



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



April 19, 2020 • Edition 5

*Keeping us connected during the Coronavirus Pandemic*

## Fr. Scott's Sharing Spot

Dear Friends...

As you know from following the news, our "pause" here in New York has been now extended until May 15. Clearly we all agree that saving lives is always our first priority as believers, so it's wise to trust the doctors, experts and leaders who say that this is a necessary preventative step. And after all, as fellow citizens, they will be just as impacted by this as the rest of us will.

All that notwithstanding, this certainly is feeling like a long haul. You may find yourself starting to get antsy... or worse... you may feel that the walls are closing in. Perhaps your patience is fraying, your belt is and bulging, your mental and emotional outlook is deteriorating. All of this is normal. A friend of mine recently told me she feels like a fish in a rapidly shrinking pond. And when on top of that we add fear of ourselves or our loved ones possibly dying from this illness, it's a lot to take.

Once on a church sign, I saw:

*"When life knocks you to your knees, you're in the perfect position to pray."*

So since this challenge, like all challenges, is an opportunity to grow in our faith and our relationship with God, I'd recommend taking time this week to page through the second book of the Bible: the **Book of Exodus**.

In a time that had some striking correlations with our own, Moses was called to free his people from a slavery that many had come to accept as "just the way life was." There was no clear way for them to be free from the normalcy of their slavery, until in came a series of stunning wake-up calls... pollution of water, changes to the environment, interruptions to the food chain and a life-threatening pandemic. (Are you with me here?)

The institutions that were keeping them enslaved crumbled, so they walked away from "just the way life was" into a new freedom that didn't provide the same comforts and protections of their old life. They experienced a miracle early on that told them with 100% certainty that God was with them, but people's memories are short, and they soon got really dissatisfied with the discomforts of life without their familiar institutional supports and comforts. They wanted to rebel. Many even wanted to go back to slavery because it just seemed easier than the difficulty of life where the only thing you can depend on is God and the goodness of people in your community. **(Are you with me here?!?)**

They had no idea how long it would take until they settled into the new and better "normal" of life free from the slavery, and beyond the days of struggle that freedom required; the state they called "The Promised Land." How long would it take, they wondered. Until Easter? Until April 30? Until May 15?

In the end, it took 40 years. And the people had no complaints at all about that. They accepted it gracefully.

... *Just kidding!* They cried, complained, attempted mutiny, wanted to go back, stopped being grateful, doubted God, at times rejected their faith, engaged in all sorts of unhealthy and unholy behaviors. It was a long, messy chapter of their lives. **(Are you with me here?!?)**

And only when they arrived in the Promised Land, unpacked their sacks, soaked their feet, looked around and realized that they had not only survived, but were now in a life that was better than they could have dreamed when they were slaves.

And only when they were in the Promised Land could they look back and see that God had been there the whole time. God was in all of it. And the discipline they gained from their struggles would remain with them generation to generation to generation. **(Are you with me here?!?)**

But they were warned by the elders that they would need to always remember the story of their journey... and teach it to their children. They were told it would be easy and natural to forget these lessons, but that they must never allow that to happen because when you know that God got you through even THAT, you know for sure that God isn't going to let you go now. With God, you can get through anything.

People's memories are short, but we must never forget that the lessons Coronavirus challenge is teaching us have previously been learned by earlier generations. And these lessons will be hard learned, but SO worthwhile. The future of our people depends on it.

Take some time to consider the lessons of our Exodus this week.  
And recommit yourself to trusting God and trusting the journey for another day.

This comes with love,

Fr. Scott 

**Small Prayer Groups**

**E-Mail Christa Desrosiers | [derobccr@aol.com](mailto:derobccr@aol.com)**

70+ parishioners are now meeting weekly as part of one of 20 Small Prayer groups on Zoom or over the phone across both parishes! Do you want to be a part of one of these groups? Please contact Christa and she'll happily get you connected.

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! So if you don't want to join a formal group, go on our Homepage, get the materials, and do it yourself with family and friends.

**St. Patrick's Food Panty Delivers**

**Call Diane Hoffman |**

Home deliveries are available! Call **Diane Hoffman** at

**Reaching Our Youth & Families**

**E-Mail Christa Desrosiers | [derobccr@aol.com](mailto: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!

### Online Schedule

SUNDAY	9:30 = Mass (St. Patrick's YouTube channel or Mid-Hudson 901) 3:00 = Praying in your home
MONDAY	By Noon = Prayer Service #5 for small groups posted on St. Patrick's Homepage 3:00 = Praying in your home
TUESDAY	3:00 = Praying in your home
WEDNESDAY	<b>12:30 = Family/Youth Prayer Service (Facebook Live)</b> 3:00 = Praying in your home <b>4:30 = Hymn sing led by Bob D. &amp; Lisa D. (Facebook Live)</b> <b>7:00 = Adult Education Group led by Deacon Mike (Zoom)</b> → <i>Interested in the Group? E-mail Deacon Mike at <a href="mailto:dcnmcd@aol.com">dcnmcd@aol.com</a></i>
THURSDAY	3:00 = Praying in your home
FRIDAY	3:00 = Praying in your home
SATURDAY	3:00 = Praying in your home <b>4:30 = Hymn sing led by John Vasto (Facebook)</b>
SUNDAY	9:30 = Sunday Mass (St. Patrick's YouTube channel or Mid-Hudson 901) 3:00 = Praying in your home

### Service to the Community

Call Bob Desrosiers | 518-444-8184

#### **FACE MASKS – EVERY STEWART'S SHOP EMPLOYEE HAS ONE, NOW ON TO EVERYONE ELSE!**

We are so grateful to our sewing team, whose hands are sore from making dozens of masks! Your help is needed. Sewers are 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 location. (The Hudson store is currently closed.)

These masks are free at the entrance of both churches.

#### **Anyone who needs a mask can come get one!**

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

There is a labeled box at the church entrances for your completed face masks.

### **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 recently-returned **Peace Corps Volunteer Caroline Lewis** at **518-364-0238**.

### **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR SERVICE:**

If you wish to volunteer for any task that could be helpful, please contact Bob at [stmaryffo@aol.com](mailto:stmaryffo@aol.com) or 518-444-8184 to 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.

### **Collections & E-Giving**

E-Mail Lisa Muccilli | [parishbusinessmanager@gmail.com](mailto:parishbusinessmanager@gmail.com)

### **JOIN THE 58 NEW FAMILIES WHO HAVE BECOME E-GIVERS SINCE MARCH 16:**

Thank you for your incredible love and support for our beloved parish communities.

[Click Here](#) to request enrollment.

Also, you can still always mail us your donations. Weekly collections and one-time donations will be collected and processed from our Rectory mail boxes regularly.

### **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**

Please volunteer to make phone calls to the elderly of our parish (those ill seniors on our Pastoral Care List and others who are not on the list but still would enjoy some conversation).

Please contact Bob at [stmaryffo@aol.com](mailto:stmaryffo@aol.com) or 518-444-8184.

### **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. Come get the name and address of a homebound parishioner from the back of the church and send someone an Easter card that will mean the world.

### **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. There are lists of addresses of our homebound parishioners on a table as you enter church, so parishioners may also send cards of encouragement to our homebound.

**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)