



# Church of the Holy Spirit

## You are welcome here!

APRIL 18, 2021

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER



Dear friends in Christ!

May the grace and peace of our Risen Lord be with you always! We are moving along quickly through the Easter season as we come to the Third Sunday of Easter. Perhaps by now, Jesus' disciples would have gotten the fact that Jesus has risen from the dead. Even though the disciples witnessed the empty-tomb and had seen the risen Jesus in the Upper Room where the Last Supper took place and on the way to Emmaus where Jesus broke the bread with them, they still won't believe. Not giving up on the disciples, Jesus continues to assure his disciples that he is no longer a ghost or illusion. He shows them the nail marks on his body and eats with them, and then he teaches and explains how the Scriptures foretold his death and rising. Jesus assures the disciples that they are seeing victory, not defeat—Jesus has truly risen. Jesus commissions them to put and tell others the good news of salvation. God's plan of salvation did not take a detour at Calvary; instead, it was the defining moment of victory. He says to them and us that "you are witnessed of these things."

Today, there are still many people do not believe in the resurrection of Jesus. However, this is not the reason for all of us to become despair or hopeless. As faith-filled Christians, we trust and believe in Jesus. The resurrection of Jesus becomes an anchor that gives us hope, joy, and peace especially during the darkest days of our lives. No matter what happens to us, Jesus is always with us, and he takes away our fears and anxieties. Christ's victory is ours. Through Jesus' resurrection, God's salvation becomes possible for us. As we continue to live the Easter joy, let us go out like the disciples to share with others the Good News that Jesus Christ has conquered death, and He is risen and truly alive.

Fr. Quy Va



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

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](http://holyspiritchurcheg.weebly.com)  
Follow us on:  
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Instagram: @holyspiriteg

## REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- ✠ In publicly bearing witness to Jesus' resurrection, Peter urged the people to repent of their sin of ignorance and their denial of Jesus. How does Jesus' resurrection from the dead inspire you to repentance?
- ✠ John teaches his community that the key to avoiding sin is to follow Jesus' commandments. What do you find challenging in this seemingly simple and clear instruction?
- ✠ Luke tells us that the resurrected Jesus opened the minds of the disciples "to understand the Scriptures" and see how his suffering, death, and resurrection was connected to repentance and forgiveness of sins. What tools do you use to better understand our faith?



### This Sunday's Reading:

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

**Second Reading:** 1 Jn 2:1-5a

**Gospel:** Lk 24:35-48

### Next Sunday's Reading:

**First Reading:** Acts 4:8-12

**Second Reading:** 1 Jn 3:1-2

**Gospel:** Jn 10:11-18

## HOLY SPIRIT PARISH SACRIFICIAL OFFERING



### Week of 4/11/21:

- \* Collection weekend masses: \$1,733.00
- \* Collection thru mail: \$1,195.00
- \* Collection thru E-Giving: \$2,506.00
- \* Easter Collection: \$1,855.00  
(including thru mail & E-Giving)

**Total Collection: \$7,289.00**



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



## 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.



**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/intention 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 8 & 9**. 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 for the spiritual bouquet.



The Church of the Holy Spirit congratulates and welcomes those who received the sacraments of Baptism this past weekend

*John Ryan Murphy*

Please keep him and his family in your prayer as he begins his faith journey with the Risen Lord!



Please remember our faithful departed in your prayer:

*Aileen Fitzpatrick*

Eternal Rest grant unto her O Lord!  
And let perpetual light shines upon her.



Altar Bread & Wine is given in loving memory of:

*Aileen Fitzpatrick*

Given by Susan Nixon



The sanctuary lamp is lit in loving memory of:  
*Aileen Fitzpatrick*

Given by Susan Nixon

Please remember to patronize the sponsors of our bulletin.





**WHY DO WE DO THAT?  
CATHOLIC TRADITIONS EXPLAINED**

**Question: Do children need to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation before their First Communion?**

*Answer:* For centuries the Catholic Church has taught that a person needs to be in a state of grace (free from mortal sins) in order to worthily receive the Eucharist. To that end, Catholics should make an effort to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation any time they recognize the need for the sacrament (and in keeping with the precept of the Church that asks that we celebrate this sacrament at least once each year).

In the case of children preparing for their First Communion, the Code of Canon Law is very clear that they should also celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation before receiving the Eucharist for the first time: "It is the responsibility, in the first place, of parents and those who take the place of parents as well as of the pastor to see that children who have reached the use of reason are correctly prepared and are nourished by the divine food as early as possible, preceded by sacramental confession" (Canon 914).

While some might question the significance of the Sacrament of Reconciliation — especially in the case of children who might not fully understand the reality of sin or the meaning of the sacrament itself — a child's "First Confession" can be a wonderful time for families to reflect together on the quality of their relationships, how they put their faith into practice, and, when it is possible, to celebrate the sacrament as a family. In the end, the celebration of these two sacraments marks important moments in the spiritual journeys of children and we hope their "First Confession" and "First Communion" help instill in them a love of the sacraments of the Church.



**INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK**

When the greeting "Peace be with you" is sincerely offered to a person, it can resonate very deep within, bringing comfort and reassurance. When someone possesses the power to bring peace, it brings us to a place of safety and fills us with joy. The resurrected Christ has this power. God can open our minds so that we can more fully understand the meaning of Sacred Scripture and God's compassionate, loving, tender, and untiring embrace constantly present and offered to people throughout history. Without the anchor of truth that only God can provide, we can easily become startled and terrified at the sight of what life brings us. Being open to God's offer of peace, we can turn away from old habits and short-sighted vision and experience the gladness and joy of God's gift. Only then can what is wounded and broken be mended and reconciliation achieved. We are the resurrection witnesses called to proclaim the Good News.

**GOSPEL MEDITATION**

**The Third Sunday of Easter**

We often act out of ignorance. Armed with the best of intentions, we think we are seeing clearly and correctly, but we are not. We don't always understand the full meaning of things and only perceive part of the truth. Hence, our judgments and actions can be impaired by myopic, incomplete or erroneous perceptions. The meaning of life, understanding of human experience, and negotiating life's challenges can all become skewed without proper understanding and vision. The resurrection of Christ is the corrective to our incomplete and limited view of life. Looking at things with the eyes of faith brings a depth of clarity and understanding to how we see God, ourselves, others, and the world.

Even the disciples struggled with their limited understanding and ignorant perceptions. It was only when Jesus opened their minds to understand the Scriptures that their eyes were opened. It was their "aha" moment when everything clicked. We all want the substance of our lives to come together, make sense, and have meaning. This is easier to achieve when things are going positively and life is good. It is when suffering, disappointment, death, hardship, and injustice enter the picture that things can become unsettled and disoriented. Our faith in the goodness and love of God is tested. We tend to shift our focus on these difficult and challenging moments and do not see them within the greater picture of how God intends life to unfold. We can gain, from the passion and resurrection of Christ, the clear vision we need in order to move away from ignorance to enlightenment.

We need our "aha" moment when everything comes together and clicks. It can come in a fleeting instant when we feel totally connected with God, where we find ourselves, others and all of creation. It is a moment when all is right and good, regardless of how difficult our journey. Our "aha" moment assures us that God is here, right with us, in us and around us bringing us a gift and blessing we can receive nowhere else: peace. In those brief sacramental encounters when we are lifted up out of ourselves and centered, we can hear God say, "peace be with you," and we feel secure. It's all okay. The resurrected Christ has the power to bring this gift to us. Some people, as they are facing their deaths, remark about this peace. When looking into the window of eternity, they experience a depth of joy and are amazed at God's goodness and closeness. We are called to be witnesses to this Good News.



We are looking for those who would like to volunteer to serve the parish as money counters. Training will be provided. If you would like to participate in this ministry or obtain more information, please contact Mr. Antonio Morabito, our parish manager by calling the parish office (518) 477-7925 or email [HALO@hsceg.org](mailto:HALO@hsceg.org).

## Holy Spirit Directory

Parish: 518-477-7925 [office@hsceg.org](mailto:office@hsceg.org)

School: 518-477-5739 [hsoffice@hsceg.org](mailto:hsoffice@hsceg.org)

### Parish Pastoral Team

*Pastor:* Fr. Quy Vo [pastor@hsceg.org](mailto:pastor@hsceg.org)

*Deacon:* Bill Dringus [deacon1275@aol.com](mailto:deacon1275@aol.com)

### *Pastoral Associate for Administration:*

Antonio Morabito [HALO@hsceg.org](mailto:HALO@hsceg.org)

### *Pastoral Associate for Liturgy:*

\* Fr. Quy Vo [pastor@hsceg.org](mailto:pastor@hsceg.org)

### *Family Ministry & Lifelong Faith Formation:*

\* Laura Countryman [faithformation@hsceg.org](mailto:faithformation@hsceg.org)

*Bookkeeper:* Aimee Martin-Vieira [finance@hsceg.org](mailto:finance@hsceg.org)

*Secretary:* [office@hsceg.org](mailto:office@hsceg.org)

*Maintenance Services:* Paul Weidman, Tim Casalla

**Holy Spirit School** - 54 Highland Drive

*Principal:* Michael Kosar [principal@hsceg.com](mailto:principal@hsceg.com)

### Pastoral Council

Ellen Murphy: 518-479-7217 [ebmurphy@gmail.com](mailto:ebmurphy@gmail.com)

### Finance Committee

Steve Wiech: 518-477-5351 [steve\\_wiech@msn.com](mailto:steve_wiech@msn.com)

### Trustees

Matt Heitker: [heitkergm@acm.org](mailto:heitkergm@acm.org)

Kevin Haggerty: 518-378-5428 [khaggerty51@gmail.com](mailto:khaggerty51@gmail.com)

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**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.

## THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER



**Saturday 4/17 — Weekday 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:**

✠ Aileen Fitzpatrick — Req. by Susan Nixon

**11:00 am Mass:**

✠ For the people of the parish

**Tuesday 4/20 — Weekday of Easter**

**9:00 am** — Intention Available

**Wednesday 4/21 — St. Anselm, Bishop and Doctor of the Church**

**9:00 am** — Intention Available

**Thursday 4/22 — Weekday of Easter**

**9:00 am.** — Intention Available

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

**Saturday 4/24 — St. Fidelis of Sigmaringen, Priest & Martyr**

**4:00 pm. Vigil Mass:**

✠ Jane Goding — Req. by Gary & Doris Beardsley

**Sunday 4/25 — Fourth Sunday of Easter**

**8:30 am Mass:**

✠ Aileen Fitzpatrick — Req. Mary Fitzpatrick

**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](http://albanyvocations.org) (518) 453-6690.





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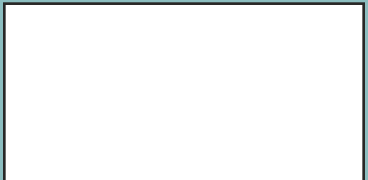
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