

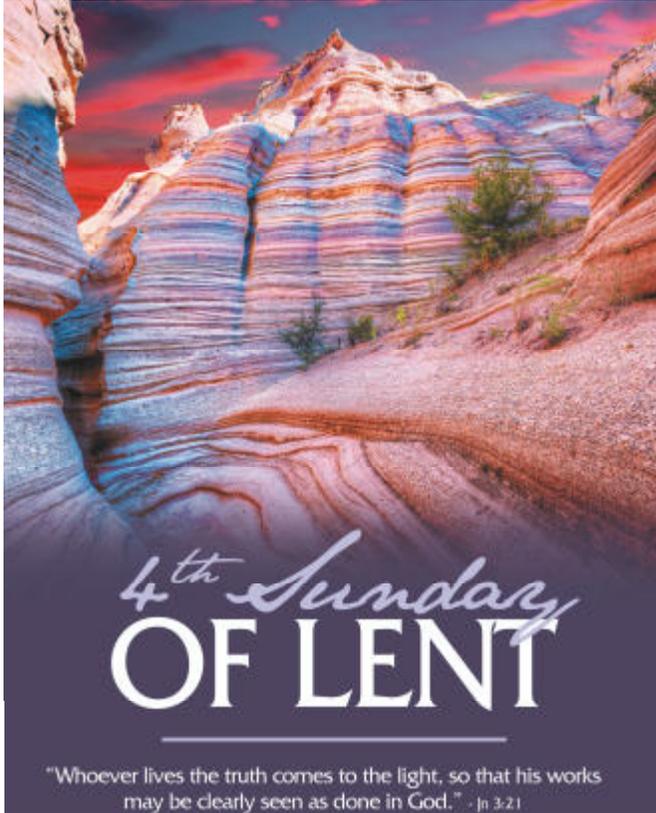


Church of the Holy Spirit

You are welcome here!

MARCH 14, 2021

THE FOURTH 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 you had a good week. We have come to the midpoint of March as we enter week 4 of Lent. The Fourth Sunday of Lent is the *Latarae Sunday*, which means *to rejoice*. We rejoice in the Lord as each day is getting longer with more light. The changes in the weather tells us that spring is coming soon. This weekend begins daylight saving time. Please remember to change your clock one hour ahead on Saturday evening.

The gospel of John alludes to God's Son, Jesus, as the "light" coming to the world. Nicodemus, a Pharisee who has heard about Jesus and is fascinated with Jesus' work, comes in the opening scene of the gospel. He arranged to meet with Jesus at night. Nicodemus' encounter with Jesus is one of the hopeful episodes. As they were having a conversation, Jesus reveals to Nicodemus a God of life who is always seeking our healing and reconciliation with him and with one another, a God who is loving, forgiving, merciful, and compassionate. Through Jesus, Nicodemus and all of us come to understand and know that God does not come to condemn the world but to save mankind so that we might have eternal life. Jesus, light of the world, enables us to recognize God's unconditional love and mercy. God is always ready to forgive us, to heal the brokenhearted, to raise up to those have fallen down. Because of love, God brings us out of darkness into the light of hope. By his wisdom, God transforms our despair into Easter joy, and by his compassion, God heals our broken spirits into hearts made whole.

The sacrament of Reconciliation is available on Tuesday evening or you can call the parish office to make an appointment with Fr. Vo. Please make an effort to prepare for Easter celebrations by reconciling with God and others through the sacrament of Penance. Through this sacrament, we receive God's grace, mercy, and forgiveness.

Peace & Blessings

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. &
Sunday @ 1 a.m.
Links can be found on
Youtube channel
Holy Spirit Church eg

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

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- ✠ In the story of the prophet Samuel anointing the young David as the next king, neither Samuel nor David's father, Jesse, foresaw David to be God's anointed. When have you been surprised by God in your life?
- ✠ Paul taught the Ephesians that as believers in Christ, they need to live as "children of light" and "learn what is pleasing to the Lord." From your own life experiences, what do you think pleases God?
- ✠ Jesus' healing of the man born blind exposed the blindness of some of the Pharisees of Jesus' day. How do we prevent ourselves from being blind to God's presence in this season of Lent?
- ✠ In today's gospel, Jesus tells Nicodemus, "The light came into the world, but people preferred darkness to light." Where do you perceive light encountering darkness in your community at this moment?



This Sunday's Reading:

First Reading: 1 Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a

Second Reading: Ephesians 5:8-14

Gospel: John 9:1-41

Next Sunday's Reading:

First Reading: Ezekiel 37:12-14

Second Reading: Romans 8:8-11

Gospel: John 11:1-45

HOLY SPIRIT PARISH SACRIFICIAL OFFERING



Week of 3/7/21:

- * Collection weekend masses: \$1,317.00
- * Collection thru mail: \$2,986.00
- * Collection thru E-Giving: \$2,456.00
- * Easter Flowers Collection: \$966.00
(including thru mail & E-Giving)

Total Collection: \$7,725.00



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.



POPE FRANCIS PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR MARCH 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.

- ✠ Join us for our next **Simply Scripture** gathering on Saturday, March 20th at 2:30pm as we virtually explore the readings for the 5th Sunday of Lent before we hear them proclaimed at Mass. What message will the Gospel of John have for you this week? Contact Laura Countryman in the Parish Office or at faithformation@hsceg.org to register.
- ✠ **Spend some time this Lent to Reflect and Renew** at our virtual mini-retreat on Thursday, March 25th at 6:30pm. Join us as we spend an hour reflecting on the triumph, darkness and light of Holy Week. Contact Laura Countryman in the Parish Office or at faithformation@hsceg.org to register.
- ✠ **Good Friday Passion Play** – Join us at 3pm on Good Friday, April 2nd for a Passion Play that will take us through Holy Week. This will be a family friendly presentation. We also need volunteers to help with speaking and non-speaking parts as well as costumes and props. Families are invited to participate together. Contact Tony Morabito in the Parish Office or at HALO@hsceg.org to sign up. Help us to make this Good Friday a prayerful community experience.

SOCIAL ACTION MINISTRY will be holding our annual drive for personal care items on **March 20th from 10:00-12:00** in the church parking lot. The collection will benefit our friends at Joseph's House, Emmaus House, Circles of Mercy, and Concerns U. Monetary donations are also kindly accepted. We will be collecting items such as: Shampoo, Body soap/wash, Razors, Feminine products, Deodorant, Toothpaste, Toothbrushes, Hand sanitizer, Diapers -size 5 or 6, and Travel sized toiletries



Our parish, along with Holy Spirit School are once again collecting items for our annual Easter basket project. The need is great this year and we already have requests for over 125 baskets. We are in need of are: chocolate bunnies, individually wrapped candy, small toys/ gifts, and small stuffed animals

There will be a collection box in the back of the church for items to be dropped off. Also, we will be collecting items on Saturday March 20 from 10-12 am in the church parking lot in conjunction with the Social Action Ministry collection of personal care items.

If you would like to donate and are unable to drop your items off, please contact Ellen Murphy at 518-479-7217 to arrange pickup.



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.

Please remember to patronize the sponsors of our bulletin.



WHY DO WE DO THAT? CATHOLIC TRADITIONS EXPLAINED

Question: After attending our parish retreat and feeling much better and stronger about my faith, I want to make this Lent worthwhile. What can I do to keep the spirit and practice of Lent?

Answer: You've already taken the first step by going on the parish retreat. It is important for us to "tune up" our faith, taking some time to renew ourselves through prayer, meditation and education. By deepening our knowledge and understanding of faith, we are often better attuned to its richness and meaning for our life.

Lent is an intense retreat, a forty-day period of reflection and penance that prepares us to celebrate the passion, death and resurrection of Christ. Our communication with God and our awareness of him is the purpose of prayer. Setting aside extra time each day helps intensify the season. Prayer includes daily Mass, Stations of the Cross, communal penance services and private confession. Making restitution for sin as well as disciplining our hearts and minds to focus on God is the purpose of penance. It helps us restore a sense of balance to our souls, thrown off kilter by sin. Penance includes personal sacrifice, self-denial, fasting, almsgiving and charitable works.

Finally, spiritual practices help us sharpen our understanding and insight into the meaning and understanding of our faith. When you take your faith seriously, you do what is necessary to follow Jesus more closely, to integrate your life and your faith more carefully.

LIVE THE LITURGY - INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

God's messengers always seem to get mocked. They speak a truth that some folks do not want to hear. While on the one hand we admire them, we also are quite happy keeping them at a distance. After all, they are not referring to me but someone else, aren't they? We often wrongly conclude that because we may be more avant-garde, contemporary, politically sensitive, and untraditional, we are somehow more in the light than others. People tend to prefer darkness more than light, even the most spiritually sensitive among us. The light always carries with it the richness of God's mercy and compassion which see beyond ideologies and concepts to relationships that cultivate life, earthly and eternal. Every hand of compassion and mercy extended to a human being must always point back to God. The call always involves ordering our lives in accord with our truth and essence of being. As God never forgets us, we must never forget God. Now is the time to take stock of our infidelity and return to the light, even though it is difficult to look at.



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.

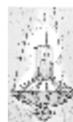
GOSPEL MEDITATION

The Fourth Sunday Lent

Many prefer a "create as you go" approach to life where laws and protocols primarily exist to secure and protect liberties rather than dictate and outline proper and right behavior. There are no real benchmarks for acceptable ethical and moral behavior, with a "you can't tell me what to do" attitude prevailing. Parents are even limited in what they can request of their children, and dealing with threatening behaviors, especially from adults, are a challenge as well. Acceptable and expected conduct seems to amount to safeguarding each other's space rather than increasing awareness of necessary relationships that require a more refined and higher response.

We have lost our axis to the world of "anything goes" and no longer see the Ten Commandments as practical and wise guideposts to effective living. We live on "relativism island" where only a possible suggestion to "love and do not harm" may be the only standard able to be preached. While Jesus most certainly emphasized love above anything else, it was never about warm fuzzy feelings or halfhearted humanitarian efforts. The love of which Jesus spoke establishes an intimate connection with God, neighbor, self, and creation. Because this love, who is God Himself, is at the foundational core of our lives, it demands actions and attitudes that serve to build up, increase, and free up those relationships. Love requires proper conduct. Preserving and enhancing these love centered relationships is at the heart of the Ten Commandments (and the Beatitudes) and the reason for Jesus' display of anger in the temple.

The Ten Commandments can save the world from turmoil and conflict by instilling basic moral and relational principles within us. They also hold a healthy sense of sin in balance and always remind us of our relationship with God and the freedom God offers. Our faith preserves these jewels of truth that we often look beyond, dismiss altogether, or seek to remove from public view. Human beings can be so arrogant at times. Our Lenten journey, especially when embarked upon with sincerity and resolve, can restore all of our essential relationships. When we get absorbed in life's preoccupations and demands, things can quickly get distorted and we can find ourselves way off track. In short, we find ourselves in sin. Humanity is losing a sense of both grace and sin. We need both to understand what is real and true. Until we do, the oppressive systems and ideologies that hurt so many will never change. We will never change. We are grateful for those courageous souls who willingly embrace the conversion and hard work Lent demands and stand against antiquated systems and ideologies. They give us hope that all is not lost.



The sanctuary lamp is given in loving memory of:

Pamela Bajdas

Given by: Ellen & Jim Murphy

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 HALO@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!



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.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Saturday 3/13—Lenten Weekday

4:00 pm. Vigil Mass:

✚ Intention Available

Sunday 3/14—Fourth Sunday of Lent

8:30 am Mass:

✚ Mary Wirsing—Req. by Carolyn Hyatt

11:00 am Mass:

✚ For the people of the parish

Tuesday 3/16—St. Frances of Rome, Religious

9:00 am Mass—Intention Available

Wednesday 3/17—Lenten Weekday/St. Patrick, Bishop

9:00 am Mass—Intention Available

Thursday 3/18—Lenten Weekday/St. Cyril of Jerusalem

9:00 am Mass—Intention Available

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Saturday 3/20—Lenten Weekday

4:00 pm. Vigil Mass:

✚ Fr. Quy Vo (Living Birthday)—parishioners

Sunday 3/21—Fifth Sunday of Lent

8:30 am Mass:

✚ Agnes Hurley—Req. by Chris Larsen

✚ Mary Wirsing—Req. by Michael Mertz

11:00 am 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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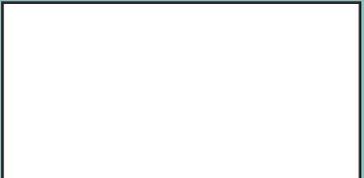
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