



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

December 6 & 13, 2020 • Edition 24 • Weeks 38 & 39



Keeping us connected during the Coronavirus Pandemic

Fr. Scott's Sharing Spot

Dear Parish Family....

I'm sure that there are times that Pope Francis wishes he weren't the pope, but were instead the pastor of a parish (or maybe two) like I am. I'm sure there are times when he would gladly trade the honor and glamor of his duties for the connection he'd get with people if he got to work as a parish priest, meeting with people to discuss their life challenges, marrying those in love, celebrating the lives those who have died, and writing a regular *Sharing Spot* for a parish bulletin or newsletter as I am now.

Perhaps that's why he actually did that last week! The Pope wrote an article to American Catholics – published in the *New York Times* on Thanksgiving Day – that was essentially a *Sharing Spot*. It was a very tender and fatherly reflection on what we as individuals are going through with Coronavirus and about the rare and valuable spiritual opportunities we have available to us because of this time of struggle.

In case you didn't get to read it, I thought I'd share a couple of excerpts. He began by reflecting on his critical illness when he was young, which places him in the high-risk group for COVID-19.

“When I got really sick at the age of 21, I had my first experience of limit, of pain and loneliness. It changed the way I saw life. For months, I didn't know who I was or whether I would live or die. The doctors had no idea whether I'd make it either. I remember hugging my mother and saying, “Just tell me if I'm going to die.” I was in the second year of training for the priesthood in the diocesan seminary of Buenos Aires.

I remember the date: Aug. 13, 1957. I got taken to a hospital by a prefect who realized mine was not the kind of flu you treat with aspirin. Straightaway they took a liter and a half of water out of my lungs, and I remained there fighting for my life. The following November they operated to take out the upper right lobe of one of the lungs. I have some sense of how people with COVID-19 feel as they struggle to breathe on a ventilator.

I remember especially two nurses from this time. One was the senior ward matron, a Dominican sister who had been a teacher in Athens before being sent to Buenos Aires. I learned later that following the first examination by the doctor, after he left she told the nurses to double the dose of medication he had prescribed — basically penicillin and streptomycin — because she knew from experience I was dying. Sister Cornelia Caraglio saved my life. Because of her regular contact with sick people, she understood better than the doctor what they needed, and she had the courage to act on her knowledge.

Another nurse, Micaela, did the same when I was in intense pain, secretly prescribing me extra doses of painkillers outside my due times. Cornelia and Micaela are in heaven now, but I'll always owe them so much. They fought for me to the end, until my eventual

recovery. They taught me what it is to use science but also to know when to go beyond it to meet particular needs. And the serious illness I lived through taught me to depend on the goodness and wisdom of others.

This theme of helping others has stayed with me these past months. In lockdown I've often gone in prayer to those who sought all means to save the lives of others. So many of the nurses, doctors and caregivers paid that price of love, together with priests, and religious and ordinary people whose vocations were service. We return their love by grieving for them and honoring them."

One of the gifts Pope Francis gives us by going back into his memory and telling these stories about how others helped him survive this illness is that it enables us to try to identify the "Sr. Cornelias" and "Michaelas" that are in our life today. Rather than just looking back to those people who helped us in the past, we can realize that this crisis is a blessed time that we can use creatively, to make ourselves and our community better. The Holy Father goes on:


"This is a moment to dream big, to rethink our priorities — what we value, what we want, what we seek — and to commit to act in our daily life on what we have dreamed of. God asks us to dare to create something new. We cannot return to the false securities of the political and economic systems we had before the crisis... We need to slow down, take stock and design better ways of living together on this earth. The pandemic has exposed the paradox that while we are more connected, we are also more divided... It is hard to build a culture of encounter, in which we meet as people with a shared dignity, within a throwaway culture that regards the well-being of the elderly, the unemployed, the disabled and the unborn as peripheral to our own well-being."

"...If we are to come out of this crisis less selfish than when we went in, we have to let ourselves be touched by others' pain... To come out of this crisis better, we have to recover the knowledge that as a people we have a shared destination. The pandemic has reminded us that no one is saved alone. What ties us to one another is what we commonly call solidarity. Solidarity is more than acts of generosity, important as they are; it is the call to embrace the reality that we are bound by bonds of reciprocity. On this solid foundation we can build a better, different, human future."

If we let ourselves get in touch with the pain and fear that we are facing in these times... and expand that out to see that others are hurting with worries and hurts like ours (and some worse than ours) we can become better, more loving, more connected, less selfish people.

If the bitter political experience we've been experiencing has taught us anything, it's that we can't expect to be strong and united by focusing on our divisions. Our shared human experience is stronger and more real than anything that could divide us. We're all children of the same God and, as the Pope said so beautifully, "As a people, we have a shared destination."

Grateful to God for you
and the faith we share...

Fr. Scott 

Schedule

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
MONDAY 12/7	By Noon = New Prayer Service for small groups posted on parish Homepages 3:00 = St. Mary's Hymn Sing (Facebook Live)
TUESDAY 12/8	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 12/9	3:00 = Praying in your home
THURSDAY 12/10	3:00 = Praying in your home
FRIDAY 12/11	3:00 = Praying in your home
SATURDAY 12/12	3:00 = Praying in your home 4:30 = Public Mass at St. Mary's (for St. Mary's Parishioners M-Z)
SUNDAY 12/13	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 12/14	By Noon = New Prayer Service for small groups posted on parish Homepages 3:00 = St. Mary's Hymn Sing (Facebook Live)
TUESDAY 12/15	1:00-2:00 = St. Patrick's Men's Prayer Meeting – Classroom 5 2:00 = Rosary (St. Patrick's Church) 3:00 = Praying in your home 5:30 = Confession (St. Mary's) 6:30 = Rosary, St. Mary's (All are welcome)

WEDNESDAY 12/16	3:00 = Praying in your home
THURSDAY 12/17	1:00-2:00 = St. Patrick's Men's Prayer Meeting – Classroom 5 3:00 = Praying in your home
FRIDAY 12/18	3:00 = Praying in your home
SATURDAY 12/19	3:00 = Praying in your home 4:30 = Public Mass at St. Mary's (for St. Mary's Parishioners A-L)
SUNDAY 12/20	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

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, fill it with your spare change - or dollars - over the weeks of Advent and return to the parish by Epiphany Sunday – January 2/3, 2021.

ADVENT GIVING TREE – St. Mary's
Last chance to take a tag from the **Giving Tree** and/or a Stewart's gas card stocking. *Please return to the church by **SUN. DEC. 13th** and know that you have made Christmas brighter for someone in need.*



ADVENT HYMN SING – St. Mary's (Facebook Live)

Monday 3:00 PM

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS – St. Mary's

We are now completing the K of C Annual Benevolent and Charitable (C&B) Fundraiser. This year with your generosity, *you purchased more than 110 Books!!* Thank you, one and all! Your generosity will allow us to continue to give money to charities for the coming year.

BLOOD DRIVE = SUCCESS – St. Patrick's

To all who supported the Red Cross Blood Drive on November 12th at St. Patrick's. 10 units of blood were collected that will save up to 30 lives.

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

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**.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION IN HUDSON

The **Our Lady of Victory Eucharistic Adoration Chapel** at St. Mary's in Hudson will be expanding Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament (after an earlier COVID shutdown) to include Monday and Tuesdays during the daytime hours, beginning **December 14**. Adorers can schedule a Holy Hour by going to the **Website**. The Chapel is located at 429 E. Allen St., Hudson. For information on using the website, or to be trained as an Adorer, please contact Cheryl at 518-755-5781, or Pat (evenings only) at 518-947-0621.

AL-ANON MEETING SUSPENDED

Due to low turnout, the 7:30 Tuesday Evening Al-Anon meeting that has been meeting in Maria Hall at St. Mary's has been suspended until further notice. We'll let you know when we try again. Are you affected by a loved one's drinking? There is help: [Check here for local meetings](#).

Annual Diocesan Appeal

E-Mail Dawn Brownson | parishbusinessmanager@gmail.com

ST. PATRICK'S

101 gifts so far
53% of goal (out of 190 gift goal)
Base gift = **\$25**
Highest gift so far = **\$2,250**
Average gift = **\$370**
Total donations to date = **\$34,161**

ST. MARY'S

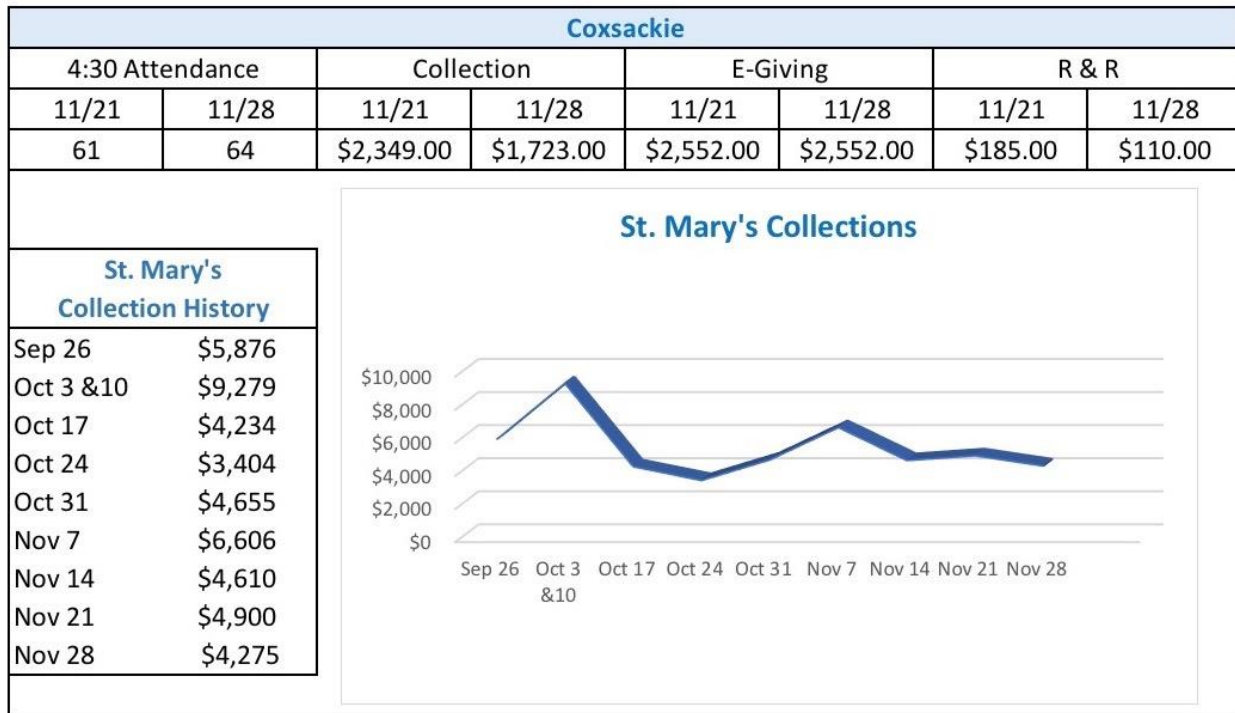
102 gifts so far
58% of goal (out of 175 gift goal)
Base gift = **\$25**
Highest gift so far = **\$1,600**
Average gift = **\$340**
Total donations to date = **\$32,404**

Help us meet our goal!

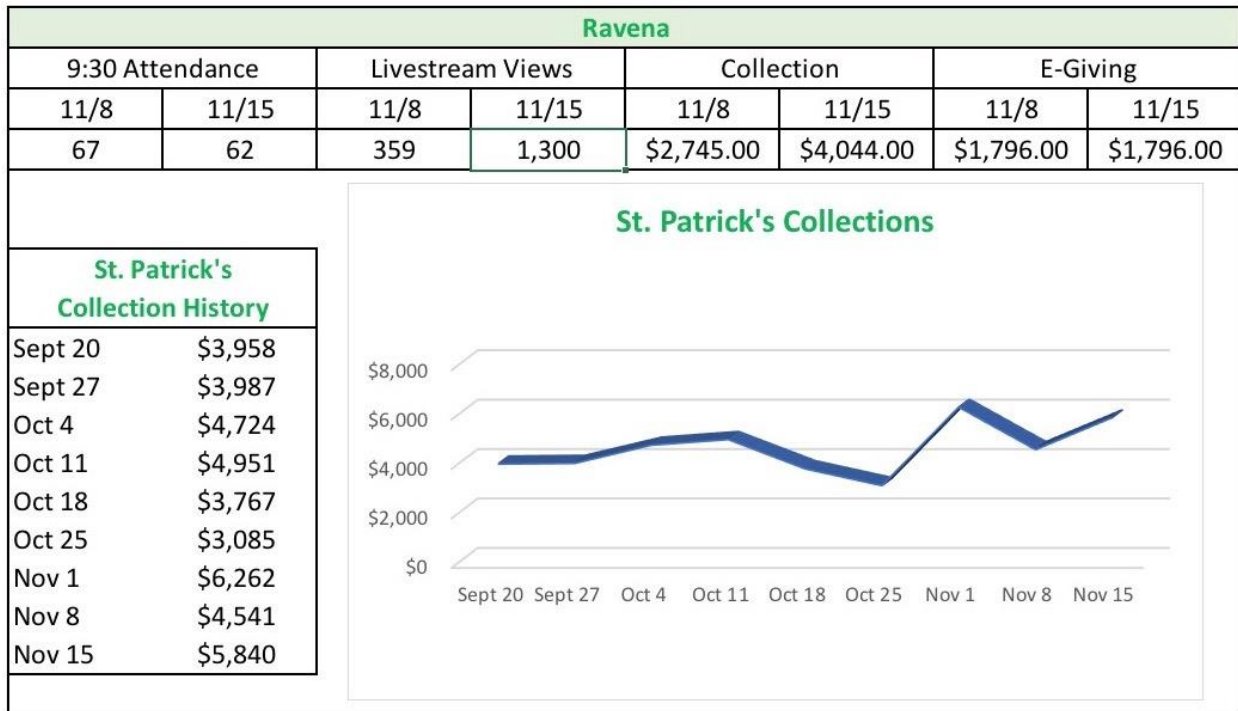
[Click here: donation made easy!](#)

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**



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 Update for St. Mary's

Call Bob Desrosiers | 518-444-8184

We have begun Faith Formation in earnest for all age groups including online groups! Our second graders are now preparing to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation in January 2021! Sadly, but for good reason, in following the COVID 19 safety guidance, there will not be a Christmas Pageant this year. We certainly will look forward to being able to resume this beloved Christmas Eve Tradition back next year.

Food Pantry at St. Patrick's

Diane Hoffman | 518-330-6789

Thank you for your donations!

Our Thanksgiving Basket distribution fed a lot of local families over this holiday! 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 your checks payable to **THE PANTRY.**

"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 

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