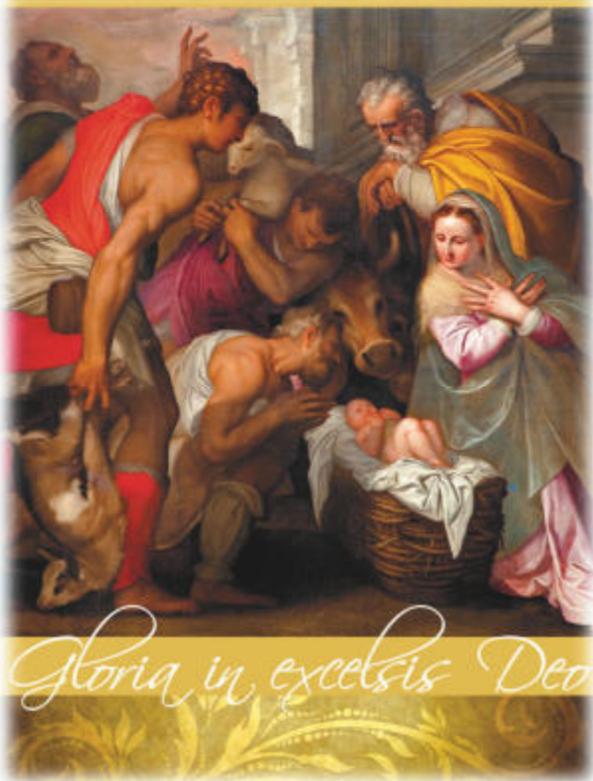




Church of the Holy Spirit

You are welcome here!

DECEMBER 27, 2020 | THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH



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 Jesus, the wonderful counselor, be with you always! And Merry Christmas to each of you. I hope that you and your family had wonderful Christmas celebrations. Our parish communities had wonderful Christmas celebrations. The Christmas liturgies were celebrated prayerfully and solemnly. Our beautifully decorated church warms our hearts with a sense of peace. My sincere gratitude and thanks go out those who volunteered their time to clean, decorate, and prepare our Church. I also thank to the Lectors, Altar Servers, and our seminarians for your participation in the Christmas liturgies, and all musicians, vocalists, and the choir for providing and leading us all in hymns of praise. Thank you very much for sharing with us your gift and talents.

The holy feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph directs our attention to the importance of family life. Family is the place we first experience love and forgiveness. It is a place where we discover our strengths and weaknesses; where we learn values, attitudes, trust, and how to get along with one another. More importantly, we should keep God at the center of the family. Families that keep God at the center will enjoy the benefits from Him such as: prayers answered, atonement for our sins, peace, and eternal happiness. May God always be in our homes and hearts.

I had a wonderful Christmas celebration. Thank you very much for the many thoughtful Christmas cards, notes, remembrances, and Christmas wishes you shared with me and the seminarians. Please be assured of our prayers for you and your loved ones. Wishing you and your loved a happy New Year! May 2021 bring you good health, good news, and many happiness throughout the year.

Happy New Year !

Fr. Quy 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

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REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- † The story of Abram and Sarah and their struggle to have a family centers on Abram's faith in the Lord. When have you needed to rely on faith when it comes to your family?
- † The author of Hebrews holds up Abraham as a model for the faith. When have you had to unconditionally trust in the Lord?
- † Only Luke records the presentation in the Temple of the baby Jesus. Simeon reveals to Mary and Joseph insights into Jesus and his destiny. How do you imagine Mary and Joseph understood Simeon's words?
- † The psalm refrain for today tells us we are blessed when we "walk in [God's] ways." How does this image of walking with God and keeping his ways relate to your faith journey?



This Sunday's Reading:

First Reading: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14

Second Reading: Col 3:12-21

Gospel: Lk 2:22-40

Next Sunday's Reading:

First Reading: Is 60:1-6

Second Reading: Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6

Gospel: Mt. 2:1-12

HOLY SPIRIT PARISH SACRIFICIAL OFFERING



Week of 12/20/20: Not available due to early submission of the bulletin for holiday.

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



Holy Family Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ,
being subject to Mary and Joseph,
you sanctified family life by Your beautiful
virtues. Grant that we, with the help of
Mary and Joseph, may be taught by
the example of Your holy Family,
and may after death enjoy its everlasting companionship.

Lord Jesus, help us ever to follow
the example of Your Holy Family that
in the hour of our death, your glorious Virgin Mother
together with Saint Joseph may come to meet us,
and we may be worthy to be received by You
into the everlasting joys of heaven,
you live and reign forever. Amen

LIVE THE LITURGY - INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

While families come in all shapes and sizes and no two are the same, they all need a common focus and grounding. Families are intended to be pivotal in providing us with a proper social structure and understanding, a support system, lessons about relationships and communication and the unconditional acceptance and love we so desperately crave. In addition to all of these things, the axis of every family has to be centered on faith. It is here that we can learn about the virtues and discover the windows to God Himself in His gifts of faith, hope, and love. We can learn, modeling our experience after the Holy Family, how to use these as anchors in our lives so that we can live out the other virtues with greater integrity. Because our human families struggle with weakness and sin, we have to come back to the Holy Family often for inspiration and guidance. In the bond of love that they shared, they clung to the anchor of God Himself and endured challenges far greater than many we will ever face.

CHILDREN LEARN WHAT THEY LIVE

If children live with criticism, they learn to condemn.

If they live with hostility, they learn to fight.

If they live with ridicule, they learn to be shy.

If they live with shame, they learn to feel guilty.

If they live with tolerance, they learn to be patient.

If they live with encouragement,
they learn to have confidence.

If they live with praise, they learn to appreciate.

If they live with fairness, they learn what justice is.

If they live with security, they learn to trust.

If they live with approval,
they learn to like themselves.

If they live with acceptance and friendship,
they learn to find love and God in the world. (Anon.)



FROM POPE FRANCIS—"The life of a family is filled with beautiful moments: rest, meals together, walks in the park or the countryside, visits to grandparents or to a sick person...But if love is missing, joy is missing, nothing is fun. Jesus always gives

us that love: he is its endless source. In the sacrament he gives us his word and he gives us the bread of life, so that our joy may be complete."



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.



WHY DO WE DO THAT? CATHOLIC TRADITIONS EXPLAINED

Question: What can I do to help our family practice our faith each day?

Answer: Some families practice their religion together as just another event on their schedule: go to church, observe Lent, help at the parish picnic, go to a meeting, volunteer time, make your confession, use your envelope... But the focus needs to be on who we are--God's people, in relationship with him, loved, forgiven, and redeemed, and called to live and proclaim the Gospel. Our awareness of God's presence and our sense of mission are supported by the daily rituals, celebrations, and traditions that help us stay focused. Sharing our faith strengthens us and clarifies the beliefs and values of Christian living.

Daily family practices include time for prayer before meals, before bed, before important meetings and activities. Attend Sunday Mass together and discuss the homily afterward. Create family celebrations for holy days and holidays. Make religion a regular part of your discussions. Include others, especially the elderly and the less fortunate, in your activities and charitable efforts. By applying the virtues of faith, hope, and love to each day, faith becomes part of who your family is. It influences how you act towards others, what you value, and how mindful of God you are. Faith is the leaven of life that helps all of us rise to our calling and dignity as God's people.



ST. ELIZABETH ANN SETON—Celebrate the first American-born saint! St. Elizabeth Ann Seton was born in New York City in the late 1700s and raised Episcopalian. She married William Seton. Together they had five children. He fell ill, and the family moved to Italy for his health. While there, Elizabeth discovered Catholicism. Her husband eventually passed away, but God had more plans for the Seton family.

Elizabeth felt a further stirring in her heart. She opened a school for girls in 1808. The calling grew. Within a year, Elizabeth had founded the Sisters of Charity, the first community for religious women established in the United States. Their work established the first Catholic school system in the country. On her feast day this January 4th, pray for our teachers and students!

Give yourself a faith-lift this winter. Seasons of Faith will have many options this Winter/Spring Season to help you grow in and live out your faith. Explore Open Wide Our Hearts, Fratelli Tutti, the Gospel of Mark, St. Joseph, the four Cardinal Virtues, some of our Sunday Gospel readings and more! Join us beginning in January for any of our courses or retreats. Contact Laura Countryman at faithfomation@hsceg.org to register or learn more. All events will be virtual. Stay safe and feed your faith! The full schedule and registration will be on our website www.holyspiritchurcheg.weebly.com.

GOSPEL MEDITATION

The feast of Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

Tragedy and disappointment are inevitable. What sees you through this? There will be challenges, changes, unexpected circumstances, interrupted plans, hurts, and injustices experienced by every human being at some point in their lives. We will be asked to adjust our plans, change course, and even encounter suffering and death. Where do we learn all of the lessons we need to live life well? Some of them we learn along the way but much of what we bring to life, positive and negative, comes from our early beginnings, our families. This is our early world and provides the blueprint for how we see the bigger, more inclusive world, which unfolds before us.

Our families of origin can be sources of grace, heartache or a combination of both. Families are intended to be pivotal in providing us with proper social structure and understanding, a support system, lessons about relationships and communication, and the unconditional acceptance and love we so desperately crave. They can also determine whether we have an accessible and healthy relationship with God. Many of life's challenges can literally bring us to our knees and require that we possess a strength of character that resides well beyond the superficialities of our world. At some point we will all need three coping gifts that can be given to us only by God: faith, hope, and love. Our families help us learn that we are not the ones responsible for their creation, but God!

Our experience of early family life colors all of our relationships and what we expect to achieve from life in general. Resolving conflicts, dealing with difficulty and suffering, celebrating accomplishments, prioritizing our needs, listening to God's call, understanding relationships, understanding disappointment, learning about the virtues and living a centered focused life are all lessons our families either succeed in teaching or do not. To succeed, as God has designed and ordered our world, is to discover his presence and then trust that Presence. The Holy Family can teach even the most dysfunctional family how to best use God's gifts of faith, hope, and love to find him and do his will. Their simple humble example is always before us, showing us the way. Jesus, Mary and Joseph,



The Respect Life Team of Holy Spirit parish will be holding another Rosary and Chaplet for Divine Mercy for the intention of our nation to be held on Tuesday evening, December 29, 2020 at 7:00 PM. All are welcome!

Please remember to patronize the sponsors of our bulletin.

Holy Spirit Directory

Parish: 518-477-7925 office@hsceg.org

School: 518-477-5739 hsoffice@hsceg.org

Parish Pastoral Team

Pastor: Fr. Quy Vo pastor@hsceg.org

Deacon: Bill Dringus deacon1275@aol.com

Pastoral Associate for Administration:

Antonio Morabito parishmanager@hsceg.org

Pastoral Associate for Liturgy:

* Fr. Quy Vo pastor@hsceg.org

Family Ministry & Lifelong Faith Formation:

* Laura Countryman faithformation@hsceg.org

Bookkeeper: Aimee Martin-Vieira finance@hsceg.org

Secretary: office@hsceg.org

Maintenance Services: Paul Weidman, Tim Casalla

Holy Spirit School - 54 Highland Drive

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Parish Council

Ellen Murphy: 518-479-7217 ebmurphy@gmail.com

Finance Committee

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

Trustees

Matt Heitker: heitkergm@acm.org

Kevin Haggerty: 518-378-5428 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 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.

**THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY,
& 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

Tuesday 12/29—The Octave of the Nativity of the Lord

9:00 am—Intention Available

Wednesday 12/30—The Octave of the Nativity of the Lord

9:00 am —Intention Available

Thursday 12/31—The Octave of the Nativity of the Lord

5:00 pm.—Intention Available

Friday 1/1/2021—The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

10:00 a.m.—Joseph O'Brien—Req. Helen O'Brien

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD JESUS

**Saturday 1/2/21—Sts. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen,
Bishops and Doctors of the Church**

4:00 pm. Vigil Mass:

✠ Joseph O'Brien—Req. Helen O'Brien

Sunday 1/3—The Epiphany of the Lord Jesus

8:30 am Mass:

✠ For the people of the parish

11:00 am Mass:

✠ Joseph O'Brien—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 (518) 453-6690.

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