



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

Mar 20 & Mar 27, 2022 • Edition 57 • Weeks 105 & 106



A Word (or Two) From Fr. Joe

Dear Parish Family, both near and far,

After consulting with members of our Re-Opening Committee, we implemented some revisions to our COVID protocols at last weekend's Masses. At both St. Mary's and St. Patrick's, the number of pews reserved for distanced seating has been reduced in response to the level of demand. Also, we reintroduced the communion procession for both sides of the church. We are asking everyone now to process to the front of the church by way of the main aisle to receive the Body of Christ and return to their pew using the side aisle.

There is some Building and Grounds related news I'd like to share with you. At St. Mary's, one of our stations of the cross has begun to lean forward, away from the church wall. Cracks are visible in the base of the station. Members of St. Mary's Building and Grounds Committee reviewed the problem. We have contracted D'Ambrosio Arts to repair the problem. D'Ambrosio was the contractor who refurbished the stations when Fr. John Moyna and the community renovated the church in the early 2000's. The station will be removed temporarily while the repair is going on. At St. Patrick's, the school's condensation pump and holding tank needs to be replaced to support operation of the heating system. Members of St. Patrick's Building and Grounds met with contractors to review the scope of the work to be completed. Taub Heating and Plumbing was the successful bidder and the work will begin soon.

Many parishioners have asked me if there will be a collection to support our sisters and brothers in Ukraine. Both of our parishes will take a collection on the weekend of April 2nd and 3rd with proceeds supporting the work of Catholic Relief Services in Ukraine. One of our diocesan foundations, the Diocesan Investment and Loan Trust will add a \$50,000 matching gift to funds raised in our diocese. Our two parish offices recently mailed a letter to parishioners which included a schedule of worship times and activities for Lent, Holy Week and Easter for your reference. We also included some self-addressed church envelopes for your convenience. If you have not received your letter, copies are available by our church entrances this weekend.

Michelle Sisak is hosting her Icon Painting and Prayer retreat in our parishes on the weeks of March 28th (St. Mary's) and April 4th (St. Patrick's). Participants will paint an icon. In response to requests, she has extended her day and will be available from 9 am to 9 pm to work with folks as they are available. Her retreats are open in each parish to the first 12 people who register. There is a \$50 fee for materials. Please contact your parish office for more information.

Parishioners often seek out opportunities for the Sacrament of Reconciliation during Lent. In our region, the local parish priests are offering a 24 hour opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation at St. Mary's Church in Hudson beginning at 8 am on Friday, April 8th and concluding at 8 am on Friday, April 9th. At St. Mary's and St. Patrick's, Reconciliation is offered throughout the year on Tuesdays from 5:30 to 6:30 pm alternating between our two parish sites. During Lent, however, the Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available on Lenten Tuesdays from 4:30 to 7 pm. I will also be available for Reconciliation by appointment.

A lot of news on different topics... Continue on your Lenten journeys! Blessings, Fr. Joe

Schedule

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)
MONDAY 3/21	8:00 Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, St. Mary's By Noon New Prayer Service for small groups posted on parish homepages
TUESDAY 3/22	8:00 Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, St. Mary's 8:30 Weekday Mass at St. Patrick's Rosary following Weekday Mass, St. Patrick's (All are welcome!) 11:00 Women's Bible Study St. Patrick's – Classroom 5 4:30 – 7:00 Reconciliation, St. Patrick's 6:30 Rosary, St. Mary's (All are welcome!) 7:00 Pastoral Council, St. Patrick's
WEDNESDAY 3/23	8:00 Weekday Mass at St. Mary's 8:30 Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, St. Patrick's
THURSDAY 3/24	8:30 Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, St. Patrick's 1:00-2:00 St. Patrick's Men's Prayer Meeting – Classroom 5
FRIDAY 3/25	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 3/26	4:30 Mass at St. Patrick's (All are welcome!)
SUNDAY 3/27	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)
MONDAY 3/28	8:00 Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, St. Mary's By Noon New Prayer Service for small groups posted on parish homepages
TUESDAY 3/29	8:00 Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, St. Mary's 8:30 Weekday Mass at St. Patrick's Rosary following Weekday Mass, St. Patrick's (All are welcome!) 11:00 Women's Bible Study St. Patrick's – Classroom 5 4:30 – 7:00 Reconciliation, St. Mary's 6:30 Rosary, St. Mary's (All are welcome!)

WEDNESDAY 3/30	8:00 Weekday Mass at St. Mary's 8:30 Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, St. Patrick's
THURSDAY 3/31	8:30 Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, St. Patrick's 1:00-2:00 St. Patrick's Men's Prayer Meeting – Classroom 5
FRIDAY 4/1	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 4/2	4:30 Mass at St. Patrick's (All are welcome!)
SUNDAY 4/3	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) 6:30 Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at St. Patrick's (All are welcome!)

An Invitation from Bishop Scharfenberger

It has been my joy and pleasure each year to recommend to you, your family, parishioners, and loved ones, a wonderful path to renewed trust in God's mercy, which has touched my heart deeply: an Act of Consecration to the Divine Mercy of Jesus.

May I invite you to share this experience with me, which will culminate in a celebration of **Divine Mercy Sunday, April 24, 2022, at 11:00 am in our Cathedral?** If you prefer, you could also lead the Consecration with those in your care at the weekend Masses.

Beginning on **Tuesday, March 22, 2022**, you and those who would be interested can enter into easy-to-follow daily prayer and reflection opportunities. It is called **33 Days to Merciful Love**. In this book, inspired by the writings of St. Therese of Lisieux, Fr. Michael E. Gaitley leads us step-by-step to the Consecration. For all of the resources you need, please visit rcda.org/DivineMercyConsecration.

Opportunities For You – To Serve/Pray/Grow

[CRS Rice Bowl](#) is one way Catholics can practice their Lenten fasting 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.

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.*

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.



St. Patrick's is looking for volunteers to take Communion to our homebound parishioners. Once a month, on 1st Wednesday, groups of two each bring Communion and visit with the homebound. This is a very rewarding ministry for it provides Communion and fellowship to people who otherwise see very few people. Please consider being a part of this ministry. We would be able to add people to our list to visit. If you are interested or have questions please call Michelle Fralick at the rectory (on Wednesday) at 518-756-3145 or home at 518-756-9779.

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 have resumed Coffee Hour after two year hiatus due to COVID!! We still need an overall coordinator and 6 other volunteers to maintain 5 Coffee Hour Teams. With 5 teams, each team will serve about once a month or so. With enough volunteers, we can offer coffee hour weekly. If you feel called to serve, please contact Bob Desrosiers at 518 731-9268 or stmaryffo@aol.com.

Please save this date

Spring will be sprung. **Festival of Baskets May 1st 1:00 – 4:00 pm** St. Patrick's Parish Center

Get on your thinking caps. Pick a theme. Buy items to put in Basket/Container. Wrap it in clear plastic wrap.

Lots of fun for all ages.

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!*

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

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

(Could you volunteer on Saturdays from 9:00 – Noon? We could use your help.)

Faith Formation of St. Patrick's

Christa Desrosiers | 518-756-3145

We only have a few more weeks of Faith Formation for this year - it went so quickly! March 20th, 27th, and April 3rd are the last dates for normal 10:30-11:45 am K-8 class sessions - *but* - we hope to see all of the youth at either April 2nd or 3rd or Palm Sunday weekend Masses to take part in the procession. Details will be given to students as we get closer.

2nd and 10th Grades always have a bit of a different schedule - catechists will keep them updated and reminded about their additional events/activities.

FOR BOTH PARISHES:

We have had great success providing a meal once a month to the overnight shelter in Albany. They need coverage on 5 additional nights - March 30th and 31st, April 1st, 21st, 23rd. Please contact Christa Desrosiers (derobccr@gmail.com) if you would like to pick up one of these meals!

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 1st Communion and Confirmation). Bob is already looking at the fall. We will have some Catechist positions to fill in the Fall- Grades 5,6,7,8, and 10. So I ask all to please pray and discern whether you can assist in this program for our children and youth and let Bob Desrosiers know at stmaryffo@aol.com.

Grade 10/Confirmation Group: Thanks to all who participated in the High School Youth Rally with the St. Patrick's Group on **Sunday March 6th in Ravenna**. It appeared that all enjoyed themselves (the Adults did!) Thanks to Christa, Therese and Katherine Desrosiers for planning the event, to Tina Hotaling (Ravenna), Colleen Lynch, Seth Mann and John Moreton for "supervising" the event and to Lauren Borosky for a wonderful testimony on her faith journey that is leading her to profess her vocation as a Sister in a religious community. The Blessing Bag Service Project was a great success. Additional thanks to our Confirmation Group who led the Stations of the Cross on March 11th.

Second Grade Sacramental Preparation will culminate in the **Jesus Festival on Saturday April 9th at 10 am** in the Church. Deacon Mike will be on hand to do a tour of the Church and the story behind many of the statues and other items in the church. Bob Desrosiers will also do a walk through for the First Communicants Mass on **May 15th**.



Help us meet our goal! Thank you to all of you who have contributed to the Diocesan Appeal Campaign this year. The Campaign runs through June 30th but we would like to meet our goals well before the end of the fiscal year. Additionally, the Campaign is once again considered an assessment to the parish meaning that the parish needs to make up any shortfall from operating funds. And reserves

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. There are preprinted envelopes in the back of the church. Or if you prefer donate on-line here: [Diocesan Appeal](https://thediocesanappeal.org/donate/) or type the following: <https://thediocesanappeal.org/donate/>**

St. Mary's has raised \$26,343 in pledges and gifts towards its goal of \$46,975. To be raised: \$20,632.
St. Patrick's has raised \$32,893 in pledges and gifts towards its goal of \$42,089. To be raised: \$9,196.

Use Your IRA to Support Your Parish: 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 Ravenna EIN: 14-1341164

Collections & E-Giving E-Mail Dawn Brownson parishbusinessmanager@gmail.com

Annual Collection for Catholic Relief Services

The weekend of March 26-27 we take up The Catholic Relief Services Collection to reveal Christ’s love to our brothers and sisters in need. Please prayerfully consider how you can support the collection. Learn more about the collection at www.usccb.org/catholic-relief.

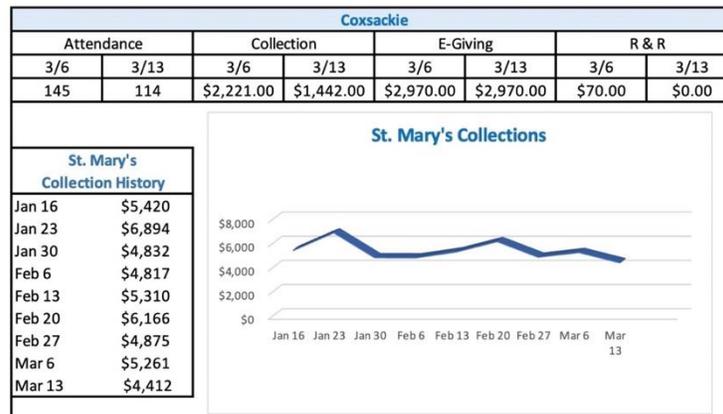
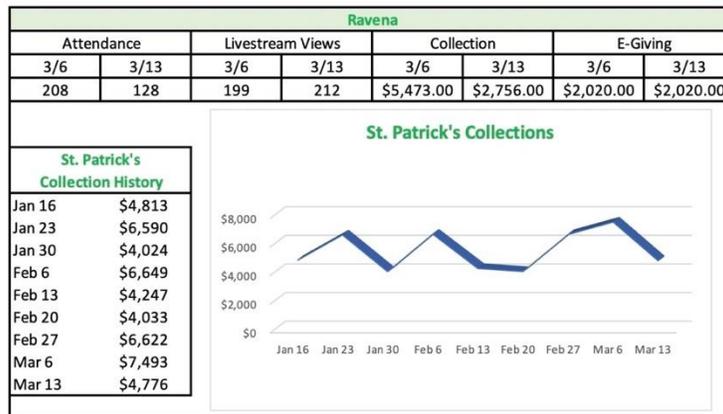
Collection to Benefit the Ukraine

St. Mary's and St. Patrick's Parishes will be holding a second collection to benefit Ukrainian relief efforts the weekend of April 2-3. These funds will be forwarded to Catholic Charities as part of a challenge match offered by the Diocesan Investment and Loan Trust.

In a move to address the increasing humanitarian crisis in Ukraine, **the Diocesan Investment and Loan Trust (DILT) in Albany will make a \$50,000 donation to Catholic Relief Services (CRS)**, which is accepting financial contributions to provide shelter, hot meals, and transportation for Ukrainian refugees seeking to move to safe areas.

In addition, DILT has invited individuals, Catholic parishes, and other faith-based groups in the Capital Region to take part in a Christian challenge to support relief efforts. **DILT will match donations up to \$50,000, making their potential donation to Ukrainian humanitarian relief \$100,000.**

The Diocesan Investment and Loan Trust (DILT) was created several decades ago as an investment option for organizations in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Albany (RCDA). DILT provides grants to individuals and organizations, both Catholic and non-Catholic. It is a separate entity from the RCDA.



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 **SUBSCRIBE**

FIND US ONLINE:

[Click here](#) for St. Patrick's Parish Homepage
[Click here](#) for St. Mary's Parish Homepage
Parish Facebook Pages (updated daily)

CONTACT US BY PHONE:

St. Patrick's Office: 518-756 -3145
St. Mary's Office: 518-731-8800

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)



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