusinessmanager@gmail.com.
- 3) You can simply attach a photo of a voided check to the e-mail.

(If you can't send an attachment with your information, paper forms can be mailed to either office, but please note that processing times may be delayed when choosing this option.)

All enrollments will be confirmed via email.

Both churches currently get only a fraction of their income from e-giving. And St. Patrick's Church has a very low number of e-givers right now – much lower than St. Mary's has – so the need is urgent.

If you must choose the paper option, please print the appropriate form of the two attached below...

ST. MARY'S FORM:



Saint Mary's Church
80 Mansion Street
Coxsackie, New York 12051
(PH) 518.731.8800
(E) ParishBusinessManager@gmail.com

If you are currently using envelopes and know your env. # please note it here: _____

ELECTRONIC GIVING FORM

1 Please choose a frequency for the automatic withdrawal from your bank account:

Weekly Monthly; on: ___ 1st ___ 15th
Bi-Monthly Quarterly
Quarterly Annually

PROCESSING TIMEFRAMES

- Bi-Monthly Payments are processed on the 1st and 15th of each month.
- Monthly Payments are processed on the 1st or the 15th business day of each month, as directed.
- Quarterly Payments are processed on the 1st business day of January, April, July and October.

2 Please choose offering amount you wish to be included in e-giving:

*Holy Days and Special Collections can be added to your e-giving contribution during our next enrollment campaign - date TBD

REGULAR COLLECTION

\$ _____ Per _____
(Week/Bi-week/Month/Quarter)

3

BANK AUTHORIZATION AGREEMENT FOR PRAUTHORIZED PAYMENTS

PARISHIONER NAME(S): _____

I (we) hereby authorize **St. Mary's Church**, hereinafter called COMPANY, to initiate debit entries to my (our) Checking account indicated below and the depository named below, hereinafter called DEPOSITORY, to debit the same to such account.

DEPOSITORY NAME: _____

ROUTING #: _____

ACCOUNT #: _____

- **Please attach a voided check if sending in by mail. Please attach image of voided check if emailing.**

This authority is to remain in full force and effect until COMPANY and DEPOSITORY has received written notification from me (or either of us) of its termination in such time and in such manner as to afford COMPANY and DEPOSITORY a reasonable opportunity to act on it.

SIGNED: _____ DATE: _____

SIGNED: _____ DATE: _____

ST. PATRICK'S FORM:



Saint Patrick's Church
21 Main Street
Ravena, NY 12143
(PH) 518.756.3145
(E) ParishBusinessManager@gmail.com

If you are currently
using envelopes
and know your env.
please note it
here: _____

ELECTRONIC GIVING FORM

1 Please choose a frequency for the automatic withdrawal from your bank account:

Weekly Monthly; on: ___ 1st ___ 15th
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SIGNED: _____ DATE: _____

SIGNED: _____ DATE: _____

Pastoral Care for the Sick, Elderly & Homebound

For everyone's safety, the Albany Diocese has suspended home visitations for our homebound and Nursing home parishioners.

We ask our Pastoral Care Ministers to continue contact by telephone calls, including praying with people, sending cards & notes, and using FaceTime/Skype if the homebound have access to social media – all in order to combat any isolation or loneliness our people might be experiencing.

If you feel you need or know someone who could use a Pastoral Care connection, please call Michelle at **518-756-9779** (Ravena) Bob at **518-731-9268**, email at stmaryffo@aol.com (Coxsackie)

Weddings & Funerals

We will continue to conduct Weddings and Funerals per the guidelines provided by state and local government and the Albany Diocese. For safety, attendance will be limited to small numbers of immediate family.

We are hoping that delaying a wedding or funeral to a later date so more people can attend the event could be an option for any family. We are happy to work with you and your situation. If you choose to delay the funeral, it might be possible to have a Catholic graveside service in the cemetery for immediate family at the time of death and then celebrate the funeral after we've moved beyond this epidemic. Fr. Scott recommends this, when

possible, to provide a beautiful ritual and some solace at the time of loss.

Mass Intentions When Masses Are Cancelled

If you have a scheduled Mass intention for the upcoming weeks, Fr. Scott has the names of your loved ones and he will be praying for these intentions.

All those who have intentions scheduled for Mass that have been cancelled will be called and asked to choose to:

- a. Leave the intention as-is, knowing that Fr. Scott will be praying for your loved one
- b. Reschedule based on availability once Masses resume
- c. Reschedule for the same date in the next calendar year

Due to our inability to know when Masses will resume, we will cease scheduling any new Mass intentions until further notice.

Faith Formation

All Sessions for all grades are now completed for the year, except for Grade 2 (First Communion candidates) and Grade 10 (Confirmation candidates). We can't yet know when these Sacraments will be celebrated, but we are looking forward to how joyful it will be to celebrate on the other side of this.

Bob, Christa and Fr. Scott are working hard to find ways for teens, kids, families and young adults to stay connected and strengthen each other during these times of social distance.

Please stay tuned for plans for activities, gatherings, spiritual events and self-directed retreats that will help us through these trying days. And please reach out if you know someone who is

in need so we can mobilize to help. God bless you & your family.

Communication with the Parish Staff

As you know, the parish offices must remain closed until further notice. However our staff and volunteers are incredibly committed and hope to still be available via email and phone rather than in person. Thank you for your patience as we figure out how to minister and serve with these unprecedented constraints.

Phone:

St. Mary's Office = 518-731-8800

St. Patrick's Office = 518-756-3145

Email:

St. Mary's Main office email: stmoff@aol.com

St. Patrick's Main Office email: office@tcosp.org

Business Manager (Both Parishes):

parishbusinessmanager@gmail.com

Facebook:

Both parish Facebook pages are updated daily

Act of Spiritual Communion

By St Alphonsus Liguori (1696-1787) Doctor of the Church

My Jesus,

I believe that You art present in the Blessed Sacrament.

I love You above all things and I desire You in my soul.

**Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally,
come at least, spiritually, into my heart.**

As though You were already there,

**I embrace You and unite myself wholly to You,
permit not, that I should ever, be separated from You.**