



Church of the Holy Spirit

You are welcome here!

MARCH 28, 2021-PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD JESUS



PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

So they brought the colt to Jesus and put their cloaks over it. And he sat on it. Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut from the fields. - Mk 11:7-8

Scripture from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, WPS CCD

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 peace and grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you always! The celebration of Palm Sunday of the Passion of our Lord Jesus marks the beginning of Holy Week. This is a time for the church to prepare for the celebration of the Easter Triduum—the three-day celebration of the Christian Passover. The Triduum begins on Holy Thursday when the church celebrates the evening mass of the Lord's Supper. On Good Friday, the church gathers to commemorate the Lord's Passion and Death and continues to Saturday morning where the faithful, like the disciples, spend some time for reflection on the Entombment of Jesus and waits for the news of the resurrection. Finally, on Saturday night (the highest point of the three days), the faithful gather to hear the great, joyful news that Jesus Christ is risen from the dead. The Easter Triduum ends with an Evening Prayer on Easter Sunday.

The liturgies for these three days are filled with symbols that become vehicles of prayer. The significant symbols on Holy Thursday are the washing of the feet and sharing of the Eucharist. The main themes for this day are service, priesthood, and unity. The celebration of the Lord's Passion on Good Friday consists of three parts: the liturgy of the Word, the Veneration of the Cross, and the distribution of Holy Communion. The main symbol for this liturgy is the cross as the sign of victory and salvation. As a parish family, we gather around the cross to reflect and embrace that we too have our own cross to carry. The cross of Christ also gives us the hope that someday we too will experience victory and joy. The Easter Vigil celebration is the highest point in our Catholic faith Tradition. This liturgy is rooted in the Old Testament where the Israelites waited for the Lord to deliver them from their slavery in Egypt. This night, Catholics throughout the world also wait to hear the amazing news that Jesus is risen from the dead! The main symbols for the Easter Vigil liturgy are light and darkness, fire, word, water, oil, touch, and a meal shared as friends. As we approach the end of Lent, let us continue to focus on Christ so that we can be fully prepared for the Easter celebration. May our journey with Jesus to the resurrection bear good fruits!

Peace & Blessings

Fr. Tony Vo



Saturday: 4:00 p.m. Vigil—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 @ 11 a.m.
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

- † The prophet Isaiah reflects on his obedience to God's call regardless of personal suffering that he endured. Isaiah found strength in his faith and fidelity to God. How does your faith help frame your suffering?
- † Paul speaks of Jesus' humility as central to his divine identity. What does this teach us about God's nature?
- † We hear today Mark's account of the Passion of our Lord. What parts of the passion narrative are you drawn to?



This Sunday's Reading:

First Reading: Isaiah 50:4-7

Second Reading: Phil 2:6-11

Gospel: Mark 14:1-15:47

Next Sunday's Reading:

First Reading: Acts 10:34a, 37-43

Second Reading: Phil 2:6-11 Col 3:1-4

Gospel: Jn 20:1-9 15:1-39

HOLY SPIRIT PARISH SACRIFICIAL OFFERING



Week of 3/21/21:

- * Collection weekend masses: **\$2,285.00**
- * Collection thru mail: **\$1,825.00**
- * Collection thru E-Giving: **\$1,899.33**
- * Easter Flowers Collection: **\$550.00**
(including thru mail & E-Giving)

Total Collection: \$ 6,559.33



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.



GOOD FRIDAY COLLECTION

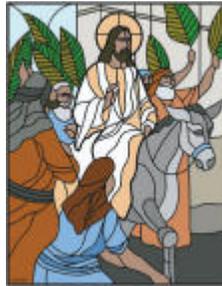
On Good Friday our parish will take up the annual collection for the Holy Land. Your financial contribution helps to support the struggling Catholic Community in the Middle East and protect Christianity's holiest places. Many Christians in the Holy Land depend on this collection for living their faith. Please help by giving to the collection on Good Friday. There are envelopes in your package or you may make your donation after Good Friday by using a plain envelope clearly marked Holy Land or Good Friday. Thank you for your generosity to this collection.



Holy Thursday Evening

Mass: 7 p.m. followed by Eucharistic Adoration. Night Prayer will be at 9 p.m.

- † **Good Friday**—Passion Play @ 3 p.m. & Commemoration of the Jesus' Passion @ 7 p.m.
- † **Saturday Easter Vigil**—Morning Prayer at 9 a.m. followed by the Blessings of Easter Basket/Food. Evening Mass at 8 p.m.
- † **Sunday Easter Morning**—Masses are 8:30 a.m. & 11



A PALM SUNDAY REFLECTION

Palm Sunday is a day to celebrate, but it carries a terrible warning. Those who acclaimed Jesus as King became those who called for his crucifixion. To follow Jesus means being able to resist following the crowd. There is always a sense of rebellion about being a follower of Jesus. Jesus was a rebel, which is why he was crucified.

Discipleship is very costly. We follow Jesus, not only through the joy of Palm Sunday.

- We are to sit at his feet in the temple. (Not all discipleship is doing things-much is attentive listening.)
- We are to wash the feet of this weary world.
- We are to share in the Last Supper and like Him be broken and poured out for the world.
- We are to watch and pray with Him in Gethsemane.
- We are to be mocked and condemned with Him.
- We are to suffer, be desolate and die with Him.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer summed up the cost of discipleship in the words "When Jesus calls a man, He bids him come and die."



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.

Mental Health First Aid, a virtual class, will take place on Wednesday March 31st from 9:30am - 1:30pm. There will be 4 hours of instruction along with 2 hours of self directed study. Although this program is aimed at those who work with young people, some valuable information will be discussed on how to talk to a person of any age in crisis - what to say, how to say it and what not to say. The cost for this event is \$50. To register, contact the Pyramid Life Center at plc@rcda.org.



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.



WHY DO WE DO THAT? CATHOLIC TRADITIONS EXPLAINED

Question: Where do Palm Sunday palms come from and where should they go?

Answer: The Palm Sunday celebration has ancient origins. Beginning the liturgy "outside" the church, we symbolically reenact Christ's entry into Jerusalem. The crowds in ancient Israel waved palm branches - a symbol of royalty - to welcome Jesus. These days, obtaining palms takes a lot of planning and coordination, as hundreds of thousands of churches worldwide need them on the same day! Many in the United States order palms from Florida, California, Texas, or Central America. Many companies stress the sustainability of their production and the just wages paid to their workers.

The palms used on Palm Sunday are blessed at Mass. This means they shouldn't end up in the trash! Many people weave palms into crosses or families display them in their homes. If you do not plan on displaying your palms throughout the year, they should be burned, buried, or left at the church. In the final case, the palms are burned to provide the ashes for next year's Ash Wednesday service.

LIVE THE LITURGY - INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

What an ironic twist of events! Jesus is hailed with palm branches as he comes down a street one minute and faces agonizing suffering and death on a cross the next. Does any of this make any sense? They shouted, "hosanna to our King," out of one side of their mouths and, "crucify him," out of the other. At first glance it seems like such hypocrisy. Yet, when we step back there may be more truth to the story than we care to admit. We struggle with Jesus. We hail him in our churches but struggle to figure out what to do with him on our streets. We are fine when we hear pious renderings of his messages and preaching but wince when it gets to the part about changing the way we conduct business and becoming more sensitive to the disadvantaged, poor and marginalized. We invoke God's name when we want victory and keep silence when it comes to global solidarity. We talk out of both sides of our mouths too, looking only to what works or suits us at the time and leaving the rest. There exists in each one of us a person who hails our King with hosannas and a person who is all too willing to choose Jesus over Barabbas for the cross. Something to think about this Holy Week!



The Social Action Ministry thanks all who donated personal care items and monetary donations for Consens U, Emmaus House, Circles of Mercy and Joseph House. We were able to deliver 4

-5 boxes of items to all organizations. We were overwhelmed by your generosity and collected a new record amount for those in need. Thank you for all you do!"

GOSPEL MEDITATION

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

Any good teacher or parent will tell you that once a lesson is really learned it doesn't need to be taught again. When we internalize things we have learned, they become a part of who we are and influence how we perceive and interact with our world. The same is true for the law God has written upon our hearts. Once humanity learns this lesson, we will simply know it to be true and act accordingly. Sometimes, it is hard to get people to learn the lessons they need to learn. They are often distracted, disinterested, conflicted, misdirected, or just too stubborn and unable or unwilling to see what is right before their eyes. Understanding that God is in a loving and committed relationship with those fashioned and formed in God's own image, seems like such a simple lesson to learn. But history and experience has proven that it is not.

We struggle with faith, especially when that faith asks us to learn something very particular about ourselves. We must, like a grain of wheat, fall to the ground and die. Because God's DNA is at the very core of who we are, there are specific pearls of wisdom that must be acquired before we can live a full life. One very powerful lesson is that it is not the task of the world to tell us who we are and what has meaning, but God. For many, death is not an opportunity for greater life but a permanent ending to the life they have known. Jesus knew every dimension to what it means to be fully human because he was! He knows the joys, limitations, sorrows, frustrations, wonders, suffering, opportunities, and joys of the human experience. Jesus can teach us a wealth of knowledge and life's lessons from his example, especially obedience.

When we accept the law God has placed in our hearts and gain wisdom from it, then when we suffer we learn to listen more attentively to the Voice behind that law. We naturally flee to our Creator for inspiration, consolation, hope, direction, and comfort as we navigate through this time of darkness. We will not need to run from it, subdue it, fight it, or be overcome by it because we will know, having internalized this profound lesson before, that God will bring new life. God's law is love and love never fails. Even in the moments of Jesus' deepest despair, he glorified the name of his Father. What he learned allowed him to put everything in perspective and be obedient to the tender, loving Voice that echoed within. As Lent quickly winds down, may we learn the same! Then, may we gain the fortitude and wisdom to help others see what is right before their eyes.

Please remember to patronize the sponsors of our bulletin.

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

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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.

PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD



Saturday 3/27—Lenten Weekday

4:00 pm. Vigil Mass: Henry & Jean Dambrowski

Req. by Felix & Vittoria Dambrowski

✠ Romey Eisenhut—Req. by Ann Eisenhut

✠ Tom Hermitt—Req. by Tom & Carol Reamer

Sunday 3/28—Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

8:30 am Mass:

✠ For the people of the Parish

11:00 am Mass:

✠ Franklin Grant—Req. by Beatrice Grant

✠ Frank Chiffolo—Req. by Rose & children

Tuesday 3/30—Tuesday of Holy Week

9:00 a.m.—Intention Available

Wednesday 3/31—Wednesday of Holy Week

9:00 a.m.—Intention Available

Thursday 4/1—Holy Thursday, the Supper of the Lord

7:00 p.m.—Intention Available

Friday, 4/2—Good Friday Commemoration of the Lord Jesus'

Passion service begins at 7 p.m.

SATURDAY, 4/3—Holy Saturday (Easter Vigil)

8:00 p.m.—Intention Available

THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD JESUS

8:30 am Mass:

✠ Intention Available

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

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—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—Please contact Fr. Vo at the parish office, or the diocesan Vocations Office at albanyvocations.org (518) 453-6690.



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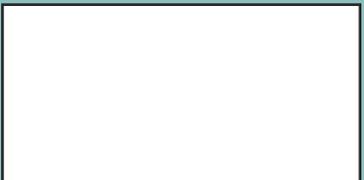
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