



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



January 10 & 17, 2021 • Edition 26 • Weeks 43 & 44

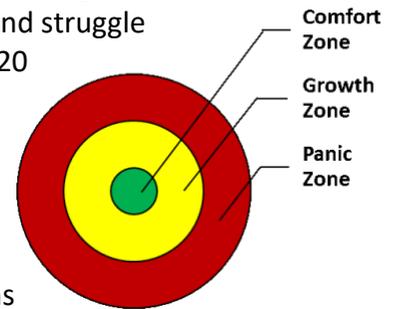
Keeping us connected during the Coronavirus Pandemic

Fr. Scott's Sharing Spot

Dear Parish Family....

Many people have noticed that when they look back over their lives, their greatest times of growth coincided with their hardest times in life. It seems that we simply can't grow when we're hanging out in our comfort zone. It's when life puts us to the test and struggle pushes us to our limits that we grow in strength and perspective. And 2020 has certainly been a year that has pushed us out of our comfort zones.

While much of the past year involved simply trying to survive a life-threatening global health emergency (which, at times pushed us into a panic), 2020 allowed almost everyone in society who normally might be able to hang out in a cozy comfort zone to instead be thrust into situations that demanded finding new ways to cope. Those kind of situations – in the place between comfort and panic – are the ones that help us most to grow and learn.



I spent some time in the week between Christmas and New Year's Day reading the online reflections of people all over the world who were trying to take stock of the lessons they learned and the ways in which they grew in 2020. Here were some of the ones that stood out to me. How many of these resonate with your experience this past year?

• LESSONS of 2020 •

- Be loud in expressing your love for those you love
- Let go of grudges
- Be clear on the difference between wants and needs
- Being cool is sooo 2019 – it doesn't really matter
- Mental Health can't be ignored
- Fear is dangerous – frightened people can turn feral
- You can't always count on your leaders to save you
- Racism is still real
- Letting go of plans can be a joy
- All we have is now
- Don't take friends for granted
- Panic doesn't help a situation, but making a plan does
- Be intentional with your words and choices
- If you accept your pain, it hurts less
- Change is inevitable
- You never know what will happen next
- Stay focused on your purpose
- Patience is a superpower

Be content with what you have
The “basics” aren’t so basic sometimes
Plan, but surrender with grace when your plans get thwarted
Accepting reality doesn’t mean you have to like it
Appreciate your health
Communities can pull together if they choose to
Eating in a restaurant is a privilege and a joy
Crisis doesn’t change us, it *reveals* us

Most of us consider making New Year’s resolutions this time of year, which is a practice that has the potential to bring some real positive change into our lives. Here are two possible ways you perhaps could consider turning the list above into a springboard for growth in your life:

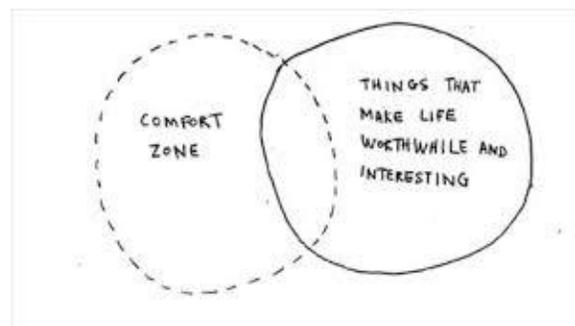
- Take one of the lessons from the list above (or another life lesson from 2020 that was on your list) and make it the focus of your resolution. For example, if the lesson you chose was *“The ‘basics’ aren’t so basic sometimes,”* consider making a list of 30 or so things that are basic to your functioning: having a roof over your head, having a job, having a car to take you to your job, having electricity, having clean water from a tap, having hot water, having mail delivered and picked up from your house, having a stocked pantry, etc. Put each one on an index card and each day during your prayer time, take the next card off the top of the deck and spend three minutes being grateful for that basic thing. Imagine the billions of people in the world who don’t have that.
- Take one of the items on the list that wasn’t on your list (maybe one that sounds funny to you or strikes a sour note) and ask yourself: *“Why did someone else learn this lesson and I didn’t?”* What might you not be seeing that someone else is? The point of this would not be to beat yourself up, nor would it be to prove that it should be removed from the list. It would simply be an honest inquiry: *What might I not be seeing from where I sit in life?* Perhaps the items about accepting pain so it hurts less, letting go of grudges, or seeing that racism is still alive and well... or something else... might fall into this category for you. Spend three minutes of your prayer time each day breathing in and out as you consider this item.

In his wonderful book *Anam Cara*, the late poet John O’Donohue tells the story of a woman who had a lot of pain in what he referred to as her “very unprotected life.” But he said that when he asked her about it, she said: ***“I don’t regret a bit of it. It is my life, and in everything negative that happened to me there was always something bright hidden.”*** 2020 invited us to retrieve treasures from our difficulties. As O’Donohue wrote, “sometimes difficulty is the greatest friend of the soul.”

May our prayers for a better 2021 be answered, so long as those prayers include our willingness to keep growing and becoming more and more each day the kind of person God dreams for us to be.

Happy New Year...

Fr. Scott 😊



Schedule

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

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

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE – ST. MARY'S – FRIDAY, JANUARY 22 – Noon - 5:00.

The need for blood is great. The next blood drive will be in Maria Hall on **Fri., Jan. 22 from Noon-5:00 PM**. We would love to see you here. First time donors are especially welcome. You can [sign up here on the Red Cross website](#).

HELP COUNCIL OF CHURCHES RAISE SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS IN HONOR OF REV. DR. MLK, JR.

For almost 50 years the Capital Area Council of Churches (CACC) has celebrated Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King's birthday in person. Not this year. A virtual celebration on **January 15th**, means they need help from all our congregations to raise money for scholarships to high school seniors. Each year, one or more scholarships of up to \$4,000, have been awarded. The MLK Scholarship Committee encourages as many individuals as possible to donate at least \$25 each. Use the button below to donate now. Tax-deductible donations can be sent to, **CACC at 646 State St., Albany, NY 12203**. (Please write "MLK Scholarship" in the memo.)

[Donate To MLK
Scholarship](#)

THANK YOU FOR MAKING THE ANNUAL GIVING TREE A WONDERFUL SUCCESS!

With your generosity, St. Mary's Parish was able to deliver 95 gifts and \$840 in Stewarts gas cards to Catholic Charities. In addition, 26 homebound parishioners were remembered with a gift bag including a poinsettia, cards and a small gift. Thank you all for your outpouring of love!

WOMEN'S TUESDAY 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 THURSDAY BIBLE STUDY

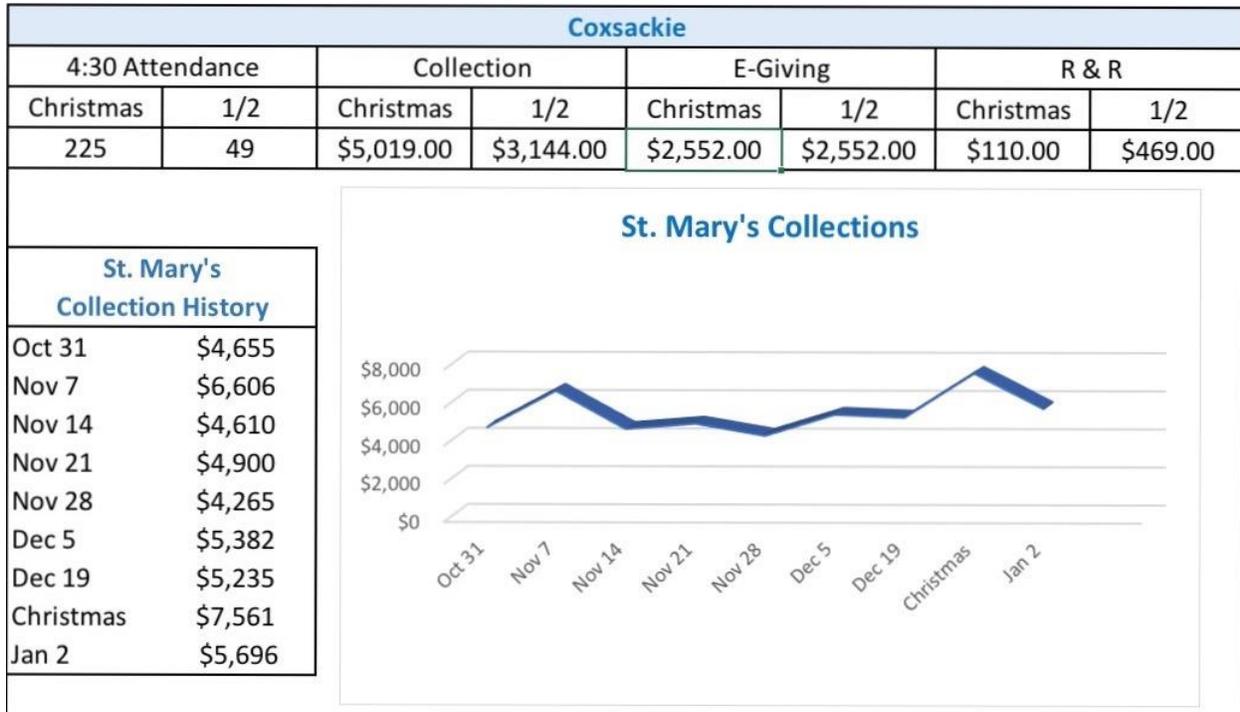
1:00-2:00 PM on Thursdays at St. Patrick's in classroom 5 of the school. Open to all!
Join us also for the **Rosary 2:00 PM on Tuesdays** in St. Patrick's Church.
Just show up! For more info, please contact the rectory or Christa derobccr@gmail.com

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION AT ST. PATRICK'S IN RAVENA

First Sunday of the month 6:30-7:30 PM in the church. Please join us next on **Sun . Feb. 7.**

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](#)

Annual Diocesan Appeal

E-Mail Dawn Brownson | parishbusinessmanager@gmail.com

ST. PATRICK'S

130 gifts so far
68% of goal (out of 190 gift goal)
Base gift = \$25
Highest gift so far = \$3,000
Average gift = \$316
Total donations to date = \$41,166

ST. MARY'S

124 gifts so far
71% of goal (out of 175 gift goal)
Base gift = \$25
Highest gift so far = \$1,600
Average gift = \$295
Total donations to date = \$36,514

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

TWO ADULTS SEEKING TO BE BAPTIZED THIS EASTER & ANOTHER TO BECOME CATHOLIC!

Nothing brings us more joy than welcoming new members to the church! **Camlynn Corbett** and **Juan Colon** have never been baptized (so we call them "catechumens") and **Lori Lepage** (who was already baptized in another Christian church, so is a "candidate") are preparing to celebrate the Sacraments of Initiation at the Easter Vigil.

Please keep them and our RCIA Team (Regina McGrath, Kathleen and Doug Baxter) in your prayers as we all journey together to the Easter Vigil Celebration!

Faith Formation Update for St. Mary's

Call Bob Desrosiers | 518-444-8184

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

SECOND GRADERS PREPARE TO CONFESS!

The Jesus Festival for Reconciliation is coming up quickly on **Sat. Jan. 23 at 1 PM** in the church. This joyful event is for each of our kids and a parent to participate in together. It's is a

great chance for you to hear from Fr. Scott how it will be when each of the group meets one on one with him (**on Jan. 30 at 1 PM**) to receive the power of Jesus' mercy. For both activities we will continue to follow safe distance & masking measures.

PRAY FOR OUR 11 CONFIRMATION CANDIDATES

Our group, gathering in person since mid-November, includes:

Luke Barnhart... Brooke Betke... Katherine Desrosiers... Kate Hassett... Collin Hellen... Caitlyn Lackie... Isabella Luvera... Julianna Musso... Brady Penet... Sean Scott... & Ashley Weidel.

Food Pantry at St. Patrick's

Diane Hoffman | 518-330-6789

This Christmas, the Pantry distributed **90 baskets** to families in need, which fed **117 children, 33 seniors** and **168 adults** in our community. In addition, 24 families came to the Pantry for assistance in December, including four families who are new to the Pantry.

Your donations make this possible, and the hard work of parish volunteers pulling together when Diane was quarantining because of a COVID exposure ensured that our families had the food & support they needed this Christmas. Thank you for your commitment to those in need.

Would you like to donate? Current needs include toothbrushes, spaghetti sauce and cookies.

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

Currently, the answer is **NO**, so 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

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 

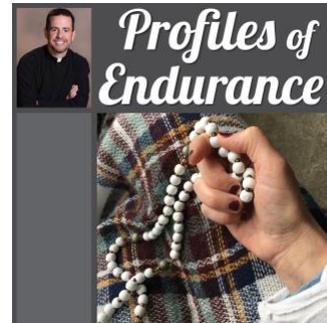
WEEKDAY MASS (On Facebook Live from Our Lady of Victory Parish, Troy)

[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

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)



EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

First Sunday of the month 6:30-7:30 PM at St. Patrick’s

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