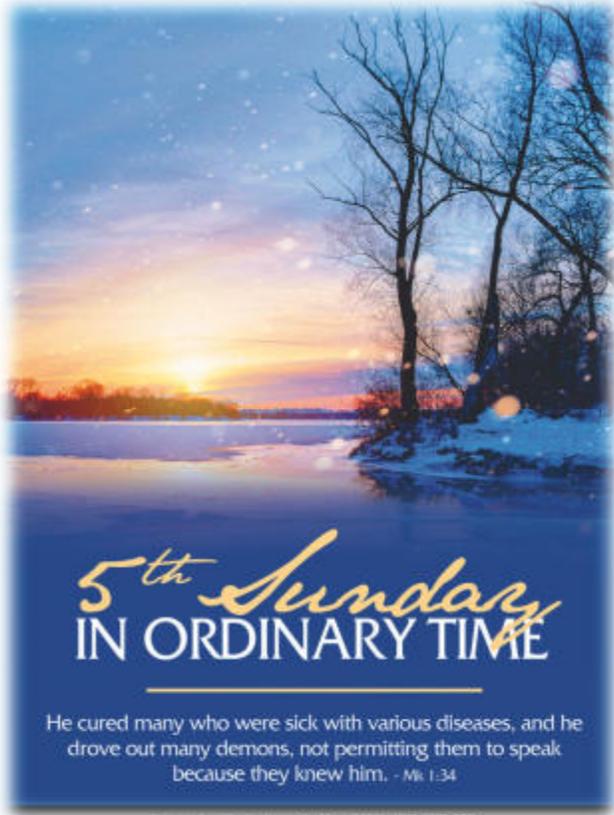




Church of the Holy Spirit

You are welcome here!

February 7, 2021 | THE FIFTH 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! I hope that you had a good week. For the next two weeks, Mark's gospel continues to expose us to Jesus' pastoral ministries. Hearing about Simon's mother-in-law's illness, Jesus makes his pastoral visit with her. He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up, and the fever left her; and she served them. (Mk. 1:31). Once again, Jesus' healing miracle has drawn many people who were sick with various diseases or possessed with demons. They searched and looked for Jesus, and they came to him and were healed.

What is Mark's story telling us? Three things: first, we do not need to be afraid of bringing our troubles to Jesus. Simon brought his trouble to Jesus because of his strong belief and trust in these words "for nothing will be impossible for God." (Lk. 1:37). Second, Jesus does answer our prayer. Simon's prayer of healing for his mother-in-law to Jesus were heard. Jesus came and healed her. Finally, Jesus' power of healing not only restores us to health but to active service and care of others. After Jesus lifted up Simon's mother-in-law and the fever left her, she immediately raised up and served Jesus and his disciples.

Simon's mother-in-law was so blessed to have the encounter with Jesus. Her recognition of Jesus' presence motivates her to rise from her sickness, and her faith and trust in Jesus gives her great hope and peace. Knowing Jesus is at her side, she gives her life and service to him. I found this prayer from dailyscripture.net, perhaps you pray this prayer with me, "Lord Jesus Christ, you have all power to heal and to deliver from harm. There is no trouble nor bondage you cannot overcome. Set me free to serve you joyfully and to love and serve others generously. May nothing hinder me from giving myself wholly to you and to your service. Amen"

Peace & Blessings
Fr. Quigley



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
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REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- ✠ We hear how Job struggled to find meaning and hope in his life. How does your faith help you get through difficult times in your life?
- ✠ Paul speaks of his singular desire to preach the “gospel” (the Good News of Jesus Christ). When do you share the gospel message with others?
- ✠ We learn that from the beginning of his public ministry Jesus was very purpose-driven: healing the sick and preaching the good news. How intentional is the practice of faith in your daily life?
- ✠ Mark presents Jesus as a miracle-worker from the earliest stages of his public ministry. In what ways do you think it was a challenge to balance the healing and the preaching?



Feast Day: February 7—The saints are more than lovely pictures on a holy card. If we dig a little deeper, their lives can challenge and transform our own. On February 8th, the Church celebrates St. Josephine Bakhita. As a young girl, St. Josephine was kidnapped from her family in Darfur and sold into slavery at age nine. She was introduced to Catholicism as an adolescent and experienced a profound love for Jesus Christ. St. Josephine eventually gained legal freedom and entered religious life. Though she bore over one hundred scars beneath her habit, St. Josephine forgave her enemies and became known in the convent for her humility and joyful spirit.

Author Fr. Jeff Kirby writes, "Saint Josephine gives us all a scarred and human face to the evils of human trafficking, racial tension, and of the brutality found in the peripheries. Her life demands a response." As we approach the season of Lent, let us recall our own call to conversion and an active concern for those who suffer.

This Sunday's Reading:

First Reading: Job 7:1-4, 6-7

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

Gospel: Mark 1:29-39

Next Sunday's Reading:

First Reading: Leviticus 13:1-2, 44-46

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1

Gospel: Mark 1:40-45



HOLY SPIRIT PARISH SACRIFICIAL OFFERING



Week of 1/31/21:

- * Collection weekend masses: **\$1,240.00**
- * Collection thru mail: **\$2,125.00**
- * Collection thru E-Giving: **\$400.00**
- * Fuel Collection: **\$10.00**
(including thu mail & E-Giving)
- * Evangelist Collection: **\$122.00**
(including thu mail & E-Giving)

Total Collection: \$3,897.00



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



POPE FRANCIS PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR FEBRUARY 2021

Violence Against Women: We pray for women who are victims of violence, that they may be protected by society and have their sufferings considered and heeded.

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. 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.

Feast for Lent on the Gospel of Mark. Have you ever taken the time to read a Gospel straight through? Join us as we binge read the Gospel of Mark together. This will give us the opportunity to really understand the gospel writer's style and message. The Gospel of Mark is the shortest of the Gospel's and is also the dominate gospel for this liturgical year. We will meet virtually on Thursday, February 18th to read and reflect on Mark's message. Contact Laura Countryman at the Parish Office or at faithformation@hsceg.org to register.

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. Peters. 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 for more information.



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 all.



WHY DO WE DO THAT? CATHOLIC TRADITIONS EXPLAINED

Question: Is it ever Ok to leave Mass before it ends?

Answer: This is an interesting question because beneath the surface there seems to be an assumption that if it's okay, then why do we have to stay after we receive communion? The short answer is "no," but we definitely want to go a bit deeper as we consider why.

First, when we think about questions like this, we must consider this in adult terms. If there is something gravely important that we need to do, then we must attend to that. However, if it is a matter of convenience or preference, then we really have to stop and think again. First, while we always want to recognize the importance of sacramental communion in the Mass, we also need to understand how important the time of thanksgiving and prayer after communion is. This is summarized in the Prayer After Communion offered by the celebrant and then we are also commissioned to "Go forth" during the Dismissal of the Mass, reminding us that we have been entrusted with a gift — the Word of God and the Presence of Christ in the sacrament — and that we are to share that gift with others.

If we simply leave after we receive communion, we risk two things. First, there is the possibility that we will turn our reception of communion into a purely personal, individual experience that is separated from our common experience of worship — and communion in the fullest sense — and, second, we lose an opportunity for gratitude and serious reflection if we simply leave after communion. This time of thanksgiving, reflection, and, ultimately, missioning, are important and, in the end, an essential part of the celebration of the Mass.

LIVE THE LITURGY - INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

Have you ever wondered what life would be like if you could see the future and know how things turn out? While it's intriguing to ponder what life would be like if we possessed this knowledge, actually knowing could easily rob us of the thrill, adventure, and soul-searching graces of our journey. Like Job, life does not always leave us on a happy note. Life experience can bring us face-to-face with our mortality and leave us with a profound sense of helplessness. We do not see the wholeness and fulfillment that will one day come and cannot grasp the certainty that a resolution to our plight will come our way. We need to learn how to reach for Jesus' hand and let him help us to our feet. Living a life of faith means realizing that we are not here to figure out life on our own. In order to drink deeply of what life presents us, we have to wrestle in the depths of our souls, agonize and search, possibly reach the lowest point of desperation, and cry out for the Divine healing we need to restore our faith, hope, and love. It is no wonder that those who are touched by God's healing power want to then serve others and show them the deeper waters that can be explored. Knowing too much can rob us of joyful surprises.

GOSPEL MEDITATION

The 5TH Sunday in Ordinary Time

If I only knew then what I know now, how different life would be. This sentiment, expressed in myriad ways, is found on every human being's lips at one point or another. Life may have brought us to a vulnerable place where we see some of the poor choices we made and the effects they are having. Perhaps we fell into some destructive and dysfunctional relationships or behaviors and are finding how they held us captive. Our zeal and passion for life may have drifted away and we are waking up to the reasons apathy has taken hold. Life can be hard. In fact, some would describe their lives as a drudgery. They walk through each day with an anxious unsettledness, wondering when their restlessness will cease. There is a temptation to believe that what I see is all I will get. Mortality and hopelessness await the dawn. If I could only have known what would come in the future, I could have made better choices and avoided all of this misery!

Really? While we can certainly give into weakness, sin, impulsiveness, and idiosyncrasies that cause us to stumble over ourselves, life is really a journey. If we don't make the mistake of wallowing in the mire of self-pity and realize the new life God is calling us to, then there are thrills, adventures, surprises, and soul-searching graces we can surely miss. We are not tethered to our past nor are we bound to the ills life can bring upon us. We are never hopeless or helpless. The problem is that our myopic vision only allows us to see the misery and misfortune that is before us, not the potential that can come from choosing healthier and more life-giving options. Jesus came that we might have fullness of life. We need to learn how to reach for Jesus' hand and let him help us to our feet.

We need to allow God into our pain and heal our past. We have to wrestle with our histories, agonize and search and cry out for the Divine healing we need to restore our faith, hope, and love. Job could not see how his story would end or trust the guidance of the God who called him. We live in that same blindness and suffer from the same lack of confidence. Once we allow ourselves to be touched by God's healing power, we begin to see that all of the pieces of our lives are necessary parts of a greater whole. Along the way of our lives, God uses our omissions and failures to create new things and possibilities. When doors close, others open and we can be amazed by the joyful and unexpected surprises we receive. Once we know the power of God's creative, healing, life-giving, forgiving, and dynamic presence, it is no wonder we want to put ourselves at the service of others and show them what life can be.

Holy Spirit Directory

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

School: 518-477-5739 hssoffice@hsseg.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@hsseg.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!



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

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 Ella and Tessa Miano

Tuesday 2/9—Weekday in Ordinary Time

9:00 a.m. Mass—Intention Available

Wednesday 2/10—St. Scholastica, Virgin

9:00 a.m. Mass—Intention Available

Thursday 2/11—Our Lady of Lourdes

9:00 a.m. Mass—Intention Available

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Saturday 2/13—Weekday in Ordinary Time

4:00 p.m. Vigil Mass:

✠ Dolores Ciacchia—Req. by Ella and Tessa Miano

✠ Elizabeth Ann Van Buren—Req. by George Barna

Sunday 2/14—Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:30 a.m. Mass:

✠ Genowefa Kwiatkowska—Req. by Ella and Tessa Miano

11:00 a.m. Mass:

✠ For the people of the parish

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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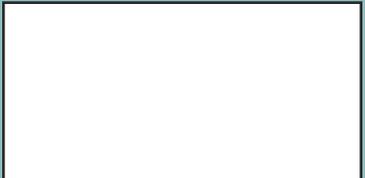
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