



Church of the Holy Spirit

You are welcome here!

MAY 9, 2021

THE SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



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

I pray that you had a good week. Last weekend was a joyful one for our parish as we welcomed three new members into our church community through the sacrament of Baptism and celebrating the sacrament of First Holy Eucharist with our young parishioners. Once again, we congratulate to all of them and their families. Please keep them in your prayers.

Love seems to be the main theme for this week. John writes to us in his letter saying that *God is love*. Love is one of God's attributes. Our faith teaches us that God has loved so much. God created the universe, the angels, and us because of love. When we have sinned against God, God never abandoned us. He continues to reach out to us because He loves us. God's great love for humanity has moved him to become human like us and to save us. With every thing that God has done for us, it is truly right for us to love God in return. But how? To love God is to keep his commandments; that is to love God with all our hearts, mind, and soul, and to love our neighbors. God challenges us to practice the self-sacrificing love for others. To understand this self-sacrificing love, we must look at the cross. On the cross, Jesus has given for us a great example of self-sacrificing love. Let us ask for the grace and courage to love others as God did.

This weekend we celebrate and honor all mothers, stepmothers, grandmothers, godmothers, and those who have given their love and care to us as mothers, both living and deceased. We, your children, would like to say "thank you" to you (mom) for the love, dedication, hard-work, and all the sacrifices that you make each day in order for us, your children, to have a home that is filled with love and kindness.

I will be away this coming Wednesday to the following Wednesday. Weekday Mass during those days will be canceled. Have a great week!

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:
Twitter: @HolySpiritEG
Facebook: @holyspiritchurcheg
Instagram: @holyspiriteg

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- ✠ In the home of the Gentile-believer, Cornelius, Peter revealed one of the most significant insights from the early Church: "In truth, I see that God shows no partiality." Where do you see this message of unity needed today?
- ✠ John saw love at the very core of God's divine identity. In fact, for John, "God is love." For this reason, believers are called to love one another. How do you keep this virtue paramount in your life?
- ✠ During his farewell discourse, Jesus refers to his disciples as his "friends." How often do you think of Jesus as your "friend"?



This 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

Next Sunday's Reading:

First Reading: Acts 1:15-17, 20a, 20c-26

Second Reading: 1 Jn 4:11-16

Gospel: Jn 17:11b-19

HOLY SPIRIT PARISH SACRIFICIAL OFFERING



Week of 5/1/21:

- * Collection weekend masses: **\$3,121.00**
- * Collection thru mail: **\$495.50**
- * Collection thru E-Giving: **\$75.00**

Total Collection: \$3,691.50



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 southwest 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 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.



PRAYER FOR MOTHER

Heavenly Father, from the beginning you have chosen to entrust the human person to mothers in a special way. We thank and praise you for the gift of mothers; for their tenderness, care, and compassion, for their intuition and encouragement, for commitment and sacrifice. Bless all mothers this day. Keep, strengthen, and refresh them in your loving care. May they be blessed by our open-hearted love and gratitude. Amen

Congratulations to our newest Communicants who joined us in sharing the Eucharist last weekend. Each year we offer parishioners the opportunity to share a note of congratulations. You can handwrite a note to each of the 19 Communicants and bring your notes to the Parish Office, or complete your message online at: <https://holyspiritchurcheg.weebly.com/notes-for-our-candidates.html>. We will make copies of your message to all of our Communicants when we meet again for Mystagogy. Thank you for helping to congratulate our wonderful young people. They truly appreciate reading all their notes.

A Summer of Saints is here! Join us for many course offerings for Seasons of Faith this summer. Walking with the Spirit, Church Life and Reflect and Renew will all focus on saints of the summer. New registrants are always welcome. We will have a virtual open house on Tuesday, May 18th from 7-8pm if you have any questions. Contact Laura Countryman in the Parish Office or at faithformation@hsceg.org to register for the Open House. Registration for Seasons of Faith can also be completed on our website: holyspiritchurcheg.weebly.com.

Our Seasons of Faith website has a new look! Explore our updated website: holyspiritchurcheg.weebly.com. You can look at our Summer Season schedule, register, explore Saints of the summer, Be Inspired by art, discover ways to discover faith online and so much more!



WHY DO WE DO THAT? CATHOLIC TRADITIONS EXPLAINED

Question: What is the difference between a "Saint" and a "Blessed"?

Answer: The process of proclaiming someone as a saint in the Catholic Church has evolved over the course of many centuries. In the beginning, those honored as saints were almost exclusively biblical figures or martyrs. However, after the legalization of Christianity in the fourth century, new holy women and men came to be honored as saints, and this was often done by popular acclaim or by the local bishop or abbot.

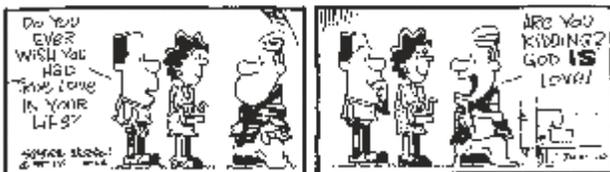
It was Pope Gregory IX (who was pope from 1227 to 1241) who officially proclaimed that only the pope had the authority to add someone to the official list (the "canon") of saints. This is the meaning of the word "canonization."

Today, the saint-making process includes several steps, including detailed studies of the person's life and a recognition that they died as a martyr or lived a life of "heroic virtue." Once someone is recognized as a martyr or if a miracle is attributed to their intercession, they will be beatified and honored as "Blessed." This means that they can be celebrated by Catholics in a particular country or region or by the members of certain religious community. If another miracle occurs and is approved, then the "Blessed" is canonized and honored with the title "Saint," meaning that they are now officially recognized as a universal model of holiness and an intercessor.



INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

God is love. These three simple words deserve a great deal of attention. They have the power to transform our relationship with God from something that is static and distant to one that is personal and real. We all know the power of love and how important it is to completing all of the human and divine circuits of our lives. But we do not often consider the awesome fact that it is given to us as a gift and is not simply part and parcel of the human package. God is the author of love and love itself. When we truly love another human being, it is really God being God in and through us. The love to which we are called and the love of which the Gospel speaks is a selfless love that seeks the wellbeing of not only our significant others but of all of our brothers and sisters. This love, which is of God, is a love that will endure all things and bring immeasurable joy when experienced. It is the most sincere form of friendship.



GOSPEL MEDITATION

The Sixth Sunday of Easter

"Remain in my love," and, "I call you friends," are powerful words that are found in John's Gospel. Most of us probably have them committed to memory or have at least heard them proclaimed dozens of times. They are words that can easily become trite and quickly glossed over without fully pondering and digesting their profound beauty. When we take the time to immerse ourselves in them, they can radically change our lives and our relationships. They can open up new doors of adventure and hold countless possibilities for meaning. The essence of love and friendship are things that can easily be taken for granted. They have always been there and are a significant part of our lives. Many would say that they could not live without love and friendship, and they put a great deal of care into preserving, deepening and sustaining them. Love and friendship share a mutual relationship with each other that deserves more reflection.

Where does love come from? We can consider relationships that have not succeeded and conclude that they were somehow due to our "failures in love." In doing so, we assume that human beings are the ones responsible for love, its success and also its failure. While our weakness, emotional composition and sinfulness can easily impact our ability to love, its origin is not human. God is love. God is love's author and origin. When we love, it is God who loves in and through us. It is because of this divine closeness that Jesus is able to call us friends! It is not because of anything we have done but simply because of who we are. Realizing and contemplating this awesome reality becomes a game changer across the board. It gives us reason to clear the table of anything that can adversely affect the way we love so that we can open the door for its author to shine forth.

Coming upon this truth is what leads folks like St. Francis of Assisi to leave that which is comfortable and worldly and live a radical life. They relate with the love of God that radiates in and through all living things and appreciate their sacredness. It was having an intimate experience of God's love and friendship that propelled St. Francis and others to embrace simplicity, act nonviolently, pursue humility, love enemies, care for the earth and open up avenues for true justice. Understanding this profound truth will also help us find peaceful solutions to world's problems, restore relationships with our sisters and brothers, bring the grace of loving stewardship to creation and heal many wounds. Once we begin to see how wonderfully holy all of life really is, we discover joy. We lose our need for fear, develop a fierce fortitude, act prudently and seek justice. There is great power in love because it comes from God. It will never fail. It also enjoys the company of two other friends who are eager to become our friends as well: faith and hope. These are just as important to have and to share.

Please remember to patronize the sponsors of our bulletin.

Holy Spirit Directory

Parish: 518-477-7925 office@hsceg.org

School: 518-477-5739 hssoffice@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@hsseg.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.

with Fr. Vo.

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

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)
Req. by. Social Action Ministry

11:00 am Mass:

- ✠ Paul Piela—Req. by Robyn & Jason Wilkes

Tuesday 5/11—Weekday of Easter

9:00 am—Intention Available

Wednesday 5/12—Sts. Nereus and Achilleus, Martyrs; St. Pancras, Martyr

9:00 am—NO PARISH LITURGY

Thursday 5/13—Ascension of the Lord Jesus

8:45 am.—Holy Spirit School Liturgy

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Saturday 5/15—Weekday of Easter

4:00 pm. Vigil: Maria & Bruno Jantzen—Req. by Betty Palasz

- ✠ Barbara Klee—Req. by Netti
- ✠ Jean Bakerian—Req. by Dolores Miller

Sunday 5/16—Seventh Sunday of Easter

8:30 am Mass:

- ✠ Aileen Fitzpatrick—Req. by H.S Funeral Ministry
- ✠ John J. Banach—Req. by Rosemary Horan

11:00 am Mass: Franklin Grant—Req. by Beatrice Grant

- ✠ Joseph O'Brien Sr.—Req. by H.S Funeral Ministry

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.



Circles of Mercy
Sponsored by Sisters of Mercy NE Community
Providing Hope and Empowerment
Catherine's Closet • Computer Training
Resume Writing • Free Income Tax Prep
Richard Zazycki, Director • Call: 518-462-0899
11 Washington Street • Rensselaer, NY
www.circlesofmercy.org



Catholic Central High School
Home of Crusader Spirit
Apply Today!
apply.cchstroy.org
Co-ed, Grades 7-12 • Since 1923
www.cchstroy.org

W.J. Lyons, Jr. Funeral Home, Inc.

William J. Lyons, III
Caitlin M. Mooney
NYS Licensed Funeral Directors

Family owned and operated since 1950
1700 Washington Avenue
Rensselaer, New York 12144
518.286.3400
FAX 518.283.7897
director@lyonsfh.com
wjlyonsfuneralhome.com

TOM CLARKE
Parishioner
Providing Insurance & Financial Services
StateFarm Ask me about 24 hr.
Good Neighbor Service™
518-477-7700
tom@tomclarkeagency.com



SPREAD THE WORD:
A Thriving, Vibrant
Community Matters
**Support Our
Advertisers!**



Wm. J. Rockefeller
Funeral Home, Inc.

We are Celebrating 150 Years!
**Our Family Serving Your Family
In Your Hour of Need**
Wm. J. Rockefeller Funeral Home, Inc.
165 Columbia Tpk • Rensselaer, NY 12144 • (518) 449-7047
WWW.WJROCKEFELLER.COM

Marshall G. Wagner
Owner/Director

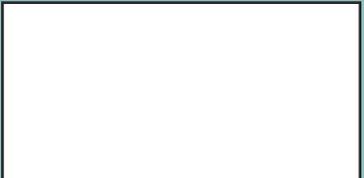
George W. Wagner
Owner/Manager

Michael J. Wagner
Owner/Director

**GRETHEN-CAHRENGER
MEMORIALS**
The Family Serving Your Family since 1907
**10% OFF
ANY MEMORIAL
PURCHASE**
with a copy of this ad
LARGEST DISPLAY IN THE NORTHEAST!
P: 518 235 3312 F: 518 237 0666
www.gcmemorials.com
grethen-cahrenger@verizon.net
11 5th St. & 8th Ave., Iron, (Lansingburgh), NY 12183

**AVAILABLE
FOR A LIMITED TIME** **ADVERTISE YOUR
BUSINESS HERE**
Contact **Judy McNee** to place an ad today!
jmcnee@4LPi.com or (800) 477-4574 x6451

Becker's Farm
Your Hometown Garden Center
420 Columbia Turnpike Rensselaer, NY 12144
518.477.4163 info@beckersfarm.com
East Greenbush - Across from Columbia Plaza



LET US PLACE
YOUR AD HERE.

**PROTECTING SENIORS NATIONWIDE
MEDICAL ALERT SYSTEM**
\$29.95/MO PLUS SPECIAL OFFER
BILLED QUARTERLY
CALL NOW! 1.877.801.7772 • WWW.247MEDALARM.COM

Too Sick for Mass?
SUPPORT OUR PARISH NO MATTER WHERE YOU ARE!
Sign-up to get your bulletin delivered
right to your inbox!
www.parishesonline.com

**SCHODACK
AUTO**
Minor, Major Collision Repairs • Quality Used Cars
1525 Columbia Turnpike • Castleton, NY 12033
(518) 477-2345

**Comprehensive Physical
Therapy Solutions, PLLC**

*Individual customized care for
all of your Physical Therapy needs.*
Deborah A Ciproni P.T. Owner, Parishioner
518-915-1452
Participating with most major Insurances.
81 Miller Rd, Suite 400, Castleton
www.Comprehensiveptsolutions.com

