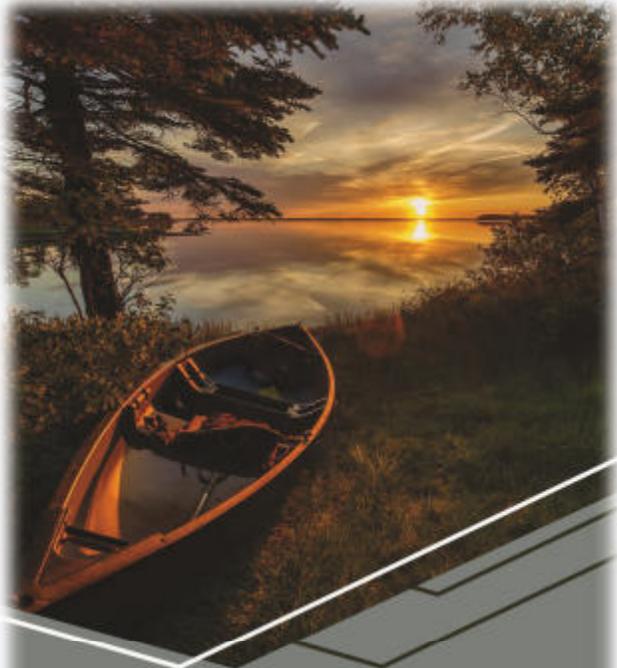




Church of the Holy Spirit

You are welcome here!

JANUARY 24, 2021 | THE THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



3RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

He walked along a little farther and saw James, the son of Zebedee, and his brother John. They too were in a boat mending their nets. Then he called them. So they left their father Zebedee in the boat along with the hired men and followed him. - Mk 1:19-20

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 be with you always! As we are moving through the cold winter days, the life of the church continues its daily routines. Today's gospel tells us that Jesus begins his public ministries. After hearing John the Baptist was arrested and imprisoned, Jesus returns to Galilee where he summons the apostles. What did the ministry of Jesus consist of? Jesus' ministries consist of teaching and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, healing and curing disease and illness, casting out demons. Mark's gospel gives us the mission of Jesus as we hear today: "Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand." This message is similar to John the Baptist's message. Jesus continues John the Baptist's mission. He calls us to repent; to change our way of thinking, attitude, disposition, and life choices so that Christ can be the Lord and Master of our heart rather than sin, selfishness, and greed. We know that change can be very difficult at times but with the grace of God we can do it. With the grace of God, we can learn and understand that sin is a rejection of God's love and a refusal to do what is good and in accord with God's will. Also, God's grace brings pardon and help for turning away from everything that would keep us from his love and truth.

Understanding that change can be difficult at times, perhaps we can look at the saints who had gone through the process of changing their sinful ways of living to the happy life in God. To help us in our own conversion, the saints have suggested us the three-step process for conversion/change: 1) purging our weaknesses and sins, 2) enlightening our minds with knowledge and 3) illuminating our hearts with service and love. Today let us pray for the courage to repent and change our lives for the sake of God's kingdom. Have a blessed week!

Fr. Ray Vo



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. Vigil Mass
Sunday 11:00 a.m. Mass
Links can be found on
Youtube channel
Holy Spirit Church eg

Our Seasons of Faith website:

holyspiritchurcheg.weebly.com

Follow us on:

Twitter: @HolySpiritEG
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REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- ✠ Although initially reluctant to be one of God's prophets, Jonah was ultimately successful in getting the Ninevites to repent of their sins. When do you find yourself resisting God's will?
- ✠ In trying to awaken a sense of spiritual urgency, Paul taught the Corinthians that Christ's return was imminent and that, "time is running out." How can a sense of urgency aid one's spiritual life?
- ✠ In Mark's account of the call of the first disciples, Simon (Peter), Andrew, James, and John immediately answer Jesus' call to follow him. How would you describe your response to Jesus' call in your life?



This Sunday's Reading:

First Reading: Jonah 3:1-5, 10
Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 7:29-31
Gospel: Mark 1:14-20

Next Sunday's Reading:

First Reading: Deuteronomy 18:15-20
Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 7:32-35
Gospel: Mark 1:21-28

HOLY SPIRIT PARISH SACRIFICIAL OFFERING



Week of 1/17/21:

- * Collection weekend masses: **\$1,102.00**
- * Collection thru mail: **\$740.00**
- * Collection thru E-Giving: **\$278.00**

Total Collection: \$2,120.00

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.



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



The Social Action Committee will be collecting cans of soup in support of the national **Souper Bowl of Caring** initiative on Saturday February 6th from 10:00- 12:00 in the church parking lot. Monetary donations are also gladly accepted. All proceeds will be donated to our friends at Concerns U.



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: holyspíritchurcheg.weebly.com



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.



Is your child going to be ready for 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; holyspíritchurcheg.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.



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: holyspíritchurcheg.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.



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

Question: Do Catholics always need to receive communion in wafer form, or can it be different kinds of bread?

Answer: In the Roman Rite of the Catholic Church, the most common form for the eucharistic bread is the small white communion “wafer” that is a ubiquitous part of the Catholic Mass. The instructions of the Church have been very specific regarding the make-up of the bread used in the Mass: “The bread used in the celebration of the Most Holy Eucharistic Sacrifice must be unleavened, purely of wheat, and recently made ... it follows therefore that bread made from another substance, even if it is grain, or if it is mixed with another substance different from wheat to such an extent that it would not commonly be considered wheat bread, does not constitute valid matter for confecting the Sacrifice and the Eucharistic Sacrament” (see *Redemptionis Sacramentum* by the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments, no. 48).

The Church’s tradition of using a wheat-based bread is based on the bread that Jesus would have used at the Last Supper and is considered to be an essential part of the “matter” of the Sacrament of the Eucharist.

As we consider the question of whether a “wafer” — which is properly called a “host” — should be used, we also must keep in mind that in the Eastern Rites of the Catholic Church, leavened (i.e. “raised”) bread is more often used. And so, while the thin, white “wafer” is most commonly used in the Roman Rite of the Church, the full expression of the Catholic tradition does allow for a more substantial form of bread to be used, but the tradition of using a simple wheat bread with no other additions or additives is considered essential.

LIVE THE LITURGY - INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

“Repent, and believe in the gospel.” Some type of honest and sincere repentance is necessary for any type of authentic growth and maturity. We have to come to the realization, unless we are happy wallowing in immaturity and superficiality, that the way we have been doing things is not the best or the healthiest. There isn’t a human being alive who hasn’t acted foolishly or erratically at the cost of almost losing a treasured relationship. “Why did I act that way?” is a question we often ponder after some reflection and enlightenment. Faith works the same way. Stumbling through life and bumping up against meaninglessness, a person can begin to see that something significant is missing. They see that there is merit to a relationship with God and an embrace of faith. Before these can take root, sincere sorrow for past wrong doing, missed opportunities, errors in judgment, and short sightedness is necessary. Repentance is necessary. Then having realized that we were walking in darkness, we can rejoice that by God’s grace we now see the light.

GOSPEL MEDITATION

The 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

It was a normal day by all accounts, but John just wasn’t feeling himself. He was a little lightheaded and out of sorts and certainly not himself. Later in the afternoon, he experienced chest a sharp pain in his chest and arm. Quick thinking and action brought John to the Emergency Department with a diagnosis of a significant heart attack. Surviving this ordeal, he found himself face to face with his cardiologist having an honest conversation about things that needed to change. “I came close to death,” John found himself thinking. Then came the remorse. He was a young man with a loving wife and children who were very close to facing life without him. John found himself with intense sorrow for living an unchecked and self-indulgent life that almost brought him to his demise. He wanted to change.

We all have our wake-up calls. We have experiences and encounters that call us to really think twice about choices we have made and directions we have taken. Often, we find ourselves looking at those we have hurt square in the eye and wallowing in our foolishness. We regrettably realize that we have allowed our ego needs to lure us into making some cruel mistakes. We impulsively say things and flippantly do things that reveal our unredeemed and unhealed self. It is a self we stumble over and try to tame but can’t quite seem to master and control. Help!

We spin our wheels naively thinking that we will somehow, perhaps through persistence, get ourselves unstuck. But, we don’t. We just get out of the car, feeling very helpless, and ignorantly look at the mess we got ourselves into. Did we ever think to ask someone for help? Or, taken the advice of One who is wiser and avoid this route altogether? “Come after me,” are words that Jesus says to all of us. In order to heed his invitation, we have to leave our ego-self behind and follow. When we really see and understand the freedom, peace, justice, and love he offers, we find ourselves with such sorrow in our hearts for how foolish and silly we have been. All of the misguided choices and sinful actions come full view and we see how risky our random impassioned behaviors really have been. Repentance is beautiful. When done with a sincere and contrite heart, it directs us to the glory that can be ours, ignites us with the challenge of living a life in service of others and reminds us that all is well.



Join us in the Eucharist Adoration every Tuesday evening beginning at 7 p.m. We will be praying the Rosary & Divine Mercy Chaplet. Confession is available for everyone.

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.

THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Saturday 1/23—St. Vincent, Deacon and Martyr; St. Marianne Cope, Virgin; BVM



4:00 pm. Vigil Mass:

✠ Joseph Palasz—Req. by Betty Palasz

Sunday 1/24—Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:30 am Mass:

✠ For the people of the parish

11:00 am Mass:

✠ Mary Lynn Ranger—Req. by Bob & Mary Kay Blake

Tuesday 1/26—Sts. Timothy and Titus, Bishops

9:00 am Mass—Intention Available

Wednesday 1/27—St. Angela Merici, Virgin

9:00 am Mass—Intention Available

Thursday 1/28—St. Thomas Aquinas, Priest and Doctor of the Church

9:00 am Mass—Intention Available

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Saturday 1/30—Weekday in Ordinary Time

4:00 p.m. Vigil Mass:

✠ Loyal Beardsley—Req. by Gary & Doris Beardsley

Sunday 1/31—Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:30 a.m. Mass:

✠ Aldo Rici—Req. by Betty Bellino Giugno

11:00 a.m. Mass:

✠ Mel John McNenna—Req. by Kevin & Karen McKenna

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

Congratulations as you begin and continue your initiation. These three sacraments provide the foundation for a life of Christian faith. Formation and preparation begin with forming faith. Join us for Seasons of Faith as we journey together as a parish family.

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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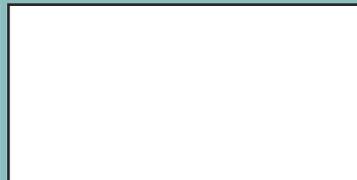
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