



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



December 20 & 27, 2020 • Edition 25 • Weeks 40 & 41

Keeping us connected during the Coronavirus Pandemic

Fr. Scott's Sharing Spot

Dear Parish Family....

When I was a child, there was a popular author and speaker named Leo Buscaglia. Perhaps you remember him or have read his books. He was a college professor of education and he brimmed with wisdom and joy. His stories did what a good homily aims at doing: connecting the great truths of heaven and of human living with the day-to-day experiences of regular life.

He once told a story about his mother, who immigrated to the U.S. from Italy and was known to everyone in the family and the neighborhood as "Mama." One night, his father came home from work with a sickened look on his face. He told Mama and their four kids that his business partner had embezzled all of their money. It was unthinkable, but there was nothing that could be done. They were broke.

The next day, his mother took her most valuable jewelry to a pawn shop and used the money to buy lobster and filet mignon. She made pasta from scratch and cooked a pot of sauce, and the next night served the most delicious, most abundant, most extravagant meal of their lives.

The kids were furious! One of them, speaking for the others, angrily questioned what she was thinking. How could she justify such wasteful extravagance when the family was in financial ruin?

She looked each of the kids in the eye and said:

**"Listen: This is the time for joy. This is when we need it.
When things are bleak.**

**You don't need to feast when all the news is good;
the time for joy is now, when we need it. We can't wait for joy."**

Buscaglia always cried when he told the story because his mother's "foolish wastefulness" is what boosted their spirits and strengthened them for the hard decisions and sacrifices ahead.

This Christmas is not going to be the one we would have asked for. It's not going to involve as many gatherings of family and friends as past years have. For many people who've been furloughed or laid off, there won't be as many presents under the tree, nor for full time workers who've had to go part time, or for small business owners who have lost ground.

This Christmas won't be as carefree for the 10 families in our parishes who have lost a loved one to COVID-19 or who have a beloved relative in a nursing facility who they can't visit. None of us would have ever have designed Christmas 2020 to look like this. And it's understandable

how depressed that makes us feel. We just want to hibernate and say: “I’ve had enough... wake me up in 2022.”

But... my friends... THIS is the time for joy – when we need it the most.

This is a time to appreciate the people who are such gifts in our lives.
To be grateful for all that we have – even if it’s less than we used to have.

Christmas 2020 is a time to realize more deeply what kind of a world Jesus was born into 2,000 years ago: a society of political unrest, great economic injustice, and illnesses that couldn’t be cured. These were the people who had been begging God “Where are you? Save us!” and to who God gave a baby, born into an unimaginably humble and unideal situation.

The time for joy is not when everything is working out nicely, when you get “comped” a luxurious suite in an inn with the points you earned from business trips. The time for joy is when there is no room in the inn, but when you realize that God can make sure you have whatever we need, even if we can’t have what you would have most liked, if you were the writer of the script.

We don’t need a single thing to change in order to accept Christmas 2020. The feast Mama Buscaglia made for the family during the bleakest week in their lives was timed perfectly for when they needed joy the most. And Christmas 2020 is timed perfectly, too.

Merry Christmas...

Fr. Scott 😊

*To give our staff a break
after such a long stretch of hard work, please note that...*

**Our Offices at Both Parishes Will Be Closed
December 24 – January 3**

• Offices Reopen on January 4, 2021 •

Schedule

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
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MONDAY 12/21	By Noon = New Prayer Service for small groups posted on parish Homepages 3:00 = St. Mary's Hymn Sing (Facebook Live)
TUESDAY 12/22	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 12/23	3:00 = Praying in your home
THURSDAY 12/24	CHRISTMAS EVE 4:00 = Mass: St. Mary's (Call 518-731-8800 for a reservation) 8:00 = Mass: St. Patrick's, (Call 518-756-3145 for a reservation) (also St. Patrick's YouTube channel or Mid-Hudson 901)
FRIDAY 12/25	CHRISTMAS DAY 9:00 = Mass: St. Mary's (Call 518-731-8800 for a reservation) 11:00 = Mass: St. Patrick's, (Call 518-756-3145 for a reservation) (also St. Patrick's YouTube channel or Mid-Hudson 901)
SATURDAY 12/26	CHRISTMAS SATURDAY 3:00 = Praying in your home 4:30 = Mass: St. Mary's (Call 518-731-8800 for a reservation)
SUNDAY 12/27	CHRISTMAS SUNDAY, FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY 9:30 = Mass: St. Patrick's, (Call 518-756-3145 for a reservation) (also St. Patrick's YouTube channel or Mid-Hudson 901) 3:00 = Praying in your home
MONDAY 12/28	Parish Offices Closed By Noon = New Prayer Service for small groups posted on parish Homepages 3:00 = St. Mary's Hymn Sing (Facebook Live)
TUESDAY 12/29	Parish Offices Closed 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 No Confession (St. Mary's) 6:30 = Rosary, St. Mary's (All are welcome)
WEDNESDAY 12/30	Parish Offices Closed 3:00 = Praying in your home

THURSDAY 12/31	Parish Offices Closed 1:00-2:00 = St. Patrick's Men's Prayer Meeting – Classroom 5 3:00 = Praying in your home
FRIDAY 1/1/2021	Parish Offices Closed FEAST OF MARY, THE MOTHER OF GOD 3:00 = Mass, St. Patrick's (also St. Patrick's YouTube channel or Mid-Hudson 901)
SATURDAY 1/2	3:00 = Praying in your home 4:30 = Public Mass at St. Mary's (for St. Mary's Parishioners A-L)
SUNDAY 1/3	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

It's not too late to support this ministry by simply taking an empty baby bottle at Mass, fill it with your spare change - or dollars - and return to the parish by Epiphany Sunday – January 2/3.

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

Monday, Dec. 21 at 3:00 PM

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@gmail.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.

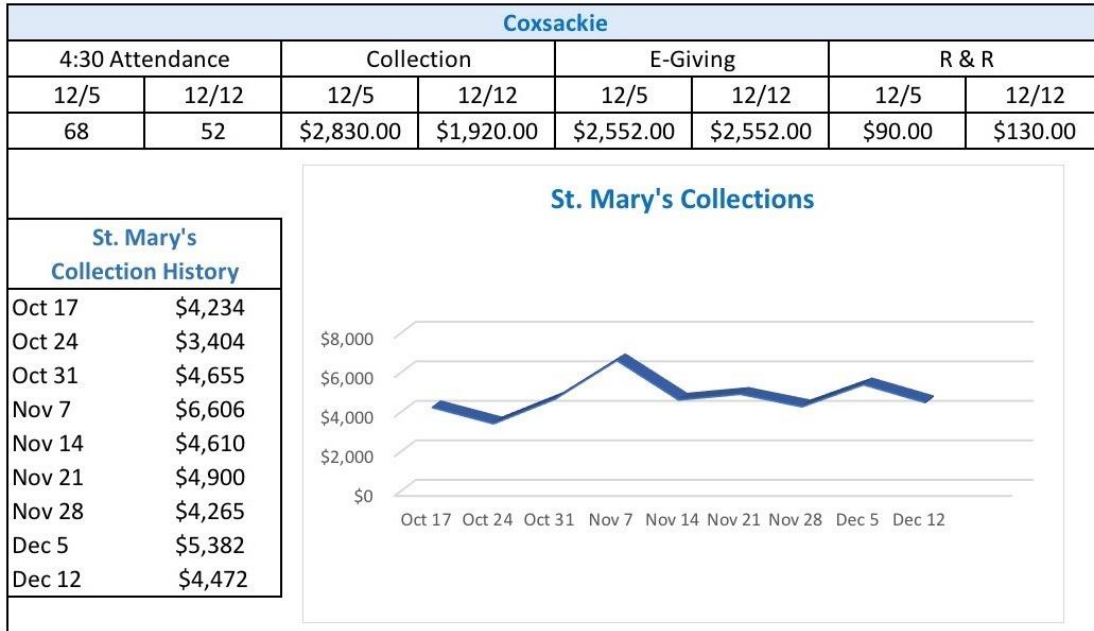
Just show up! For more info, please contact the rectory or Christa derobccr@gmail.com

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION AT HOLY TRINITY PARISH IN HUDSON

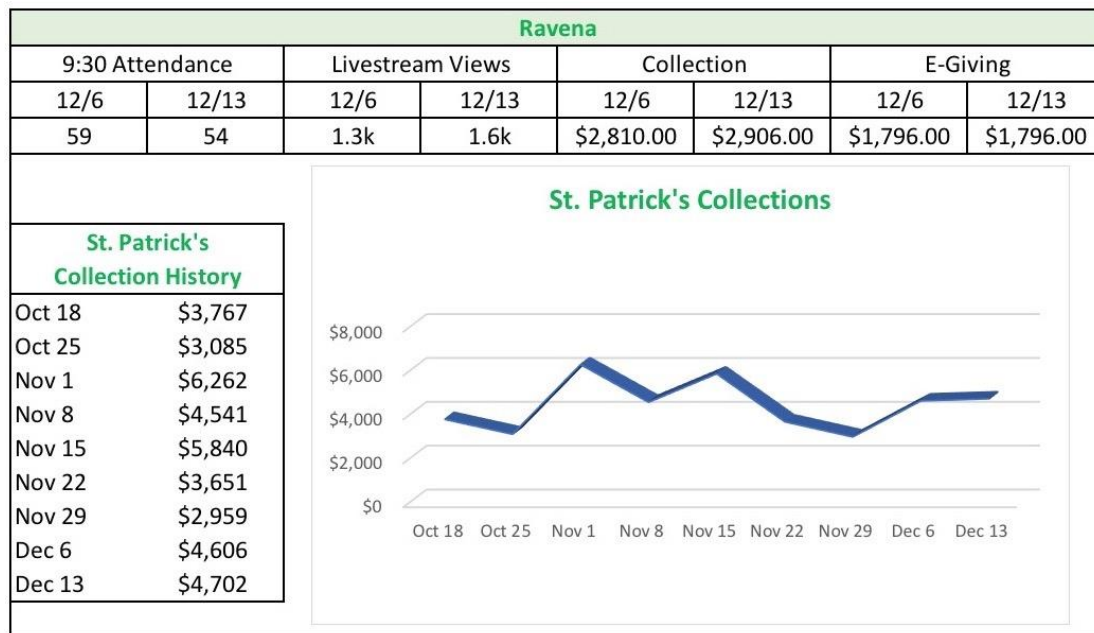
The **Our Lady of Victory Eucharistic Adoration Chapel** at St. Mary's in Hudson has expanded Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament (after an earlier COVID shutdown) to include Monday and Tuesday during the daytime hours. Adorers can schedule a Holy Hour by going to the [Website](#). Questions? Please contact Cheryl at 518-755-5781, or Pat (evenings only) at 518-947-0621.

AL-ANON

Are you affected by a loved one's drinking? There is help: [Check here for local meetings](#).



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](#)

ST. PATRICK'S

125 gifts so far
66% of goal (out of 190 gift goal)
Base gift = \$25
Highest gift so far = \$3,000
Average gift = \$338
Total donations to date = \$39,316

ST. MARY'S

121 gifts so far
69% of goal (out of 175 gift goal)
Base gift = \$25
Highest gift so far = \$1,600
Average gift = \$294
Total donations to date = \$35,589

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**

Do you remember your first Confession? It's a big moment! Please pray for our second graders, who are preparing to celebrate First Reconciliation on **Saturday, January 30 at 1 PM.**

One fantastic development this year is the use of digital capability, which has a lot of advantages! For instance, engagement of the high school groups with Fr. Scott's YouTube content has really promoted good conversations in the sessions and helped youth make new connections and deepen their faith. Families are more involved in many of the virtual-learning formats so the growth is shared by everyone. Also, now if someone who comes in-person has to miss a session, they don't miss the growth: it can be sent home and done online.

Sessions are in full swing for all groups: Many are in Grades 1-10 "In-Person" Groups. Others are participating Online in Grades 1-6 in a family-based format (with Lisa Barber). Some are Online in Grades 7-9 (using Fr. Scott's YouTube Presentations), and also some families are doing family-based asynchronous sessions for Grades 1-6 and 7-9.

What do you like about this new format? What would you like to see tweaked?
Your opinion matters! Contact Bob with feedback... he's all ears and eager to hear!

The Food Pantry will be closed from **December 22 to January 4** and will reopen on **January 5.**

"If I've been out of state, can I go to Mass?" E-Mail Christa Desrosiers | derobccr@gmail.com

Currently, the answer is **no**, please instead watch our livestream Mass on YouTube. The NYS DOH is trying to stop the surge of COVID-19 by requiring a mandatory quarantine if you cross state boundaries. The list includes all 49 states, but states will be removed as the numbers drop. [Please keep updated by checking that list here.](#)

Connecting with the Parishes

Online | Phone | E-Mail

CHRISTMAS MASS BY RESERVATION

To reserve a spot, call us:

St. Mary's Office = 518-731-8800

St. Patrick's Office = 518-756-3145

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 (New postings multiple times each week):

[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)



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