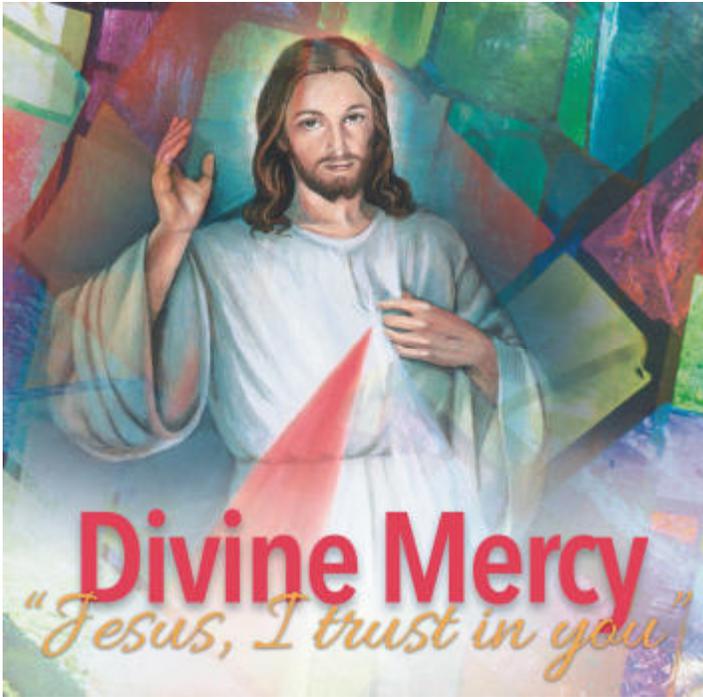




Church of the Holy Spirit

You are welcome here!

APRIL 11, 2021 | THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER (DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY)



Saturday: 4:00 p.m. — Indoor Mass
Sunday: 8:30 a.m. — Indoor Mass
Sunday: 11:00 a.m. — Indoor Mass

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!

Alleluia! Jesus Christ is risen today. We continue our Easter celebration as we hear once again the story of Doubting Thomas. When other disciples told him that they had seen the Lord, Thomas did not believe at all. He said to them “unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger into the nail marks and put my hand into his side, I will not believe.” Why did Thomas insist that he had to touch Jesus? Wasn't seeing him enough? Perhaps, Thomas saw people who had touched Jesus were healed. After seeing the crucifixion of Jesus, Thomas' faith was weakened. His heart was broken with grief. His mind was darkened by doubt. These invisible wounds were real and painful for Thomas. When Jesus appeared to Thomas, his faith was restored, and the wounds were healed. It was then he said “My Lord and my God!” It was Jesus who touched Thomas' wounds and made him whole and well again.”

We, like Thomas, have doubts and experience a crisis of faith. We also carry many wounds such as betrayal, loneliness, disappointment, despair, hurt, shame, and guilt. The good news is that Jesus understands our human hearts and sees our wounds because he himself also has wounds. This is why Jesus shows us his hands and side so that we can come to understand that His wounds will heal ours. Thomas was healed because Jesus had touched him. Let us ask Jesus this day to restore our faith and to make us whole again.

The Second of Easter is also called the “Divine Mercy” Sunday. The Divine Mercy was a special day for Saint John Paul II. In the year 2000, Saint John Paul II established the feast day (Divine Mercy) on the second Sunday of Easter. This feast day associates with St. Faustina Kowalska (1905-1938), a nun who had a great devotion to the Divine Mercy after her encounter with Jesus. Through her conversation and vision with Jesus, St. Faustina said that Jesus would hope to establish this feast day—the Divine Mercy—so mankind would dive themselves into the ocean of Jesus' mercy. May we continue to live and show mercy toward others and become the image of the merciful God who loves and shows his mercy on us. Have a blessed week!

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
Follow us on:
Twitter: @HolySpiritEG
Facebook: @holyspiritchurcheg
Instagram: @holyspiriteg

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- ✠ Luke gives us a glimpse into the solidarity of heart and mind with the original community of believers in Jerusalem. How does your current community of faith compare to this first-generation Jerusalem church?
- ✠ John speaks of the power of faith and love for believers in conquering evil in the world. How does the faith and love in your life sustain you?
- ✠ The story of Thomas' doubt in the resurrected Jesus is one of the most well-known resurrection narratives. Why do you think Christians throughout the ages are drawn to this story?
- ✠ What lessons do you draw from the story of doubting Thomas in John's resurrection narrative?



This Sunday's Reading:

First Reading: Acts 4:32-35

Second Reading: 1 Jn 5:1-6

Gospel: Jn 20:19-31

Next Sunday's Reading:

First Reading: Acts 3:13-15, 17-19

Second Reading: 1 Jn 2:1-5a

Gospel: Lk 24:35-48

HOLY SPIRIT PARISH SACRIFICIAL OFFERING



Week of 4/4/21:

- * Collection weekend masses: **\$557.00**
- * Collection thru mail: **\$2,667.00**
- * Collection thru E-Giving: **\$75.00**
- * Easter Collection: **\$3,859.00**
(including thru mail & E-Giving)

Total Collection: \$7,178.00



We are grateful for your continued financial support during the pandemic. We ask you to help us to reach our weekly budget by increasing your weekly offertory. If you are away, please remember the parish with your envelope gift on your return. Online giving is the best, safe, and fastest way to give your donation. Please consider the E-giving option.



IN MEMORY OF A LOVED ONE?

In addition to remember a loved one through mass intention, another way to remember them by lighting a sanctuary lamp for a week or giving a donation toward the Altar Bread and Wine. If you wish to do so, please contact the Parish Office by phone 518-477-7925 or email HALO@hsceg.org. A suggested donation is \$20.00

Words of Wisdom Book Group will meet virtually to discuss and reflect on Chapter 3 of Fratelli Tutti: Envisaging and Engendering an Open World. Pope Francis writes "It is my desire that, in this our time, by acknowledging the dignity of each human person, we can contribute to the rebirth of a universal aspiration to fraternity. Fraternity between all men and women." All are welcome to join the conversation on **Wednesday, April 14th at 6:30pm**. Contact Laura Countryman at the Parish Office or at faithformation@hsceg.org to register.



POPE FRANCIS PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR APRIL 2021

Fundamental Rights—We pray for those who risk their lives while fighting for fundamental rights under dictatorships, authoritarian regimes and even in democracies in crisis.



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. Please invite your family & friends to come and spend time with the Lord through prayer.



Thank you to everyone who helped with our Passion Play on Good Friday, especially our wonderful cast: Eli Thoma, Candace Espino, Alvin Espino, Dianne Church, Celeste Dickie, Danielle Dickie, Annabelle, Lance Espino, Sowmya Sudulaganti, Michael Gummadi, Gail Hayes Michael Curione, Antonio Morabito, Mandi McLaughlin, Tyler McLaughlin, Anthony McLaughlin, Brett McLaughlin. If you weren't able to join us in person, it can be viewed on our YouTube channel: Holy Spirit Church EG.



MOTHER'S DAY SPIRITUAL GIFT—Our parishes will be offering the Mother's Day Mass Card intention. The mass card is a spiritual bouquet in honor of mothers, grandmothers, godmothers etc..., both living and deceased. The donation for each card is \$5.00 dollars. The names of our mothers, grandmothers, and godmothers will be displayed in a binder placed in front of the altar at Mass on Mother's Day weekend, **May 12 & 13**. Envelopes for this special intention are available in the back vestibule. Please complete the form, insert your donation, and place it in the collection basket. Or stop by the office to get a mass card.

Please remember to patronize the sponsors of our bulletin.



WHY DO WE DO THAT? CATHOLIC TRADITIONS EXPLAINED

Question: What is the story behind Divine Mercy Sunday?

Answer: In Poland during the early 1930s, Jesus appeared to a religious sister, St. Maria Faustina Kowalska. These private revelations had one key theme: the love and mercy of God. The relevance of this message was evident then and would continue to resound in importance throughout the social and political upheaval of the 20th century.

One of Jesus' requests was the institution of a feast of God's mercy. St. Faustina records in her diary, "I desire that the Feast of mercy be a refuge and shelter for souls? let no soul fear to draw near to me? It is my desire that it be solemnly celebrated on the first Sunday after Easter" (Diary, no. 699). After St. Faustina's canonization in 2000, the Vatican declared that the Second Sunday of Easter would be known as Divine Mercy Sunday.

*The greatest attribute of God is love and mercy.
St. Faustina Kowalska*



LIVE THE LITURGY - INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

Alleluia! Forgiveness has risen from the grave! What a wonderful joy fills us today as we ponder the inexhaustible mercy of God. When experienced, we are moved to do all in our power to avoid sin and embrace the loving presence of our risen God. God stands ever ready to receive us and wants nothing more than for us to come home. How reluctant we are to believe this truth! We want proof, tangible evidence and absolute assurance that what we have been told is true. Jesus has risen from the dead and brings us peace. It is the gift of wholeness and holiness that is breathed upon us by God's life-giving and healing mercy. May the rays of love that flow from the heart of Christ pierce ours!



JESUS, I TRUST IN YOU

Celebration for the Feast of the Divine Mercy, **Sunday, April 11, 2021**. The afternoon event will begin at 3 p.m. with Eucharistic Adoration and confessions. The rosary will be recited at 3:15 p.m. At 3:30 p.m., the Hour of Mercy, the Chaplet will be recited, and a short reflection. The event will conclude with Benediction. All are invited to participate in this extraordinary occasion of grace, for the Lord told St. Faustina concerning the Feast of Mercy: "*The soul that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion shall obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment.*" Come and bring a friend!



Altar Bread & Wine is given in loving memory of:
The Faithful departed of Holy Spirit Parish
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GOSPEL MEDITATION

The Second Sunday of Easter

What a wonderful joy fills us today as we ponder the inexhaustible mercy of God. "Mercy is the heart of God," Pope Francis tells us. The image of a heart has been used to point to the very life source of a person as it is the organ that allows life to flow through our veins and sustain us. Mercy is the heart of God. Imagine this dynamic, powerful, compassionate, piercing, embracing, loving, propelling, penetrating, absorbing, and enveloping, transforming presence of God flowing into the very depth of our souls. It is God's mercy that allows blood to flow through our veins. It is God's mercy that forms every atom of our being and leads us to what is true. God's mercy reveals all superficiality and falsehood, and lays bare all distortions, empty promises, weakness, and sin.

"Mercy is the force that reawakens us to new life and instills in us the courage to look to the future with hope," Pope Francis continues. God's all forgiving, compassionate love is with us. When we finally believe and accept that Christ's resurrected transfigured presence resides with us, we then find within us a strong confidence to accept life's imperfections and disappointments and move on. Every day is a new adventure in new life. God leaves the past behind and opens doors to the future. It doesn't matter how many mistakes we made yesterday. All that matters is what we do tomorrow and what we learn along the way. It is so easy to remain tethered and mired in the past, but there is no need to do so. God is all about tomorrow and the work God has yet to do in our lives.

Mercy gives birth to hope. Hope for the greatest of sinners and hope for the worst of disasters. There is nothing God cannot do and nothing God cannot fashion. After all, everything we know and treasure was once nothing, and look what God did with the nothing God had! The resurrected Christ stands before us with nail marks in his wrists and wounds on his body as a testament that not even injustice, suffering and death can trample over and destroy God's mercy. What have we to fear? Why do we keep ourselves from peace? Our lack of faith prevents us from going forward and fully receiving the holiness God desires to breathe upon us. Breathe in God's mercy, allow the wind of God's presence to kiss all of your sins and caress all of your fears. Exhale peace.



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

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!



The Sacrament of Reconciliation is available. If you wish to celebrate the sacrament, please call the parish office at (518) 477-7925 to make an appointment

with Fr. Vo.

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER
(DIVINE MERCY)



Saturday 4/10—Octave of Easter

4:00 pm. Vigil Mass: Richard Underwood—
Req. by Denise Underwood Guildo
✠ David L. Michaels—Req. by Vince Gizzi

Sunday 4/11—Second Sunday of Easter

8:30 am Mass:
✠ Intention available

11:00 am Mass:
✠ For the people of the parish

Tuesday 4/13 —Weekday of Easter

9:00 am—Intention Available

Wednesday 4/14—Weekday of Easter

9:00 am —Intention Available

Thursday 4/15—Weekday of Easter

9:00 am.—Intention Available

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

Saturday 4/17—Octave of Easter

4:00 pm. Vigil Mass:
✠ Jane Goding—Req. by Gary & Doris Beardsley

Sunday 4/18—Third Sunday of Easter

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

Sacraments of Initiation

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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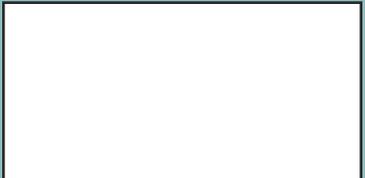
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