



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



May 3, 2020 • Edition 7

Keeping us connected during the Coronavirus Pandemic

Fr. Scott's Sharing Spot

Dear Friends...

No one alive has ever seen times like the times we're in right now. One of the challenges of the Pandemic is not being able to ask some of the elders of our communities – our grandmothers and grandfathers – how they handled this kind of a situation when they were young. They can't tell us... because they never lived through something like this before.

Epidemiologists (infectious disease experts) have spent time and energy in the past 15 years trying to get us ready for the next pandemic. They knew from studying the science of disease and from history that our time for a worldwide pandemic was coming. The problem was that no one really believed them – it seemed like science fiction and it wasn't the kind of issue any politician could win votes with, so our government and our people didn't prepare with the kind of supplies or funding that the epidemiologists told us we needed.

In 2005, Hurricane Katrina rocked America. We were shocked that a major city could have such a catastrophe and that the strongest, wealthiest country in the world couldn't fix it. On the news we saw that fellow Americans who had died were unable to be buried. We heard of lawless scenes from The Superdome, then being used as a temporary shelter, that sounded like they came from *Lord of the Flies*.

In the time that followed, Epidemiologists addressed Americans, warning that the shock we all felt from Katrina needed to cause us to take action to prepare for the next challenge – a global pandemic, for which the world was overdue. Epidemiologist Dr. Michael Osterholm went on the Oprah Winfrey Show 14 years ago and predicted with eerie accuracy exactly what we're going through right now. Here's a clip: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u6iZ2e11mkk>

We are living through an experience we never could have dreamed, even though we were accurately warned by scientists who spent their lives becoming experts in infectious disease.

One of the things they warned us about was that, unlike other disasters, where we can usually ask for help from a city, state or country that is unaffected by the situation, in a pandemic, everyone gets affected and the money for aid becomes scarce for every country, so each family would essentially have to face most of it all on their own. We're feeling that way now.

So as we band together to make our way through this, we are receiving the same kind of warnings about the future from another group of science experts: climatologists. They have spent their lives studying the science of global weather and climate. And they are saying to us:

Just as you were warned about pandemics, but couldn't picture what it all meant and therefore turned your attention away from it, we are telling you now as strongly as we can:

**The climate is changing in a way that will drastically change our lives for the much worse.
And we can slow that down, for the sake of our grandchildren. But we must act now.**

Many of us have calmed ourselves down over the years by dismissing this as a political battle instead of a humanitarian crisis. We haven't read the Pope's solemn decree *Laudato Si (On Care for Our Common Home)*, published five years ago, which said that because we have been warned by credible scientists from around the world that this situation is happening, our failure to act is not only irresponsible, it's a serious sin.

Alright, so let me stop here for a minute. Our plate is full. The Coronavirus is such a big deal, it might be too much to pile another overwhelming challenge on top of it. I feel that way too. It's a lot to take when we're already feeling beaten down.

But there are three reasons why now is the time for us to deal with this:

1) Everyone can agree that if there were any way we could have done something to avoid Coronavirus, or at least prepare better for it, we would have.

2) In order to save lives, our lifestyles have changed so drastically in such a short time, we now know that **we truly are capable of changing the world in the snap of a finger, if we decide together to do it.** (If you doubt that, compare what you're doing today with what you were doing on March 3... Feb. 3... Jan. 3...)

3) The climate problem is actually bigger than a pandemic, because Coronavirus will kill a percentage of the human population. A negatively changing climate will take out 100% of us. The dinosaurs prove that.

So, okay, are you ready now for some good news?

(1) What is happening right now has given us a HUGE head start on tackling this issue. That is because the things we've done to flatten the curve are also giving a boost to the planet.

(2) Further, just as some aspects of this "new normal" are going to be things we want in our life going forward (more family dinners, a less pressured pace of life, better rest, appreciating simpler pleasures), many of these changes will help slow detrimental climate change.

(3) Some of the things that would help greatly are not hard to do at all.

The Catholic Archdiocese of Atlanta led the way in 2015 by taking the Pope's decree and turning it into practical positive actions for Catholics (and all citizens) to take by breaking them down into those that were easy, moderate or advanced.

The link to the full "Action Plan" is below, but here are some examples of actions by category...

EASY

- Start a small garden, give your children garden chores
- Always use a recycle bin for all paper, cardboard, plastic, glass and metal
- Avoid drinking bottled water
- At meals, make half your plate vegetables or fruit
- Pick one day a week to go meatless (years ago we used to always do that on Fridays)
- Turn water off when brushing teeth
- Make long showers a treat, not a habit
- Support the local food pantry
- Become informed about environmental issues

MODERATE

- Form a parish “Earth Committee”
- Look at energy costs and switch to cleaner, more renewable energy sources
- Buy items in glass containers rather than plastic
- Buy a hybrid or electric car for your next vehicle
- Use a rain barrel under your gutters for outdoor watering
- Get leaky sinks and toilets fixed
- Go to the Farmer’s Market (when reopened) or use Field Goods to buy local food
- Start a food scrap compost bin and use it to fertilize your garden
- Minimize chemical use
- Look up the “Catholic Climate Covenant” online and sign the pledge

ADVANCED

- Get electric car charging stations in our community
- Upgrade your plumbing
- Upgrade your landscaping to one that is water wise
- Plant things that attract pollinators
- Advocate for a school curriculum that promotes care for Creation
- Research good locations for renewable energy farms to be built (when there are good reasons that it should not be here, research and advocate for a good location where those reasons don’t exist)

Years from now, generations who heard about this amazing time in history will come to us and ask us what living through 2020 was like. Let us plan for those conversations now by making choices that our grandchildren would be proud of, so that we truly can become “The Greatest Generation 2.0.”

Praying for you... for us... and for the world...

Fr. Scott 😊

Archdiocese of Atlanta: *Laudato Si* Action Plan: “Refresh”

<https://archatl.com/catholic-life/refreshatl/>

His Holiness, Pope Francis: *Laudato Si* (On Care for Our Common Home):

https://w2.vatican.va/content/dam/francesco/pdf/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20150524_enciclica-laudato-si_en.pdf

St. Patrick’s Food Pantry Delivers

Call Diane Hoffman | 518-330-6789

We are here to serve – Home deliveries are available! New clients are always welcome!

Donations can be picked up by a volunteer... please call us if you can donate:

Pancake Mix, Cake Mix, Brownie Mix, Mayonnaise, Toothpaste, Deodorant, Chicken Noodle Soup, Juice (Fruit Punch or Apple), Canned Tuna and/or Chicken Breast.

Free food is available to residents of Coxsackie, Climax, Earlton, Medway & New Baltimore. Anyone who needs food can get it — there are no low-income requirements.

The Pantry is at **117 Mansion Street**, next to McQuade Park.

Come, park and stay in your car. A volunteer comes to fill out your shopping list, then fills your order. If you are new, bring a piece of mail addressed to you.

Tuesday	1-2 pm
Thursday	7-8 pm
Saturday	10-11 am

Anyone who is quarantined or homebound can request home delivery, please call the Coxsackie Village Clerk Office at **518-731-2718**. You do not have to live in the Village of Coxsackie.

Small Prayer Groups**E-Mail Christa Desrosiers | derobccr@aol.com**

More than 20 Small Prayer groups are meeting on Zoom or over the phone across both parishes! Please contact Christa today and get connected to one, or form your own.

Here's some of what members of these groups have had to say about it in their own words:

Our group is small, but it allows for a more "intimate" and deep conversations. My group actually enjoys this small knit group we have.

My favorite part of Prayer Group is "Sharing Questions" and "Discussion." Everyone has such a unique and special response. I think we all get so much out of "talking" on those questions, as well as getting to know each better.

It's a great group. We have a very nice rapport and I believe are comfortable with each other. Thanks again for all your efforts.

The group looks forward to our weekly get togethers, not only for our prayers but for the fellowship as well.

We have been gathering by phone on Wed nites and loving it!! Ty for providing 😊❤️🌈

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.

CHECKING-IN WITH OTHER YOUTH

We would love to form some youth 'check-in' groups similar to our adult Small Prayer Groups. Please connect with Christa or Bob if your youth is willing to join us - We will create the fellowship platform - you can bring the FUN! We are all in this together, let's make some memories - virtually!

ONE MINUTE IN CHURCH: THE MASS.

Find us on FB live (and maybe IG live at the same time) as we chat for a few minutes each week about something interesting to look for when you watch Mass on Sunday. Join us live **Saturday evenings at 6 PM**. Watch for details on our social media platforms.

ST MARY'S 2nd GRADE

When you're done with your First Eucharist Take-Home Program, give Bob a shout. Soon, Bob & Deacon Mike will be able to offer our Virtual Tour of St. Mary's beautiful 120-year-old church.

ST MARY'S 10th GRADE

We are banding together through our 'Band' group each week!

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 #6 for small groups posted on St. Patrick's Homepage 3:00 = Praying in your home
TUESDAY	3:00 = Praying in your home
WEDNESDAY	3:00 = Praying in your home 4:00 = Hymn sing led by Lisa & Bob (Facebook Live)
THURSDAY	3:00 = Praying in your home 7:00 = Family/Youth Prayer Service (Facebook Live) 7:00 = Adult Education Group led by Deacon Mike (Zoom) ➔ Interested in the Group? E-mail Deacon Mike at dcnmcd@aol.com
FRIDAY	3:00 = Praying in your home
SATURDAY	3:00 = Praying in your home 4:30 = Hymn sing led by John Vasto (Facebook) 6:00 = A Few Minutes in the Church: The Mass (Facebook Live)
SUNDAY	9:30 = Sunday Mass (St. Patrick's YouTube channel or Mid-Hudson 901) 3:00 = Praying in your home

FACE MASKS – OVER 1,000 MADE BY OUR PARISH VOLUNTEERS!

Did you know that the 2010 census information shows that our two parish school districts put together (RCS and A-C) give us a **total parish population of 25,310 people?!**

Now that the State has asked everyone to have a mask in public, all those thousands local residents need one, which means **as hard as our volunteers are working, we're falling behind demand.** **Could you please sew some masks for our efforts?**

There is a labeled box at the church entrances for your completed face masks. For assistance, please call **Maria Mintz** at **518-731-6704**.

Please let anyone who needs a mask know they can come get one in church. And please take just one mask per person for now until everyone has one.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR SERVICE:

If you wish to volunteer for any task that could be helpful, please contact Bob at stmaryffo@aol.com or 518-444-8184 to match your skills and abilities with people's needs.

CROP WALK 2020 IN RAVENA = JUNE 28

The CROP walk is being rescheduled to the last Sunday in June. More information to come. The Cocksackie CROP walk will be held at a date in October yet to be announced.

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**.

Collections & E-Giving**E-Mail Lisa Muccilli | parishbusinessmanager@gmail.com**

E-giving is what will keep our parishes strong and solvent no matter what the future may bring. Your response to our call for everyone who possibly can to enroll in our e-giving program has been truly INCREDIBLE!

Would you like to join the growing list of e-givers in our parish? If so, [Click Here](#)

(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.)

Do you have an IRA that requires you to give away a Required Minimum Disbursement (RMD) every year? If so, consider making either of our parishes a beneficiary. You'll feel good knowing you helped your faith family during a trying time.

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

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 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. 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 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 and it's updated weekly so you can pray for them and send them cards.

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 (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 email: stmoff@aol.com

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

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