

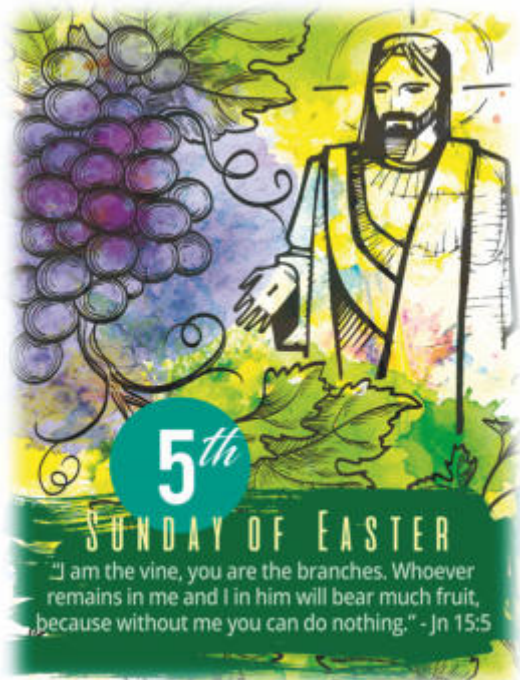


Church of the Holy Spirit

You are welcome here!

MAY 2, 2021

THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



Dear friends in Christ,
May the grace and peace of our Lord Jesus be with you always!

The month of May is here, and in this month our Blessed Mother Mary is being honored throughout the world. The devotion of honoring the Blessed Mother is very common in the southeast Asia and other cultures around the world. For example, Catholics in southeast Asia countries have a Marian procession around the church and streets while praying the rosary. Many catholic families invite their friends, neighbors, and fellow parishioners into their home to join them in praying the rosary. For those of us who are living in America, we honor Mary not only praying the rosary but also crowning her.

In today's gospel, we hear Jesus says "Remain in me as I remain in you". Nothing in the world offers us true peace and happiness. Only in Jesus we can find true peace and joy. Jesus offers us true life—the abundant life which comes from God. When we remain and stay close to Jesus, we can produce many great spiritual fruits such as peace, righteousness, and joy. Jesus also warns us that there can be no fruits in our lives when we choose to be apart from him. One thing we must remember as we begin a new week is that when we receive the Body and Blood of Christ, Jesus remains within the walls of our hearts. In order for us to bear good fruits, we must remain and stay close to Jesus.

This weekend is the First Communion weekend. These First Communion Candidates will be receiving the Body & Blood of the Lord for the very first time in their lives. Please keep our First Communicants in your prayer as they make the final preparation.

Peace & Blessings
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
Follow us on:
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REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- ✠ Luke tells us how the conversion of Saul (Paul) and the acceptance by the disciples of him helped facilitate peace in the Church throughout Judea, Galilee, and Samaria. What do you think is needed to bring about peace in our Church today?
- ✠ John teaches his community that believing in Jesus and loving one another is the heart of God's commandment. How would you assess yourself in following this two-fold command?
- ✠ Using the metaphor of a vine and branches, Jesus urges his disciples to "remain in me" in order to bear good fruit and thereby glorify God. What would be some examples of "good fruit" that you have produced?



This Sunday's Reading:

First Reading: Acts 9:26-31
Second Reading: 1 Jn 3:18-24
Gospel: Jn 15:1-8

Next Sunday's Reading:

First Reading: Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48
Second Reading: 1 Jn 4:7-10
Gospel: Jn 15:9-17

HOLY SPIRIT PARISH SACRIFICIAL OFFERING



Week of 4/25/21:

- * Collection weekend masses: \$1,763.00
- * Collection thru mail: \$705.00
- * Collection thru E-Giving: \$1,824.33

Total Collection: \$4,292.33



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.



Since its official recognition by the Church in 1836, the Society of Mary (Marist Fathers and Brothers) has committed itself to the missions in the southwester Pacific. Since that time, the Marists have expanded into areas in Africa, Asia, and South America. Today there are nearly 230 priests and brothers working in "bush stations", teaching in schools and seminaries, ministering in training institutions, providing direct service to the poor, oppressed and marginalized, and contributing to the development of people for a better society and strong local Church. Contributions to the Marists will help them in their mission of witness to the Gospel, service to the needy and helping the local Church to build a strong base for its promising future. Thank you for whatever you can do to help them in their life-long commitment and work. This collection will be taken up on the weekend of **May 15 & 16**.



POPE FRANCIS PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR MAY 2021

The World of Finance—Let us pray that those in charge of finance will work with governments to regulate the financial sphere and protect citizens from its dangers.



Join us in 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 parish 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.



Congratulations to our First Communion Candidates

We congratulate the following First Communicants and their families on this special occasion.

<i>Ricky Carkner</i>	<i>Autumn Cazzato</i>
<i>Cole Chiaro</i>	<i>Cole Cristo</i>
<i>Alexandra de Graffenreid</i>	
<i>Owen Dwyer</i>	<i>Grace Gialanella</i>
<i>Emily Gildart</i>	<i>Alexandra Gleaso</i>
<i>Ryan Grady</i>	<i>Brynn Kenney</i>
<i>Kane Kosakoski</i>	<i>Grace Loviglio</i>
<i>Nolan McHugh</i>	<i>Cara Minkler</i>
<i>Angela Polsinello</i>	<i>Madelyn Polsinello</i>
<i>Mckenna Smith</i>	<i>Eric Tobin</i>

May the Lord bless you on your special day!

A Summer of Saints. Our schedule for the Summer Season for Seasons of Faith is now available. The schedule can be found on our website, holyspiritchurcheg.weebly.com or by contacting Laura Countryman in the Parish Office. Join us for any of our many courses that will be offered this summer. Faith doesn't take a vacation!



WHY DO WE DO THAT? CATHOLIC TRADITIONS EXPLAINED

Question: Is gossip a mortal sin?

Answer: To really ask this question, we must consider the Eighth Commandment: "You shall not bear false witness."

In its reflections on this commandment, The Catechism of the Catholic Church invites us to not only think about what bearing "false witness" means, but to also consider how we understand the truth and how we communicate more broadly. This is why so much of this section of the Catechism has to do with the gift of language. With this in mind, we will notice that the word "gossip" isn't used by the Catechism. Instead, we find the words "detraction" and "calumny," which are actually two forms that gossip can take, and both can be quite serious.

First, detraction is the of revealing "another's faults and failings to persons who did not know them," without morally valid reasons. Calumny, by extension, is saying something about another person that is untrue, and it is sinful because it "harms the reputation of others and gives occasion for false judgements" (see no. 2477).

In all of our communication, we have to always recognize that we have a moral obligation to the truth and to always work to protect the reputation and honor of our neighbors (see no. 2479).

Gossip can, in fact, prove to be a very serious sin. After all, the Catechism reminds us: "No one is bound to reveal the truth to someone who does not have the right to know it" (no. 2489). When we have gossiped, especially if we are aware we have damaged another person's good name or reputation, we want to make every effort to undo the damage we have done, including seeking the grace and forgiveness offered in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.



INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

Anyone familiar with gardening knows that proper and timely pruning is essential. The health of the plant depends upon it. An unpruned tree can quickly produce suckers that zap many of the essential nutrients from its body. Pruning requires patience and vision. Studies reveal that plants often respond defensively to being pruned, displaying reactions that are similar to hurt or discomfort. Pruning is not easy but necessary. A hard lesson for us to learn is that we also need to be pruned. We become far healthier when we allow God to stretch, refine, and form us into the best version of ourselves. The fruit that then comes from our vines will be more abundant, nutritious, and robust. Left to our own devices we can easily find ourselves running amuck and spiraling out of control. Without a proper vision and trust in the Master Pruner, we will never find the contentment we desperately desire. Nor will the work of the Gospel stand a chance of succeeding.

GOSPEL MEDITATION

The Fifth Sunday of Easter

"Spiraling out of control," is a phrase that can easily describe the current display of human existence. In addition to the violence, unrest, uneasiness and turmoil that are common elements of our daily news, other essential pieces are misplaced or missing. Many lack an objective center around which to order and structure their lives or a clear set of definable goals or mores to act as guideposts and life directives. It appears that "feelings" have become a "new god" and traditional structures and ideals set aside. It is almost as if history only shows that we got this whole thing wrong and many are determined to finally set things right. The real truth, however, is that while wrongs and errors are certainly a part of our often-checkered past, it is hardly the case that all was wrong. It is not our task to rewrite the history of our lives, but to learn from mistakes that were made, and preserve the perennial wisdom at the root of our successes. Learning is an essential part of being human.

The question becomes, however, from whom do we learn? Some have such a hard time placing God in that position, but that is precisely where God needs to be. God is the Master Teacher from whom all of humanity learns and gets its cues. It is in and through this relationship with the Gardener of Life that we are fashioned and pruned into the people we are intended to be and can be. It is only in God that we are able to find our best selves. Sadly, many think that religion too, as well as history in general, has also gotten all this wrong. Yet, our resurrection faith tells us differently. We are reminded, today especially, that we are meant to remain in Christ as Christ remains in us. We are also reminded that Jesus, the Incarnate God, is the vine upon which we grow, the branches that flow from the source of God's life.

Giving up our will to God's can be a painful endeavor. It is not easy to set our own desires and wants aside and allow God to step in and direct and guide our growth. But this is the only way to prevent deadly weeds from overtaking us and bringing us to a place of self-destruction. God's commandments are the very guideposts and benchmarks we need, yet many seek to remove them from all public view because they appear to limit self-expression and suppress what is considered by many to be "human freedom." They are the only way we can find freedom, however. And, until we learn this fundamental lesson, we will continue to spiral out of control, never really knowing who we are, what our potential can be or how life really can be lived. We will not know peace.



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.

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.

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
- ✠ Janet Crist—Req. by Andrew Petersen

Sunday 5/2—Fifth Sunday of Easter

8:30 am Mass:

- ✠ Aileen Fitzpatrick—Req. Maura Livingston
- ✠ Janet Crist—Req. by Rowse Family
- ✠ Boyd and Carmella Wynne & Lori Augustine
Req. by Rick & Patty Hannmann

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

Tuesday 5/4—Weekday of Easter

9:00 am—Thomas Buckley Sr.—Req. by Buckley Family

Wednesday 5/5—Weekday of Easter

9:00 am—Intention Available

Thursday 5/6—Weekday of Easter

9:00 am.—Intention Available

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (MOTHER'S DAY)

Saturday 5/8—Weekday of Easter

4:00 pm. Vigil:

- ✠ Janet Crist—Req. by Diane & Karl Petersen
- ✠ Peter Behn—Req. by Vivian Behn

Sunday 5/9—Sixth Sunday of Easter

8:30 am Mass:

- ✠ Rosalie Cilwick (healing intention)—Social Action Min.

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 complete the pre-requisite Season of Faith courses and meet the diocesan requirements.

Confirmation—Student candidates must have completed the pre-requisite Season of Faith courses and meet the diocesan requirements. Adult candidates please contact the parish office.

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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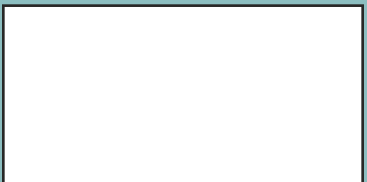
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