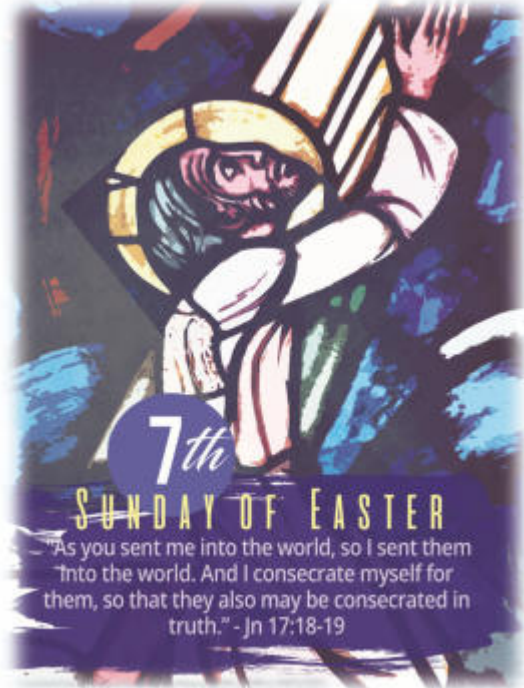




Church of the Holy Spirit You are welcome here!

MAY 16, 2021

THE SEVENTH 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. Our diocese has been involved in the Missionary Co-operative Effort for years, and each parish throughout the diocese has participated in this effort by welcoming a missionary priest or religious sister or brother to the parish for his or her mission. This weekend our parish will be welcoming a Marist priest who will celebrate all masses and share with us some of his pastoral ministries in the work of missionary. I ask for your generous support to Father's missionary work in this week's second collection. Thank you very much!

As we approach the closing of the Easter season, John's gospel directs our focus to Jesus' farewell discourse. This weekend we have the opportunity to witness the beautiful and meaningful "high priestly prayer" of Jesus Christ for his disciples and also for all of us. Here is the good lesson on prayer that Jesus teaches us! In Jesus' high priestly prayer, we learn two things about the prayer. First, Jesus asks his Father in heaven that "they may be one just as we are one". He prays for unity among the disciples and (also for us). As humans, we are weak, and at times we are tempted to give in to the sin of pride, power, money, or lust. All of these sins cause division among us. This is why Jesus prays for unity among us. It is only God's grace, love, and mercy that unite us together. Jesus also asks his Father to "keep them from the evil one", meaning to protect the disciples and all of us from the snare of the evil. Second, Jesus asks his Father that "they may be consecrated in truth". The world that we live in has filled with many voices, and they all claim to be the truth. It is easy for us to fall into the trap if we do not carefully discern those voices. The only way we can recognize the truth is our dependence on God, for He says "I am the way, the truth, and the life." Through Jesus' prayer, we come to know God's care and unconditional love that he has for us. Like a parent, God loves each one of us. He cares for and protects us at each moment of our lives. Only prayer in God will we come to know the truth—that God loves us always! Have a great week!

Fr. Quyn 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.
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 immediate aftermath of Jesus' ascension, and as a means for healing within the group, Peter and the apostles discerned Matthias as the replacement for Judas. What are some areas in your faith life that need healing in order to feel whole?
- ✠ John testifies that his community has "come to know and to believe in the love God has for us." Do you think your faith community shares a similar conviction of faith in the love of God?
- ✠ We hear Jesus' prayer to his Father for the protection of the disciples, especially against "the evil one" in the world. Where do you personally experience evil in the world today?



This Sunday's Reading:

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

Second Reading: 1 Jn 4:11-16

Gospel: Jn 17:11b-19

Next Sunday's Reading:

First Reading: Acts 2:1-11

Second Reading: 1 Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13

Gospel: Jn 20:19-23

HOLY SPIRIT PARISH SACRIFICIAL OFFERING



Week of 5/8/21:

- * Collection weekend masses: **\$1,864.00**
- * Collection thru mail: **\$2,805.00**
- * Collection thru E-Giving: **\$2,431.00**

Total Collection: \$7,100.00



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 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.

Notes of congratulations to our newest 19 Communicants are due by Monday. Send your message via email to Laura Countryman at faithformation@hsceg.org, via our Seasons of Faith website; <https://holyspiritchurcheg.weebly.com/notes-for-our-candidates.html> or drop off your handwritten notes to the Parish Office. Thank you for helping to welcome our young people to the Eucharistic Table.

Simply Scripture. Join the conversation as we reflect on the readings for Pentecost. We will gather virtually on Thursday, May 20th at 6:30pm. Contact Laura Countryman at faithformation@hsceg.org to register. What message will you hear this week?

Young families are invited to join our Church Life course as we explore living as Easter people and faith doesn't take a vacation from the comfort of your home. Gather virtually with us on May 23rd or 24th at 6:30pm. Choose the evening that works best for your family. Contact Laura Countryman at faithformation@hsceg.org to register.

Reflect and Renew. We will gather in the garden area by the church on Thursday, May 27th for an in-person mini-retreat. Just bring your lawn chair and join us for some time to reflect on Pentecost and the Pandemic. If the weather doesn't cooperate, we will gather virtually. Contact Laura Countryman to register.

Want to know more about Seasons of Faith? We will have a virtual Open House on Tuesday, May 18th from 7-8 pm via zoom. Contact Laura Countryman or the Parish Office to register.



Congratulations to those who received the Sacrament of Baptism

*Natalie Lavin, Taylor Lavin
Luke Christopher de Graffenried*

Please remember to patronize the sponsors of our bulletin.



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

Question: My best friend is Lutheran and is a good Christian. I would like her to be my child's sponsor, but I'm wondering, does she have to be a practicing Catholic?

Answer: The practice of two godparents for an infant's baptism goes back to the time when church law and civil law were one and the same in Europe. If anything did happen to the parents, the custody and well-being of the child became the responsibility of the godparents. Adult baptism required that one have a sponsor from the church who would act as a guide or mentor, in bringing the person to faith. Today, being a godparent has no legal implications. It is a spiritual matter. But at least one of the godparents must be a practicing Catholic. The other is called a Christian witness. This distinction recognizes the difference between faith and religion. A Christian can be a witness because of their relationship to God (faith), but the Catholic is a mentor in the practice of the religion.

In any event, it is vital that parents give serious consideration to the people they choose to be a child's godparents. That choice should be based on practice of faith, solid moral character, and ability to give good example. Too often the choice is left to whose turn it is in the family, or to friends that parents wish to honor or acknowledge in some way. Your choice of godparents is the first lesson of faith you teach your child. Make it count!



INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

When Jesus was physically with his disciples, he guarded and protected them. One of his greatest desires was that they share his joy completely. God's love is the source of all things and their sustenance. As we conduct the normal routines of our lives it is easy to get caught up in the immediacies of this world and lose focus. We become very self and worldly dependent, forgetting that God wishes to guard and protect us. The joy the resurrected Christ can offer cannot be found in this world. It takes a bit of faith to realize that God's will is a constant in our lives and that God desires only the sustenance and goodness of both our bodies and our souls. We need to trust in God's constant and rejuvenating love. This radical resurrection trust allows us to experience the joy of God's presence in all of the good and the bad, positive and negative, life building and life destructive events that we encounter. God remains where love remains.



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.

GOSPEL MEDITATION

The Seventh Sunday of Easter

God remains where love remains. When a believer realizes without doubt that God is love, it is a powerful moment. Being able to place our resurrection trust in this fundamental truth allows us to experience God's presence in all of our experiences: the good and the bad, positive and negative, life enriching and destructive events we encounter. It is no wonder that St. Paul so accurately tells us that it is love that endures all things and lasts. How can God not endure or ever fade away? Because he is God, Jesus also guarded and protected his disciples as the endearing shepherd who always had their best interest at heart.

If we become too immersed in the world, we lose touch with these deeper realities. We can become so preoccupied with preserving what we have created or think that we need, forgetting that it is not building our city that really matters, but God's. Jesus clearly did not belong to the world and, by virtue of his resurrection, he tries to get us to understand that we do not either. The truth brings us to other worldly, more divine places and takes our eyes off of the concerns that often captivate our fears and storm our senses.

Life can easily erode our faith. Think of your life over the last couple of weeks. What challenged your faith and distracted your divine glance? Even being overly stimulated with technology and social media can erode our sense of confidence and cause us to forget who we really are. We need to distance ourselves from the world in order to experience the joy that Christ offers. The world will never like the word of God. It is too challenging and too perplexing. The world mistakenly believes that it can survive on its own. It is a mistaken judgment that may cost people a lot in the end. It is all so very simple: God remains when we love one another. If in all the business of our lives and all that each day brings, the good and the bad, we follow the call and path of love, we will walk with God. There is nothing to fear and anxiety finds no home.



FATHER'S DAY SPIRITUAL GIFT—Our parishes will be offering the Father's Day spiritual bouquet in honor of fathers, grandfathers, godfathers etc..., both living and deceased. The donation for each name is \$5.00 dollars. The names of our fathers, grandfathers, and godfathers etc. will be displayed in a binder placed in front of the altar at Mass on Father's Day weekend, **June 19 & 20**. Envelopes for this special intention are available in the back vestibule. Please complete the form, insert your donation, and drop it in the collection basket or drop it off at the office. Deadline is **June 18, 2021**.

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.

with Fr. Vo.

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

Tuesday 5/18—St. John I, Pope and Martyr

9:00 am—NO PARISH LITURGY

Wednesday 5/19—Weekday of Easter

9:00 am—NO PARISH LITURGY

Thursday 5/20—St. Bernardine of Siena, Priest

9:00 am.—NO PARISH LITURGY

PENTECOST SUNDAY

Saturday 5/22—Weekday of Easter

4:00 pm. Vigil:

- ✠ Janet Crist—Req. by H.S Bereavement Min.
- ✠ John Banach—Req. by Steve & Kathy Weich
- ✠ Dennis P. Eldridge—Req. by Jay & Theresa Girvin

Sunday 5/23—Pentecost Sunday

8:30 am Mass:

- ✠ John J. Banach—Req. by 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 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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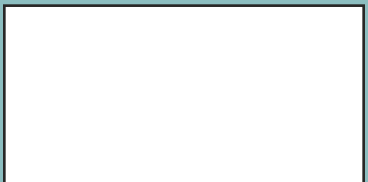
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