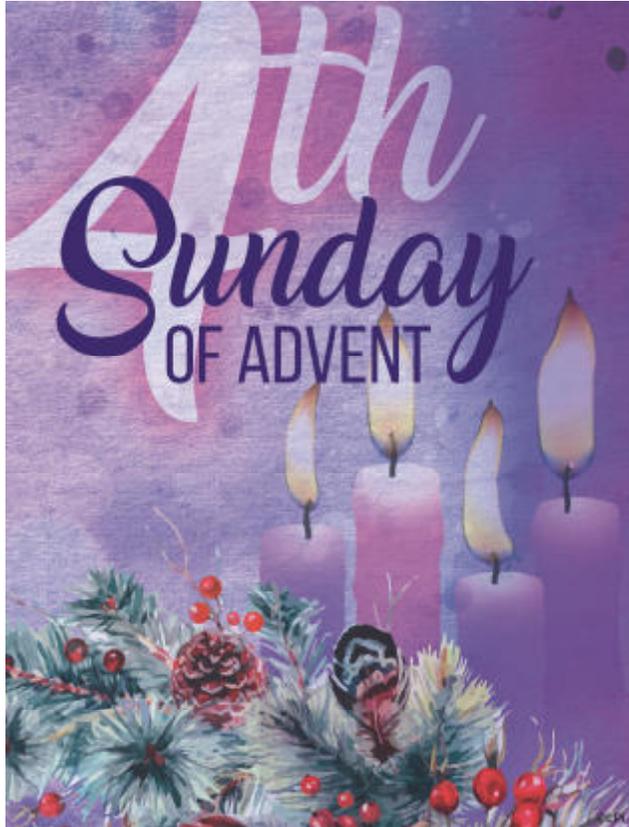




# Church of the Holy Spirit

## You are welcome here!

DECEMBER 20, 2020 | THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR B



### REOPENING INFORMATION

**Here's what you need to know before you join us for Mass:**

- You will need to bring your own mask and sanitizer.
- Gathering before and after Mass is discouraged.
- Seating in the church has been modified to maintain social distancing.
- Ushers will ask for your name upon arrival. This is to assist in contact tracing if a case of COVID 19 is detected in a parishioner. All attendance records will be sealed and destroyed after 30 days if no case emerges.
- The communion process will take a bit more time. Follow the ushers' cues and be patient.

Thank you for your cooperation and patience as we work to keep everyone healthy and safe! Please feel free to contact us with any questions or concerns that you might have. We look forward to seeing you again!

**Contact us:**  
667 Columbia Turnpike  
East Greenbush, NY 12061  
518-477-7925  
<http://hsceg.org>

**Due to physical distancing during the COVID 19 pandemic,** the parish office is closed. Please contact us by leaving a message or by email



Dear friends in Christ!

May the grace and peace of our Lord Jesus, the Messiah who the world is waiting for His second coming, be with you always! Today marks the end of the Advent season and the beginning of the Christmas season. Christmas is a time for us to celebrate the birth of Christ and a time to recognize God's love and mercy for mankind. Our awesome God left the heavenly kingdom and became a human like us without sin. Jesus, Word-made-Flesh, dwelt among us and shared with us many gifts. He came to bring peace to many troubled souls; he healed the broken hearted and wounded people; he forgave sinners; he died for us so that we can have eternal life. Jesus is truly a gift from God the Father to mankind.

Celebrating the birth of Jesus reminds us that God loves us unconditionally by giving to us the most amazing gift, Jesus, His Only Begotten Son, who was wrapped in swaddling clothes lying in a manger. Jesus was born and brought life and light to the world that is filled with darkness. Jesus is the reason for us to celebrate, to give thanks to God's goodness, and to share our gifts with each other and to the less fortunate. When we gather together with our loved ones on Christmas day to give a gift or to receive one, we must remember to thank God for the gift of family and friends. When we decide to share or give others a gift, we express our faith and show others the greatest gift-giver who is our God, the one who loves humanity unconditionally. The greatest gift and joy of Christmas is to bring Jesus and his gifts of peace and love to others.

On behalf of our parish communities and the staff, we wish you and your family a blessed Christmas. May the divine Child and His Mother grant you and your loved ones the peace and joy of this holy season and fill your home with the gifts of faith, hope, and love

Merry Christmas to you!

*Fr. Quyn Va*



**Saturday: 4:00 p.m. — Indoor Mass**

**Sunday: 8:30 a.m. — Indoor Mass**

**Sunday: 11:00 a.m. — Indoor Mass**

**Live stream Mass Schedule:**

Saturday 4 p.m.

Sunday 11 a.m.

Links can be found on

Youtube channel

Holy Spirit Church eg

**Our Seasons of Faith website:**

[holyspiritchurcheg.weebly.com](http://holyspiritchurcheg.weebly.com)

**Follow us on:**

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# REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- ✠ Today's reading from Second Samuel narrates the context in which God establishes his covenantal promise to King David around the year 1000 B.C. In the birth of Jesus, God fulfills his covenant with David. What does this teach us about the idea of "salvation history?"
- ✠ Paul concludes his letter to the Romans with a hymn of praise to God for the long-awaited revelation that all are saved and justified through faith in Christ. In what ways are you praising God during this season of Advent?
- ✠ Today's Gospel reading records the angel Gabriel's announcement to Mary of the upcoming birth of Christ. Mary's acceptance of God's will for her life ("*May it be done to me according to your word.*") models for all of us unconditional faith. How can we encourage others to embrace such faith?



## This Sunday's Reading:

**First Reading:** 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16  
**Second Reading:** Rom 16:25-27  
**Gospel:** Lk 1:26-38

## Next Sunday's Reading:

**First Reading:** Sir 3:2-6, 12-14  
**Second Reading:** Col 3:12-21  
**Gospel:** Lk 2:22-40

## HOLY SPIRIT PARISH SACRIFICIAL OFFERING



### Week of 12/13/20:

- \* Collection weekend masses: **\$1,551.00**
- \* Collection thru mail: **\$2,481.00**
- \* Collection thru E-Giving: **\$268.00**
- \* Christmas Flowers Collection: **\$375.00**  
(including thu mail & E-Giving):
- \* Immaculate Conception Collection: **\$117.00**  
(including thu mail & E-Giving):
- \* Christmas Collection: **\$220.00**  
(including thu mail & E-Giving):
- \* Fuel Collection: **\$10.00**

**TOTAL: \$ 5,022.00**

If you are away, please remember the parish with your envelope gift on your return. We appreciate your ongoing support.



The Sacrament of Reconciliation is available. If you wish to celebrate the sacrament, please call the parish office at (518) 477-7925 to make an appointment with Fr. Vo.



# FAITHLIFT



## ADVENT

**This week, we begin the season of Advent.** Have you made a plan yet to give your Advent a faithlift? Go to our Advent webpage: <https://holyspiritchurcheg.weebly.com/advent.html> to view videos, sign up for free Advent reflections, family activities, advent calendars, advent articles and more!

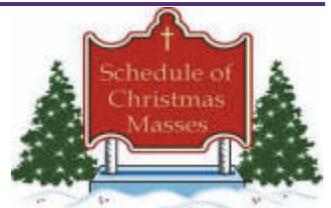
## LIVE THE LITURGY - INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

What gives you joy? Joy is discovered when we connect with something or someone very deeply and experience a dimension of ourselves that material or secular possessions cannot bring. Joy is stumbled upon when we see our newly born child for the first time, get caught up in the vastness of a mountain landscape, and are led out into infinity gazing at an ocean's horizon, or being lovingly present with someone when they are vulnerable and in need. Joy is a profound experience that in its uniqueness grounds us in ultimate truth. Did you know that all authentic, profound, and memorable moments of joy mirror the eternal joy we desire from God? We can have glimpses of this eternal Divine joy as we embark upon our earthly journey, mirrored in our human connections with joy, but experienced directly during moments of deep prayer. God is the joy of my soul. Ponder those intense words! You will know moments of true and real joy by paying attention to your response to the experience. You will find yourself rejoicing and saying thank you.

## Christmas Eve. Mass

- ✠ 4:00 p.m. Vigil Mass
- ✠ 6:00 p.m. Mass
- ✠ 8:00 p.m. with singing  
Christmas Carols at 7:30 p.m.

**Christmas Day Mass:** 10:00 a.m. morning



Father Quy Vo, Deacon Bill Dringus, and the Parish Staff of the Church of the Holy Spirit wish you and your loved ones a blessed Christmas. May the divine Child and his Mother grant you and your loved ones the peace and joy of this holy season, and fill your heart and home with the gifts of faith, hope, and love. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Please remember to patronize the sponsors of our bulletin.



## WHY DO WE DO THAT? CATHOLIC TRADITIONS EXPLAINED

**Question: What is the difference between apostles and disciples?**

**Answer:** When we look at the gospel accounts of the life of Jesus, we see two special titles applied to his followers: apostles and disciples. At first glance, we might think that these two words are interchangeable, but when we look at what each one means, we quickly see that the evangelists were using them very specifically. When we look more closely, we see that while Jesus had many disciples, the group of apostles was much more limited and referred to Jesus' closest collaborators.

The word apostle essentially means "one who is sent forth" or, as we might think of it today, "an ambassador." The group of apostles — sometimes called the Twelve — included those twelve men who formed Jesus' inner circle (see *Mark 3:13-14; Luke 6:12-13*). It was this group that received the gift of the Holy Spirit and who were sent out by Jesus with the special mission of forgiving sins on that first Easter Sunday (see *John 20:19-23*). In time, the Catholic Tradition also recognize Saint Paul and Saint Barnabas as apostles, recognizing that they also shared the mandate of going out in the Lord's name to pray, to bless, and to preach. In 2016, during the Jubilee of Mercy, Pope Francis raised the liturgical celebration of Saint Mary Magdalene to the rank of feast, recognizing that she also received a special mandate to proclaim the good news of Jesus' resurrection to the Eleven, becoming the "apostle to the apostles." In a particular way, the bishops continue the mission of the apostles in our own time.

When we think of the word disciple, we see that it has a very different meaning. Rather than referring to those who were sent out to carry on the mission of Jesus, disciple literally means "student" or, more specially, an "apprentice learner." The task of the disciple is to learn and integrate into their lives the teachings, values, and way of life of their master teacher. Although a disciple might be called on to explain or represent aspects of their life, in light of the teachings they receive from this master teacher, Christian discipleship is ultimately about living our lives with faith and integrity, guided by the life and mission of Jesus, our Master Teacher. The call to discipleship is the common vocation of all Christians.



The Holy Spirit Respect Life Team would like to thank our parishioners for their generous support of the Alight Center in Hudson. Contributions to our recent Bottle Drive totaled **\$1467.00**, 100% of which will be used to support Alight's programs which help women dealing with crisis pregnancies. Thank you!

## GOSPEL MEDITATION

### The Fourth Sunday Advent

In Blaise Pascal's work, *Pensees*, he says: "What else does this craving, and this helplessness, proclaim but that there was once in man a true happiness, of which all that now remains is the empty print and trace? This he tries in vain to fill with everything around him, seeking in things that are not there the help he cannot find in those that are, though none can help, since this infinite abyss can be filled only with an infinite and immutable object; in other words by God himself."

We have a difficult time accepting that fulfillment and happiness are not achieved by our own merits but through a relationship with God. We are hardwired for this relationship and it is in our DNA. The simple fact is that we come from God and are designed to return to God. If our beginning and our end define who we are, why would we not want to seek the One who can truly satisfy? The world does not realize that it is waiting. It is waiting for the birth of God in time, within one's soul and in eternity. We get so confused by seeking other momentary satisfactions that we misinterpret the hunger within. We crave God.

The union of God and humanity, revealed in Jesus Christ, is precisely what sets us on a straight path, orders our relationships, establishes proper focus and goals and tells us whose kingdom we really are meant to serve. We are so lost. God is with us. The prophet Nathan told this to King David, the angel said this to Mary and the birth of Christ brings this Good News to us. We do not need to be busily looking for more things but must learn to find contentment and blessing in the One Presence. This is the beautiful simple message of Advent!

If you are feeling unsettled, anxious, angry, disgruntled, disconnected, unhappy, worried, fearful, off center, becoming overly self-indulgent, unable to spend time alone and without distraction, then there's a good chance you are lost. Now is the time to allow God to find you! Ponder the holy simplicity of Mary's call to be the Mother of God. "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." When we are helpless and at home with our emptiness, God will fill us. Our Savior has come.



### POPE FRANCIS PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR DECEMBER 2020

**For a Life of Prayer**—We pray that our personal relationship with Jesus Christ be nourished by the Word of God and a life of prayer.

## Holy Spirit Directory

Parish: 518-477-7925 [office@hsceg.org](mailto:office@hsceg.org)

School: 518-477-5739 [hsoffice@hsceg.org](mailto:hsoffice@hsceg.org)

### Parish Pastoral Team

*Pastor:* Fr. Quy Vo [pastor@hsceg.org](mailto:pastor@hsceg.org)

*Deacon:* Bill Dringus [deacon1275@aol.com](mailto:deacon1275@aol.com)

### *Pastoral Associate for Administration:*

Antonio Morabito [parishmanager@hsceg.org](mailto:parishmanager@hsceg.org)

### *Pastoral Associate for Liturgy:*

\* Fr. Quy Vo [pastor@hsceg.org](mailto:pastor@hsceg.org)

### *Family Ministry & Lifelong Faith Formation:*

\* Laura Countryman [faithformation@hsceg.org](mailto:faithformation@hsceg.org)

*Bookkeeper:* Aimee Martin-Vieira [finance@hsceg.org](mailto:finance@hsceg.org)

*Secretary:* [office@hsceg.org](mailto:office@hsceg.org)

*Maintenance Services:* Paul Weidman, Tim Casalla

**Holy Spirit School** - 54 Highland Drive

*Principal:* Michael Kosar [principal@hsceg.com](mailto:principal@hsceg.com)

### Parish Council

Ellen Murphy: 518-479-7217 [ebmurphy@gmail.com](mailto:ebmurphy@gmail.com)

### Finance Committee

Steve Wiech: 518-477-5351 [steve\\_wiech@msn.com](mailto:steve_wiech@msn.com)

### Trustees

Matt Heitker: [heitkergm@acm.org](mailto:heitkergm@acm.org)

Kevin Haggerty: 518-378-5428 [khaggerty51@gmail.com](mailto:khaggerty51@gmail.com)

**Seasons of Faith** is our parish model for lifelong, intergenerational faith formation, centered around opportunities to learn about, share and experience our faith in the company of all parishioners, from the newly baptized to the most mature members, leading us to an even deeper relationship with God and each other. Each season is four months long, with three seasons per year:

*Winter/Spring* (Jan-April)

*Summer* (May-Aug)

*Fall* (Sept-Dec)

### **Seasons of Faith is for families and adults.**

**Parents** are their children's first faith witnesses. Now more than ever, we want to support families and give them a variety of opportunities to *be* family. Seasons of Faith are specifically designed for the entire family.

**Adults** are never too old to learn. Seasons of Faith encourages faith growth for adults too!

**Seasons of Faith is for all who consider Holy Spirit their home. All are welcome!**



## THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

**Saturday 12/19—Advent Weekday**

**4:00 pm. Vigil Mass:**

✠ Joseph O'Brien—Req. by O'Brien Family

✠ Colleen Kovacs—Req. by O'Brien Family

**Sunday 12/20—The Fourth Sunday of Advent**

**8:30 am**

✠ Lori Augustine—Req. Patty & Rick H. & Family

**11:00 am:**

✠ Louis & Mary Nessel—Req. Joe & Amy Gordon

✠ Bernadine Blake—Bob & Mary Kay Blake & Family

**Tuesday 12/22—Advent Weekday**

**9:00 am—Fr. George St. John—Req. by Social Action Committee**

**Wednesday 12/23—Advent Weekday**

**9:00 am —Intention Available**

**Thursday 12/24—Advent Weekday (Christmas Eve.)**

**4:00 pm.—Massimo Bernado—Req. family**

✠ John Caruso & Beatrice Wong—Req. Rita Bernado (daughter)

**6:00 pm—Philip Egan—Req. Ann Egan & family**

✠ Fr. George St. John—Req. Steve & Kathy Wiech

**8:00 pm—Thomas Horan—Req. Rosemary, Jason, Courtney,  
Lucas, and Alex.**

**Friday 12/25—The Nativity of the Lord Jesus Christ**

**10:00 a.m.—John & Leanora Coonan & John Whalen  
Req. family**

## THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH

**Saturday 12/26—St. Stephen, The First Martyr**

**4:00 pm. Vigil Mass:**

✠ Joseph O'Brien—Req. Helen O'Brien

**Sunday 12/27—The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph**

**8:30 am Mass:**

✠ For the people of the parish

**11:00 am Mass:**

✠ Joseph O'Brien—Req. O'Brien Family

✠ Colleen Kovacs—Req. O'Brien Family

## **CELEBRATING THE SACRAMENTS**

Through the Sacraments, God shares his holiness with us so that we, in turn, can make the world holier. (USCCB)

### **Sacraments of Healing**

**Reconciliation**—Saturday from 3:00-3:30pm or by appointment

**Anointing of the Sick (and homebound visits)**

✠ Available by appointment, for any stage of illness

### **Sacraments of Initiation**

**Baptism**—is available at any age. Please contact the parish office.

**Eucharist**—Student candidates must be at least age 7 by December 1st and be participating in ongoing Seasons of Faith Gatherings for at least one year prior.

**Confirmation**—Student candidates must be participating in Seasons of Faith for at least one year prior to beginning formation for Confirmation in the spring.

### **Sacraments of Commitment**

**Sacrament of Marriage**—Congratulations on your engagement! Please contact the parish as soon as you are engaged, at least six (6) months in advance. Pre-Cana is expected. Wedding dates will be scheduled after meeting with the Pastor.

**Holy Orders and Religious Life**—Congratulations as you begin your discernment. Please contact Fr. Vo at the parish office, or the diocesan Vocations Office at [albanyvocations.org](http://albanyvocations.org) (518) 453-6690.

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