



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



July 25 & August 1, 2021 • Edition 40 • Weeks 71 & 72

Keeping us connected during the Coronavirus Pandemic

Fr. Scott's Sharing Spot

Dear Parish Family...

This summer certainly is one I'll never forget. I was caught off guard in June when the Bishop asked me to move to a new assignment. Since then, I've gone through a roller coaster of emotions – as have many of you. I'm relieved to say that God is now giving me a peace that tells me this is all part of a larger plan. The sense in me is growing that I don't need to understand the plan, or to know what comes next, in order to trust God and accept the path before me, even though it wasn't at all what I expected.

Now that the plans are taking shape for my transition, I wanted to share with you a sense of how the next two months may look. Bishop Ed felt it was important for me to officially become the pastor of St. Mary's in Glens Falls on September 1 so that the families with children in the school would have the assurance that they were beginning the school year in good hands. That makes perfect sense. At the same time, we at St. Patrick's and St. Mary's have been planning our annual joint parish picnic to be held on September 12th at the Lodge at Sleepy Hollow Lake. That date seems perfect to us: school will have just begun, families will be getting back into the rhythm of weekly Mass, Faith Formation will be starting soon at both parishes. It would be a wonderful time to give thanks to God for getting us through the worst of the pandemic and have a great big "welcome back to parish life" party. The timing of that now seems *better than ever* that it also marks the conclusion of my six years here and the arrival of Fr. Joe O'Brien.

So our plan remains the same... I have been given the Bishop's blessing to use the month of September as a transitional month. Beginning on September 1, I'll be getting to know the staff, the parishioners and the students and family of St. Mary's in Glens Falls, while at the same time also assisting Fr. Joe and Fr. Jay Atherton (the pastoral leader of our region of the Diocese), who will be working with Fr. Joe to make sure that we are well taken care of, no matter how many or how few priests we have. (I'm not yet sure how those weeks will look for me, but something like "part-time" at both communities.)

On September 11 and 12, we will mark the 20th Anniversary of the event we simply call "September 11," a day of unforgettable shock and loss. Looking back, we see that, as a people, we were traumatized by that event, but not crushed. On that weekend, we will give thanks to God for giving us the resilience to endure through the most shocking national tragedy most of us can ever remember. Also on that weekend, **we will return to our 4-Mass-per-weekend schedule** that we had up until March 15, 2020, when the Pandemic shut us down. Masses will

be Saturday at 4:30 in Ravena; Sunday at 7:30 and 11:30 in Coxsackie and the livestream at 9:30 in Ravena, which is viewed each week by hundreds and often thousands of people throughout the Diocese, our state and many other states as well.

On that weekend, **Fr. Joe and I will concelebrate all the Masses together** as we both mark milestones in our lives. Fr. Joe will celebrate his 30 years of priesthood since his ordination in 1991 and I will give thanks for my first pastorate as a priest and all of you who enriched my life and filled me with joy these past 6 years.

That afternoon we will gather for a **huge parish celebration**. (We will be moving it from its normal location since the Lodge at Sleepy Hollow cannot hold an event as big as this!) There we will celebrate our resilience as a people since 9/11/2001, my 6 years of ministry here, and Fr. Joe's 30 years of service as a priest. That evening I will hand Fr. Joe the keys, pack up my car and make my way to a new chapter of life in Glens Falls.

Now, some may wonder why we are returning to the same Mass schedule we had since 2015, when this could possibly be a good time to change it. The truth is that all of us acknowledge that St. Patrick's has two pretty ideal times for Mass (Saturday evening and smack-dab in the middle of Sunday morning) while St. Mary's has a Sunday morning Mass that is "awfully early" and another that is "awfully late." Why wouldn't it be fairer to switch these up a little?

We looked at the attendance and collection data from over the course of many years in order to determine a Mass schedule that would allow us to share a priest and keep both churches strong. The data showed that St. Mary's strongest Mass for attendance was the late morning Mass, while St. Mary's greatest collection (by a lot) was the early morning Mass. The Saturday afternoon Mass at St. Mary's was a distant third place in both attendance and in collection.

St. Patrick's Saturday Mass was always well attended and also had a strong collection, so it was clear that the Saturday afternoon Mass needed to be in Ravena, for both attendance and for collection reasons. And for decades, the mid-morning Mass in Ravena has aired on TV in five counties and now has a viewership in the thousands on YouTube. We can't change that time without shutting the door on our virtual parishioners, who have been faithful throughout the years, and never more than during the Pandemic. We have to keep an hour between the ending of a Mass and beginning of the next so the priest can greet parishioners and still have time to drive to the next Mass.

So for a complex set of reasons, we have to maintain the schedule that has worked for us since we began sharing a priest between us. We have stayed vibrant, well-attended and have remained "in the black" fiscally during those years. As Coca-Cola learned the hard way in the 80s when they tampered with Coke's winning recipe: *When it's working, you gotta respect it.*

No, it's not perfect, and it definitely is more convenient for one parish than the other, but so much of life is doing the best you can with what you've got to work with. We welcome you to

choose a Mass time that works for you and continue giving to your home parish. E-givers, and envelope users alike can rest assured that we will direct your gift to your parish.

As I said when I announced my new assignment, let's not make this a 3-month funeral. *(Please!)* Let's instead celebrate God's goodness and faithfulness through all the chapters of our lives.

Your grateful pastor...

Fr. Scott 

Schedule

SUNDAY 7/25	9:30 = Public Mass at St. Patrick's (All are welcome!) (also St. Patrick's YouTube channel or Mid-Hudson 901)
MONDAY 7/26	By Noon = New Prayer Service for small groups posted on parish Homepages
TUESDAY 7/27	11:00-12:00 = St. Patrick's Women's Prayer Meeting – Classroom 5 2:00 = Rosary, St. Patrick's (All are welcome!) 5:30 = Confession (St. Mary's) 6:30 = Rosary, St. Mary's (All are welcome!)
WEDNESDAY 7/28	
THURSDAY 7/29	1:00-2:00 = St. Patrick's Men's Prayer Meeting – Classroom 5
FRIDAY 7/30	8:00 = Morning Prayer (St. Mary's)
SATURDAY 7/31	4:30 = Public Mass at St. Mary's (All are welcome!) (also St. Mary's YouTube channel) 5:30 = Anointing Service (After Mass)
SUNDAY 8/1	9:30 = Public Mass at St. Patrick's (All are welcome!) (also St. Patrick's YouTube channel or Mid-Hudson 901) 6:30-7:30 = Eucharistic Adoration (St. Patrick's)
MONDAY 8/2	By Noon = New Prayer Service for small groups posted on parish Homepages
TUESDAY 8/3	11:00-12:00 = St. Patrick's Women's Prayer Meeting – Classroom 5 2:00 = Rosary (St. Patrick's Church) (All are welcome!) 5:30 = Confession (St. Patrick's) 6:30 = Rosary, St. Mary's (All are welcome!)

WEDNESDAY 8/4	
THURSDAY 8/5	1:00-2:00 = St. Patrick's Men's Prayer Meeting – Classroom 5
FRIDAY 8/6	8:00 = Morning Prayer (St. Mary's)
SATURDAY 8/7	4:30 = Public Mass at St. Mary's (All are welcome!) (also St. Mary's YouTube channel)
SUNDAY 8/8	9:30 = Public Mass at St. Patrick's (All are welcome!) (also St. Patrick's YouTube channel or Mid-Hudson 901)

Opportunities For You – To Serve/Pray/Grow

SAVE THE DATE: OPEN HOUSE AT RED'S RESTAURANT **1-4 SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 12**

Stop in to welcome Fr. Joe and congratulate him on his 30 years as a priest, and bid farewell to Fr. Scott who is leaving after 6 years as our pastor. Refreshments being served.

MONTHLY CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC MASS – 2nd WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH

All are welcome on **Wednesday, August 14** at 7:00 PM for prayer & praise followed by a 7:30 liturgy at **Christ Our Light Church** (1 Maria Drive, Loudonville, NY 12211). AlbanyCCR.org

THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS - RAVENA

The Knights of Columbus - Ravenna will be resuming HOSPITALITY starting after Mass on **Sunday, August 8**. Hospitality will be held thereafter on the **FIRST SUNDAY** after the **FIRST MONDAY**

COVID-19 PAYMENT ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE FROM NATIONAL GRID

It's not too late to act. If you are behind on your bill, help is available to get you back on track and maintain your service. Specialists are available to help you set up a payment plan and connect you with resources should you need them. Learn more at ngrid.com/billhelp or call 1-800-443-1837

HEAP GRANTS EXTENDED THROUGH AUGUST

There's still time to apply for a Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) grant. Funds are available for those who qualify until August 31, 2021 or until they run out. Learn more at ngrid.com/billhelp under Grant Programs.

Food Pantry at St. Patrick's

Diane Hoffman | 518-330-6789

We are in need of the following:

Vegetable Soup, Chicken Noodle Soup, Cookies, Lunch Box Snacks, Snack Crackers, and Popcorn

Thank you to all that support the Food Pantry with your food and monetary donations!

Food Pantry is Open **Tuesdays & Fridays 10–11 AM** and **Wednesdays 6–7 PM**.

Come visit **Thursdays from 1:00 – 3:00 PM** or **Saturday mornings from 9:00 – Noon.**

Needed volunteers to work on Saturdays from 9:00 – Noon.

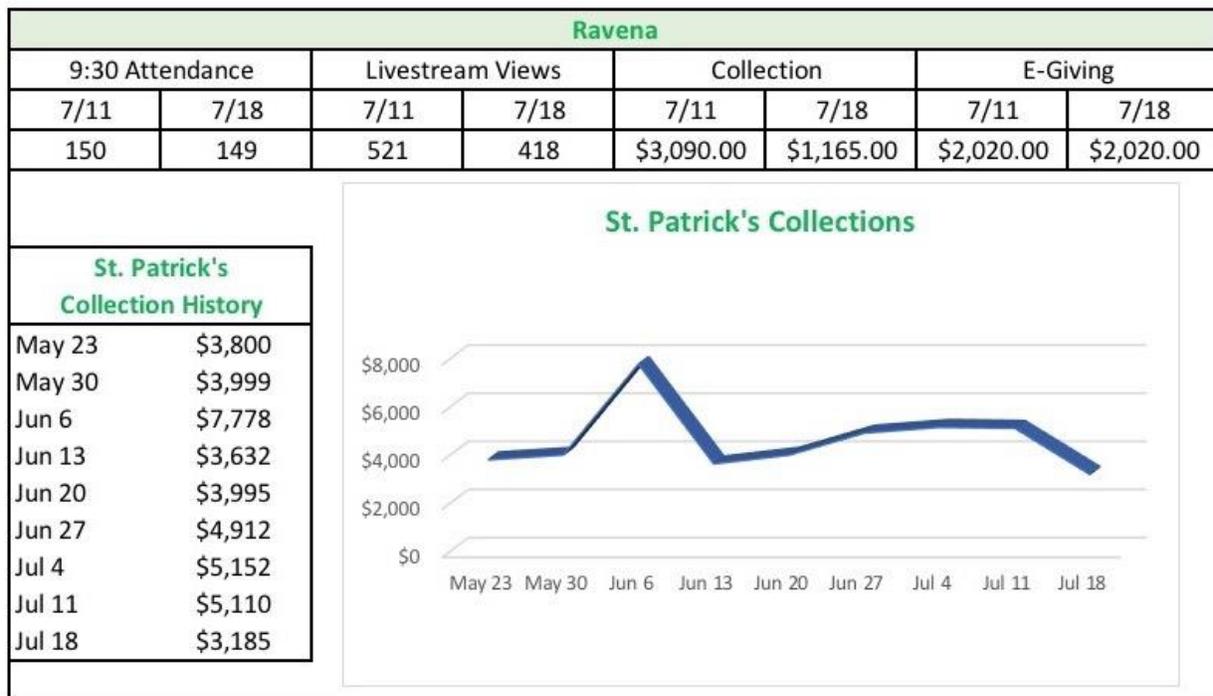
2021 PETER'S PENCE COLLECTION FOR THE HOLY FATHER

Our second collection next week will be for Peter's Pence which unites us and Catholics around the world more closely with the Holy Father in two ways: it supports the structures of the Holy See through which the Pope governs the Church as well as his charitable efforts to assist victims of war, oppression, natural disasters, and others most in need.

The Collection enables the Holy Father to support victims of poverty, disaster, war and oppression with immediate emergency assistance to the most disadvantaged throughout the world. He cannot care for these people without your assistance.

The theme for this year's collection, **BE A WITNESS of CHARITY**, gives us an opportunity to become an active witness of charity around the world; to show the world that a little mercy makes the world less cold and more just.

Please help by giving to the collection on July 24/25, 2021



Coxsackie							
4:30 Attendance		Collection		E-Giving		R & R	
7/10	7/17	7/10	7/17	7/10	7/17	7/10	7/17
130	138	\$3,370.00	\$3,170.00	\$2,970.00	\$2,970.00	\$445.00	\$221.00

St. Mary's Collection History	
May 22	\$4,364
May 29	\$4,861
Jun 5	\$5,189
Jun 12	\$6,369
Jun 19	\$4,575
Jun 26	\$6,492
Jul 3	\$4,477
Jul 10	\$6,785
Jul 17	\$6,361

Youth & Faith Formation of St. Mary's **Bob Desrosiers | 518-731-9268**

IS GOD CALLING YOU TO BE A WITNESS OF THE FAITH TO OUR CHILDREN OR TEENS?

Bob sent out registration forms in mid-June by snail mail and some by email (as needed). Also in the near future, there will be an interactive registration capability on our new Website (more to come on that).

WITH THE NEW FAITH FORMATION YEAR COMES NEW NEEDS:

We need Help!!! We need Volunteers to come forward to serve as Catechists for the following grades: 5, 8, and 9. *Without catechists we face the possibility of not being able to offer FF in those grades.* Please pray intently and see if this is something God is calling you to give your time, talent and treasure to. This year's schedule will call for about 10-12 sessions as opposed to 20+ sessions in the past. Please contact Bob at stmaryffo@aol.com or by phone at 518 731-9268.

CHILDREN'S LECTIONARY PROGRAM:

We hope to resume the Children's Lectionary Program in September at the 11:30 AM Mass. Since the last Mass that we were able to have the program, we have lost almost all of our Teen Catechists to graduation! Right now we have two teams; it works best with 4 or 5 so that each team facilitates about once a month. If there are any youth (7th grade or higher) who wishes to serve the church in this capacity, please let Bob know. The goal is to resume the program with a full complement of teams by mid-September.

COFFEE HOUR AT ST. MARY'S

Coffee Hour has been a vibrant post Mass fellowship time for more than 3 decades. We would like to resume this great community builder in September. In the nearly year and a half hiatus due to COVID restrictions, we have lost more than half of our original 6 teams and our Coordinator. Patty McCarroll has coordinated the recruiting and scheduling for Coffee Hour for more than 3 decades!! Patty has done a tremendous service to our Church Community: Thank You Patty!!! Thankfully she will remain as a set-up person for one of the teams. Before COVID, we had 5 Coffee Hour Teams. A team consists of a Set-up person and two (2) persons to facilitate serving after each Mass (5 total). The two serving the 11:30 Mass also clean-up (which is minimal). Right now we have one full team and Patty as a Set-up person for another team. In order to resume, we need an overall coordinator, 3 volunteers to be the set-up person for 3 different teams and 16 team volunteers to serve as servers after Mass. We won't resume Coffee Hour until all 5 teams are intact. If you feel called to serve our church in this ministry, please contact Bob at 518 731-9268 or stmaryffo@aol.com.

'YOU ARE THE CHURCH - and THE CHURCH NEEDS YOU!'

As Fr. Scott noted in his "Sharing Spot" we will be returning to the pre COVID four mass weekend schedule the weekend of September 11/12. We are also phasing in the return of practices such as parishioners bringing up the offertory gifts and taking up the collection. In order to fully implement these and other practices **we need volunteers**. If you are interested in being a lector, eucharistic minister, altar server or usher/greeter call either of the offices to express your interest. Training will be provided for each of these ministries.

Connecting with the Parishes

Online | Phone | E-Mail

WEEKEND MASSES:

4:30 PM Saturday at St. Mary's

4:30 PM on **St. Mary's YouTube channel** (also on-demand)

[Click here](#) and then please subscribe

9:30 AM Sunday at St. Patrick's

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)

• *Beginning on September 11/12, 2021* •

4:30 PM Saturday at St. Patrick's

7:30 AM Sunday at St. Mary's

9:30 AM Sunday at St. Patrick's

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)

11:30 AM Sunday at St. Mary's

11:30 AM on **St. Mary's YouTube channel** (also on-demand)
[Click here](#) and then please subscribe

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

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[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

MORNING PRAYER (Following the LITURGY OF THE HOURS)

Friday mornings at 8:00 at St. Mary's

WOMEN'S TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM on Tuesdays at St. Patrick's in classroom 5 of the school

MEN'S THURSDAY BIBLE STUDY

1:00 - 2:00 PM on Thursdays at St. Patrick's in classroom 5 of the school