



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



Sept. 13 & 20, 2020 • Edition 18 • Weeks 26 & 27

*Keeping us connected during the Coronavirus Pandemic*

## Fr. Scott's Sharing Spot

Dear Parish Family....

Fall is on the inbound track. Pumpkin is the flavor everyone is choosing, school is going back in session and you now need to remember to bring a jacket with you when you're going out for the evening.

Among the things that happen every fall is a new year of Faith Formation for our young people. At both St. Patrick's and St. Mary's, figuring out how to accomplish this during Coronavirus has been a big puzzle that we began working on early in the summer. Christa and Bob have been attending webinars with national catechetical\* leaders, brainstorming with Diocesan officials, reaching out to parents to find out their needs and hopes, consulting with our faithful volunteer catechists\* and taking their cues from the plans of the C-A and RCS and the other school districts attended by our students.

\* *Catechetical* means acquiring and learning about faith; *catechists* are teachers of faith

Unlike our schools, which have options that allow them to offer families a choice between virtual, in-person or combination learning, our parish situation limits us to offering families input on what format would please them most in light of what each catechist feels able and comfortable to provide as well as the physical space we have to provide it. It pains us to not be able to offer a customized plan for each child in our program, but obviously that's not possible.

However, an incredibly exciting opportunity came about during this planning process through the work of the Holy Spirit – an opportunity to use already existing YouTube content that relates directly to our parish and community as well as our weekly Mass.

Out of the blue, Michael Elacqua, a Holy Cross College junior majoring in Social Work, asked me if he could devote eight weeks of his required summer internship working for our parishes. He was the answer to our prayer, and spent many hours watching all of the online content on our YouTube channels dating back to 2015 (which you can find by clicking [here](#)) and sorting it into playlists based on topics like: Faith, Commitment, Trusting in God, The Sacraments, Relationships and many others.

These playlists allow us to have our youth connect directly with the actual stories and messages that we've used at Mass and online to inspire people's faith. Can you imagine how cool it will be for catechists to connect the foundations of our faith to messages from weekend homilies, "Profiles of Endurance" interviews and other posts that I have produced for the parish? Can you imagine the way parents could now also engage in that content so they can have productive family discussions on faith topics that directly connect to everyday life? It's very cutting edge and so exciting!

As we discussed new strategies, we also wondered if there were ways we could make life easier for the families that are so burdened by the struggles of these times. We unanimously decided as a staff and as parish finance councils that there indeed is something we can do to show parents how much we care about their children and are striving to understand the COVID struggles they face: **going forward, we will waive all fees for faith formation.**

We feel this is the right decision and shows that we value Faith Formation as an essential human need for a young person and their family. It is therefore a moral duty for us to provide that, no matter their financial situation. We know that our parishioners and virtual parish family members donate generously to the needs of our parishes and, knowing this decision, are likely to be willing to supplement their offerings to cover the \$3,000 annual cost that will fall on each parish in order to provide this small but heartfelt relief.

We are very excited to engage our students and families in new and creative ways using content directly related to our parish and parishioners! And even more excited to offer it at no cost, marking this new territory in a meaningful way.

We are so grateful for the faithful and faith-filled leadership of Bob and Christa and really hope you can support them and the students they serve with your prayers and support.

Faithfully,  
Fr. Scott 😊

**Annual Diocesan Appeal**

**E-Mail Dawn Brownson | [parishbusinessmanager@gmail.com](mailto:parishbusinessmanager@gmail.com)**



Help us  
meet our goal!

**[Click here: donation made easy!](#)**

- Monthly or one-time gifts by credit card can be made via secure website at <https://donate.thebishopsappeal.org/>.
- You can make a pledge at that site as well as pledge payments.
- The appeal year runs through June 30, 2021.
- For more information on the appeal, visit [www.thediocesanappeal.org](http://www.thediocesanappeal.org).

Questions? Call **518-453-6680** or email [stewardship@rcda.org](mailto:stewardship@rcda.org)

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Albany  
Vicariate for Catholic Faith Formation and Education

## Opening Wide Our Hearts: Our Faith Speaks to Racism

Tuesday, September 29, 2020  
4:00 - 5:30 PM via ZOOM



**Dr. Kim R. Harris** was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and is the Assistant Professor of African American Thought and Practice in the Department of Theological Studies at Loyola Marymount University. Along the way, she spent many years in the Albany Diocese at home in beautiful Schoharie County. While pursuing her Ph.D. at Union Seminary in New York City, Kim composed the *Welcome Table: A Mass of Spirituals*, along with composer M. Roger Holland II. (GIA Publications) Kim teaches, records and travels the nation, performing concerts, lecturing on the music of African American freedom traditions, and leading music in a variety of liturgical settings.

### Opening Wide Our Hearts: Our Faith Speaks to Racism

Despite promising strides made in our lifetimes, racism still infects our nation and our church. Our United States Bishops call us to “open our minds and hearts to Christ’s love for all people and to the experiences of those who have been harmed by the evil of racism.” In this webinar, we will come together to pray and reflect on the pastoral letter “Open Wide Our Hearts.” We also will be in conversation about our plans for action, the necessary conversion and challenging work, from which all will benefit.



**To register:**

[https://webapps.rcda.org/  
parishfaithformation](https://webapps.rcda.org/parishfaithformation)

**We look forward to “seeing” you!**

If you have any questions, please call us at  
518-453-6670

**\$10.00 registration fee**

Option to pay online at time of registration: Pay Pal  
or

Payment can be made by check and mailed to:  
Office of Lay Ministry and Parish Faith Formation  
40 North Main Ave., Albany, NY 12203

ST. MARY'S CHURCH PRESENTS

# ANNUAL *Outing* GOLF

18 HOLE SCRAMBLE FORMAT

\$70 PER PERSON

\$270 PER FOURSOME

INCLUDES:

LUNCH

18 HOLES OF GOLF WITH CART

BARBECUE FOLLOWING PLAY

THUNDER HEART GOLF COURSE

2740 ROUTE 67 FREEHOLD, NY

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2020

10AM TEE TIME

PLEASE ARRIVE EARLY TO CHECK IN

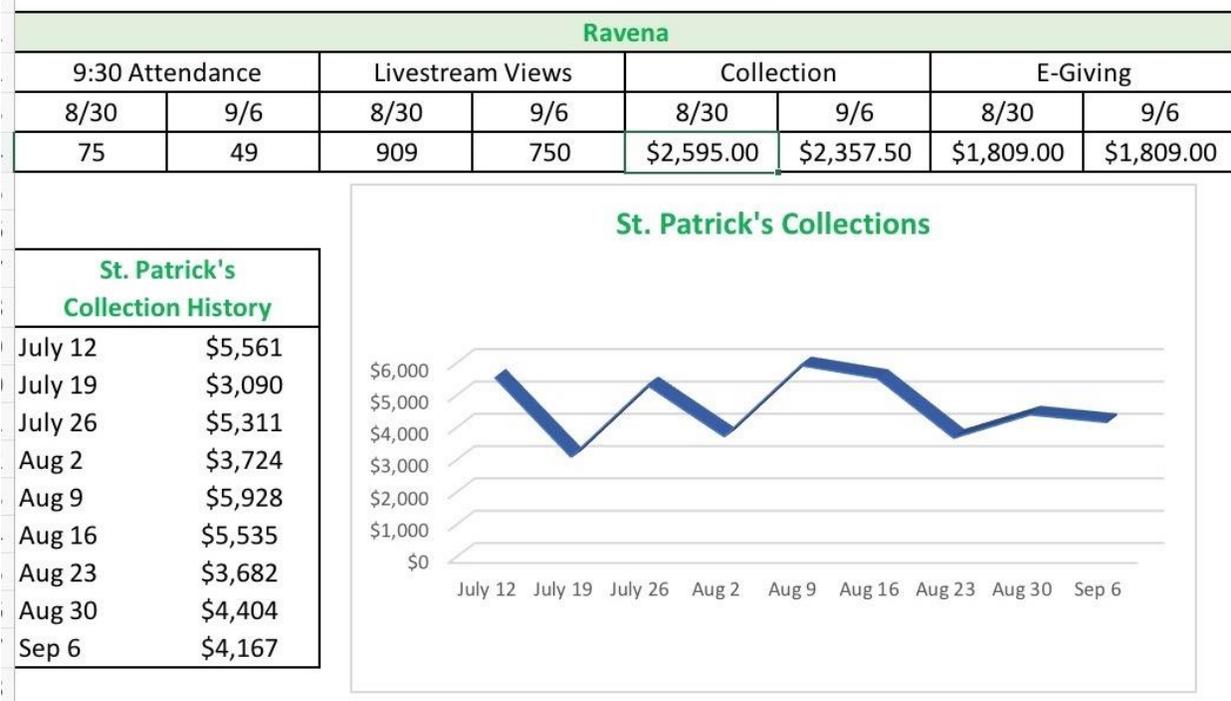
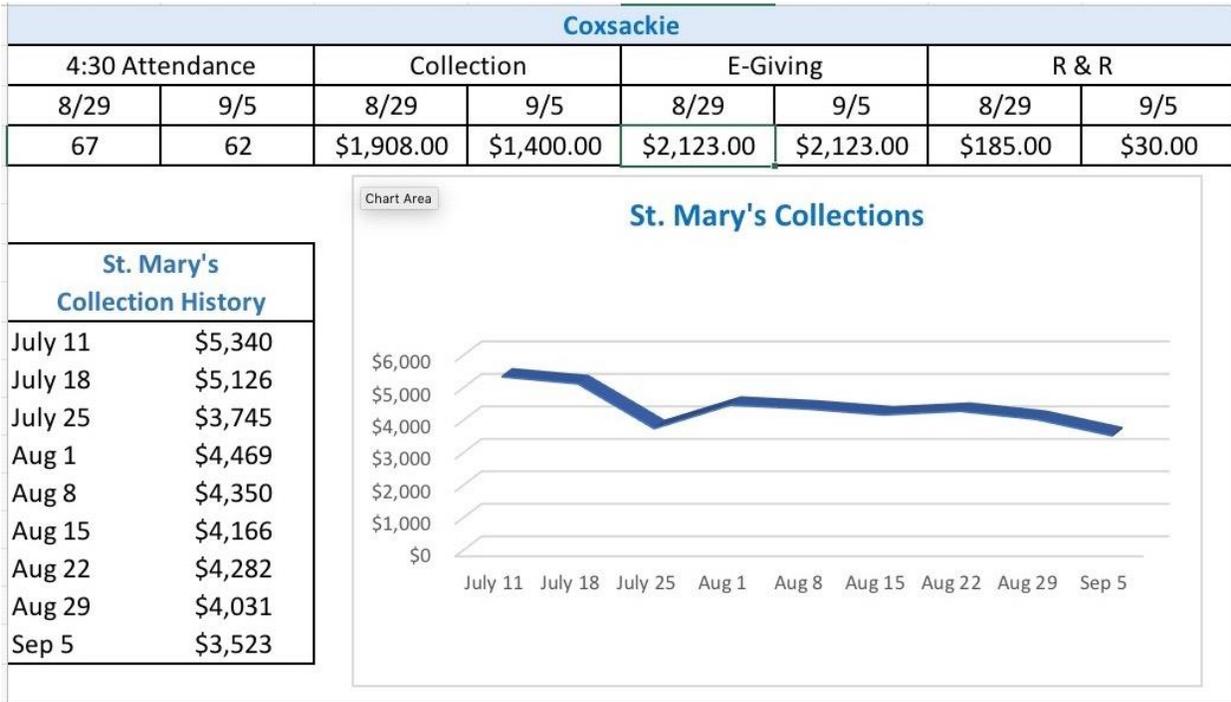
**DUE TO COVID-19**

NO PAPER CHECKS OR CASH WILL BE ACCEPTED PRIOR TO THE EVENT.  
PLEASE BE PREPARED TO PAY UPON ARRIVAL.

PLEASE CONTACT FRANK LIMONE VIA EMAIL OR PHONE TO RESERVE YOUR PLACE  
NO LATER THAN WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2020.

LIMONEFRANK19@GMAIL.COM  
518-291-6623

*all are welcome*



## E-GIVING MADE EASY

E-giving has become a major contributor to the financial health of our parishes. In the early months of the year, monthly e-giving contributions were less than \$2,000 per parish. Now that number has increased to more than \$7,000 per month.

One thing we know for sure is that uncertain times and the looming possibilities of another lockdown means that **E-Giving remains the best method to consistently support your parish.**

If you'd like to 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 9/13	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 9/14	By Noon = New Prayer Service for small groups posted on parish Homepages 3:00 = Praying in your home
TUESDAY 9/15	2:00 = New Content posted on Fr. Scott's YouTube Channel 3:00 = Praying in your home <b>5:30 = No Confession (St. Patrick's) Fr. Scott on Retreat</b> 6:30 = Rosary, St. Mary's (All are welcome!)
WEDNESDAY 9/16	3:00 = Praying in your home
THURSDAY 9/17	3:00 = Praying in your home
FRIDAY 9/18	3:00 = Praying in your home
SATURDAY 9/19	3:00 = Praying in your home 4:30 = Public Mass at St. Mary's (for St. Mary's Parishioners M-Z)

SUNDAY 9/20	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 9/21	By Noon = New Prayer Service for small groups posted on parish Homepages 3:00 = Praying in your home
TUESDAY 9/22	<b>5:30 = Confession (St. Patrick's)</b> 6:30 = Rosary, St. Mary's (All are welcome!)
WEDNESDAY 9/23	3:00 = Praying in your home
THURSDAY 9/24	3:00 = Praying in your home
FRIDAY 9/25	3:00 = Praying in your home
SATURDAY 9/26	3:00 = Praying in your home 4:30 = Public Mass at St. Mary's (for St. Mary's Parishioners A-L)
SUNDAY 9/27	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 please 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:**

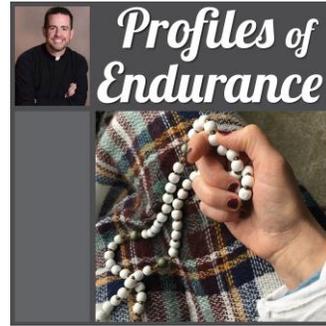
[Click here](#) and then please hit

**SUBSCRIBE**

**“PROFILES OF ENDURANCE” (Fr. Scott’s Podcast)**

Interviews with parishioners about facing life’s challenges

**SUBSCRIBE TODAY  
ON APPLE PODCASTS  
OR ON SPOTIFY**



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

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

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