

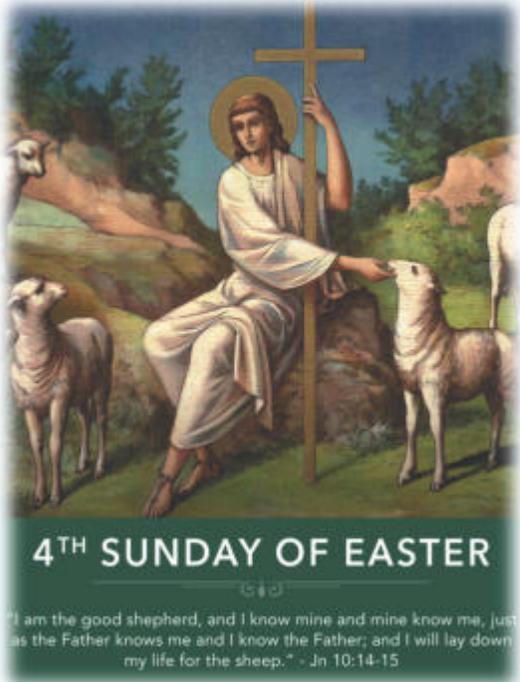


# Church of the Holy Spirit

## You are welcome here!

APRIL 25, 2021

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



Dear friends in Christ,

Alleluia! Jesus Christ has risen from the dead. Here we are in

the month of May! I hope you are enjoying the spring weather. On the Fourth Sunday of Easter, John's gospel invites us to reflect on the image of Jesus, the Good Shepherd. What would be the best description of the shepherd? One could say that a shepherd is a person who tend and watch over the sheep. He knows his sheep and calls them by a distinct name. The sheep knows the voice of their shepherd. A shepherd must be willingly to protect and give his life for the sheep. He was the door through which the sheep had to pass. The scriptures often speaks of God as shepherd of his people. Psalm 23 states that the Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. Isaiah tells us the Lord is like a shepherd who feeds his flock and gathers them in his arms. The gospel tells us that Jesus is the Good Shepherd who will risk his life for the sheep and save the stray sheep. How blessed are we to have Jesus as our good shepherd, the one who protects and gives life to us.

Our world today needs good shepherds. The Fourth Sunday of Easter is dedicated to the World Day of Prayer for Vocations. We do not talk about vocations often, especially within our family. Sometimes, we are afraid of talking about it. Our church values all vocations such as vocations to priesthood, diaconate, religious life, the vocation to married life as service to the church, and the vocation of single life. All these are good and wonderful vocations that God calls us, and they lead to happiness not only in this life but in the next. We need to open our hearts to the Holy Spirit and to the possibilities to the vocations God has planned for us. Let us pray that we have the courage to place our trust and lives into God's hands.

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)  
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## REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- ✠ We hear how Peter courageously testified before the Sanhedrin that in Jesus' name the crippled man was healed and in Jesus' name all believers are saved. How strong is the conviction of your faith when someone challenges you ?
- ✠ John speaks to his community of believers as "children of God." What do you see as some of the implications of such a designation?
- ✠ In speaking of himself as "the good shepherd" who cares deeply for his sheep, Jesus contrasts himself to "a hired man" (the Pharisees) who has no concern for his sheep. How should have the Pharisees reacted to this criticism ?



### This Sunday's Reading:

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

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

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

### Next Sunday's Reading:

**First Reading:** Acts 9:26-31

**Second Reading:** 1 Jn 3:18-24

**Gospel:** Jn 15:1-8

## HOLY SPIRIT PARISH SACRIFICIAL OFFERING



### Week of 4/18/21:

- \* Collection weekend masses: \$2,300.00
- \* Collection thru mail: \$591.00
- \* Collection thru E-Giving: \$203.00
- \* Easter Collection: \$450.00

(including thru mail & E-Giving)

**Total Collection: \$3,544.00**



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

*Liam Michael Leonard*

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



**Let us pray...**Jesus, good and gentle Shepherd, we pray for those among us who hear your voice and call to a vocation in the Church. Help them to be unafraid of that calling from you of service to the universal church. Gift them courage to boldly say yes to your call. Help us to encourage them in their long journey of discernment and formation. We offer our thanks to you for calling us to discipleship in many and various ways, as married men and women, as single men and women, as priests, deacons, and professed men and women. We ask all these things in the name of the Good Shepherd, Jesus, our savior and our brother. Amen.



The sanctuary lamp is lit in loving memory of:

*Aileen Fitzpatrick*

Given by Susan Nixon



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

**Question:** What does it mean to discern a vocation? I thought if God wanted someone to be a priest or religious, that person would know when they received "the calling"?

**Answer:** Many priests, sisters, and religious will undoubtedly smile at this thought. The word vocation comes from the Latin word *vocare*, meaning to call. A vocation is a calling or invitation from God to serve in a particular way. For Catholics, that calling might be as a priest, sister, or married person. Vocation is the way we respond to the invitation to share in God's grace and witness to God's love in the world. At times, that can be a difficult choice to make. Discerning a vocation is the process in which we pray for God's guidance. We listen for God's message that is often quiet and unassuming in a world filled with noise and distractions. We look at our gifts and talents, seek the advice of others, examine our motives and listen to see what God is asking of us. The goal of discernment is to follow what the Lord wills, not what we think is the best idea. Many men enter a seminary to discern if that is their vocation, only to discover that their calling is to marriage. Others have resisted the idea for long periods of time, until finally they could resist no more. Some great saints have described that dilemma. In spite of what we might see as obvious, the call was not that clear to them. Others resisted, like Augustine, who prayed, "Lord, give me chastity, but not yet!" Vocation is a human process of divine origin and each of us must strive constantly to hear the call of God in our lives.



**INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK**

The cornerstone is the first stone that is laid and the stone that not only determines how the other stones are placed but the position of the entire structure. As human beings, we need a cornerstone or reference point so that our lives can be properly placed and positioned. Our cornerstone determines not only how we see ourselves but who we will become. Without a cornerstone or reference point, we will be disconnected, disoriented, and poorly positioned for effective action in our world. In order to be the children of God we are, Jesus Christ needs to be our cornerstone and the reference point for all that we do. He alone is the Good Shepherd who can guide through life's questions and challenges, bringing us to proper pasture. Without this proper base, we can easily fall into the trap of self-aggrandizement and quickly lose our way. If that happens, then moral principles, proper conduct, justice, wisdom, and virtue will be difficult to find. We need to listen to the right voices and allow God to show us how to build our house well. Salvation only comes from God and only God will protect us, no matter the cost.

Please remember to patronize the sponsors of our bulletin.

**GOSPEL MEDITATION**

**The Fourth Sunday of Easter**

Any builder worth his or her salt knows the value and importance of a cornerstone. Properly laying and securing this primary unit determines how the rest of the project unfolds and its success. Cornerstones are necessary elements not only of buildings but of lives as well. Many human beings conduct the business of their lives paying little attention to a grounding reference or starting point. Hence, what unfolds is a tapestry of relativism, with few anchors or guideposts and many impulsive choices. Some consider love to be their cornerstone. While this may sound attractive and useful, the pursuit of love without a simultaneous pursuit of its source can be shallow and self-focused. Just because a person chooses to do no harm and love others does not mean that they are living in truth and properly anchored to the real cornerstone.

Jesus is the true and authentic cornerstone and shepherd. It is only in following the Risen One as the way, the truth, and the life that we can move from being well grounded ethical people to properly focused moral ones. Proper conduct, a true sense of justice, wisdom, virtue, moral principles, faith, hope, and love will be difficult to find unless we listen to the right Voice. It is when we learn to listen to the voice of God that we begin our journey on the road to salvation. It is only the Good Shepherd, the authentic and solid cornerstone, who can guide us through life's questions and challenges and bring us to the safe and proper pasture.

A person's life only has meaning when the cornerstone is properly selected and set. Understanding themselves only as random acts of creation, existing without intent or purpose, will color their choices and influence their decisions. The foundation of their lives will be simply a matter of preference and choice, leaving benchmarks of growth and higher ideals optional to pursue. Whereas people who believe that they are fashioned and loved into existence by a God who purposely made them, have this incredible unconditional relationship at their source which has tremendous significance. Their allegiance is not to themselves but to their Creator. Life, then, is an adventure in search of this Creator God and a journey of self-discovery that seeks to unite their will to His. There is a cost. We have to give up our life in order to gain our life. As ironic as that sounds, it is true. It is only when we finally figure this out that the true cornerstone of our lives will be properly laid and we can, with God's help, get about the business of properly constructing a temple that endures.



**MONEY COUNTERS**

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 [hssoffice@hsceg.org](mailto:hssoffice@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@hsseg.com](mailto:principal@hsseg.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.

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



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

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

✠ Angelo, Carmina, & Alba Dicarlo

Req. by Felix & Vittoria Dambrowski

✠ Judy Phelps—Req. by Family

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

**8:30 am Mass:**

✠ Aileen Fitzpatrick—Req. Brendan Fitzpatrick

**11:00 am Mass:**

✠ For the people of the parish

**Tuesday 4/27 —Weekday of Easter**

**9:00 am—Intention Available**

**Wednesday 4/28—St. Peter Chanel, Priest & Martyr; St.  
Louis Grignion de Montfort, Priest**

**9:00 am—Intention Available**

**Thursday 4/29—St. Catherine of Siena, Virgin & Doctor of  
the Church**

**9:00 am.—Intention Available**

## FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

**Saturday 5/1—St. Joseph the Worker**

**4:00 pm. Vigil:**

✠ Rayner Hesse—Req. by the Chiffolo Family

✠ Catherine & Anthony Acee

Req. by Karen & Bob Savicki & Ann Eisenhut

**Sunday 5/2—Fifth Sunday of Easter**

**8:30 am Mass:**

✠ Aileen Fitzpatrick—Req. Maura Livingston

**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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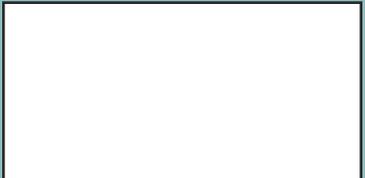
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