



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



August 2 & 9, 2020 • Edition 15 • Weeks 20 & 21

Keeping us connected during the Coronavirus Pandemic

Fr. Scott's Sharing Spot

Dear Parish Family....

I have gotten so many heart-warming letters from parishioners in the months since we first went into lockdown. My favorite letters are the ones where parishioners tell me that their faith has grown over these months and that they are surprised to be at a much further location on their faith journey than they were in March when this all started. Nothing makes me happier than hearing that!

Just as intense pressure is what turns a lump of coal into a diamond, the pressure from the trials of life has the force to accelerate our growth to fuller faith and deeper maturity. And that's what these people are talking about.

Five of the letters I've received have been from people who attribute their growth directly to the parish SMALL PRAYER GROUP they have joined. More than 20 Small Prayer Groups are meeting on Zoom or in people's backyards across both parishes, and many of the participants have expressed that it has been like "sprinkling Miracle Grow" all over their faith, as one parishioner said it.

The key to this may be that the prayer services are home-grown, created by me with help from Christa Desrosiers and some volunteers. They spring directly from the readings and homily of the Sunday Mass of the week and give participants a chance to apply the readings and ideas to their own life by responding to thought-provoking questions. This gets people sharing at a deeper level than you usually would in a more casual gathering.

Here are some examples...

Recently, when the Gospel featured the story of a jeweler who sold the entire inventory of the jewelry store to buy the one most valuable pearl there was, one question was:

In this time of Coronavirus, when so many things have been canceled and taken away, what is the "pearl of great price" you always work to protect or keep – even (or especially) when life returns to more 'normal'? Why?

When we had the Gospel about the farmer who allowed the weeds to grow along with the wheat until the harvest, rather than rooting them all up, we asked each other:

Why might it be that God chooses not to take our weaknesses and defects from us but instead allows us to wrestle with them?

When the Gospel said whoever loves even family members above God in priority is not worthy to be considered a disciple... a very strong and difficult teaching... and the homily went on to talk about us wanting to have God co-sign our plans rather than submit our lives to God's plans, we shared on this question:

How do you cope with knowing that God loves even the person who hurt you most in life, or with the politician whom you personally despise most? How can this be?

We take the readings along with some related memes or social media posts, put it all in a blender and wind up sharing and hearing things that really help us grow. And you're invited to become a part of it!!

[Click here](#) to get a taste of how it works!

We post fresh prayer services every Monday by Noon on the Homepage of both parishes 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!

If you would like to join a group, or would like help forming a group, please e-mail [Christa Desrosiers](mailto:Christa.Desrosiers@derobccr@aol.com) at derobccr@aol.com. If you'd prefer not to join a formal group, you are welcome to go on our Homepage, get the materials, and do it yourself with family and friends.

The pressures of life weighing on you?
Pour some "Miracle Grow" on your faith today!

Faithfully,
Fr. Scott ☺



Changes to the Bishop's Appeal E-Mail Dawn Brownson | parishbusinessmanager@gmail.com

Coronavirus has changed the world in so many ways, including the way the annual campaign formerly known as the "Bishop's Appeal" works. Here are some of the highlights:

- The campaign will now be known as the **Diocesan Appeal** and is inspired by St. Paul saying: *"For we walk by faith, not by sight."* (2 Corinthians 5:7)
- There will no longer be "in-pew" collection of pledges.
- The 2020-2021 Diocesan Appeal will **begin with a mailing sent to parishioners** from the Roman Catholic Diocese of Albany (RCDA) - Office of Stewardship and Development. You should expect to receive this correspondence between now and early September; it will include a pledge card and envelope.
- Pledges and payments will no longer be processed in the parish office.
- The appeal year runs through June 30, 2021 (rather than ending in March as in the past).

- Monthly or one-time gifts by credit card can be made via secure website at <https://donate.thebishopsappeal.org/>. You can also make a pledge at that site as well as pledge payments.
- For more information on the appeal, visit www.thediocesanappeal.org.
- Questions - call the RCDA Office of Stewardship & Development at 518-453-6680 or email stewardship@rcda.org



Collections & E-Giving

E-Mail Dawn Brownson | parishbusinessmanager@gmail.com

It's hard to remember that there was a time earlier this year when we had five services in a single day, each of them filled with parishioners, but on Ash Wednesday, February 26, we not only had services at 7 AM, 8 AM, Noon, and two simultaneously at 6 PM, we also had a Mass for the residents at The Pines in Catskill that day as well. It's our tradition to donate the collection from three of those services on the first day of Lent to our local Catholic Charities headquarters in Catskill, and this year we gave \$1,154 of your offerings on that day.

We received a note from Theresa Lux, the executive director, thanking us for our note and letting us know what your offerings we used for:

“Assisted a family with five children paying their electric bill after they fell behind because of several serious medical conditions.”

“Assisted a homeless single mom with a 7-month-old child by paying one month's rent so she could keep her child secure.”

Your generosity to the church spills out the community in a big way. And it helps keep our parishes strong, which means more than ever since relying on our faith is our only option.

E-giving remains the best way to give in these times. If you'd give e-giving a try, knowing how much it helps the parish and that you can change your mind at any time, [Click Here](#)

And 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.

Thank you all for your enduring generosity!

Online Schedule

SUNDAY 8/2	9:30 = Public Mass at St. Patrick's (for St. Pat's Parishioners A-L) (also St. Patrick's YouTube channel or Mid-Hudson 901) 3:00 = Praying in your home
MONDAY 8/3	By Noon = New Prayer Service for small groups posted on parish Homepages 3:00 = Praying in your home
TUESDAY 8/4	2:00 = New Content posted on Fr. Scott's YouTube Channel 3:00 = Praying in your home 5:30 = No Confession This Week 6:30 = Rosary, St. Mary's (All are welcome!)
WEDNESDAY 8/5	3:00 = Praying in your home 7:00 = Adult Education Group led by Deacon Mike (Zoom) → Interested in the Group? E-mail Deacon Mike at dcnmcd@aol.com
THURSDAY 8/6	3:00 = Praying in your home
FRIDAY 8/7	3:00 = Praying in your home
SATURDAY 8/8	3:00 = Praying in your home 4:30 = Public Mass at St. Mary's (for St. Mary's Parishioners M-Z)
SUNDAY 8/9	9:30 = Public Mass at St. Patrick's (for St. Pat's Parishioners M-Z) (also St. Patrick's YouTube channel or Mid-Hudson 901) 3:00 = Praying in your home
MONDAY 8/10	By Noon = New Prayer Service for small groups posted on parish Homepages 3:00 = Praying in your home
TUESDAY 8/11	2:00 = New Content posted on Fr. Scott's YouTube Channel 3:00 = Praying in your home 5:30 = Confession (St. Patrick's) 6:30 = Rosary, St. Mary's (All are welcome!)
WEDNESDAY 8/12	3:00 = Praying in your home 7:00 = Adult Education Group led by Deacon Mike (Zoom) → Interested in the Group? E-mail Deacon Mike at dcnmcd@aol.com
THURSDAY 8/13	3:00 = Praying in your home

FRIDAY 8/14	3:00 = Praying in your home
SATURDAY 8/15	3:00 = Praying in your home 4:30 = Public Mass at St. Mary's (for St. Mary's Parishioners A-L)
SUNDAY 8/16	9:30 = Public Mass at St. Patrick's (for St. Pat's Parishioners A-L) (also St. Patrick's YouTube channel or Mid-Hudson 901) 3:00 = Praying in your home

Connecting with the Parishes

Online | Phone | E-Mail

WEEKEND MASSES:

4:30 PM Saturday at St. Mary's (by weekly invitation)

9:30 AM Sunday at St. Patrick's (by weekly invitation)

9:30 AM on **St. Patrick's YouTube** channel (also on-demand)

[Click here](#) and then subscribe

and on **Mid-Hudson Cable channel 901** (live at 9:30 only)

WEEKDAY MASS (On Facebook Live from Our Lady of Victory Parish, Troy)

[Click here](#) to watch live at 8:30 AM Monday - Friday

or on demand later in the day

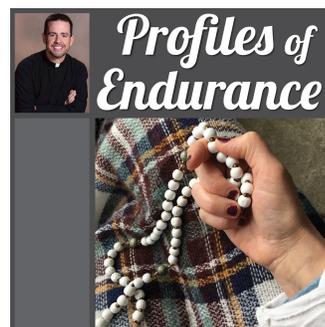
FR. SCOTT'S HOMILIES AND VIDEO MESSAGES:

[Click here](#) and then subscribe

"PROFILES OF ENDURANCE" (Fr. Scott's Podcast)

Interviews with parishioners about facing life's challenges

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[stmary's.stpatrick's](https://www.instagram.com/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 e-mail: stmoff@aol.com

St. Patrick's Main Office e-mail: office@tcosp.org

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