

March 31, 2019 | FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT



Church of the

Holy Spirit

You are welcome here!

MASSES

Saturday 4:00_{PM}

Sunday 8:30_{AM}, 11:00_{AM}

Wednesday 8:15_{AM}

Friday Communion Service
& Holidays 8:30_{AM}

Office Hours: Monday – Friday
9:30_{AM} – 3:30_{PM}

Sunday's Reading: #915

First Reading:

Joshua 5: 9, 10 – 12

Second Reading:

2 Corinthians 5: 17 – 21

Next Sunday's Gospel:

Luke 15: 1 – 3, 11 – 32

See our website for this week's
daily readings:

www.holyspiritchurcheg.org

Next Sunday's Reading: #918

First Reading:

Isaiah 43: 16 – 21

Second Reading:

Philippians 3: 8 – 14

Next Sunday's Gospel:

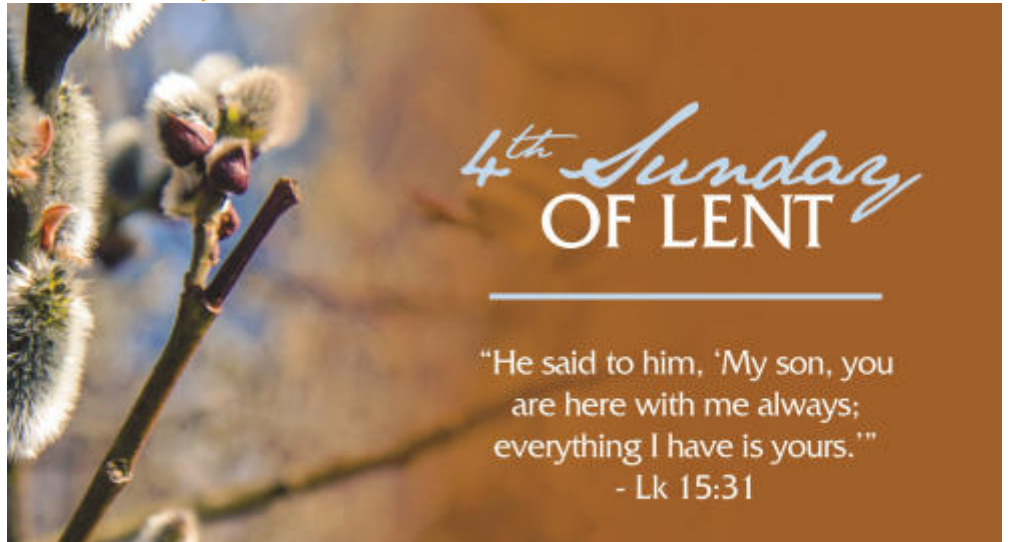
John 8: 1 – 11

Sacraments:

You are invited to celebrate the
sacraments with us:

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is
available on Saturday at 3:00_{PM} or by
appointment.

Contact the Parish Center to arrange
preparation for the Sacraments of
Baptism, First Reconciliation, First
Eucharist, Confirmation, or
Sacrament of the Sick. If you are
interested in celebrating the
Sacrament of Marriage, please
contact the parish at least six (6)
months in advance.



A letter from your parish staff...

Today we hear from the Gospel of Luke what most people refer to as the story of the Prodigal Son. We have heard the story many times, but how often do we really spend time thinking about it? Some bibles are now referring to this story as the Lost Son. Doesn't that have you looking at the story a little differently?

So what is this story really about? We have three characters, the lost son, the dutiful son and the forgiving father. Most of us identify with the dutiful son. We spend our lives being "good people", following the rules, behaving ourselves for the most part, and yet we all know someone who has been a total jerk and then turns their life around and people seem to fall all over themselves applauding their progress. This is how most of us first look at this story. Let's look at this story as Jesus would want us to. As human beings, we are quite self-centered. We see things from our point of view very easily and sometimes struggle to look at what another's experience might be.

Let's call the story the Forgiving Father. Don't look at it from your personal perspective, look at it through God's eyes. The father gives the younger son the inheritance that he asks for. He doesn't argue. He lets him go. Free will in action. When the son returns, the father rejoices. "*While he was still a long way off, his father caught sight of him and was filled with compassion. He ran to his son, embraced him and kissed him.*" That's how our Father waits for us. Whether we have strayed from our path toward holiness, turned away and gone in another direction or even just paused in what we thought was a good place to rest, God is waiting for us to journey toward him, with open arms. He is waiting for you too. Take some time this Lent to return toward God if you have turned away or just taken a break. Our God is a God of love, compassion, forgiveness and mercy. Don't be lost, be forgiven.

*Peace Be With You,
Laura, Pam and Meaghan*



Week of Sunday, March 31, 2019

Saturday 3/30—4PM

Mary Whitford—by Doris & Gary Beardsley
Rose Helmes—by Rosemary Horan
John Costa—by Carmen & Vivian Patti
Norma Heffernan—by Jim & Ellen Murphy

Sunday 3/31—8:30AM—For the People of the Parish

Sunday 3/31—11:00AM

Mildred DiDio—by Helen Griffiths

Wednesday 4/3—9AM

For the People of the Parish

Friday 4/5—8:30AM—Communion Service

Saturday 4/6—4PM

Mary Whitford—by Rosemary Horan
Romney Eisenhut—by Ann Eisenhut
Rose Helmes—by Shirley Hicks
Eleanor & George Barna's 60th Wedding Anniversary
—by Cheryl Seymour

Sunday 4/7—8:30AM—For the People of the Parish

Sunday 4/7—11:00AM

Mass Intention Available

Reflection Questions for the Week

- Where do you feel shame or guilt over past transgressions? How might you give these emotions to the Lord?
- How does your parish carry out the ministry of reconciliation within the wider community?
- Which figure in the parable of the Prodigal Son do you identify with the most at this point in your faith journey: the prodigal, the older son, or forgiving father? Why?
- At this halfway point in our Lenten journey, how have you been living the spiritual practices of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving? Is there anything you would like to do differently for the second half of Lent?

The Parish Office... will be closing at 3PM on April 4th.

**GOD NEVER TIRES OF
FORGIVING US;
WE ARE THE ONES WHO
TIRE OF SEEKING HIS
MERCY**

- Pope Francis



Stewardship

Offertory:

3/24/19 — \$5,406.00 3/25/18 — \$7,441.04
(Palm Sunday)

Our second collection this week will be for Catholic Relief Services.

Please remember your envelopes after inclement weather. Also, please remember to donate to the Evangelist if you are getting the paper. It costs the parish \$18 a year per subscriber. The parish is expected to pay for, and is billed for, all the subscriptions.

Are you looking for a convenient, easy to remember way to be a good steward? Look into safe and secure **Online Giving** at Holy Spirit. You may access donation forms and manage your stewardship by using our parish website at: holyspiritchurcheg.org.

Easter Flowers... Please forward your envelopes to remember loved ones for the Easter flower memorial to the Parish Office no later than Friday, April 12th for inclusion in the Easter bulletin.



Choir Practice... for weekend Masses and in preparation for Holy Week will be at 7PM in the Church on Wednesday, April 3rd and 17th.

Please Pray... for our young candidates who are preparing to celebrate their First Eucharist soon.

Girl Scout cookies... Holy Spirit School's Girl Scout troop will be selling Girl Scout cookies after mass April 6th and 7th to earn money for our troop activities like International Fair, camping, and badges. If you don't like cookies, you can buy boxes to donate. This year our Service Unit is donating cookies to CoNSERNS-U in Rensselaer. Thank you!



Homebound and Nursing Homes... We are compiling a list of parishioners in nursing homes in the area. If you know of anyone, please call the Parish Center and give us the name and nursing home. We would like to keep in touch with, and visit them.

Prayer Lists—To add names to the prayer lists for the health of parishioners or those parishioners who are in the armed services, please call 518-477-7925 or email names to: info@holyspiritchurcheg.org.

Please Pray for the Health of... Philip Agcaoil, Sandra Battisto, Joe Belschwinder, Jennifer Bobersky, David Bovia, Linda Cambareri, Adelaide Carr, John Crowther, Joe DiBella, Allana DiBiasio, Chris Edwards, Fred Endres, Ruth Farard, Lynn Gorman, Judy & Bill Guilbo, Marilyn Hart, Pam Hellwig, Steve Hill, Mary Hoffman, Carol Langdon, Margaret Leahy, Jeff Lichiello, Daniel Lockhart, Jeff McAuley, Mary McCabe, Carole McDowell, Paula Meisel, Joan Mineau, Zygmunt Palasz, Paul Piela, Lynn Pupello, John Orsino, Rick Rafferty, Patricia Reilly, Joan Roher, Barbara Sager, Paul Schell, Mary Lou Seger, Teena Sleasman, Jeff Werther.

Please Pray for Parishioners in the Armed Forces... James Conlon, Jason Dringus, Dan Farley, Casey Frankoski, Luke Horvath, Anthony Hunt, Arthur Murphy, Brian L. Murphy, and Erin Walraven.



Save the Date! The Holy Spirit Parish Picnic is Sunday, September 8th at the East Greenbush Town Park. We will start with Mass at 11^{AM} at the park before the picnic.

Save the Date! Holy Spirit School will be hosting the HSS Annual Golf Outing, dinner and silent auction beginning at 1^{PM} on Friday, June 14th. The golf outing will be held at Olde Kinderhook Golf Club in Valatie, followed by a dinner and silent auction at Moscatello's in Troy. Options are available for golf and/or dinner. Please call the school, 518-477-5739, for more information.

Easter Baskets... Holy Spirit is collecting Easter Basket items for CoNSERNS-U, Joseph's House, & St. Catherine's Center for Children. Hundreds of Easter Baskets will be assembled on Palm Sunday, April 14th in the Holy Spirit School gym after the 8:30^{AM} Mass. **We are in desperate need of: a lot of chocolate bunnies and pre-wrapped candy.** Please bring your donations to the Church or to the Parish Center by April 13th.



Holy Spirit Directory...

Parish Pastoral Team 518-477-7925

- Interim Sacramental Minister Fr. John Bradley
- Interim Administrator Gail Moore
- Deacon Deacon Bill Dringus ... deacon1275@aol.com
- Family Ministry & Lifelong Faith Formation (LIFT)
- Laura Countryman laura@holyspiritchurcheg.org
- Meaghan Rossbach .. meaghan@holyspiritchurcheg.org
- Music Ministry
- Tim Dowling tim@holyspiritchurcheg.org
- Secretary Pam Bennett .. info@holyspiritchurcheg.org
- Maintenance Services Paul Weidman

Holy Spirit School (PreK3-Grade 8)

- School Office, 54 Highland Drive 518-477-5739
- Email hsoffice@hsseg.org
- Michael Kosar, Principal principal@hsseg.com

Parish Members... are available for you to contact, or you can call the parish office 518-477-7925.

Deacon Bill Dringus: deacon1275@aol.com

Parish Council:

- Kevin Haggerty: 518-378-5428 or khaggerty@flexelectric.com
- Amy Boel: 518-269-1524 or aanddboel@gmail.com
- Frank Puttalaz: 518-477-4412 or solarstamps@aol.com
- Ellen Murphy: 518-479-7217 or ebmurphy@gmail.com

Finance Committee:

Steve Wiech: 518-477-5351 or steve_wiech@msn.com

Trustees:

- Rick Hannmann: rhanmann7@gmail.com
- Matt Heitker: heitkergm@acm.org

CoNSERNS-U Food Pantry

518-463-8571

Applesauce, boxed scalloped potatoes (in preparation for Easter food baskets), shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste, toilet paper and tampons.

VIRTUS Training... Holy Spirit School has scheduled VIRTUS training at 6:30^{PM} on Wednesday, April 10th. You may pre-register online at www.virtusonline.org/virtus/reg_list2.cfm?theme=0, or walk-ins are always welcome. VIRTUS training is required to volunteer at the school. Training will be in the library or the gym, depending on how many people register.

Upcoming Events...

Date	Occasion	Time	Place
Su 3/31	Eucharist Retreat #1 & #2	2 ^{PM}	Library
Mo 4/1	Eucharist Retreat #1M	6-7 ^{PM}	Library
Sa 4/6	Rosary Gathering	3:10 ^{PM}	Church
Su 4/7	Eucharist Retreat #3 & #4	2 ^{PM}	Library
Mo 4/8	Eucharist Retreat #2M	6-7 ^{PM}	Library

Weekly Events...

- The Rosary – Tuesdays at 11^{AM} in the Church.
- Bible Study – Wednesdays at 10:30^{AM} in the Church.
- Choir Practice – 1st Wednesday at 7^{PM} in the Church.

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