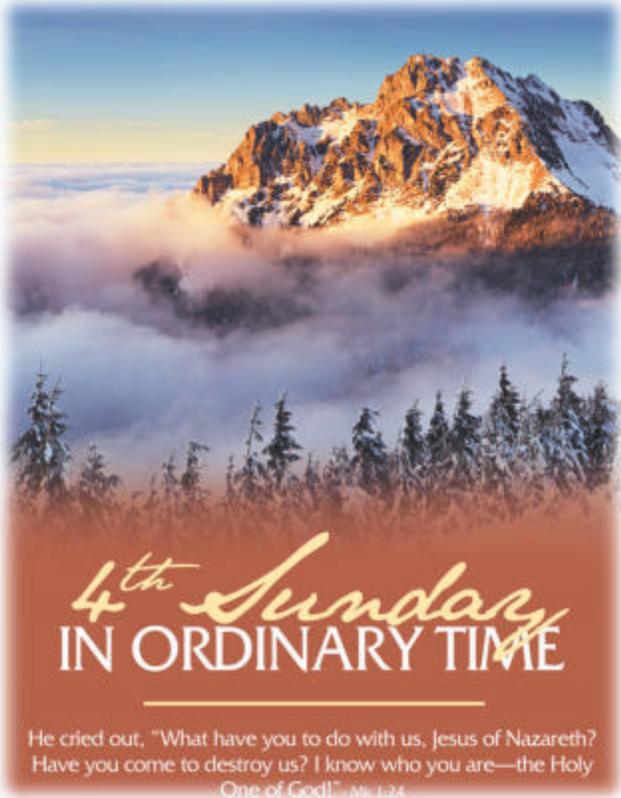




# Church of the Holy Spirit You are welcome here!

JANUARY 31, 2021 | THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



### 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! Where does the time go? Already we are the end of the month of January, and that means the winter is at its peak, and soon the spring weather will be here. This coming week is the Catholic Schools Week, and our parish is blessed to have a school. For many years Holy Spirit school has been providing good Catholic education. Our school has committed to educate the children in Gospel values and prepare them to become good leaders in the larger community. All the educational efforts of the parish school are focused on the life of faith. That faith is formed in knowledge of the teachings of the Church and of the Gospel, and those qualities are demonstrated through a life of service to the community. I invite each of you to reflect on the faith, moral values, fine education, and services that our parish has provided for over fifty years. I ask for your prayers and support to our Holy Spirit parish school. One of the best ways to support the school is to consider yourself to be our ambassador and help advertise our Holy Spirit School. Spreading Jesus' gospel message does not stop at the parish church but it continues with the school.

I am grateful and thankful to our school principal, Mr. Michael Kosar, for his leadership, and to our teachers who have dedicated themselves in Catholic education and their services to our students. I am also grateful to the school administrative staff, custodial and support staff for their hard-work and service to the school. Thank you all and have a blessed week!

*Fr. Quyn 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  
Links can be found on  
Youtube channel  
Holy Spirit Church eg

**Our Seasons of Faith website:**  
[holyspiritchurcheg.weebly.com](http://holyspiritchurcheg.weebly.com)  
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## REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- † Moses taught the Israelites that God would send prophets to assist them in knowing His will. Why do you think people so often reject the prophetic message?
- † Paul speaks of the inevitability of anxiety in life. How does your faith assist you in handling what makes you anxious?
- † In the story of the healing of a demon-possessed man, Mark reports how the demons knew Jesus' true identity as "the Holy One of God." What does this reveal about the unseen order?
- † What unclean spirits need to be driven out of my life? How can Jesus, within me and among us, defeat them?



### This Sunday's Reading:

**First Reading:** Deuteronomy 18:15-20

**Second Reading:** 1 Corinthians 7:32-35

**Gospel:** Mark 1:21-28

### Next Sunday's Reading:

**First Reading:** Job 18:15-20

**Second Reading:** 1 Corinthians 9:16-19, 22-23

**Gospel:** Mark 1:29-39

## HOLY SPIRIT PARISH SACRIFICIAL OFFERING



### Week of 1/24/21:

- \* Collection weekend masses: **\$1,189**
- \* Collection thru mail: **\$1,835.00**
- \* Collection thru E-Giving: **\$1,524.00**
- \* Fuel Collection: **\$150.00**  
(including thu mail & E-Giving)
- \* Evangelist Collection: **\$165.00**  
(including thu mail & E-Giving)

**Total Collection: \$4,863.00**



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



Let us pray....

God of knowledge and faith,  
thank you for the opportunity to go  
to a Catholic school.

When I go to Mass, I hear that knowledge is so important.

Thank you for my parents and grandparents  
who have built our school and supported it th  
roughout the years.

Help me to be a good student  
and to become a good supporter of my parish,  
city, and country.

Please bless all those men and women  
who have spent their lives teaching in our Catholic schools.  
Please bless my friends and teachers I learn with every day.

I ask for all these blessings  
in the name of God's Son, Jesus.

Amen.



## 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.

**Words of Wisdom Book Group** will gather virtually on Wednesday, February 3rd at 6:30pm to begin our exploration of Pope Francis' new encyclical, *Fratelli Tutti*. Encyclicals are the highest form of communication by the pope, meant to circulate to the whole church. It's an opportunity for Pope Francis to speak to each one of us. Join with us as we read and discern what Pope Francis has to say to all of us. Contact Laura Countryman at the parish office or at [faithformation@hsceg.org](mailto:faithformation@hsceg.org) to register.

**Simply Scripture.** Join us on Saturday, February 6th at 2:30pm as we virtually explore the readings for the 5th Sunday of Ordinary Time. What message does God have for you this week? Contact Laura Countryman at the parish office or at [faithformation@hsceg.org](mailto:faithformation@hsceg.org) to register.

**Best Lent Ever.** Dynamic Catholic is once again offering their Best Lent Ever free video program. Don't forget to sign up at [dynamiccatholic.org](http://dynamiccatholic.org). We have also received our first shipment of free books as a part of the Parish Champion program. We will be passing out Best Lent Ever Journals that go along with the Best Lent Ever program. They will be available after each Mass this weekend. Supplies are limited.

**Would you like to help thank our essential health care workers?** We will be collecting notes for the night shift staff at St. Peter's hospital during the pandemic. Please consider taking some time and writing a few notes to be passed on to St. Peter's. Children can also make drawings and cards. Help to lift the spirits of our health care workers. We will collect the notes and cards on Ash Wednesday Feb. 17, 2021. You can drop them in the offertory basket or bring them to the Parish Office. We will get them to St. Peter's. Contact Laura Countryman at [faithformation@hsceg.org](mailto:faithformation@hsceg.org) for more information.



WHY DO WE DO THAT?  
CATHOLIC TRADITIONS EXPLAINED

**Question: I get annoyed with myself when I am distracted while I pray. Is it a sin? How can I be more attentive?**

*Answer:* The mind is a marvelous and complex thing, producing amazing thoughts, images, wisdom and inspiration. Yet at times it is like a two-year-old: it does not follow directions, does what it wants and loves to tell us "no!" This is probably the oldest and most common problem in the spiritual life-dealing with distraction. It comes in all forms: good intentions forgotten, wandering thoughts at Mass, daydreaming, etc. A little poem says it all: When the soul begins to pray, the brain always wants to play!

There are many ways to handle distractions. If we are distracted by thoughts about our families or friends, we should pray for them. If we lose our focus, we need just "re-collect" ourselves. If some worry or concern just won't leave our mind, then we deal with it and come back to prayer or make it part of our prayer. And when words just won't come, the only prayer we might offer is our presence, our suffering, and our desire to be close to the Lord. Most importantly, we need to be patient with ourselves. These things are not sinful, but reminders of our human frailty. Our weaknesses and good efforts are all acceptable to God, who reads the love in our hearts and the good intentions of our minds.

**LIVE THE LITURGY - INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK**

Most of us are not trail blazers. Throughout history though, there have been many folks who tirelessly and persistently pursued the promptings of their hearts without giving any care to what others thought or trends dictated. Jesus is one of them. St. Teresa of Calcutta and St. Francis of Assisi are examples of others. The rest of us are people who take a more measured look at things, want to test the waters, and take our time choosing what path or person to follow. We need credible witnesses of faith. We need the Moses people in our lives to show us by word and deed who God is and what integrity and a purpose-driven life looks like. They are the pointers to truth, who even though they struggle themselves, seem to embody an unspoken timeless wisdom that just sounds and feels right. Jesus taught with this same type of authority and caught the attention of the greatest of skeptics. They were astonished. Even though we need our human prophets we can also be somewhat prophetic ourselves by putting integrity and conviction behind our embrace of the Gospel. Perhaps much to our surprise, we all have the power to be a credible witness. Are you willing to give it a try?

GOSPEL MEDITATION

The 4<sup>TH</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

Most of us are quiet people who desire to live a good and holy life, promote the values and mission of the Gospel as best we can and desire to one day inherit the surprise of life eternal God promises to us. We are not trail blazers. We are simple people who want to do the simple things of life well. But there are others who left a more profound impact along the way of the paths they walked. Folks like Dorothy Day, Martin Luther King, Thomas Merton, Gandhi, St. Teresa of Calcutta, and many others left lasting impacts and legacies. Like Moses, they show us by word and deed who God is and what integrity and a purpose driven life look like. They show us how to be holy. We need Moses people like these to give us inspiration, hope and an example of holy living.

We do not need to do what they did or even mirror their relationship with God. Each one of us is God's special creation, with a purpose and soul known only to us. We need to learn how to open up and bring, without compromise, our soul-ness to life. We know when someone is authentic and centered because they always point to truth, even though they struggle and sin themselves, and they embody an unspoken timeless wisdom that just sounds and feels right. Jesus taught with this same type of authority and it astonished many who listened. We do not need to move mountains, advance a cause, write books or become notable. All we have to do is become credible witnesses of the faith we profess. Moses people can teach us how to do this.

St. Oscar Romero was an amazing man and a Moses figure for sure. He saw God in the burning bush and brought the flame of Gospel faith to the poorest of the poor, challenging the evils of the society in which he lived. He was tireless and persistent. He must have gotten very close to the problem because it cost him his life. He suspected it would. St. Romero said, "When we leave Mass, we ought to go out the way Moses descended Mt Sinai: with his face shining, with his heart brave and strong to face the world's difficulties." We can learn from this wisdom. If we allow the power of the Mass to truly transform us, we will leave that holy encounter changed. Our face will shine, and we will have courage. We can then bring what we have received to life's challenges. That sounds doable, doesn't it? Because of the example of our simple holiness, people will be amazed.

**Eucharistic Adoration** 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.



The sanctuary lamp is given in loving memory of:

*The Barreisi family*

Given by Gary & Doris Beardsley

## Holy Spirit Directory

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

School: 518-477-5739 [hssoffice@hsceg.org](mailto:hssoffice@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@hsseg.com](mailto:principal@hsseg.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!**

## **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

**Tuesday 2/2—The Presentation of the Lord**

**9:00 a.m. Mass—Intention Available**

**Wednesday 2/3—St. Blaise, Bishop and Martyr; St. Ansgar, Bishop**

**9:00 a.m. Mass—Intention Available**

**Thursday 2/4—Weekday in Ordinary Time**

**9:00 a.m. Mass—Intention Available**

## **FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**Saturday 2/6—St. Paul Miki and Companions, Martyrs**

**4:00 p.m. Vigil Mass:**

✠ Joe Di Bella—Req. by Betty Bellino Giugno

**Sunday 2/7—Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**8:30 a.m. Mass:**

✠ For the people of the parish

**11:00 a.m. Mass:**

✠ Howard Boniface—Req. by Elia and Tessa Miano

## **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](http://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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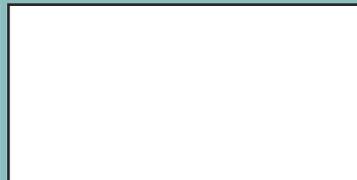
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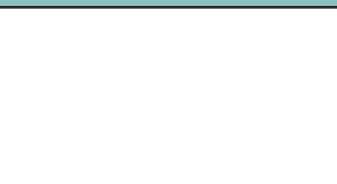
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