



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

Mar 6 & Mar 13, 2022 • Edition 56 • Weeks 103 & 104



A Word (or Two) From Fr. Joe

Dear Parish Family, both near and far,

Thank you for your response to our revised COVID protocols! I want to thank our Re-opening Committee and our parish Council leadership for helping to shape our response as New York State, local health departments and the CDC revised their guidance to our communities. And I especially want to thank the people of our St. Mary's and St. Patrick's parishes for their support and their feedback during this most challenging period. Let us pray that the situation continues to improve and people will enjoy some safety and peace of mind.

Thank you to everyone who hosted coffee hours at St. Mary's and at St. Patrick's on Sunday. People had a wonderful time! Looking forward to more of these gatherings in the future!

Lent has begun! I saw so many of you throughout the day, Ash Wednesday. It seemed as if the whole world paused to mark the beginning of Lent. With everything going on like the unfolding story of war and violence in Ukraine, COVID remaining with us, Winter giving way to Spring, there's a lot for us to read/watch/hear. As is so often the case, these days are busy days, too.

Noise! So much of our life is full of noise! Sounds of cars driving by. The train as it passes through town. The ding of your phone as it receives a text or an email. Another phone call to sell you a warranty for your car. One more disturbing news story or loud commercial. Finding silence can be a challenge. Lent gives us the opportunity to lean right into the silence that is needed in this season of mercy, purification and renewal.

The silence of the season can help us recall times in our own lives when we have put the Lord to the test by putting our own desires first or by ignoring the Lord's promptings in our lives or by neglecting our relationship with the Lord and our neighbor.

Lent is a time when we can slow down our busy lives to be better able to see God working in and through us. When faced with temptation or trial, we can call out "Be with me, Lord!" Ps. 91 We place our trust in the Lord who will answer. God responds to faith.

Enter into the silence and embrace Lent. Commit to the three great traditions of Lent: Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving. It was in the purifying silence of the desert that Jesus experienced the love and mercy of the Father. In the temptations Jesus faced, he came to see that he clearly had a mission for the world. Let the strength of our Lenten commitment renew us in the knowledge that what the world offers is nothing compared to God's promise of mercy and love.

Blessings, Fr. Joe O'Brien

PS Recently, we've received gifts from parishioners to 'make up their offertory' for times they have been away because of COVID. Others have made their Diocesan Appeal gift. Support of the offertory and the Diocesan Appeal help us a great deal. It's been a long Winter! Thank you!

Schedule

SUNDAY 3/6	<p>7:30 Mass at St. Mary's (All are welcome!)</p> <p>9:30 Mass at St. Patrick's (All are welcome!) (also St. Patrick's YouTube channel or Mid-Hudson 901)</p> <p>11:30 Mass at St. Mary's (All are welcome!) (also St. Mary's YouTube channel)</p> <p>6:30 Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at St. Patrick's (All are welcome!)</p>
MONDAY 3/7	<p>8:00 Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, St. Mary's</p> <p>By Noon New Prayer Service for small groups posted on parish homepages</p>
TUESDAY 3/8	<p>8:00 Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, St. Mary's</p> <p>8:30 Weekday Mass at St. Patrick's</p> <p>Rosary following Weekday Mass, St. Patrick's (All are welcome!)</p> <p>11:00 Women's Bible Study St. Patrick's – Classroom 5</p> <p>4:30 – 7:00 Reconciliation, St. Patrick's</p> <p>6:30 Rosary, St. Mary's (All are welcome!)</p> <p>7:00 Prayer and Worship, St. Patrick's</p>
WEDNESDAY 3/9	<p>8:00 Weekday Mass at St. Mary's</p> <p>8:30 Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, St. Patrick's</p>
THURSDAY 3/10	<p>8:30 Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, St. Patrick's</p> <p>1:00-2:00 St. Patrick's Men's Prayer Meeting – Classroom 5</p>
FRIDAY 3/11	<p>8:00 Morning Prayer (St. Mary's)</p> <p>6:00 Stations of the Cross St. Mary's</p> <p>6:00 Stations of the Cross St. Patrick's (also St. Patrick's YouTube channel or Mid-Hudson 901)</p>
SATURDAY 3/12	<p>4:30 Mass at St. Patrick's (All are welcome!)</p>
SUNDAY 3/13	<p>7:30 Mass at St. Mary's (All are welcome!)</p> <p>9:30 Mass at St. Patrick's (All are welcome!) (also St. Patrick's YouTube channel or Mid-Hudson 901)</p> <p>11:30 Mass at St. Mary's (All are welcome!) (also St. Mary's YouTube channel)</p>
MONDAY 3/14	<p>8:00 Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, St. Mary's</p> <p>By Noon New Prayer Service for small groups posted on parish homepages</p>
TUESDAY 3/15	<p>8:00 Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, St. Mary's</p> <p>8:30 Weekday Mass at St. Patrick's</p> <p>Rosary following Weekday Mass, St. Patrick's (All are welcome!)</p> <p>11:00 Women's Bible Study St. Patrick's – Classroom 5</p> <p>4:30 – 7:00 Reconciliation, St. Mary's</p> <p>6:30 Rosary, St. Mary's (All are welcome!)</p>

WEDNESDAY 3/16	8:00 Weekday Mass at St. Mary's 8:30 Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, St. Patrick's
THURSDAY 3/17	8:30 Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, St. Patrick's 1:00-2:00 St. Patrick's Men's Prayer Meeting – Classroom 5
FRIDAY 3/18	8:00 Morning Prayer (St. Mary's) 6:00 Stations of the Cross St. Mary's 6:00 Stations of the Cross St. Patrick's (also St. Patrick's YouTube channel or Mid-Hudson 901)
SATURDAY 3/19	4:30 Mass at St. Patrick's (All are welcome!)
SUNDAY 3/20	7:30 Mass at St. Mary's (All are welcome!) 9:30 Mass at St. Patrick's (All are welcome!) (also St. Patrick's YouTube channel or Mid-Hudson 901) 11:30 Mass at St. Mary's (All are welcome!) (also St. Mary's YouTube channel)

Please Note: When RCS or CA schools are closed or delayed due to bad weather the respective Churches will not have Mass or prayer and the respective Parish Office will be closed.

Opportunities For You – To Serve/Pray/Grow

Fasting and Abstinence: Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are obligatory days of fasting and abstinence for Catholics. Fridays during Lent are obligatory days of abstinence.

For Catholics, the norms on fasting are obligatory from age 18 until age 59. When fasting, a person is permitted to eat one full meal, as well as two smaller meals that together are not equal to a full meal. The norms concerning abstinence from meat are binding upon members of the Catholic Church from age 14 onwards.

[CRS Rice Bowl](#) is one way Catholics can enhance their Lenten fasting practice by giving up meals and donating the cost of those meals to [Catholic Relief Services](#) in order to help those who do not have enough to eat.

What is a CRS Rice Bowl? CRS Rice Bowl is a simple cardboard box for collecting Lenten alms—and comes with a [Lenten calendar](#) that guides families through the 40 days of Lent with activities, reflections and stories.

CRS Rice Bowl is the Lenten program of Catholic Relief Services, the official relief and development agency of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. Lenten alms donated through CRS Rice Bowl support the work of CRS in more than 100 different countries each year. Twenty-five percent of donations to CRS Rice Bowl stay in the local diocese, supporting hunger and poverty alleviation efforts. Since its inception in 1975, CRS Rice Bowl has raised nearly \$300 million.

There is a supply of rice bowls at the entrance to the Church. Rice Bowls are to be returned to the Church at the end of Lent.

Opportunities to Pray, Worship and Reflect During Lent. Check out our Schedule for Lenten opportunities. In addition to our masses, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Stations of The Cross weekly, there are expanded opportunities for reconciliation. Watch the Schedule for more events and activities as we journey through Lent.

St. Mary's Altar Server Training: There is training for new servers and a refresher for current servers on Sunday March 20 at 10:15 AM with Deacon Mike in the Church. If your child/youth is interested in learning more, please contact Bob Desrosiers at stmaryffo@aol.com or 518 731-9268.

Figure 1. Our helpers for Catholic Charities Food Distribution at RCS. Thank you all for your help!



Greene County Department of Human Services is desperately looking for volunteer drivers to assist Homebound Senior Citizens by delivering meals and/or provide transportation to medical appointments. Volunteers advise the days and/or times available and the Department schedules appropriately. Contact Ruth Pforte, Greene County RSVP Volunteer Coordinator 518-719-3555

Calling Potential Choir Members! St. Mary's and St. Patrick's choirs are looking for members to help with their music ministry. Did you know along with the social benefits of joining a choir there are several health benefits too? Singing releases endorphins which reduce stress and anxiety levels and also lifts your mood! Some studies even indicate regular singing can increase life expectancy due to beneficial effects on lungs and breathing. Lastly, many of us have heard that singing is like praying twice! If you enjoy singing and wish to dedicate yourself to our parish music ministry through regular or seasonal attendance at rehearsal please reach out.

St. Mary's - Music Director Lisa D'Arcangelis, (518) 567-3620 ldarc55@gmail.com
Sunday Masses at 7:30am and 11:30am Rehearsals Thursdays from 6:30 to 7:45pm

St. Patrick's - Pastoral Associate for Music and Liturgy, John Vasto, (518)756-3145 x 104,
tcospmusic@icloud.com Sunday Mass at 9:30am Rehearsals Wednesdays from 6:30 to 8:00pm



HELP WANTED! The St Patrick's Video Camera Ministry needs volunteers to operate the camera for Masses. No special skill necessary. You will be trained. Confirmation Candidates are especially encouraged. If interested, call the St. Pat's Rectory or Bill Horton directly at 518 768-2693.

COFFEE HOUR AFTER MASSES AT ST. MARY'S

We restarted Coffee Hour after two years away due to COVID. We had about 25 come and share coffee, donuts and fellowship after each Mass. Those participating showed lots of excitement to have coffee hour back! Would you like to see this ministry back each week? If you feel called to serve our church in this ministry, please contact Bob Desrosiers at 518 731-9268 or stmaryffo@aol.com. We'd love to hear from you.

Greene County Youth Bureau Seeks Nominations for **2022 Youth of the Year Award**

The Greene County Children, Youth & Community Advisory Board is sponsoring the annual Greene County Youth Awards (Youth of the Year, Chairman's Choice, and Director's Choice). These awards recognize achievements of Greene County youth who have made outstanding contributions in serving his/her community through leadership, knowledge, skill and/or service. If you know a young person, in Grade 9 -12, who deserves this recognition, you can find a nomination form available on our web site: <https://www.greenegovernment.com/departments/human-services/youth> or you can contact the Greene County Department of Human Services at (518) 719-3555. Any inquiries for further information may also be directed to the department. Deadline for entries is **March 31, 2022.**

Albany Diocesan Cemeteries Announce Spring Clean up General Clean up for cemeteries will begin on **Friday, April 1, 2022.** Lot owners are requested to remove any non-Spring seasonal decorations they wish to save before April 1.

Fresh cut flowers in an approved vase are always permitted provided they are in good condition. All other Fall/Winter decorations will be removed during the cleanup. The cleanup of all cemeteries takes some time, and depending on weather and the number of burials, may take a week to complete. During the cleanups, cemetery staff removes and discards all items from graves.

Groundskeepers are instructed to leave any permitted new seasonal decoration that appears to be newly placed and is in accordance with the current Cemetery Rules and Regulations. Of course, this is a judgment call for our staff, so it is better to wait until after the cleanup to place decorations. Items placed in violation of cemetery rules and regulations or in disrepair may be removed and discarded at any time.

[Read more](#) information regarding our cemeteries decoration regulations. *Thank you for helping to keep our cemeteries beautiful!*

Pyramid Life Center Youth and Family Activities

Pyramid Life Center's youth and family ministry is committed to provide quality extended event programming that facilitates a deeper experience of faith for young people and families. Recent research shows that extended time away from daily life for young people and families is an important component for developing life-long faith. In addition to Breakaway, we offer Mom's Camp, Dad's Camp, F.O.A.M (family service weekend) and a Family Retreat in October. To see a full listing of our programs please visit www.pyramidlife.org.

Food Pantry at St. Patrick's Ravena**Diane Hoffman | 518-330-6789**

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.

Food Pantry, Coxsackie**Lorraine Camurati | 917-572-3300**

Coxsackie's Food Pantry hours are Tuesday afternoons 1 - 2 pm, Thursday nights, 7 - 8 pm and Saturday mornings 10 - 11 am. The food pantry is located at 117 Mansion Street in the D.M. Hamilton Steamer #2 Fire Station, next to McQuade Park.

Thrift Shop at St. Patrick's**Mary Ann McCool | 518-756-9184**

The Thrift Shop reopens Thursday, March 3rd. Join us for spring shopping.

Faith Formation of St. Patrick's**Christa Desrosiers | 518-756-3145**

Please pray for our students who will be making their First Reconciliation on **March 8th**, during the normal time for Tuesday Reconciliation. Please also note, there are 13 of them, so if you are a regular attendee, it may be a few minutes wait on that date.

Youth & Faith Formation of St. Mary's**Bob Desrosiers | 518-731-9268****FAITH FORMATION 2022:**

Faith Formation is quickly coming to an end in late March (except for first Communion and Confirmation). Bob is already looking at the fall. We will need a number of Catechists for the Fall for Grades 5,6,7,8, and 10. Let's pray and discern if you can assist in this vital program for our youth. Let Bob Desrosiers know at stmaryffo@aol.com.

Grade 10/Confirmation Group: The Group will gather with the St. Patrick's Group on **Sunday March 6 from 6-8 pm in at St. Patrick's in Ravena** for a mid-winter Youth Rally. The 9th graders of each church will also be participating. There will be ice-breakers, music, games, a talk and a service project.

March 11: our Confirmation Group will lead the Stations of the Cross at 6 pm.



Diocesan Appeal 2021 – 2022

July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022

Come Holy Spirit

Help us meet our goal! 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** or donate on-line here: [Diocesan Appeal](https://thediocesanappeal.org/donate/) or type the following: <https://thediocesanappeal.org/donate/>

To date: St. Mary's has raised \$24,418 in pledges and gifts towards its goal of \$46,975.

To be raised: \$22,557.

St. Patrick's has raised \$31,488 in pledges and gifts towards its goal of \$42,089.

To be raised: \$10,401.

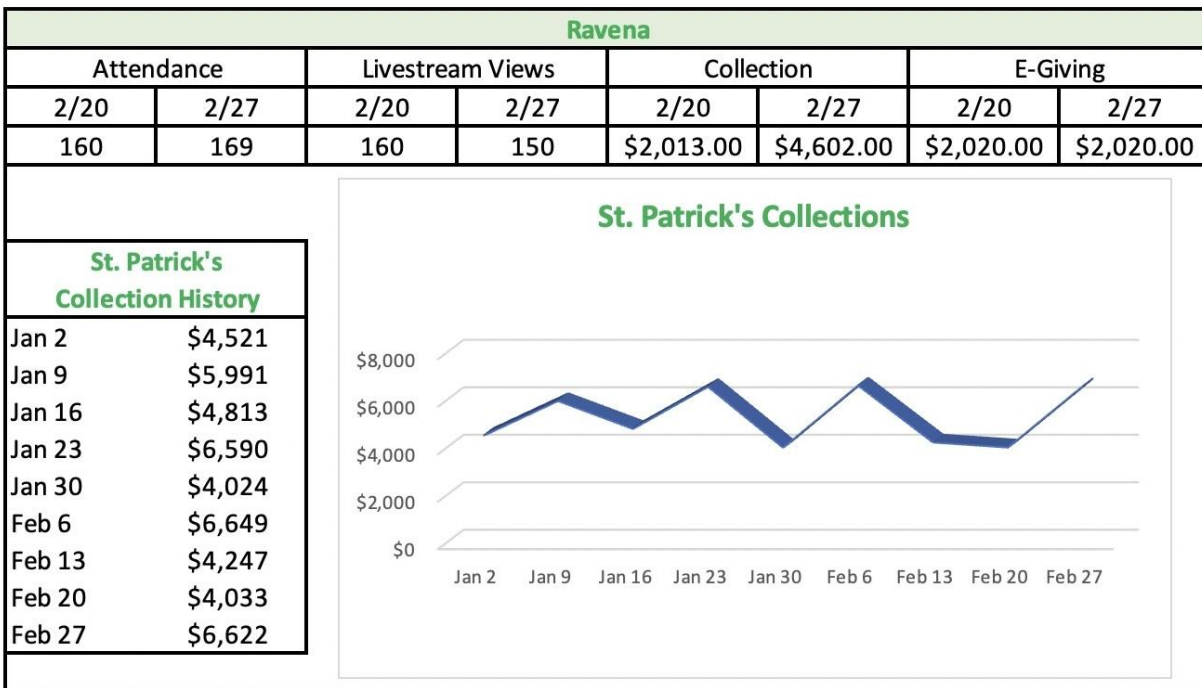
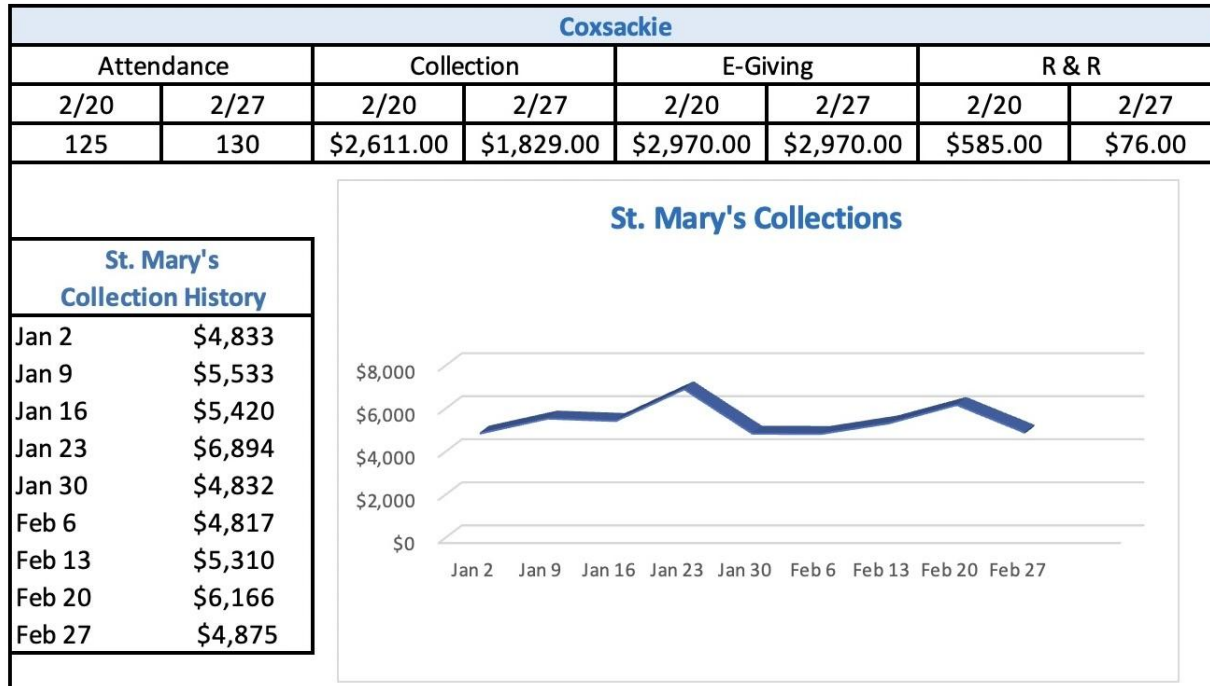
Use Your IRA to Support Your Parish: As we begin a new year it's good practice to look ahead and formulate a plan for our finances. For parishioners with Individual Retirement Accounts (IRA), there is an option available to you that permits you to support your parish and enjoy a tax benefit.

At age 72 Individual Retirement Account (IRA) owners must withdraw an annual required minimum distribution (RMD) from their accounts. These withdrawals are normally taxable pushing people into a higher tax bracket.

Did you know you can make a Qualified Charitable Donation (QCD) to a registered non-profit using the funds from your RMD? Your Catholic Parishes are considered non-profits. QCDs are generally not considered taxable income and do count toward fulfilling your annual RMD. QCDs must be paid directly from your IRA to the charity of your choice. You can benefit regardless of whether you itemize or take the standard deduction. Consult with your financial advisor for any questions you may have.

St. Mary's of Coxsackie EIN: 14-1464470

St. Patrick's of Ravena EIN: 14-1341164

Collections & E-Giving**E-Mail Dawn Brownson parishbusinessmanager@gmail.com****ENVELOPES ARE GREAT, BUT E-GIVING HELPS YOUR PARISH MORE**Try it risk free and change your mind at any time: [Click Here](#)

Connecting with the Parishes

Online | Phone | E-Mail

WEEKEND MASSES:

4:30 pm Saturday Mass at St. Patrick's (All are welcome)
7:30 am Sunday Mass at St. Mary's (All are welcome!)
9:30 am Sunday Mass at St. Patrick's (All are welcome!)
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 Mass at St. Mary's (All are welcome!)
11:30 am on **St. Mary's YouTube** channel (also on-demand)
[Click here](#) and then please subscribe

WEEKDAY MASS (Except for Holy Days)

St. Patrick's Tuesday 8:30 am
St. Mary's Wednesday 8 am

FR. JOE'S YOUTUBE CHANNEL FOR HOMILIES AND MESSAGES:

[Click here](#) and then please hit

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St. Patrick's Office: 518-756 -3145
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st.mary's
st. patrick's.

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

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 am - 12 pm on Tuesdays at St. Patrick's in classroom 5 of the school

MEN'S THURSDAY BIBLE STUDY

1 – 2 pm on Thursdays at St. Patrick's in classroom 5 of the school