



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



March 29, 2020 • Edition 2

*Keeping us connected during the Coronavirus Pandemic*

## Fr. Scott's Sharing Spot

Dear Parish Family,

I write this with a full heart. I could not be more proud of everyone in our two communities. The unity, the generosity, the desire for connection – it's all been overwhelming. Although this is an incredibly challenging time... and a time that will get harder as the number of cases keeps rising in advance of a peak that we can't yet forecast... I am beginning to see the wisdom in a quote I once read by Richard Bach:

***"There is no such thing as a problem without a gift for you in its hands."***

As evidence, here's an example. Usually, around 70 people tune in to our Sunday Mass on our YouTube channel. **This week, 2,565 did.** Just think about how many more people are connecting with us! Our normal weekend attendance between the four Masses in our two parishes is generally around 600. More than FOUR TIMES that number of people worshipped with us last week! And that doesn't include the countless number of viewers watching us on Mid-Hudson cable in five counties all over this region of the state! Perhaps knowing that can soften the roughness of some of what we're going through in this time of virtual quarantine. And perhaps it can give us some needed encouragement as we continue journeying through a week when the spread of the virus is far from being under control.

Now despite having a 400% increase in attendance this past week, we only had 50% of our normal collection. So the challenge we're facing as a parish are serious. In leadership circles, every organization needs to be aware of its SWOTs:

### **STRENGTHS WEAKNESSES OPPORTUNITIES and THREATS**

Our Pastoral Councils used our SWOTs to create our parish Mission Statements, and as a pastor, I am thinking about our SWOTs all the time. While the opportunities of this problem are tremendous, the threats are certainly serious. We can't operate as usual for long with only 50% of our budgeted income. The bills and payroll will continue to need our attention. It's a threat we have to face. So please do read the section below on our collections and e-giving plans. They're important.

We have developed a 4-point Pastoral Master Plan to work with our SWOTS. These are our goals and how we hope to reach them:

#### (1) ADDRESS SOCIAL OUTREACH NEEDS

- Bob Desrosiers usually works full time in Faith Formation and Pastoral Care for St. Mary's. His new job title for both parishes is **FEMA Director**. (It tells the story of his role in the fewest words possible). He is working from home with a clipboard for each parish, connecting those people with needs with people who can help. His load will be heavy and he appreciates your prayers.

## (2) NURTURE SPIRITUALITY & PRAYER

- Christa Desrosiers usually is our part-time Faith Formation Coordinator for St. Patrick's. She is now the **Coordinator for our small prayer groups and family faith initiatives**.
- 15 Small Prayer groups are now meeting on Zoom across both parishes. Do you want to be a part of one? Let her know!

## (3) PROVIDE PASTORAL CARE FOR THE SICK, THE DYING & THEIR FAMILIES

- Bob Desrosiers, as FEMA Director, is your contact for updating the parish on family health situations and prayer requests and for encouraging communication with the homebound and those quarantined in nursing homes and hospitals.
- Michelle Fralick, the Volunteer Pastoral Care Coordinator for St. Patrick's, is in contact with Ravena Pastoral Care Volunteers and Bob every day to keep everyone updated with prayers and care.

## (4) MAINTAIN SUFFICIENT PARISH INCOME STREAM

- Lisa Muccilli is working hard toward our goal of enrolling a maximum possible number of parishioners in our e-giving program; or if they prefer, helping them use paperless bill pay options through their own banks.
- For those who still wish to mail their contributions to our parish office, Lisa is coordinating the deposits of those donations.

So as you see, we're all busy meeting the needs presented by this time in our lives and keeping us all connected as one family. We are placing new content online every day! Check out our...

- 12:30 PM daily Stations of the Cross meditations using parish Facebook Live...
- Fr. Scott's new YouTube messages on prayer and faith...
- Friday 6 PM live Stations of the Cross from St. Patrick's...
- Parish hymn sings livestreamed from church on Facebook Live...
- Small Prayer Groups using Zoom...
- 9:30 AM Sunday Mass... It goes on and on...

And we plan to have **DRIVE-THRU PALM PICK-UP at both parishes next weekend.**

We tentatively hope to distribute palms from The Brady Funeral Home parking lot in Cossackie at 4 PM Saturday... and the St. Patrick's parking lot at 11 AM on Sunday. Check Facebook for updates on the plans as the weekend draws closer.

The hard times are here, but they did not come without also bearing gifts. Let us dig down deeply into our faith and meet this moment so we can remain, as the Governor said this week, "Socially distant... but spiritually connected."

This comes with love,

Fr. Scott ☺

**Service to the Community**  
**518-444-8184**

**Call Bob Desrosiers |**

## **VOLUNTEERS WELCOME!**

For those who wish to volunteer for **any generalized need** or a **specific** need in the community, please contact Bob at [stmaryffo@aol.com](mailto:stmaryffo@aol.com) or by phone at 518-444-8184. For example: "Bob Jones, delivery services" or "Sue Smith, child care." If anyone knows of a need, contact Bob and he will try to marry up a volunteer with a need.

## ESSENTIAL ITEMS

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.

## QUARANTINE SPACE NEEDED

If you have a separate space in your house that could be used to quarantine a health care professional or other essential worker who needs to protect their family from exposure, please call **Karen Lewis** at **518-731-8093**

## St. Patrick's Food Panty Delivers

Call Diane Hoffman |

Home deliveries are available! Call Diane Hoffman at  
For your safety, once they are delivered, we suggest sanitizing the items or leaving them untouched for three days to avoid possible viral contamination.

Donations can be picked up by a volunteer! Please call us if you can donate:

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

**Collections & E-Giving – Please Help** E-Mail Lisa Muccilli | [parishbusinessmanager@gmail.com](mailto:parishbusinessmanager@gmail.com)

Thank you to all of you who made efforts to connect with us this week! Since our last newsletter, we have enrolled 10 new families into our e-giving program! If you haven't done so yet, please seriously consider converting to e-giving. E-giving is the best way for us to maintain our weekly collections given our current challenges.

**However, we also understand that e-giving isn't for everyone so we have coordinated a system that will allow us to check and process collections received in the mail while Masses remain cancelled and offices remain closed.** You can mail your weekly contribution or donation to us or drop them into the mailboxes outside of the Rectory. Both parish mailboxes will be checked regularly and contributions will be processed within the week.

Some of you have asked us about other ways to donate – so we looked into electronic payment options like PayPal and Venmo. Unfortunately, we found that these options subject our donations to processing fees we just couldn't justify. However, we also learned that many of these money processing apps (like Venmo) are working to create non-profit versions of their services that would help reduce and/or eliminate the "middle man" fees. So, this may become something we can expand into in the near future when more options become available.

### Until then...

1. **Seriously consider E-giving. It's safe, easy and locally supported by the National Bank of Coxsackie.** [Click Here](#) to request enrollment.
2. **Mail us a check.** Weekly collections and one-time donations will be collected and processed from our Rectory mail boxes regularly.
3. **Help us spread the word!**

If you know someone who is infected with COVID-19, please let us know so we may all pray for them and reach out to their family, when appropriate.

### **ST. PATRICK'S PRAYER CHAIN**

Requests may be forwarded to Michelle Fralick via email [chelli1126@aol.com](mailto:chelli1126@aol.com) or by phone at 518-756-9779. Michelle will share names and telephone numbers of the homebound to all the Pastoral Care ministers (normally who make visits on 1st Wednesdays of the month) so they can send cards or make occasional phone calls. Michelle will put the names and addresses of all homebound and nursing home people in baskets in the back of the church by Wednesday, April 1, 2020 so Easter cards may be sent to them from parishioners of the church.

### **ST. MARY'S PRAYER CHAIN**

Requests may be forwarded to Bob Desrosiers via e-mail at [stmaryffo@aol.com](mailto:stmaryffo@aol.com) or by phone at 518-444-8184. If anyone wishes to become a prayer chain team member, please contact Bob. Bob has also encouraged the St. Mary's Pastoral Care Team to send cards or make phone calls weekly to the homebound. Bob will leave lists of addresses of our homebound parishioners on a table as you enter church, so parishioners may also send Easter cards or cards of encouragement to our homebound.

The parish provides a prayer service every week that can be done as a family. Anyone can also utilize Zoom to pray together with other families. Find this week's service on the St. Patrick's parish homepage and put it to use! It builds on the themes of the Sunday Mass, so watching the 9:30 Sunday Livestream Mass on YouTube (Live at 9:30 or later on-demand) is so important for family strength during this uncertain time.

Christa and Bob are working to create more on-line content and service opportunities to engage our families in living their faith through prayer and service. So check our parish Facebook pages, App, YouTube channels, and St. Patrick's homepage. We update most of those platforms daily and all of them regularly.

### **SUNDAY MASS:**

9:30 AM on **St. Patrick's YouTube** channel (also on-demand)  
and on **Mid-Hudson Cable channel 901** (live at 9:30 only)

### **FR. SCOTT'S HOMILIES AND VIDEO MESSAGES:**

In YouTube search bar: "Fr. Scott VanDerveer"

### **FIND US ONLINE:**

Parish Websites (updated regularly)  
Facebook (updated daily)

**MY PARISH APP:**

Text "APP" to 88202 to subscribe

**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 email: [stmoff@aol.com](mailto:stmoff@aol.com)

St. Patrick's Main Office email: [office@tcosp.org](mailto:office@tcosp.org)

Business Manager (Both Parishes): [parishbusinessmanager@gmail.com](mailto:parishbusinessmanager@gmail.com)