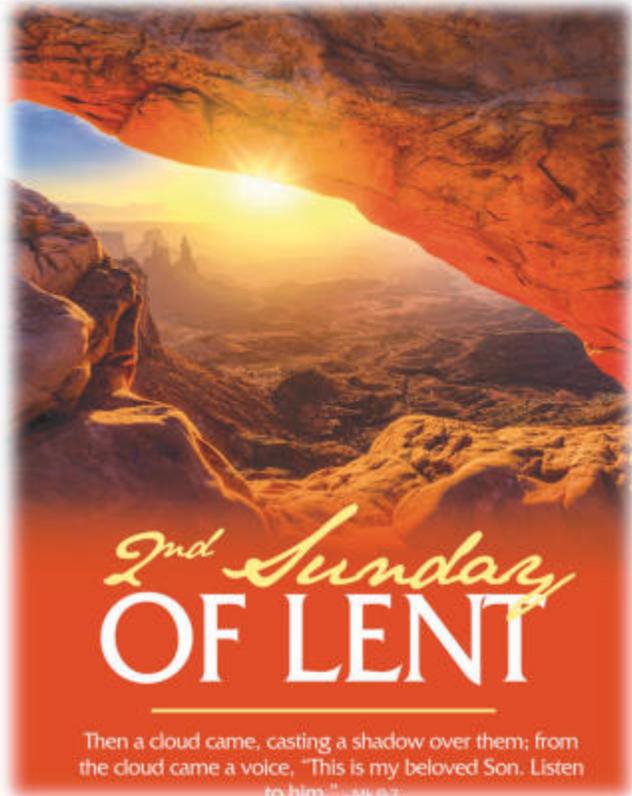




Church of the Holy Spirit

You are welcome here!

FEBRUARY 28, 2021 | THE SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT



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. On the second Sunday of Lent we always hear about the story of the Transfiguration of Jesus on Mount Tabor. The transfiguration story gives us a glimpse of the glory of the Resurrection. On this mountain, the three disciples get glimpses of what heaven is like. Jesus' transfiguration not only gives us and the disciples great hope but also teaches us that we too can transfigure like Jesus. After the fall of Adam and Eve, sin has entered into the world. Our lives become imperfect because of sin. We are attracted to sin and evil things such as hatred, bitterness, cruelty, greed, envy, lust, jealous, anger. These things and sin disfigure and corrupt us in many ways. Sin pushes us away from God and others. Sin and evil disfigure us. Jesus' transfiguration story gives us hope and tells us that we too can transfigure like Jesus. Because we are made in the image of God, we do possess some good qualities such as love, kindness, compassion, peace, joy, mercy, and patience. These good qualities brings out the best of us and transfigure us. This is what Jesus wants to show all of us on Mount Tabor. The three disciples want to remain on the mountain with Jesus; however, they must continue on their faith journey through the darkness. Good things or events that happen to us each day are moments of the transfiguration. It gives us joy, peace, hope, and strength to walk our faith journey with Jesus and to transfigure with him. We must walk through the dark tunnel with expectant faith and hope that there is a light at the end of the tunnel.

As we go onto another week, let us consider opening our heart and recommitting ourselves to God's mercy and allowing His power of love once again transforms our lives.

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

Our Seasons of Faith website:
holyspiritchurcheg.weebly.com
Follow us on:
Twitter: @HolySpiritEG
Facebook: @holyspiritchurcheg
Instagram: @holyspiriteg

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- † God's request of Abraham to sacrifice his beloved son Isaac seems cruel from our modern perspective. Yet Abraham's obedience rendered divine blessings. Do you think you have such depth of faith?
- † Paul tries to reassure the Christians in Rome of God's divine providence in our lives. As we continue the Lenten journey, can you recall when have you felt God's protection and comfort?
- † We hear Mark's account of the apostles' witness of the transfiguration of Jesus. How difficult do you think it was for them not to share this event with anyone until after Jesus rose from the dead?



This Sunday's Reading:

First Reading: Genesis 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18

Second Reading: Romans 8:31b-24

Gospel: Mark 9:2-10

Next Sunday's Reading:

First Reading: Exodus 20:1-17

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:22-25

Gospel: John 2:13-25

HOLY SPIRIT PARISH SACRIFICIAL OFFERING



Week of 2/21/21:

- * Collection weekend masses: **\$1,400.00**
- * Collection thru mail: **\$905.00**
- * Collection thru E-Giving: **\$1,499.33**
- * Black, Native & Latin America Collection: **\$408.00**
(including thu mail & E-Giving)

Total Collection: \$4,212.33



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.



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.



Stations of the Cross— Join us in praying the Stations of the Cross every Friday afternoon throughout the Lenten Season. The prayer service begins at 12:15 p.m.

- † **Walking With the Spirit:** Fasting for Lent from the 7 deadly sins (3/14 or 3/15 @ 6:30pm)
- † **Simply Scripture:** 2nd and 5th Sundays of Lent (3/20 @ 2:30pm)
- † **Words of Wisdom Book Group:** On Fraternity and Social Friendship (3/10 @ 6:30pm)
- † **Open Wide Our Hearts:** the US Bishop's letter, invites "all people of faith to conversion. We are called to open our minds and hearts to Christ's love for all people and to the experiences of those who have been harmed by the evil of racism." Join us on Wednesday, March 3rd at 6:30pm as we listen, pray and reflect. Our reflection this evening will focus on "Letter from Birmingham Jail". Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. wrote the letter to a group of religious leaders, including bishops, pastors and a rabbi. "As Christians, we are called to listen and know the stories of our brothers and sisters. We must create opportunities to hear, with open hearts, the tragic stories that are deeply imprinted on the lives of our brothers and sisters, if we are to be moved to empathy and to promote justice." (US Bishops, Open Wide Our Hearts) Registration is required for this virtual gathering. Contact Laura Countryman in the Parish Office or at faithformation@hsceg.org.

OPERATION RICE BOWL: Since we have begun our Lenten journey, we invite you to participate in Catholic Relief Services Operation Rice Bowl. Almsgiving is one of the Lenten practices. Giving and sharing our resources with the poor is a good Lenten practice. For more information, please visit orb.crs.org. Please pick up a rice bowl in the back vestibule of the church.



Today we are following Jesus up on a high mountain with Peter, James, and John. There they see Jesus "transfigured," his face like the sun and his clothes as white as light. Jesus is there conversing with Moses and Elijah.

What are we to make of this image of Jesus, the earthly teacher of this small band of disciples? They were merely followers of a teacher, a rabbi. When they see this and hear a voice proclaiming, "This is my beloved Son..." they begin to realize this man is more than just a rabbi. However, Jesus tells them to keep this a secret until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.

Well, they have no idea what this means. Therefore, they continue to follow him as if he was just a human, a teacher. However, we live in the time after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead. Now it is we who must proclaim the good news of Jesus, the Son of God the Father.

Take this week and think about how, in your own way, can proclaim through your words and deeds the Jesus is your savior, your teacher, and rabbi.



WHY DO WE DO THAT? CATHOLIC TRADITIONS EXPLAINED

Question: Why do we use incense at Mass?

Answer: The use of incense in religious ceremonies and worship is a practice that predates Christianity, and which is also found in many other religious traditions today. Incense, which is made from resin infused with aromatic spices and oils, is one of those fundamentally human symbols that incorporates more than one of our senses, helping us to reflect on realities that transcend the everyday details of our lives.

The use of incense in the Church's liturgy — in the Mass, as well as in devotions to the Eucharist and the Liturgy of the Hours — is inspired by the use of incense in the Jewish tradition. In the writings of the Old Testament, we hear about incense being used in the worship of the temple, and Psalm 141 asks, "Let my prayer be incense before you; my uplifted hands an evening offering" (vs. 2). The image here is that, as the incense gently rises to heaven, our prayers also rise to God as something sweet and pleasant.

Another ancient use of incense that has also become part of our Catholic tradition is the idea that when we incense something, it's because it is something special or sacred. This is why the Book of the Gospel is incensed during the Liturgy of the Word and the bread, wine, priest celebrant, and congregation are incensed at the presentation of the gifts. To this, we can also add the incensing of the Blessed Sacrament during eucharistic adoration and benediction, and the body of the deceased at the end of the Mass of the Resurrection (the Funeral Mass).

LIVE THE LITURGY - INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

How is your Lent going so far? In changing the circumstances and order of our lives a bit, perhaps we can hear God's voice more clearly and drink more deeply of graced moments we experience. Having God as a friend always involves several things. First, there is God's call. We become attuned to the echo of God's voice in the depth of our souls calling and beckoning us to listen. Second, there is a request. We begin to see that God asks us to do certain things, to order our lives a particular way, and become more intentional in the choices we make. Third, there is trust. Do we trust this call and request? Trust commits us to the relationship and makes a claim on who we are. Finally, we are asked to act. We find ourselves acting, not in the way we used to, but in a transformed, more enlightened way. Things seem clearer and all that is around us shines with the brilliance of God's presence. God's call came through a cloud, "This is my beloved Son. Listen to him," This is the call and the request. Can we give God our trust and do as God asks?



Fr. Vo is available to hear confession to those who wishes to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Please call the Parish Office at (518) 477-7925 to make an appointment with Fr. Vo or email pastor@hsceg.org.

GOSPEL MEDITATION

The Second Sunday Lent

A pregnant woman was walking in the store and met an old friend. Her friend exclaimed, "You are absolutely beaming!" The new life God placed in her womb radiated throughout her body. It was brightly visible on her face and in her eyes. Transformation and change usually happen from the inside out. It is very rare that simply imposing structure from the outside does any good. Yes, it is true that routines and habits can change when things are done differently. But, for this change to last there has to be an interior renewal and metamorphosis as well. Simply regulating behavior and bringing someone into conformity with accepted protocols doesn't mean their heart and soul come with them.

Peter was a homeless man who lived in a very remote and rudimentary tent community. He was happy to make his daily trip to McDonald's and always welcomed a gift card or two so that he could buy some coffee and something to eat. A generous advocate worked to secure him an apartment in hopes of moving Peter out of his makeshift housing and into something safer. Peter finally got the grand tour of his new "digs," received his own key, remarked how wonderful the place was, closed the door behind him when they left and never returned. He preferred his tent. No matter how much things changed on the outside, Peter was happy where he was. A poignant lesson was learned that day.

How is your Lent going? By now you ought to have a sense of whether you're really "into it" this year and something transformational is happening. For many, it's only the stuff on the outside that changes for a few weeks and then they return to business as usual. For others, there are some real inner changes happening that are deepening their relationships with God, others, self, and creation. If we are serious about moving to a new place and radiating with the presence of new life and joy, then we have to clear the way to listen for God's call. Then, there is God's request to change things up a bit and order our lives differently. After realizing we have been called and given a mission, we have to trust that this is where we need to be. And then, after all of this hard work we are asked to act. The fruit that is revealed will indicate whether our journey is authentic. The brilliance of conversion will begin to shine on our faces as we contemplate the One to whom we are asked to listen.



Our parish community welcomes a new member into our church through the sacrament of Baptism:

Cait Frances Shatrau

We congratulate Cait and her family on this special occasion. May God bless you and your family abundantly.

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

Pastoral 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!



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.

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT



Saturday 2/27—Lenten Weekday

4:00 p.m. Vigil:

- ✠ Rose Helmes—Req. by the Gaige Family
- ✠ Zigmunt Palasz (70th Birthday living) Req. by Mom

Sunday 2/28—Second Sunday of Lent

- ✠ 8:30 a.m. Mass: For the people of the parish
- ✠ 11:00 a.m. Mass: Kenneth & Margaret Dunton
Req. by David & Janice Jones

Tuesday 3/2—Lenten Weekday

- ✠ 9:00 am Mass—Intention Available

Wednesday 3/3—St. Katharine Drexel, Virgin

- ✠ 9:00 am Mass—Intention Available

Thursday 3/4—St. Casimir

- ✠ 9:00 am Mass—Intention Available

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

Saturday 3/6—Lenten Weekday

- ✠ 4:00 pm. Vigil: Gloria Choresca Wedge
Req. by Jay & Theresa Girvin

Sunday 3/7—Third Sunday of Lent

- ✠ 8:30 am: For the people of the parish
- ✠ 11:00 am: Gloria Choresca Wedge
Req. by Felix and Vittoria Dombrowski

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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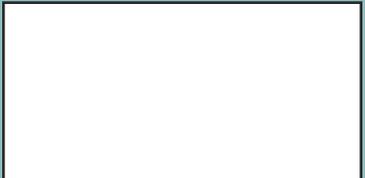
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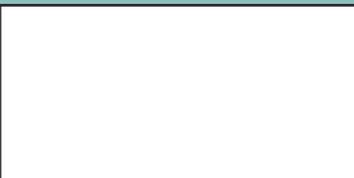
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