



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

Nov. 22 & 29, 2020 • Edition 23 • Weeks 36 & 37



Keeping us connected during the Coronavirus Pandemic

Fr. Scott's Sharing Spot

Dear Parish Family....

When I talk to the wisest people I know, many who have been through unspeakable sorrows and losses, they always tell me that the key to surviving it all is gratitude. "Count your blessings," they say. This is easy to do in the times when life is good and things are humming along, but it becomes a necessity and a duty when years like 2020 come along. We must count our blessings not just because it feels good (though, try it – it certainly does) but in order to keep going when the race is uphill and the finish line keeps moving further out.

So join us in the duty of counting our blessings this week at our **annual Thanksgiving Mass, Wednesday evening at 6 PM on the [Livestream Channel](#)**. This year, because the infection rates are high right now, Mass will be livestreamed only, so that we won't have to turn anyone away. But we will be able to continue our tradition of blessing the bread that will be served at your Thanksgiving Dinner. Bring your bread, rolls (or dough) with you when you watch the livestream and we will bless it with a special prayer at the Mass. (Nothing can stop the power of God's blessing from reaching us when we call out for it... another thing to be grateful for!)

We are also planning to give you an opportunity to celebrate the Sacrament of Confession with **a DAY OF RECONCILIATION, Wednesday December 2 from 2 PM to 8 PM at both churches**. Our original plan was to have an old-fashioned Advent Reconciliation Service at one of the churches, with six priests present in all different locations of the campus, but we've realized that the best way to keep the priests and the penitents safe is to spread the confessions over 6 hours in both locations. **Come whenever you want between 2 PM and 8 PM on Dec. 2** and a priest will be present to celebrate God's gift of forgiveness and healing with you! Frs. Moyna, Kane will be here. The new priest in Athens, Fr. Melanson, will be here. Newly ordained priests Fr. Kyle Eads and Fr. Sam Bellafore will be here, as will Fr. Scott. Between those 6 priests, 12 hours of absolving sins will offer a fresh start for all of us.

As you begin to make your Christmas plans, we at church are making ours, too. This weekend, families attending Masses with last names A-L will have the chance to fill out their request form (just as the M-Z families did last week). On the week of Nov. 22, our staff will sit with all the requests and assign seats in the most efficient way possible, so that no available seats are left empty and we can reach our safe COVID capacity.

Just as many large parishes have done at Christmas for years, this year at every Mass, we will utilize the whole church and an additional "overflow" area,

REQUEST FOR A SPOT AT CHRISTMAS 2020 MASS AT ST. MARY'S CHURCH, COXSACKIE

Please circle which ONE Mass you would like to attend for Christmas this year:

THURSDAY 12/24 at 4:00 PM

FRIDAY 12/25 at 9:00 AM

SATURDAY 12/26 at 4:30 PM

How many family members will be in your party at that Mass? = _____

where people will be able to watch the Mass together on the livestream in a decorated space on the church grounds and receive communion. (At St. Mary's, that space will be Maria Hall. At St. Patrick's, it will be the Parish Center Hall.)

We understand completely that everyone's first choice would be to be in the church space itself, and that is the space will fill first using the requests of parishioners who have filled out these forms at Mass. Hopefully, since there are three Masses to choose from, everyone will be accommodated inside the church at their first choice Mass. But just in case the requests exceed our seating capacity, we'll make the selection process fair by "blind assigning" families rather than using the alphabet or some other system that would seem less fair. This process will make room for the Holy Spirit to play a role in deciding who sits in which space.

After the A-L and M-Z requests are filled, we will open the rectory phone lines for more reservations beginning on **Mon. Nov. 30 at 9 AM**. The process will work the same way as it has at Mass; the receptionist will fill in a blank form for you according to your choices and your request will be "blind assigned" to the best available seat at the time you have chosen.

Once the assignments are made, we hope and pray that everyone will have gotten their first choice. If that winds up not being possible, our staff will call you so you can decide if you wish to sit in the overflow space at the time you requested or if you'd rather sit in the church during one of the other times. Again, since we'll be blind assigning these seats, we hope everyone will be able to put their trust in God's providence to allow the highest good to prevail for the benefit of all.

Our hopeful wish is to give every parishioner and family that feels comfortable coming to Mass for Christmas an experience that their hearts and souls so long for and need after such a tumultuous year. We thank each of you in advance for your understanding that designing a way to do that fairly, without any precedent to go by, is an experimental science and an imperfect art.

Praise God that in the midst of such a challenging time, we still have so many blessings to count. I place being your pastor right near the tippy top. And it feels so good.

Happy Thanksgiving,
Fr. Scott ☺

Schedule

SUNDAY 11/22	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
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MONDAY 11/23	By Noon = New Prayer Service for small groups posted on parish Homepages 3:00 = Praying in your home
TUESDAY 11/24	11:00-12:00 = St. Patrick's Women's Prayer Meeting – Classroom 5 2:00 = New Content posted on Fr. Scott's YouTube Channel 2:00 = Rosary, St. Patrick's 3:00 = Praying in your home 5:30 = Confession (St. Patrick's) 6:30 = Rosary, St. Mary's (All are welcome!)
WEDNESDAY 11/25	3:00 = Praying in your home 6:00 = Thanksgiving Mass (YouTube channel or Mid-Hudson 901)
THURSDAY 11/26	THANKSGIVING DAY 3:00 = Praying in your home
FRIDAY 11/27	3:00 = Praying in your home
SATURDAY 11/28	3:00 = Praying in your home 4:30 = Public Mass at St. Mary's (for St. Mary's Parishioners M-Z)
SUNDAY 11/29	SEASON OF ADVENT BEGINS 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 11/30	By Noon = New Prayer Service for small groups posted on parish Homepages 3:00 = Praying in your home
TUESDAY 12/1	1:00-2:00 = St. Patrick's Men's Prayer Meeting – Classroom 5 2:00 = Rosary (St. Patrick's Church) 5:30 = Confession (St. Mary's) 6:30 = Rosary, St. Mary's (All are welcome)
WEDNESDAY 12/2	DAY OF RECONCILIATION – ALL DAY CONFESSIONS 2:00-8:00 = Confessions at St. Mary's 2:00-8:00 = Confessions at St. Patrick's
THURSDAY 12/3	1:00-2:00 = St. Patrick's Men's Prayer Meeting – Classroom 5 3:00 = Praying in your home
FRIDAY 12/4	3:00 = Praying in your home

SATURDAY 12/5	3:00 = Praying in your home 4:30 = Public Mass at St. Mary's (for St. Mary's Parishioners A-L)
SUNDAY 12/6	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

Opportunities For You – To Serve/Pray/Grow

FREE THANKSGIVING DINNERS IN COEYMANS LANDING

The Albany County Sheriff's Office, in cooperation with the Coeymans Town Board, will be providing Thanksgiving Dinner for families in need on **Tuesday, November 24 at the Albany County Sheriff Substation located at 70 Main Street (Rt. 144) in the Hamlet of Coeymans Landing.** Dinners will be take-out only and delivery may be available upon request. Please spread the word to those in need and call to reserve a meal at **(518) 487-5365** or by emailing contactsheriff@albanycounty.com

ADVENT GIVING TREE – St. Mary's

Want to make Christmas brighter for someone? Gather gifts for families helped by Catholic Charities & our homebound parishioners. The Giving Tree is ready! Look for it in the back of St. Mary's Church beginning **This Saturday** with more info to follow. Tags are available for children and adults together with Stewart's gas cards. Please follow the instructions on the tags. *Gifts MUST be returned to the church by SUN. DEC. 13th.* Thank you for your generosity!

HELP CATHOLIC CHARITIES & LOCAL RESTAURANTS BY "DINING OUT FOR OTHERS" IN NOVEMBER

Support local restaurants like Red's & Pegasus at the same time you support Catholic Charities... a win-win! [Click here for details.](#)

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

1:00-2:00 PM on Tuesdays at St. Patrick's in classroom 5 of the school. Open to all! Just show up! For more info, please contact the rectory or Christa derobccr@aol.com

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

1:00-2:00 PM on Thursdays at St. Patrick's in classroom 5 of the school. Open to all! Join us also for the Rosary 2:00 PM on Tuesdays in St. Patrick's Church. Just show up! For more info, please contact the rectory or Christa derobccr@aol.com

ECUMENICAL THANKSGIVING SERVICE – Tuesday, November 24 at 7 PM

Come to the Gospel Community Church in Coxsackie... or go online to www.Gospelchurch-ny.org. We also take a free-will offering for our local Food Pantry and the Ecumenical Fund. To contribute you may do so on the same website; there is a Giving Box. Once you click on that you may set up a payment and select the Fund "Ecumenical Fund". Please join us! Despite a very difficult 2020, we have much to be thankful for!

ALIGHT CENTER BABY BOTTLE SUPPORT

Many unexpected pregnancies present families with challenges they need help overcoming. The Alight Center in Hudson strives to encourage/educate/empower people in this situation so they can imagine a choice to bring their unborn children to birth and learn about the possibilities for parenting their child beyond birth. To support this ministry, simply take an empty baby bottle at Mass on the weekend of Nov 29th, fill it with your spare change - or dollars - over the weeks of Advent and return to the parish by Dec 26th.

GETTING A FLU SHOT SHOWS RESPECT FOR LIFE

Make an appointment with your doctor 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](#).

BOX OF JOY

COVID is big, but bringing JOY IS BIGGER! Our parishes filled over 100 Boxes of Joy this year! We also collected from 2 other parishes for a total of 184 shoeboxes filled. These boxes are now safely on their way to the countries of Haiti, Guatemala, Grenada, Dominican Republic, Bahamas, Nicaragua and El Salvador. *Thank you all for your generosity.*

QUARANTINE SPACE NEEDED

As 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**.

Annual Diocesan Appeal

E-Mail Dawn Brownson | parishbusinessmanager@gmail.com

ST. PATRICK'S

96 gifts so far
50% of goal (out of 190 gift goal)
Base gift = **\$25**
Highest gift so far = **\$2,250**
Average gift = **\$370**
Total donations to date = **\$33,491**

ST. MARY'S

101 gifts so far
57% of goal (out of 175 gift goal)
Base gift = **\$25**
Highest gift so far = **\$1,600**
Average gift = **\$340**
Total donations to date = **\$32,154**

Help us meet our goal!

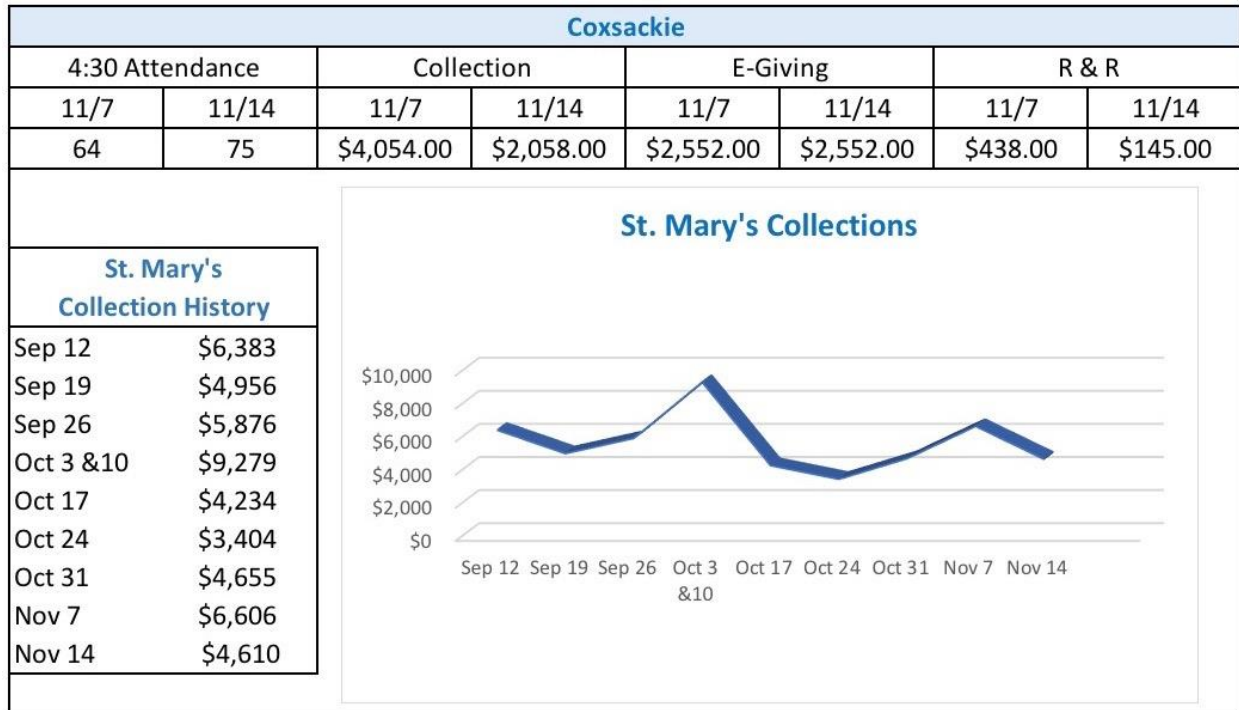
[Click here: donation made easy!](#)

- Monthly or one-time gifts by credit card [can be made via secure website](#).
- For more information on the appeal, visit www.thediocesanappeal.org
- Questions? Call **518-453-6680** or email stewardship@rcda.org
- If you choose to make your gift via a check, please make your check payable to the **Diocesan Appeal** and mail your donation directly to the Diocese at the following address:

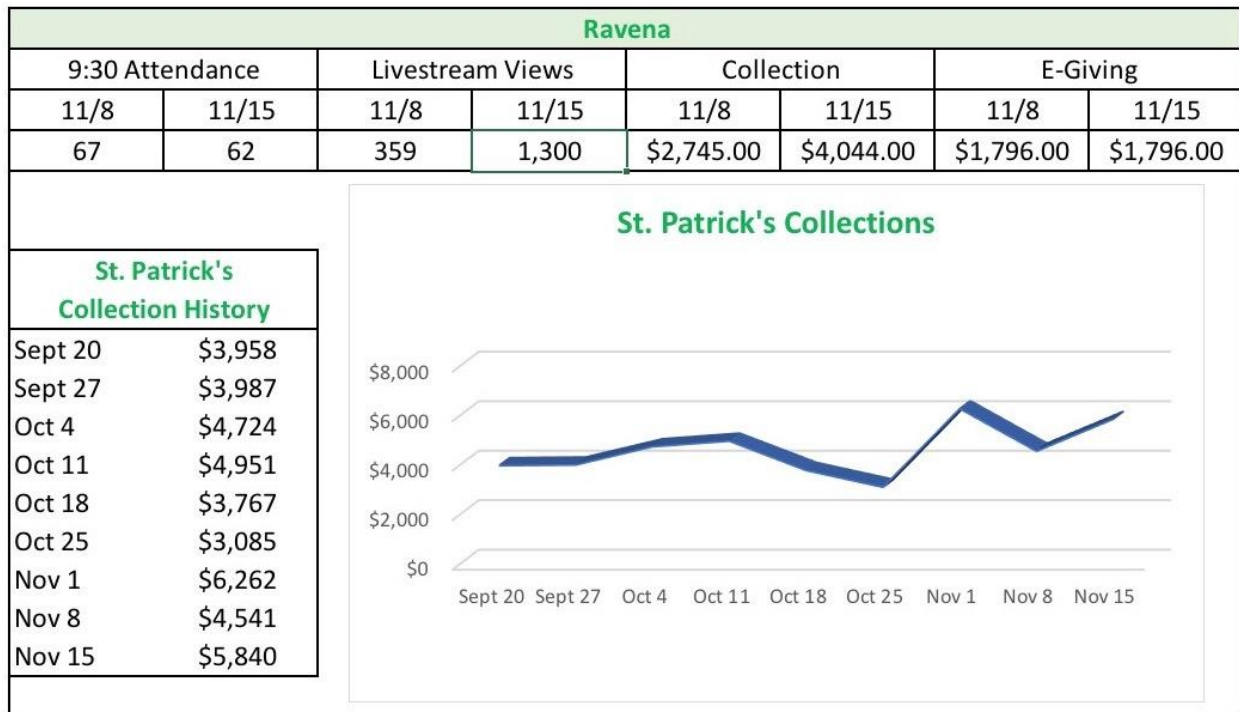
Diocesan Appeal
40 North Main Ave.
Albany, NY 12203



Collections & E-Giving E-Mail Dawn Brownson | parishbusinessmanager@gmail.com



Thank you all for your incredible generosity!



E-GIVING WORKS BEST

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](#)

FAITH FORMATION NOW HAS NO FEES, THANKS TO YOU!

Thanks to your generosity in last year's Bishop's Appeal (now called the Diocesan Appeal), both St. Mary's and St. Patrick's Parishes exceeded our goals. Whenever that happens, the policy of the Diocese is to refund half of the overage amount back to the parish to use however we see fit. I'm happy to report that both our parish Finance Councils choose to CANCEL all fees for FAITH FORMATION, so that parish families have one less expense to budget. One more way your generosity is making a real difference in our community.

World Day of the Poor... and You

This weekend's readings mark the World Day of the Poor, a day proclaimed by Pope Francis to encourage us "to stretch forth our hand to the poor."



To help combat poverty within our community and to celebrate **#GivingTuesday**, Catholic Charities trustees have joined together with a corporate sponsor, Alpin Haus, to issue a challenge: help us raise \$60,000 for the poor and vulnerable in our Diocese.

In fact, they are so committed to this mission, they're offering a **\$25,000 match of their own**. Every gift received from today, World Day of the Poor, to "Giving Tuesday" on December 1st will be doubled, up to \$25,000!

Reach out a helping hand and make your gift [here](#)!



Faith Formation Update for St. Mary's

Call Bob Desrosiers | 518-444-8184

St. Mary's is in the midst of beginning Faith Formation for 2021!

We began Grades 1-6 and had our first Grade 9 and 10 Sessions. We now begin Grade 7 and 8!

Currently 86 of a possible 115 have returned to Faith Formation this year:

66 in person and 21 online.

We have two online groups: one for Grades 1-6 and one for Grades 7-9.

*It is truly a blessing to be back to gathering (with social distance of course)
and seeing our children and youth!*

Food Pantry at St. Patrick's

Diane Hoffman | 518-330-6789

Our Thanksgiving Basket distribution will feed a lot of local families this week! Thank you for your donations! The Pantry is now accepting donations of **\$25 that will feed a family for Christmas**. All monetary and food donations are greatly appreciated. Please make checks payable to THE PANTRY. The Food Pantry will be closed November 24-30.

"If I've been out of state, can I go to Mass?"

E-Mail Christa Desrosiers | derobccr@aol.com

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!

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)

FR. SCOTT'S HOMILIES AND VIDEO MESSAGES:

[Click here](#) and then please hit

SUBSCRIBE

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

"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:

[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