

Church of the Holy Spirit

You are welcome here!

MAY 24, 2021

PENTECOST SUNDAY



Dear friends in Christ!

May the grace and peace of our Risen Lord be with you always.

I hope that your week was filled with peace, joy, and good news. Today the church celebrates the Solemnity of the Pentecost, a 50-day celebration after Easter. Even though the solemnity celebration ends the Easter season, it marks the beginning of the church. In other words, the celebration of Pentecost is described as the birthday of the Church.

The feast of Pentecost associates with the movement of the Holy Spirit. After Jesus ascended to heaven, he sent us the Holy Spirit who is the Advocate for our church. Our Church teaches that there are seven gifts of the Holy Spirit, and each gift is described as follow: (*From Loyolapress.com*)

Wisdom helps us recognize the importance of others and the importance of keeping God central in our lives. **Understanding** is the ability to comprehend the meaning of God's message. **Knowledge** is the ability to think about and explore God's revelation, and also to recognize there are mysteries of faith beyond us. **Counsel** is the ability to see the best way to follow God's plan when we have choices that relate to him. **Fortitude** is the courage to do what one knows is right. **Piety** helps us pray to God in true devotion. **Fear of the Lord** is the feeling of amazement before God, who is all-present, and whose friendship we do not want to lose.

The Spirit helps and guides the church as she continues to witness to God's truth, peace, justice, and love. The Spirit also helps and directs our hearts and thoughts when we need to make an important life decision or when we encounter temptation. As we celebrate the feast of Pentecost, let us open our hearts to the power of the Holy Spirit so that he can transform our sinful ways of life to the new life in the living God. May the fire of the Holy Spirit ignite in us the flame of faith and love.

Peace & Blessings

Fr. Quyn Vo



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

- ✠ The descent of the Holy Spirit onto the disciples, which marked the beginning of the Church, was a transformative experience for the followers of Jesus. What have been some transformative experiences for you in your faith journey?
- ✠ Paul speaks to the Galatians about our universal struggle between the Spirit and the flesh. Paul even lists examples of the “works of the flesh” and the “fruits of the Spirit.” How would you measure your own success in this spiritual battle?
- ✠ Jesus assured his disciples that his Father would send the “Spirit of truth” to believers offering guidance and divine gifts. Where do you see the Holy Spirit active in your life?



This Sunday's Reading:

First Reading: Acts 2:1-11
Second Reading: 1 Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13
Gospel: Jn 20:19-23

Next Sunday's Reading:

First Reading: Dt 4:32-34, 39-40
Second Reading: Rom 8:14-17
Gospel: Mt 28:16-20

HOLY SPIRIT PARISH SACRIFICIAL OFFERING



Week of 5/16/21:

- * Collection weekend masses: **\$1,563.00**
- * Collection thru mail: **\$2,661.00**
- * Collection thru E-Giving: **\$250.00**
- * Ascension: **\$269.00**

Total Collection: \$4,743.00

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

Please remember to patronize the sponsors of our bulletin.



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.

Reflect and Renew. We will gather in the garden area by the church on Thursday, May 27th at 6:30 p.m. 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.

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. Register at faithformation@hsceg.org.

Last Chance to congratulate our newest communicants!

Send your greetings to faithformation@hsceg.org or our webpage: <https://holyspiritchurcheg.weebly.com/notes-for-our-candidates.html> by June 1st. Thank you!

Open Wide Our Hearts. Join our continuing conversation on the US Catholic Bishop's document on racism. We will gather virtually on Wednesday, May 26th at 6:30pm. Contact Laura Countryman to register.



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.



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**.



WHY DO WE DO THAT? CATHOLIC TRADITIONS EXPLAINED

Question: Why are Catholic and Protestant Bibles different?

Answer: Since the earliest days of the Church, Christians used a Greek translation of the Old Testament known as the Septuagint. This collection of the texts of the Hebrew Scriptures included 46 books. At the time of the Protestant Reformation in the 1500s, the Protestant reformers began to create their own translations of the Bible (into local languages) and some began to question why the Jewish Scriptures would have included texts that were written in Greek, because, they assumed, the only valid Jewish Scriptures would have been written in Hebrew. And so, they decided to remove seven books from the Old Testament: Baruch, Sirach, 1 and 2 Maccabees, Tobit, Judith and Wisdom (as well as portions of the Books of Daniel and Esther). This means that the Protestant Old Testament only includes 39 books, while Catholic Bibles continue to include those original 46 books. Both Catholic and Protestant Bibles include 27 books and letters in the New Testament.



INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

The phrase “being filled with the Holy Spirit” may summon forth images that are a bit too intense for some folks. They may conclude that when one is filled with the Holy Spirit that they immediately begin speaking in tongues, loudly praise God, sing alleluia from roof tops, and do other demonstrative things. In reality, being filled with the Holy Spirit means being filled with the fullness of God’s life and in touch with the power and wonder of God’s presence. It is the Holy Spirit that draws us together as a community of faith, inspires us with wisdom and right judgment, and turns us from the darkness of sin to the virtues that bring life. We live in a world where it is hard to discover truth. The Holy Spirit, through the ministry of the church, guides us to truth and shows us the way to be the graced human beings God made us to be. Come, Holy Spirit, and fill our hearts!



PRAYER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of Your faithful
And kindle in them the fire of Your love

V: Send forth Your Spirit and they shall be created

R. And You shall renew the face of the earth

Let us Pray: O God, Who instructed the hearts of the faithful by the light of the Holy Spirit. Grant us in the same Spirit to be truly wise and ever rejoice in His consolation. Through Christ, our Lord. Amen

GOSPEL MEDITATION

Pentecost Sunday

Begin by taking a moment to calm yourself, focus on your breathing and become aware of the life force that flows through your veins. Center yourself in the words and affections of St. Augustine’s Prayer to the Holy Spirit, “*Breath in me, O Holy Spirit, that my thoughts may all be holy. Act in me, O Holy Spirit, that my work, too, may be holy. Draw my heart, O Holy Spirit, that I love but what is holy. Strengthen me, O Holy Spirit, to defend all that is holy. Guard me, then, O Holy Spirit, that I may always be holy.*” Sanctifying, bringing things to wholeness, blessing, restoring and creating are just some of the fruits of the presence of the Holy Spirit. Being filled with the Holy Spirit is not always about proclaiming loud cries of praise or singing alleluia from a roof top. It is about unfolding and encountering the ordinary in an extraordinary way. Being filled with the Holy Spirit means being filled with the fullness of God’s life and in touch with the power and wonder of God’s presence. It’s about becoming holy.

It is not just for saints or people who have a religious vocation. Holiness is for the ordinary, simple run-of-the-mill person who desires to love God, others, and all of creation. When an ordinary, humble person becomes connected with life and the wondrous power of God’s love, they begin to live life more deeply, a bit more reverently, desire a simple fare and find themselves relishing in ordinary beauty. Their senses become attuned to the Author of life and they realize that they are not alone. The Holy Spirit connects all of the dots of human experience and existence, bringing everyone to center on the Divine Presence. The Holy Spirit does not just breathe “on me” but “in me” and is the force behind every breath I take. Take a moment to soak that thought in. There is the Divine Presence of the Holy Spirit in me, right now. When a person becomes in touch with truth, they know that when inspired by the Holy Spirit, his or her actions are not solely their own. They realize that they are moved by Divine Grace and drawn to things not found in secular affairs.

We live in a world where it is hard to discover truth. Real truth is veiled by so many imposters that it is hard to find, especially for those who are young. It is easy to get fooled and duped and often, without full conscious awareness of doing so, we choose to walk down a path of self-absorption and destruction. It is only the Holy Spirit, through the ministry of the church most especially, who guides us to truth and shows us the way to be the graced and holy human beings God made us to be. The wonders and inspirations of today’s Feast of Pentecost are necessary to share with both those we love and those who only casually cross our paths. The first disciples, touched by the Holy Spirit, brought the Gospel to the ends of the earth one step at a time. Is it unrealistic to ask that we assist in that same mission by helping people understand who they are and who God is one at a time? Ask the Holy Spirit to alleviate the fear in your heart that prevents you from doing so.

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 exploration, 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.

PENTECOST SUNDAY

Saturday 5/22—Easter Weekday



4:00 pm. Vigil:

- ✠ Janet Crist—Req. by H.S Bereavement Min.
- ✠ John Banach—Req. by Steve & Kathy Wiech
- ✠ 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

Tuesday 5/25—Weekday in Ordinary Time

9:00 am—Intention Available

Wednesday 5/26—St. Philip Neri, Priest

9:00 am—Mary Cooper—Req. by Marie Fortin

Thursday 5/27—St. Augustine of Canterbury, Bishop

9:00 am.—Intention Available

MOST HOLY TRINITY SUNDAY

Saturday 5/29—Weekday in Ordinary Time

4:00 pm. Vigil:

- ✠ Betty Chulzinski—Req. by Netti
- ✠ Janet Crist—Req. by Jay & Theresa Girvin
- ✠ Albert Blevins and John Blevins—Req. by Mary F. and Anne Mary Blevins

Sunday 5/30—MOST HOLY TRINITY SUNDAY

8:30 am Mass:

- ✠ Intention Available

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 need to complete the Seasons of Faith prerequisites and diocesan requirements. *

Confirmation—Student candidates need to complete the Seasons of Faith prerequisites and diocesan requirements. *

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.

***Visit our Sacramental Discernment webpage for more information:** <https://holyspiritchurcheg.weebly.com/sacramental-discernment.html>



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Marshall G. Wagner
Owner/Director

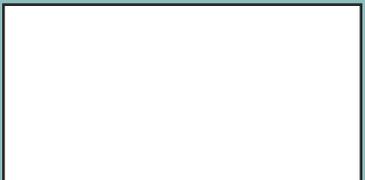
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