



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



April 5, 2020 • Edition 3

Keeping us connected during the Coronavirus Pandemic

Fr. Scott's Sharing Spot

Dear Parish Family,

There are so many people in distress right now – and for good reason. A generation ago in Ireland, there was tragic violence between Protestants and Catholics in the north, which is why, when they refer to that time, they simply call it “The Troubles.” My grandmother referred to her youth during the Great Depression as “The Hard Times.” And up until now, I could never fully relate to those terms. But now I get it.

We are in the midst of some serious *troubles*. These are indeed *hard times* for us all. And they are difficult to take. We are all overstressed and under-hugged and our worries are legitimate and unavoidable. We need to find ways to cope.

I was reading an article from Harvard University about ways that we can cope with the stresses we're facing right now. (If you'd find it helpful, you can find it [here](#).) So many of the things the article listed are essential parts of our faith, such as seeking signs of confirmation of our hopes, not just our fears... Practicing gratitude by thinking of three blessings in your life from the day... thinking about what you might say to a friend who was panicking over what's going on and then turning around and saying those same things to yourself. (Nothing's better for us than to treat ourselves the way we would treat our best friend.)

All of these were good advice, but perhaps the best advice of all is to find something positive to do that responds to what's happening around us. A therapist was recently quoted as saying: **the best antidote to anxiety is altruism**. As the sign in front of our church says, although we are quarantined in solitude, we are not separated in isolation. We're called to be “socially distant, but spiritually connected.”

There are so many ways to connect. There are so many tasks that are positive and can really make a difference in the lives of people who are in struggle. In this newsletter you'll see all the things our parishioners in Ravena and Coxsackie can do to flatten the curve and ease people's burdens, such as...

- A new face mask-making ministry that can help people in essential jobs stay safe as they serve us through our quarantine...
- Offering a spare in-law apartment or the not-yet-sold home of a deceased relative as temporary quarantine space for a health care worker or someone who has tested positive and needs to avoid contact with others...
- Delivering your overpurchased toilet paper, sanitizer, wipes and other essential items no longer available for sale in stores to collection pews in the rear of our churches...
- A chance to deliver food pantry items to a homebound person...
- Joining a small prayer group over Zoom to sort all of this out with other people of faith...
- Securing the future of your parish by becoming an e-giver...


- Giving 5 minutes a day to talk to a homebound county resident...
- Praying for those on our prayer chain..
- Calling Bob to offer an hour or two a week for a volunteer need...
- Tuning in to our prayer offerings on YouTube...
- Participating in family prayer moments on Facebook Live...
- Praying with your fellow parishioners every day at 3 PM...

And there's much more... all contained in the pages that follow...

The challenges we face are great. But the faith we practice is larger than all the challenges combined.

Because of our troubles, this Holy Week has the potential to be the realest and holiest one we've ever experienced. May we consecrate it for God by the beautiful way we live through these hard times.

Faithfully,

Fr. Scott 

Online Schedule

PALM SUNDAY	9:30 = Mass (St. Patrick's YouTube channel or Mid-Hudson 901) 12:30 = Stations of the Cross (Facebook Live) 3:00 = Praying in your home
MONDAY	By Noon = Prayer Service #3 for small groups posted on St. Patrick's Homepage 12:30 = Stations of the Cross (Facebook Live) 3:00 = Praying in your home
TUESDAY	12:30 = Stations of the Cross (Facebook Live) 3:00 = Praying in your home
WEDNESDAY	12:30 = Stations of the Cross (Facebook Live) 3:00 = Praying in your home
HOLY THURSDAY	12:30 = Stations of the Cross (Facebook Live) 3:00 = Praying in your home 5:30 = Holy Thursday Mass with Bishop Ed (livestreamed from the Cathedral via homepage) 7:30 = Live "Nightwatch" prayer service (St. Patrick's YouTube channel)
GOOD FRIDAY	12:00 = Stations of the Cross from St. Mary's (Facebook Live) 3:00 = Live Good Friday Prayer Service (St. Patrick's YouTube channel) 5:30 = Good Friday Service with Bishop Ed (livestreamed from the Cathedral via homepage)
HOLY SATURDAY	3:00 = Live Holy Saturday Prayer Service (St. Pat's YouTube channel) 8:00 = Easter Vigil with Bishop Ed (livestreamed from the Cathedral via homepage)
EASTER SUNDAY	9:30 = Easter Sunday Mass (St. Patrick's YouTube channel or Mid-Hudson 901) 3:00 = Praying in your home

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR SERVICE:

As we anticipate increasing needs, we will need more volunteers. (e.g, the Coxsackie Food Pantry anticipates a need for back up staff if anyone in the current staff gets sick (they asked for 6). We don't have enough volunteers at this time to assist (we have 4 adult volunteers already on the regular staff). Anyone wishing to volunteer for anything please contact Bob at stmaryffo@aol.com or by phone at 518-444-8184 and he can match your skills and abilities with people's needs.

ESSENTIAL ITEMS

Please bring any extra essential items you have (TP, sanitizer, Clorox wipes, etc.) to the church and leave them on the labeled pews for those in need.

FACE MASKS – NEED ONE? COME GET ONE! ...ALSO, DO YOU HAVE A SEWING MACHINE?

God is inspiring people in our parishes to help those in need in new ways every day! A parishioner has been making CDC-approved face masks that provide added protection from illness. Many essential workers in grocery stores, gas stations, drug stores and coffee shops – not to even mention in health care settings – are lacking protection they need... and these masks are the entrance of both churches. **Anyone who needs a mask can come to St. Patrick's or St. Mary's and get a free one!** Just as importantly, anyone with a sewing machine is asked to come get a pattern and instructions for how to make the masks so they reach their maximum effectiveness. Instructions can be found in church with the masks. They are also available online. Joann Fabrics will donate enough free material for any sewer to make 10 masks; just call ahead to the Albany or Hudson locations.

If you need additional assistance, you may call **Maria Mintz** at **518-731-6704**.

There is a container sat the church entrances for your completed face masks.

Working together, we can help protect so many more people.

What better work could there be for people of faith seeking to make a difference?

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**

Home deliveries are available! Call **Diane Hoffman** at **518-330-6789** or **518-756-7779**.

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

15 Small Prayer groups are now meeting weekly on Zoom or over the phone across both parishes. We post fresh prayer services every Monday by Noon on the St. Patrick's Parish Homepage under the tab "Small Prayer Groups." There are brief audio instructions there as well that guide you through the process of praying as a group. We've made it easy!

Do you want to be a part of one of these groups? Please contact Christa and she'll happily get you connected.

Collections & E-Giving – Please Help E-Mail Lisa Muccilli | parishbusinessmanager@gmail.com

Since the beginning of the Coronavirus pandemic, you have responded with incredible generosity to our plea to become an e-giver so we could stabilize our parish income.

Incredibly, our two parishes have added **45 new e-givers** to our rolls, resulting in **\$59,696** of income each year! We are overwhelmed by your faith-filled response during this scary time to the needs of your parish community!

If you're not yet an e-giver...

1. Seriously consider it. 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!

The Sick, Elderly & Homebound**Call Bob Desrosiers or Michelle Fralick | 518-756-9779**

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.

ELDERLY & HOMEBOUND CONNECTIONS

There is a Greene County-wide initiative to keep contact with our elderly population called "Take 5" (take 5 minutes out each day to call someone to stay connected). We encourage everyone to do that and if there are volunteers who could make phone calls to the elderly of our parish (who aren't on our Pastoral Care List) please contact Bob at stmaryffo@aol.com or 518-444-8184.

ST. PATRICK'S PRAYER CHAIN

Requests may be forwarded to Michelle Fralick via email 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 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. There are 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.

Reaching Our Youth & Families

E-Mail Christa Desrosiers | derobccr@aol.com

Have you checked out our daily programming for families on Facebook, our parish App, our YouTube channels, and the St. Patrick's homepage?

Please check out what's available. You may be surprised how much is being offered!

Connecting with the Parish

Online | Phone | E-Mail

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
St. Patrick's Main Office email: office@tcosp.org
Business Manager (Both Parishes): parishbusinessmanager@gmail.com