

I am the way and the truth and the life

JOHN 14:6



Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 3, 2026

St. Mary's Church Est. 1852
26 Church St.
Nassau, NY 12123

WELCOME TO ST. MARY'S

We are happy that you decided to worship with us. If you are visiting just for today, we pray that God will be with you on your journey. If you are seeking a church to call home, we would be honored to welcome you into our parish community. If you are interested in joining our parish family, please call the parish office at 518-766-2701.

Rev. John Cronin – Pastor

Rev. John Close – Sacramental Minister

Dee McCumber – Parish Secretary

Email – stmarysnassau1@gmail.com

Phone – 518-766-2701

Barbara Wurzburg – Associate for Faith Formation

Email – stmarysnassaufaithformation@gmail.com

Phone – 518-801-7605

Linda Ridzi – Associate for Faith Formation

Email – ridzilinda@gmail.com

Joanna Towse – Music Minister

Phone – 518-436-7857



Parish Office Hours: Tuesday- Thursday 10:00 am – 3:00 pm

ST. MARY'S MISSION STATEMENT

We, the Catholic Community of St. Mary's, Nassau, vow to foster the spirit of St. Francis by becoming instruments of God's peace to help each other grow spiritually. We choose to respond to our baptismal call to live and share the gospel of Jesus Christ through our commitments of time, talent, and treasure in the love and service of all people. Adopted by St. Mary's Pastoral Council, September 16, 2001.

Parish Happenings:

Sunday	Faith Formation 8:45 – 9:45 am Parish Hall before Divine Mercy Mass Divine Mercy Mass 10:00 am Followed by the Divine Mercy Chaplet – All are welcome to stay
Monday	Learn About Your Faith 6:30 – 7:30 pm at the Rectory
*Tuesday	Morning Mass 9:30 am St. Anthony Novena and Adoration until 10:30 am Bible Study 6:30 – 7:30 pm at the Rectory
Wednesday	Parking Lot Rosary 6:00 pm (Dress for the weather)
*Thursday	Morning Mass 9:30 am Recitation of Rosary after Mass
Friday	Every 1 st Friday, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 6:00 pm
Saturday	Vigil Mass 5:30 pm Every 1 st Saturday, Rosary at 5:00 pm before Mass

*During the winter months, weekday morning Masses will be in the rectory at 9:30 am

St. Mary's Website: <http://parishes.rcda.org/St.MarysNassau>

REFLECTION

by Nick Brodie

Leo's Lens

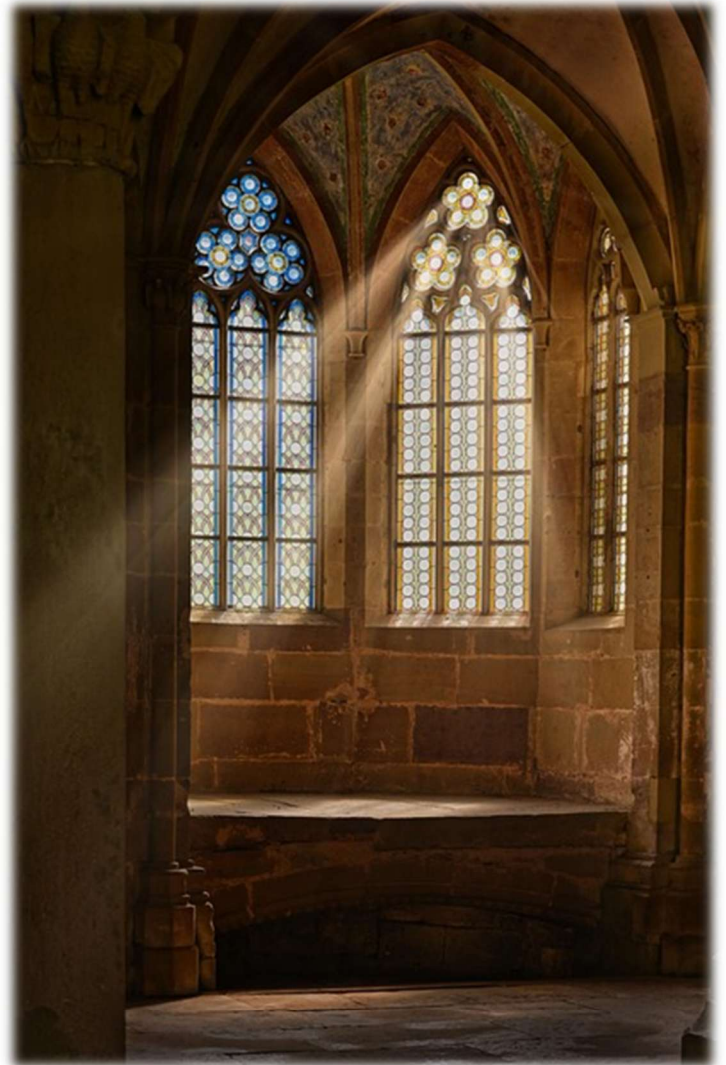
Pope Leo XIV reminds us that through the paschal mystery Jesus became “a blessing for all and forever.” In a sense, this is what Jesus calls each of us to do too. We are called to be Christ’s blessing for our neighborhoods and neighbors.

This calling is critical to our parish life. Each Sunday, the Pope says, “we gather around Jesus,” who “encourages us” to live the great promise and precious treasure of “living to give life!”

This being so, the Pope encourages us to listen to Jesus. “He journeys with us, even today, to teach us,” the Pope says. And what Jesus teaches is “the logic of unconditional love.”

“Let us listen to him,” the Pope implores, “let us enter into his light so as to become the light of the world, starting with the neighborhood where we live. The whole life of the parish and its groups exists for this reason: it is a service to light, a service to joy.”

Each one of us, then, is called to build up our communities through “the gaze of faith, which transfigures everything with hope, putting passion, sharing and creativity into circulation as a cure for the many wounds” we see around us.



**Mass Intentions
Fifth Sunday in Easter**

May 2 & May 3, 2026

Saturday May 2, 2026 @ 5:30 pm
Richard Borelli – Healing – The Ridzi Family
Jeremy May – by Patricia May

Sunday, May 3, 2026 @ 10:00 am
Thanksgiving – by the Ridzi Family
John Fitzgibbons – by Maureen Cellery
Donald Anselment – by Sharron Anselment

Tuesday, May 5, 2026 @ @ 9:30 am
Mary Ellen Lito – Healing - by- Theresa Harty

Thursday May 7, 2026 @ 9:30 am
For the People of St. Mary’s

May 9 & May 10, 2026

Saturday May 9, 2026 @ 5:30 pm
Frank and Rita Dreher – by Larry and Kye Sun
Viola Hotaling – by Sharron Anselment

Sunday, May 10, 2026 @ 10:00 am
The First Communion Recipients from the St. Mary’s Family

Tuesday, May 12, 2026 @ @ 9:30 am
Bob Yager – for Healing Theresa Harty
Boris Papa – by Charleen Papa

Thursday May 14, 2026 @ 9:30 am
For the People of St. Mary’s

Please pray for our sick



- | | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| Michael Stephen Allen | Stacy Hyson | Nancy Quinn |
| Christine Anderson | Kate Hockford | Peter Quinn |
| Bill Ayers | Elizabeth Hrifko | Cory Roberts |
| Joan Campbell | Bethany Jenest | Jake Rysedorph |
| Mamie Mazzatti | Seth Kaminski | John DeLap |
| Maureen Cellery | Sara Messineo Kent | Tom Rysedorph |
| Madison Chesterman | Cathy Lavoie | Linda Schaefer |
| Barry and Jeanne Litt | Masresha Schaefer | Cathy Schaefer |
| Thomas O’Grady | Gina Lo Presti | Colin Sullivan |
| Alice Loughlin | Philip Sullivan | Ann Devaney |
| Avin Meyette | Michele Sweet | Dom Devaney |
| Linda Walsh | Rita Labrum | Michelle Dymond |
| Anna May Gregg | Amy Gumlaw | Marion Rysedorph |
| Charleen Papa | Ginny Doherty | Joseph Messineo |
| Chamylla Stephanie De Frees | | |

Collection Obligations

FOR US TO COVER PARISH EXPENSES, OUR WEEKLY COLLECTION MUST MEET **\$2,500**

Although some of the weekly collections do meet this amount, our collections are not consistent. Therefore, we are not meeting our necessary expenses. Additionally, some of our expenses are unforeseen or fluctuate.

Our Collections for April 25 & April 26, 2026 **\$2073**

Diocesan Appeal

To meet this year's assessment, we need: **\$14,320 by June 30, 2026**

St. Mary's Diocesan Appeal assessment for July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026: **\$30,576**

Our Collections to Date: **\$16,256**

If we do not satisfy our assessment for the year, it becomes a debt that is carried over to the next year. We then are obligated to pay that debt as well as the new assessment.

Please make sure that **your name** and **St. Mary's 09-08** appear on the check. This is an **important** edit that needs to be done so your donation is reported correctly by the Diocese. If you do not receive an acknowledgement of your contribution, please call the office (518-766-2701) and let Dee know.

EVENTS

St. Mary's



*Special Public Rosary**

Saturday, June 13, 2026 @ 5:30 pm

Prayed outdoors in front of Our Lady of Life statue
Dress appropriately

St. Mary's Catholic Church
26 Church Street
Nassau, NY 12123

Prayer Intentions

1. For world peace and triumph of the Immaculate Heart of Mary.
2. In reparation for sins committed against the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary.
3. For an end to the culture of death and paganism.
4. For the holy souls and conversion of sinners.
5. For every nation to honor Christ the King.

*Held in conjunction with other local initiatives from USA Prays Public Rosary, the Worldwide Public Rosary, and the Worldwide Marian Procession.

More information on our bulletin board.

St. Mary's Cont....

Weekday Mass

Tuesday and Thursday 9:30 morning Mass will resume in the church beginning Tuesday, May 5.

Something New!

Coffee Hour & Video!



Our coffee hour is back May 17 after 10:00 Mass.

This time with the goodies there will be a video – details to follow. Keep checking back here!

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HELPED WITH OUR SPRING AUCTION!

We have many people to thank

- ✧ Stewarts Shops for donating the hot dogs and rolls
- ✧ Barb Mullins for making her delicious mac and cheese
- ✧ Chef Chris for his hearty chili – very tasty indeed!
- ✧ Our awesome announcer (and fire chief!), Kevin Wood and fill-ins Liz Wood and Anne Fairweather and for running the 50-50 this year.
- ✧ Also thank you to the **many parishioners** who baked, donated, and helped in any way – we are grateful!
- ✧

SPRING AUCTION BUSINESS DONATIONS

A BIG SHOUT OUT *THANK YOU!*

The following is a list of businesses who donated and supported our efforts. Please shop at these places!

My Place & Co, Schodack	Ryan's Pizza, Rte. 9, Schodack
Off Shore Pier, East Greenbush	Cross Eyed Owl, Valatie
Nic's Trattoria, East Greenbush	Fun Plex, East Greenbush
SoHo Asian Bistro, East Greenbush	Smile's Ice Cream, Nassau
East Greenbush Bowling Center	Zema's Nursery, Stephentown
Hannaford, East Greenbush	Jewelry Repair Center, East Greenbush
Becker's Farm, East Greenbush	Zia's Pizzeria, Nassau
Grapeful Wine & Spirits, Schodack	Nassau Hose Co. (Home Depot Card)
Bountiful Blooms Florist, Schodack	Pet Supplies Plus, East Greenbush
Empire Army/Navy, Schodack	Nassau Library, Nassau
Hometown Wine & Spirits, Nassau	Tractor Supply, Schodack
E-Z Bounce Rentals-Bounce House (518- 227-0162)	
Price Chopper/Market 32, East Greenbush	
Gretchen's Hallmark, Troy Rd. East Greenbush	
Sri Siam Thai Restaurant, East Greenbush	
Clean Cuts Family Salon, Rte. 9, Schodack	

*Thank
you!*

Thank you, Theresa, Jen, and Michele

Eucharist Ministers and Lectors

A new quarterly schedule was distributed to Eucharist Ministers and Lectors. If you have any questions, please call Michele Sweet (518-336-4422) If you are unable to perform your duties on your scheduled, please call another Eucharist Minister or Lector to replace you.

Learn About Your Faith

Religious Education Schedules

Faith Formation

Faith Formation classes are from 8:45 am to 9:45 am for all grades, K through 10th, with Mass at 10 am. Below is the remainder of 2026 class schedule.

MAY
5/3 – Last Class 5/10 – <i>First Holy Communion</i>

Learning About Our Faith Schedule

Learning About Our Faith sessions meet Monday evenings in the Rectory at 6:30 pm.

Our Journey of Faith Learning About Your Faith			
Session		Date	Topic
20	Monday	4/13	Catholic Beliefs - Morality
17	Monday	4/27	The Sacraments – Social Justice and Dignity
21	Monday	5/11	Prayer Life, Discernment, Holiness, Evangelization
22	Monday	5/18	Mary
23	Monday	6/1	Purgatory
16	Monday	6/8	The Sacraments – Anointing of the Sick
24	Monday	6/15	Conversion, The Laity, Your Special Gifts
25	Monday	6/20	The Saints



One Minute Meditations

St. Rita of Cascia

Born in 1381 near Spoleto, Italy, St. Rita was known for her holiness and charity from a young age. She wanted to be a nun but was forced into marrying when she was twelve. Unfortunately, her husband was cruel and violent. After eighteen years, she was widowed. Following the deaths of her sons, she finally entered the convent, where she became known for her piety, kindness, and humility. She is the patron saint of impossible causes.

"Come, Holy Spirit!"

On the Feast of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit descended on the Apostles and ignited their mission to baptize and preach. For this reason, Pentecost is considered the birthday of the Church. This same Spirit, who empowered twelve frightened men to travel, preach, baptize, and labor for the Kingdom of God, also comes to our aid in our struggle for holiness, even in our prayer (Romans 8:26). This month, keep with you this short yet powerful prayer: "Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love!"

"Jesus answered him, 'If a man loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him'" (John 14:23).

Who is my neighbor?

This question matters. In the Two Greatest Commandments, Jesus calls us to love God and to love our neighbor as ourselves. But that raises a real, practical question: who is our neighbor? Our Lady offers a clear answer. Through her example, we begin to see that our neighbors include:

Family: Mary's first thought after the Annunciation was for her cousin Elizabeth. Despite the immense honor Mary had just received, she went in haste to serve Elizabeth. That sets the pattern. The first neighbors we're called to love are the ones closest to us: those in our own home and family.

Friends: Tradition holds that Mary and Jesus were close to the couple at the wedding in Cana. When the wine ran out, Mary didn't draw attention to herself. She noticed the need and acted, gently guiding things toward a solution. Loving our friends often looks the same—paying attention, stepping in quietly, and serving without needing

recognition.

Those who suffer: At the Cross, Jesus entrusted His mother to St. John. In that moment of deep loss, Mary and John were given to each other, able

"If you want to change the world, go home and love your family."

St. Teresa of Calcutta

to share a bond shaped by suffering. When someone in your life is hurting, that person is your neighbor. Who is carrying something heavy right now? How can you stand with them?

Each person we meet: As Queen of Heaven and Mother of the Church, Mary cares for all of us, especially through her prayers. To love God is to love those He loves—which means everyone. Sometimes the most meaningful act of love we can offer is also the simplest: to pray for them, asking that they come to know her Son more deeply.

Why Do Catholics Do That? Why do Catholics call Mary our Mother?

Mary's role in salvation history is to lead people to her Son. As the Church teaches, "The Virgin Mary... is the mother of the members of Christ" (Catechism of the Catholic Church 963). Her motherhood extends to all who belong to Him. At the Cross, in the Gospel of John, Jesus says, "Behold

your mother" (John 19:27), entrusting Mary not only to St. John but to every disciple. From that moment, her care became personal. Because of her unique closeness to Jesus, she intercedes for us, always guiding us toward Him and helping us follow His will more faithfully.

St. Joseph - the quiet strength behind May

Though May is traditionally dedicated to Mary, it fittingly begins with the feast of St. Joseph the Worker. The Church invites us to honor St. Joseph and entrust our lives to his care, just as Jesus did during His hidden life on earth.

He protects. St. Joseph safeguarded Mary when her pregnancy placed her at risk (Matthew 1:19) and led the Holy Family to safety in their flight from Herod (Matthew 2:14-15). We can place ourselves under that same protection—formally through consecration or simply through daily prayer—entrusting our families, homes, and

responsibilities to his care.

He provides. As a carpenter, St. Joseph faithfully provided for Jesus and Mary. Christians have long trusted in his continued help. St. Teresa of Ávila famously wrote that she never asked anything of him without receiving help. We can confidently bring him our needs, work, and concerns.

The saints became holy by being open to God's grace. In St. Joseph, we're given a quiet but steady guide—one who helps us, step by step, follow God more faithfully on the path to heaven.

from **S**cripture

John 3:16-18, Jesus' sacrifice reveals God's love

"For God so loved the world..." When doubt sets in—when God seems distant or silent—the Church directs our attention to the Cross. In the Crucifix, we don't see a contradiction of God's love, but its clearest expression. Christ does not stand apart from human suffering; He enters into it. What looks like defeat becomes the place where divine mercy is most fully revealed—a love that holds nothing back.

"He sent His only begotten Son." Faced with suffering and evil, we naturally look for solutions we can measure and manage—strategies, systems, progress. God's response is not a method but a

gift: He gives Himself. Evil, which is a distortion or absence of the good, cannot ultimately be overcome by partial fixes. It yields only to perfect goodness, just as darkness gives way to light.

"That all who believe in Him might not perish but have eternal life." This life is not the destination but the path. Its trials, uncertainties, and even its sufferings are not meaningless when lived with Christ. If we remain close to Him—whether in darkness, in turmoil, or at the foot of the Cross—we are not off course. We are being led, step by step, toward the life that does not end.

Q & **A** How can the Church be holy if her members aren't?

First, Jesus was aware of the failures within religious life. In the Gospel of Matthew, He strongly rebuked the Pharisees—the religious leaders of His time—for not practicing what they taught (Matthew 23:3). Among His own disciples, there were moments of division, betrayal, and abandonment (John 6:66). Yet the redemption He offers is not reserved for the perfect, but for all who place their faith in Him.

Second, the Church's holiness does not depend on the virtue of each individual member, but on the holiness of her Founder, Jesus Christ. A church building remains sacred even when its physical condition is imperfect because it is dedicated to God. In the same way, the Church, as the Mystical Body of Christ, remains holy even as her members continue to struggle and grow.

Third, history shows that God raises up saints precisely in times of difficulty. St. Athanasius, St. Catherine of Siena, and St. Thomas More each responded to periods of division and crisis with prayer, sacrifice, witness, and fidelity to the truth. Their example reminds us that holiness is always possible—and that we are called to live it, even now.

Feasts & Celebrations

May 14 - The Ascension of the Lord. This solemnity marks the completion of Jesus' mission of salvation and His triumphant entry into Heaven.

Note: In many dioceses, observance of Ascension has been moved to the following Sunday.

May 14 - St. Matthias (1st century). When the Apostles met to choose Judas' successor, Peter said that the new Apostle must have followed Jesus from His Baptism to His Ascension and witnessed His Resurrection. St. Matthias was chosen by lots to fill Judas' place.

May 18 - Pope St. John I (526). Born in Tuscany, Italy, John was elected pope in 523 while still a deacon. During his

pontificate, he battled the Arian heresy, and worked to improve diplomatic relations with the East. He was the first pope to visit Constantinople, during which he restored peace with the Eastern Church yet raised political suspicions. Arrested by King Theodoric, St. John I died in prison.

May 25 - Mary, Mother of the Church (2018). On the Cross, Jesus gave us His mother to be our mother (John 19:27). Now in Heaven, she prays and cares for us as our spiritual mother until we are safely home with God. We can look to her motherly care with confidence since she always leads us to her Son by the shortest, safest, and fastest route. This memorial highlights one central truth: Mary is not only the Mother of Jesus, but the Mother of all who belong to Him—the Church.

Our Mission

To provide practical ideas that promote faithful Catholic living.

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(Unless noted Bible quotes and references are from the Revised Standard Version and the New American Bible - Revised)

IMMIGRATION - REFUGEE REPORT May 2 -3, 2026

One primary focus now will be on the three Bills proposed here in NYS that will benefit Refugees and Immigrants. Ken has summarized them from our past bulletins and you can also find them on the web as mentioned before. The complete list of our legislators, Federal and State is on the last page.

New York For All. (S2235/A3506.). Primarily would prevent state and local law enforcement from participating in civil immigration enforcement. Also protects their personal data.

The BUILD Act. (S4538/A2689). Provides grants for workforce development and capacity to eligible organizations for representation for individuals facing deportation. Strengthens legal services.

Access to Representation Act. (ARA). (S141/A270). Establishes right to counsel in Immigration Court ensuring those without lawyers will be provided one.

If you do not know who your legislator is...

Go on NYS government web site and ask for it by entering your address.

Please understand that legislators' regions do not go by counties alone!! They often cross county lines, etc. As I explained last Sunday at mass.

NEEDS: Bikes (we will be exploring the ones available over in Lebanon)
Sewing Machines
Food staples
Soccer Balls
Clothing for Children UNDER 6!

NOTE: You can bring food staples to church in paper bags if you do not have totes!! I combine them into totes that I have so to deliver to CRI. THANKS to those doing that!

White Africaners from South Africa are not coming into the country as much as expected. This related to their ownership of property there, what has to be done to allow them to leave there, etc. So that part of immigration is not what expected.

We are waiting to see at USCRI, if the Ukrainians are going to get Self Deport notifications now that April is near an end. This was the purported deadline for them especially along with their fees that will be due. (est. \$1000). I expect in the next month we will know more. Remember we have about 150 of them here. **THIS IS WHY YOU MUST LOBBY YOUR LEGISLATORS NOW!!**

Naturalization Ceremonies - As mentioned, there is a whole schedule of these now for the Northern District Courts! A number have now been held locally, including at a School! While this is great IT IS MOST LIKELY THAT THESE ARE IMMIGRANTS WHO HAVE WORKED THEIR WAY THROUGH THE SYSTEM OVER THE PAST COUPLE YEARS! They are **NOT!** the newest ones we got last year at USCRI that you all have helped. These newer people are at risk as many of them are from the "No Travel Countries" and, are being re-vetted AFTER their already expensive vetting to actually travel here. We don't know what that re-vetting will result in.

Based on my recent meeting with our USCRI contact, the Bureaucracy from Federal Immigration is getting WORSE. There is no response in most cases to the questions that immigrants in the system have about their status, nor responses to the Case Handlers who are helping them. Much of this is now clearly aimed at frustrating the person so they will self deport while sweeps and detentions continue.

There was one statement of concern from a couple Bishops regarding the care in Detention Centers - No Response. Some now are predicting that various statements of concern will go on and on, while the Administration basically ignores the Bishops. Especially after the recent verbalizations between the Pope and the President.

And if we were in the Centers or elsewhere, what would we want?

Thank you, *Ken*
kmscallon@yahoo.com

May no one use religion as a pretext for actions against human dignity and against the fundamental rights of every man and woman.
Pope Francis

OUR FEDERAL AND STATE LEGISLATORS CONTACT INFORMATION

Federal Representatives

Legislator	Area Office	Phone
Senator Charles Schumer Website Contact Page	Albany Office. https://www.schumer.senate.gov/contact/message-chuck	518-431-4070
Senator Kirsten Gillibrand Website Contact Page	Albany Office https://www.gillibrand.senate.gov/contact/email-me/	518-431-0120
Representative Josh Riley - Website Contact Page	Leeds Office https://riley.house.gov/contact	518-625-2100

State Representatives

Legislator	Area Office	Phone
Senator Jake Ashby Contact:	https://www.nysenate.gov/senators/jacob-ashby 594 Columbia Turnpike East Greenbush, NY 12061 https://www.nysenate.gov/senators/jacob-ashby/contact	Phone: 518-371-2751
Assemblyman Scott Bendett Contact:	https://nyassembly.gov/mem/Scott-Bendett 1580 Columbia Turnpike Building 4, Suite 1A Castleton on the Hudson, NY 12033 bendett@nysassembly.gov	Phone: 518-272-6149

NYS Bills

NYS Senate Bill S141	https://www.nysenate.gov/legislation/bills/2025/S141
NYS Assembly Bill A270	https://www.nysenate.gov/legislation/bills/2025/A270
NYS Senate / Assembly Bills (S2235/A3506.)	https://www.nysenate.gov/legislation/bills/2025/S2235/amendment/A
NYS Senate / Assembly Bills (S4538/A2689)	https://www.nysenate.gov/legislation/bills/2025/S4538

If you would like to be kept up-to-date with any of these bills, there is a box on the right-hand side of the page titled, "Get Status Alerts" here you can enter your email address to receive status updates. Additionally, in a box above, you can cast an AYE or NAY vote in support the bill.