



Church of the Holy Spirit

You are welcome here!

JANUARY 10, 2021 | THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD JESUS YEAR B



THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

This is what John the Baptist proclaimed: "One mightier than I is coming after me. I am not worthy to stoop and loosen the thongs of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit." - Mk 1:7-8

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! The new year 2021 has begun, and we pray that this new year will bring us many good things, especially the gift of healing for many of us. Today's feast of the Baptism of the Lord concludes our Christmas season. Celebrating the feast of the Baptism of the Lord gives us an opportunity to look at our own Baptism. We learn in the catechism that baptism is the sacrament which washes the "Original Sin" and all other sins away. Not only are we baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, we were also anointed with the Oil of Sacred Chrism as priest, prophet, and king. Through Baptism, we enter into the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The opening of gospel of Mark gives us the scene of the Baptism of Jesus at Jordan River. The Marken Jesus appearing at the Jordan River is a humble and unimportant person who came from Nazareth. His humble action of going into the river tells us that Jesus puts himself in solidarity with sinful humanity. Jesus takes all of our sins with him and destroys them in the waters of Jordan. By rising up from the water, we can see in the person of Jesus is the new beginning, a new relationship with heaven and earth, a new life and the light of God to the lost and the brokenhearted. Through baptism, we are called to be the beacon of hope and the light of Christ for others.

May the feast of the Baptism of the Lord Jesus reignite the flame of faith in our hearts and transform us by the power of the Holy Spirit so that we have the courage to do what is good, to bring forth the justice, and to seek the lost. Wishing you a blessed and peaceful week!

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

- † Isaiah was called to be a prophet to bring justice and freedom to those suffering, to be a “light for the nations.” How do see yourself serving others in need in your life?
- † John teaches his community that God Himself has “testified on behalf of His Son.” In what way does this divine assurance help strengthen your faith?
- † The preaching of John the Baptist and the baptism of Jesus is the opening scene in the Gospel of Mark. In Jesus’ baptism, the Father, Son, and Spirit were fully present. As a baptized Christian, can you think of a time when you experienced God’s presence?



This Sunday’s Reading:

First Reading: Is 42:1-4, 6-7
Second Reading: Acts 10:34-38
Gospel: Mk 1:7-11

Next Sunday’s Reading:

First Reading: 1 Sm 3:3b-10, 19
Second Reading: 1 Cor 6:13c-15a, 17-20
Gospel: Jn 1:35-42

HOLY SPIRIT PARISH SACRIFICIAL OFFERING



Week of 1/3/21:

- * Collection weekend masses: **\$1,442.00**
- * Collection thru mail: **\$13,500.00**
- * Collection thru E-Giving: **\$600.00**
- * Christmas Collection: **\$1,360.00**
(including thu mail & E-Giving)
- * Mary, Mother of God Collection: **\$312.00**
(including thu mail & E-Giving)



Total Collection: \$17,214.00

Please consider online giving. Our parish is grateful for your continued support. If you are away, please remember the parish with your envelope gift on your return. Also, you can make your gift/donations by using the E-Giving on our parish website.



Is your child going to be ready First Reconciliation and Eucharist? Before children can begin formation for these sacraments, candidates need to be participating in Seasons

of Faith along with their family for at least 3 prior seasons before we begin formation for Reconciliation and Eucharist. Contact Laura Countryman at faithformation@hsceg.org and check out our Seasons of Faith website; holyspiritchurcheg.weebly.com. It’s never too early to begin Seasons of Faith as a family. We look forward to accompanying your family at this special time.

LIVE THE LITURGY - INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

Even the slightest flicker of a light helps to properly orient us when we find ourselves in total darkness. Being in darkness can be unsettling and even a bit unnerving. We lose our focus and struggle to find our bearings and achieve balance. On life’s journey we may think we are walking in the light but are really lingering in darkness. We do not see the full picture, either because we are distracted, disinterested, or even apprehensive. Sometimes, we even choose to close our eyes when the light is readily available to illuminate our path. Do we really desire to know the truth of who we are? In Jesus Christ, a light has been given to those who dwell in darkness. God’s revelation gives us the light to see where we come from, who we are and where we are going. It also tells us that this Good News is not meant for just a privileged few but is intended to go out to all the world. Is this something we want to see?



POPE FRANCIS PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR JANUARY 2021

Intention for evangelization—Human fraternity
May the Lord give us the grace to live in full fellowship with our brothers and sisters of other religions, praying for one another, open to all.



Who is Seasons of Faith intended for? Seasons of Faith is Holy Spirit’s lifelong faith formation process for adults and families. Adults can participate in any of our courses and events for one seasonal fee. We have options to reflect, learn, pray and study. Choose the courses and events that work for you. We look forward to having you join us! Parents are the first and primary witnesses of faith for their children. We encourage you to begin attending Seasons of Faith as a family by the time your child is 5 years of age. For young families, we recommend the Church Life course. For families with older children, choose the course that works best for your family. If your family has a range of ages, choose one course or a few. Please contact us to work out what options are best for your family. Email Laura Countryman at faithformation@hsceg.org. Register, renew your registration and learn more on our Seasons of Faith website: holyspiritchurcheg.weebly.com



ENVELOPES & TAXES: It is that time of year when tax returns have to be filed. As you may know, you can claim your church offertory contributions as a tax deductible donation, as long as we have a record of your contributions (i.e. if you use envelopes and E-giving). This is a good time of year to encourage those who do not use envelopes to think about using them. Contribution statements are available by calling the parish office at (518) 477-7925



**WHY DO WE DO THAT?
CATHOLIC TRADITIONS EXPLAINED**

Question: Why do we hold hands during the Our Father?

Answer: The practice of members of the assembly holding hands while praying the Lord's Prayer during the Mass is a custom that developed organically in the 1970s and 1980s. While some commentators acknowledge that the practice varies from place to place, it is a fairly universal reality in parishes across the United States. For some, this action symbolizes the communion of Christians praying together as one family of believers honoring the Father of All. Critics of the practice sometimes express concern that holding hands can be a distraction from the more significant unity that is experienced when we process to the altar to receive sacramental communion. And so, we're left to ask, what is the answer?

The General Instruction of the Roman Missal (the document that offers specific instructions for the celebration of the Mass) is silent on the practice, saying only that "all the faithful say the prayer" with the priest. The website of the US Bishops simply observes that "No position is prescribed in the Roman Missal for an assembly gesture during the Lord's Prayer." And so, we're left to discern within ourselves and within our parish and religious communities what is an authentic gesture of praise during this important point of the Mass. For some, this means continuing to hold hands, while for others, this may mean adopting another posture of prayer.



Is celebrating the Sacrament of Confirmation in your family's future?

Confirmation is the beginning of your life as a full member of the Church. Before formation for Confirmation can begin, the candidates and their families need to be participating in Seasons of Faith. At least three prior seasons are needed before we can begin the formation for Confirmation. Contact Laura Countryman at faithformation@hsceg.org and check out our Seasons of Faith website: holyspiritchurcheg.weebly.com for more information. We look forward to accompanying your family during this formation process.

Are you an adult who put off celebrating their Eucharist or Confirmation? It's never too late. Contact Fr. Vo at the parish office (518) 477-7925 or email him at pastor@hsceg.org to learn about how we can help you with this process.



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

GOSPEL MEDITATION

The Baptism of the Lord Jesus

We need history. We need it in order to understand ourselves, personally and collectively. The pieces of our histories may not have always been the most positive, honest, exemplary, dignified, proud and best moments of our lives, but they are ours. We have to acknowledge, remember, accept, and often heal them. We cannot forget them or pretend that they never existed. As horrible as the atrocities of events like Auschwitz, brutal injustices committed throughout the human journey, or personal painful experiences in our own stories, we need to remember. These times when humanity in general or people in particular have lost their way are times that need to be reconciled and redeemed.

If we lose the memories, we will make the same mistakes again. The human soul needs a strong sense of affirmation, direction, and clear purpose. Without these essentials, we will easily run amuck and repeat the sins of our past. God's voice throughout history has spoken precisely about this! We are reminded through the voices and example of many prophets and witnesses not to make the same mistakes again, come back to center, discover the purpose given to us by God, maintain a sense of proper direction, seek healing for wounds and be reconciled to our Creator.

Baptism is so incredibly important for the salvation of humankind, not only eternally but here and now. Our existence depends upon it. It gives us the affirmation we need from God by gifting us with the same intimate relationship Jesus had with the Father. We are blessed with the direction and clear purpose we need in order to be productive stewards and faithful Christians. Baptism calls us to remember, accept, and deal with the sins and inequities of our past regardless of how hurtful and serious. We consciously choose to turn away from them and put on the new life of Christ. To do this well, we must look hard and long at our sins and failings, listen to what they are saying and learn from them. If we ignore the past, collectively or personally, or pretend that it never happened, we will never grow. We will surely die.

People need to hear the message, lived and spoken, delivered by the baptized members of the Body of Christ. It is an essential message of hope that is layered with visions of justice, peace, reconciliation, redemption, blessing, and healing. It is a message that helps us remember what has gone before, the graces and the sins, and bring ourselves by God's help where we need to be. We are called to do much more than sit home behind our closed doors. We have a message to deliver. Are we ready to do so?

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

Principal: Michael Kosar principal@hsceg.com

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!

Please remember to patronize the sponsors of our bulletin.

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD JESUS



Saturday 1/9/21—Christmas Weekday

4:00 pm. Vigil Mass:

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

✠ Joseph Palasz—Req. by Betty Palasz

Sunday 1/10/21—The Baptism of the Lord Jesus

8:30 am Mass:

✠ Fr. George St. John—Req. by Rosemary Horan

11:00 am Mass:

✠ Helen Fischetti—Req. by Bob & Mary Kay Blake

Tuesday 1/12/21—Weekday in Ordinary Time

9:00 am—Intention Available

Wednesday 1/13/21—St. Hilary, Bishop & Doctor of the Church

9:00 am —Intention Available

Thursday 1/14/21—Weekday in Ordinary Time

9:00 am.—Intention Available

The Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday 1/16/21—Weekday in Ordinary Time

4:00 pm. Vigil Mass:

✠ Colleen Kovacs—Req. by Helen O'Brien

Sunday 1/17/21—The Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:30 am Mass:

✠ Constance Ligato—Req. by Peter Phu Lai

11:00 am Mass:

✠ Fr. George St. John—Req. Bob & Mary Kay Blake

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.

Please contact the office for more information or to set up an appointment. We look forward to accompanying you on your sacramental journey.



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