



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



October 11 & 18, 2020 • Edition 20 • Weeks 30 & 31

Keeping us connected during the Coronavirus Pandemic

Fr. Scott's Sharing Spot

Dear Parish Family....

*If God invited you to a party and said,
"Everyone in the ballroom tonight will be my special guest,"
how would you treat them then when you arrived?*

Indeed, indeed!

*And there is no one in this world
who is not standing upon His jeweled dance floor.*

- Hafiz, Persian poet, 1315-1390

To me, this poem lays a foundation for respecting life. We are called to respect life in all of its stages – from the womb to the tomb.

We begin in the womb, because the moment of conception is when God invites a soul to take flesh and come to ballroom that is life. It is not the moment that a person steps on to "His jeweled dance floor" that the invitation is issued; no, it is issued at the time of conception. From a five-sense view of the world, a pregnancy is a random event between two people. But for those with the eyes faith provides, pregnancy is a divine act, a supernatural invitation to come to the ballroom of life.

As an adopted child, I am grateful that my biological mother (a woman I have never met) chose to see her unintended teenage pregnancy as my invitation to human life. It must have cost her tremendously to carry me for nine months, to endure the judgments of others, to undergo the pains of labor and delivery, and to give me to my family to raise. It must have been indescribably hard emotionally, physically, mentally, relationally and spiritually to go through it all. But she believed that I was entitled to the invitation God issued to me, and so she did it. I owe my life to her decision, and whether or not I ever meet her, I'll always be grateful to her because, as the Haitian proverb says: "Life is the best gift. Everything else is extra."

Yet in the same way you don't have much of a house if all you build is the foundation, you don't have much of a life if all you have is birth. Respecting life begins in the womb, but it doesn't stop – it must never stop – until God calls us home from the ballroom. Sadly, there are so many ways we can falsely believe that we respect life, when in actuality, we are doing the opposite.

Clearly, respecting life can't just mean supporting life before birth. When a child has been born to a single teenage mother as I was, does it respect life to want to defund the programs that help those mothers (who, for obvious reasons, tend to have low incomes)? Does it respect life

to call those programs scornful names (like “entitlements”) and regard those single teenage moms and dads as freeloaders?

When those vulnerable mothers choose not to abort a baby, we must support them and their life-giving decision by creating the kind of society that will allow them to raise that child. We must support adoption programs, which sadly are much less robust and well supported than they were in the 1970s when I was adopted through Catholic Charities.

We must always ask ourselves if our desire for respecting life extends to everyone rather than just being limited to some.

Does it respect life to oppose policies that provide health care to the poor and vulnerable?

Does it respect life to support (please don’t let the name escape your notice)... the death penalty?

Does it respect life to refuse to wear a facemask in public when epidemiologists tell us that masks and social distancing are the best way to prevent spreading an invisible and often fatal virus?

Does it respect life to treat the elderly as expendable, since “they’re near the end of life anyway”?

From a five-sense view of life, ending an unintended pregnancy, opposing social program funding, denying health care, killing convicts, asserting my freedom not to mask up, and letting the elderly die a little sooner than they otherwise would have are personal choices that we ought to be able to make in a free society.

But with eyes of faith, we see a deeper truth.

*If God invited you to a party and said,
"Everyone in the ballroom tonight will be my special guest,"
how would you treat them then when you arrived?
Indeed, indeed!
And there is no one in this world
who is not standing upon His jeweled dance floor.*

Fr. Scott 😊

Annual Diocesan Appeal

E-Mail Dawn Brownson | 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/>.

- For more information on the appeal, visit www.thediocesanappeal.org
- Questions? Call **518-453-6680** or email stewardship@rcda.org

Schedule

SUNDAY 10/11	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 10/12	COLUMBUS DAY – OFFICES CLOSED By Noon = New Prayer Service for small groups posted on parish Homepages 3:00 = Praying in your home
TUESDAY 10/13	1:00-2:00 = St. Patrick's Women's Prayer Meeting – Classroom 5 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 10/14	3:00 = Praying in your home
THURSDAY 10/15	1:00-2:00 = St. Patrick's Men's Prayer Meeting – Classroom 5 3:00 = Praying in your home
FRIDAY 10/16	3:00 = Praying in your home
SATURDAY 10/17	3:00 = Praying in your home 4:30 = Public Mass at St. Mary's (for St. Mary's Parishioners M-Z)
SUNDAY 10/18	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 10/19	By Noon = New Prayer Service for small groups posted on parish Homepages 3:00 = Praying in your home
TUESDAY 10/20	1:00-2:00 = St. Patrick's Women's Prayer Meeting – Classroom 5 5:30 = Confession (St. Mary's) 6:30 = Rosary, St. Mary's (All are welcome!)

WEDNESDAY 10/21	3:00 = Praying in your home
THURSDAY 10/22	1:00-2:00 = St. Patrick's Men's Prayer Meeting – Classroom 5 3:00 = Praying in your home
FRIDAY 10/23	3:00 = Praying in your home
SATURDAY 10/24	3:00 = Praying in your home 4:30 = Public Mass at St. Mary's (for St. Mary's Parishioners A-L)
SUNDAY 10/25	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

Catholics In American Society in 2020

VOTE WITH AN INFORMED CONSCIENCE

The U.S. Catholic bishops state clearly that *“In the Catholic Tradition, responsible citizenship is a virtue, and participation in political life is a moral obligation.”* You can [read more of what the bishops have to say about informing our consciences before we vote here.](#)

VOTE BY MAIL

If you are steering clear of public places and crowds, be sure to [request an absentee ballot](#) today (everyone is eligible for one this year because of the dangers posed by COVID-19).

VOTE ON NOVEMBER 3

Election day is Tuesday, November 3. Find your [assigned polling place here.](#)

VOTE BEFORE NOVEMBER 3

You can also vote early in [Albany County](#) or in [Greene County](#), depending on where you reside.

Fr. Scott will have more on this in our next newsletter.

GETTING A FLU SHOT SHOWS RESPECT FOR LIFE

Get a flu shot so COVID-19 & the Flu don't overwhelm our health care system this winter.

According the Federal Centers for Disease Control, getting a flu vaccine is more important than ever during 2020-2021 to protect yourself, your family and your community from the flu.

With coronavirus still a risk, a major flu outbreak this season may overwhelm hospitals.

“People who can avoid the flu will help reduce the burden on a U.S. healthcare system already overwhelmed by COVID -19,” said Mark Thompson, an epidemiologist in the Influenza Division at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Make an appointment with your or click here for is a list of [Greene County Pharmacies](#) where walk-ins are welcome and here's the list for [Albany County locations.](#)

COMPLETE THE 2020 CENSUS

The Census is our once-every-decade chance to show government officials who we are and what we need so that our area gets the aid and services we deserve and pay for with tax dollars. Greater Ravena & Coxsackie both have needs, so please speak up and let them know by clicking [here](#).



**The 48th Annual
Diocesan Marriage Jubilee**

We will continue the tradition of honoring milestone wedding anniversaries as we have for 48 years.

Unfortunately, we cannot gather in person for Mass this year due to the pandemic.

Couples are invited to submit their anniversary and contact information through their parish or at marriage.jubilee@rcda.org by October 23.

Couples will receive a certificate and blessing from Bishop Scharffenberger by postal mail.

Questions can be directed to

518-453-6644 or Marriage.Jubilee@rcda.org



**Sponsored by the Office of Lay
Ministry & Parish Faith formation**



**ST. PATRICK'S
ANNUAL SPAGHETTI DINNER**

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25
1:00 - 5:00 pm**

TAKE OUT ONLY

**ADULTS = \$12 AGES 5 TO 10 = \$6
UNDER 5 = FREE**

**TICKETS AVAILABLE AFTER MASS
OR AT THE RECTORY (518-756-3145)
RAFFLE 50/50 BAKE SALE**

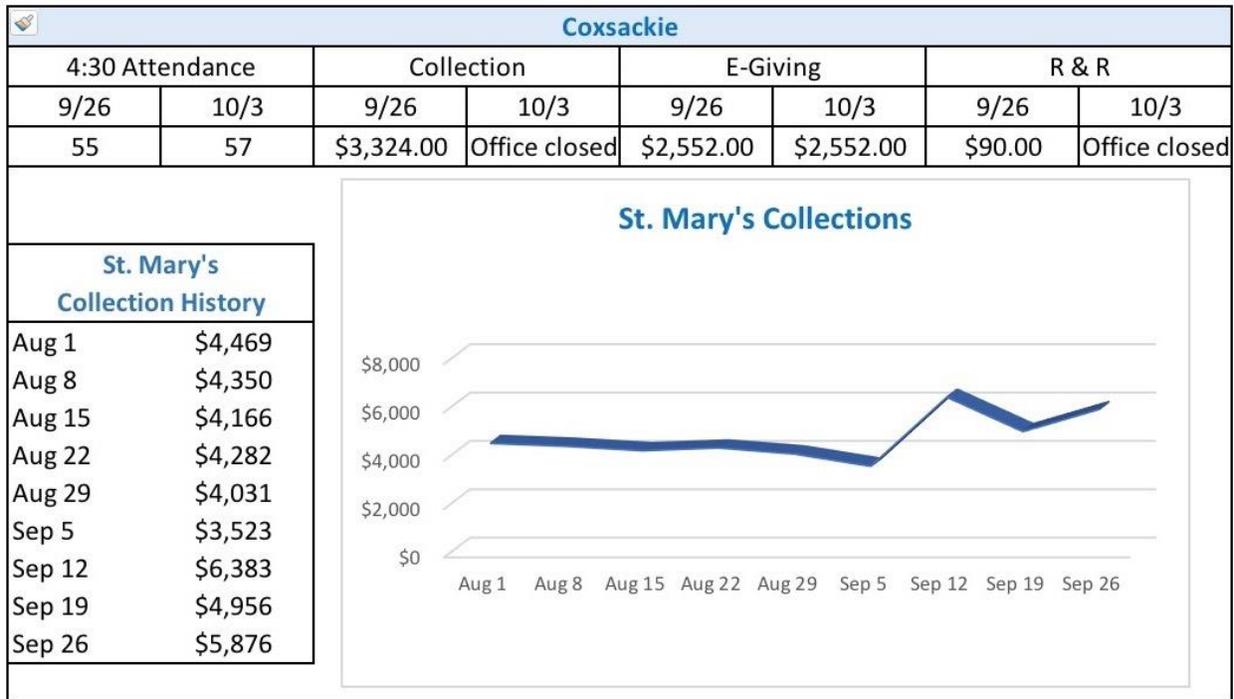
Thanks to your continued support both St. Mary's and St. Patrick's have remained financially strong throughout the COVID pandemic. In addition to support from our parish families we have received many generous donations from people all over the county (and the world) who are watching the livestream Mass. It has all made a great difference in our ability to continue forward with our ministry. Many of our expenses still remain the same regardless of the fact we're operating at reduced levels.

Several areas in the state are experiencing increases in the number of COVID cases and are seeing closures of churches, schools and businesses. Hopefully, we will not experience that situation locally. However, if that should occur, E-Giving remains the best method to support your parish consistently.

Might you like to give e-giving a try, knowing how much it helps the parish and that you can change your mind at any time? If so, [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 incredible generosity!



Ravena							
9:30 Attendance		Livestream Views		Collection		E-Giving	
9/27	10/4	9/27	10/4	9/27	10/4	9/27	10/4
58	56	880	921	\$2,191.00	\$2,928.00	\$1,796.00	\$1,796.00

St. Patrick's Collection History	
Aug 2	\$3,724
Aug 9	\$5,928
Aug 16	\$5,535
Aug 23	\$3,682
Aug 30	\$4,404
Sep 6	\$4,167
Sep 13	\$4,081
Sep 20	\$3,987
Sep 27	\$4,724

Reopening for Mass News **E-Mail Christa Desrosiers | derobccr@aol.com**

If you don't feel well, please don't come into the office or attend church. We will miss you, but please take care of yourself - and your neighbor - as we head toward the cold and flu season.

Also, please be mindful when traveling and planning to return to church. The NYS DOH restricted travel list requiring quarantine changes often. [Please check it here](#) so you can make sure the area you traveled is not included or take the required precautions if it is.

Thank you for continuing to be vigilant!

Box of Joy **E-Mail Christa Desrosiers | derobccr@aol.com**

"FOR CHILDREN WHO WISH FOR JUST ONE GIFT"

Once again this year, both parishes will participate in this Cross Catholic Outreach program to fill small boxes with Christmas gifts that are delivered to 8 countries along with the love of Jesus Christ. Look for more details and get your box starting on Oct 24th.

[Visit this website to find out more!](#)

Faith Formation at St. Patrick's**E-Mail Christa Desrosiers | derobccr@aol.com**

We are planning to start classes for some grade levels on Nov 1st. Pray for us as we do our final preparations and schedules! More details will be sent to families in email groups. Please call or email Christa with any questions/concerns!

St. Patrick's Bible Studies**E-Mail Christa Desrosiers | derobccr@aol.com**

Just a shout out to the men and women of St Patrick's who have resumed meeting in person for their Bible Study groups. The women meet from 1-2 PM on Tuesdays and the men meet from 1-2 PM on Thursdays in classroom 5 of the school. Please contact the rectory or Christa if you need more info.

Food Pantry at St. Patrick's**Diane Hoffman | [518-330-6789](tel:518-330-6789)**

"The Pantry" is in need of donations of:

Stuffing, rice canned or jar gravy, lunch box snacks, cookies, shampoo and toothpaste.

Quarantine Space Needed**Call Karen Lewis | [518-731-8093](tel:518-731-8093)**

As we enter fall and the winter months approach, we anticipate an increase in the number of COVID diagnoses. That increase may trigger a need for people to quarantine away from family members. If you have a separate space in your house that could be used to quarantine a health care professional, an essential worker or community member who needs to protect their family from exposure, please call **Karen Lewis** at **518-731-8093**.

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

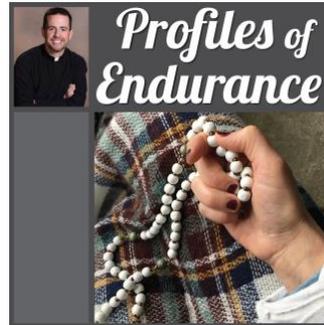
FR. SCOTT'S HOMILIES AND VIDEO MESSAGES:

[Click here](#) and then please hit 

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

Interviews with parishioners about facing life’s challenges

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FIND US ONLINE:

[Click here](#) for St. Patrick’s Parish Website

[Click here](#) for St. Mary’s Parish Website

<https://stmaryscoxsackie.com>

Parish Facebook Pages (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

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

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