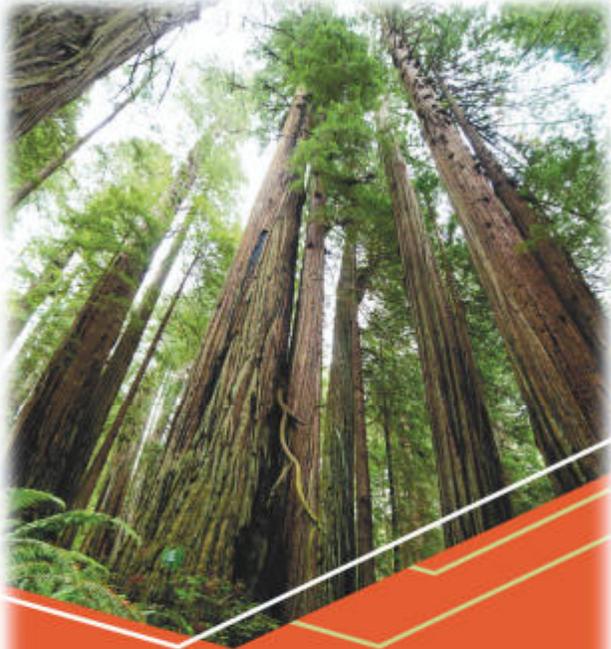




Church of the Holy Spirit

You are welcome here!

JULY 4, 2021 | THE FOURTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



14TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

When the sabbath came he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astonished. They said, "Where did this man get all this? What kind of wisdom has been given him? What mighty deeds are wrought by his hands!" - Mk 6:2

REOPENING INFORMATION

Here's what you need to know before you join us for Mass:

- ❖ You will need to bring your own sanitizer.
- ❖ You may remove the mask if you are fully vaccinated.
- ❖ A few seating sections in the church has been modified to maintain social distancing.
- ❖ The communion process will take a bit more time. Follow the ushers' cues and be patient.
- ❖ The Holy Water is back in the font at the entrance of the church. The Holy Water will change, and the font will be cleaned weekly basis.
- ❖ We continue to clean and sanitize the church at the end of each mass.



Saturday: 4:00 p.m. Vigil Mass

Sunday: 8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.



Dear friends in Christ!

May the peace and grace of our Lord Jesus be with you always!

The summer vacation has begun. I am hoping that some of you will take time off from your busy schedules to go away to get some rest and relaxation, or to visit family members and relatives.

The Markan Jesus in today's gospel refers to himself as a prophet without honor in his own town. He returns to Nazareth to teach the people about the kingdom of God. However, Jesus' message is not received well by his native people. Not knowing who Jesus and his family are, the people in the town close their hearts and do not listen to his message. Their lack of faith becomes a stumbling block for Jesus to perform mighty works; and their limited understanding and inability to perceive who Jesus is has limited the work he is able to perform. Jesus is completely amazed at their unbelief.

Like the Nazarene, we have a tendency to reject Jesus and fail to recognize his presence in our midst. We often walk away from Jesus when his prophetic words become difficult to comprehend. We reject Jesus when his gospel message threatens our own safe and insulated world or when Jesus challenges us in our own incomplete view of God. Jesus, the image of the merciful and compassionate God, calls us to change our way of sinful living and our own narrow thoughts of God. Jesus comes to live and to bring us peace, justice, and joy, not only in this life but also in the next life. Today, Jesus challenges us to recognize his presence in the poor, outcast, the undocumented person, the homeless, the immigrant, a beggar, or a person we do not know. May we be open to finding the new and the unexpected; and may we not grow too familiar in our comfort zone that we fail to recognize God's presence in our midst. May you have a blessed week!

Peace & Blessings

Fr. Tony Vo

Contact us:

667 Columbia Turnpike
East Greenbush, NY 12061
518-477-7925
<http://hsceg.org>

Parish Office Hours:

Monday & Tuesday: 9am-1pm
Wednesday & Thursday: 1pm-5pm
Please call if you need to make an appointment

Live stream Mass Schedule:

Saturday 4 p.m. Vigil Mass
Links can be found on
Youtube channel
Holy Spirit Church eg

Our Seasons of Faith website:

holyspiritchurcheg.weebly.com
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Instagram: @holyspiriteg

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- † Today's reading is an excerpt from the prophetic call Ezekiel received while in exile in Babylon (Ez 1:1-3:27). The Lord commissioned Ezekiel to go and confront the "rebellious house" of Israel. How do you imagine the Israelites received Ezekiel's message?
- † Paul learned that the "thorn in his flesh" taught him to be humble and dependent upon God's grace alone. Where do you see God's grace most present in your life?
- † Jesus was "amazed" at the lack of faith his fellow Nazareans had in him, suggesting Jesus expected a different response. Why do you think the villagers of Nazareth "took offense" at Jesus?



This Sunday's Reading:

First Reading: Ezekiel 2:2-5
Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 12:7-10
Gospel: Mark 6:1-6a

Next Sunday's Reading:

First Reading: Amos 7:12-15
Second Reading: Ephesians 1:3-14
Gospel: Mark 6:7-13

HOLY SPIRIT PARISH SACRIFICIAL OFFERING

Week of 6/27/21:

- * Collection weekend masses: **\$2,510.00**
 - * Collection thru mail: **\$1,135.00**
 - * Collection thru E-Giving: **\$585.00**
 - * Fundraising (Weekends 6/20-6/27): **\$1,947.00**
- Total Collection: \$6,177.00**



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.



HAVE A GREAT SUMMER EVERYONE!

Summer is the time for people to get away to have some rest and fun activities. If you are going away for vacation, please remember the parish with your envelope gift on your return as you know our budget is really challenged during the summer months. We appreciate your ongoing support.

Simply Scripture – Join us on Thursday, 7/8 at 6:30pm as we reflect on the readings for the 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time from the comfort of your own home. Contact Laura Countryman in the Parish Office or at faithformation@hsceg.org to register.



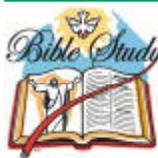
Join us in the Eucharist Adoration every Tuesday evening beginning at 7 p.m. We will be praying the Rosary & Divine Mercy Chaplet. Confession is available for all. Please invite your family & friends to come and spend time with the Lord through prayer.



POPE FRANCIS PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR JULY 2021

Social Friendship—We pray that, in social, economic and political situations of conflict, we may be courageous and passionate architects of dialogue and friendship.

Words of Wisdom Book Club – Join our continuing conversation on Pope Francis' wonderful document, Fratelli Tutti. We will explore Chapter 5: A Better Kind of Politics on Wednesday, July 7th at 6:30pm from the comfort of our own home. Contact Laura Countryman in the Parish Office or at faithformation@hsceg.org to register.



Young Adult Bible Study—Join us on every Thursday at 7 p.m. at the parish office to read, study, and reflect on the word of God.

Adult Bible Study Group will meet every Wednesday evening at 6:30 p.m. in the parish office. You are welcome to join us.



DUE TO THE OBSERVANCE OF THE INDEPENDENCE DAY THE PARISH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED ON MONDAY, JULY 5, 2021. THE OFFICE WILL BE OPENED TUESDAY JULY 6 AT 9:30 A.M.



Today throughout the United States, we celebrate our freedom. Our rights are protected and opportunities abound. We recognize that freedom has a cost, one we celebrate and honor on days such as this. It's good to honor those who fight for our country, who may well pay the ultimate price for the liberties we're afforded. As faithful Catholics, we recognize that there is more to freedom than simply being at liberty to make our lives what we want them to be. St. John Paul II reminds us: "Freedom is not just doing what we can, it is doing what we ought." We become freer within ourselves and within our relationships when we choose what is right and good. When we choose sin, we become trapped in egoism - less free, not more. This Independence Day, let's continue to pursue virtue and good character and encourage others to do this same.

WHY DO WE DO THAT?
CATHOLIC TRADITIONS EXPLAINED

Question: I'd like to make some new resolutions about practicing the faith in our family during the new year. Do you have any suggestions?

Answer: The family is the most essential space for the formation of values and character. Practicing your faith as a family can happen both internally and externally. Consistent prayer together builds habits that can last a lifetime. With younger children, praying together as a family in the evening or at dinnertime could be fairly doable most nights. In the evening, select a few common prayers such as the Our Father, Hail Mary, or Guardian Angel prayer. Ask each of your children to thank God for three things that day and include a time for children and adults alike to pray out loud for special needs in your family. This practice could be done with older children, committed to intentional efforts in the midst of increasingly busy schedules.

Look for other opportunities to practice the faith outside the home as well. Sunday Mass should already be part of your family's weekly routine. Consider setting other monthly goals as well. This could be a family service project in your city, attending the sacrament of Confession together, or hosting a hospitality night in your home. Get your children involved in the planning process. Ask them where they'd like to volunteer or who they think is having a hard time and might need a special night just for them. Rather than simply imposing new practices, your whole family can have a dynamic role understanding and integrating faith and life.

LIVE THE LITURGY - INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

God never ceases to proclaim His Word. His life-giving presence continues to sustain all things and keep them in being regardless of whether there is the faith to receive or perceive Him. Our personal agendas, preconceived ideas, misconceptions, and expectations can often cause us to be so hard of heart and obstinate that we fail to see what God is trying to do. While God remains ever present, faith is necessary for God's power to bear fruit. As we celebrate our country's independence, let us not forget the difference between liberties and freedom. While the liberties we have are most welcome treasures, only freedom from what blinds, deceives, and weighs us down can bring happiness. God is all about healing, transformation, and hope. In order for God to do what God does best, we have to invite Him in and see Him for who he is. Otherwise, God's will for humanity will be something at which we simply take offense, a common reaction when something challenges or unsettles us.



The sanctuary lamp is lit in memory of
Rosemarie Rossbach
Given by Doris & Gary Beardsley

GOSPEL MEDITATION

The 14TH Sunday in Ordinary Time

Prophet. There's a heaviness to this word. It's weighted down with meaning. We think of prophets and we think of Charlton Heston with wild hair and a booming voice, reaching out his hand to work wonders of nature by the grace of God. We think of prophets and we think of ancient Biblical history — someone far away, someone so removed from our everyday life. A prophet is someone who knows something we don't.

When I let you in on this secret, it might scare you at first: in a way, God is calling you to be a prophet. He is calling me. He is calling anyone who hears the truth of the Gospel. However, there is no need for the megaphone and the wild locusts. This prophet gig might not be what you're thinking.

What does a prophet do? He hears and testifies to the truth, even when it's uncomfortable, even when it's unpopular, even when it results in, as Paul says, "weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions and constraints." A prophet doesn't have to be smart or rich or ordained; heck, he doesn't even have to be particularly willing.

All a prophet has to do is listen to the truth. The truth we receive from Christ, through the Gospel and the sacraments, is a mighty gift. But it is a gift that we are not meant to simply keep for ourselves. In possessing it, we are compelled to also pass it on, to share it, to let the Spirit set us on our feet.

ONE NATION UNDER GOD "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness." We all know these words by heart. They are from the United States Declaration of Independence. However, are these words held with the same reverence around the world as they are held here at home? Sadly, no. There are many places in the world where it is a life-threatening endeavor to practice one's faith, that faith that was given to each human by that Creator who endowed us with inalienable rights. Let us take a moment to remember all those people in the world who are not free to seek life, liberty or happiness.

Let us pray... O God, you willed that the Jewish people be free from slavery by their Egyptian captors. You will that all people should be free to worship you without fear and to celebrate their religious beliefs freely, even if they have not yet found you. Grant that those of us who live in this great nation will thank you daily for our freedom, and work for the freedom of others around the world that do not yet have the freedom to practice their faith openly and proudly. We seek your wisdom where hatred abounds, and ask for humility to offer our good works to others who live in fear and bondage. We ask all this through Christ our Lord, who frees us from sin and death through the wood of the cross. Amen.

Holy Spirit Directory

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

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

Parish Pastoral Team

Pastor: Fr. Quy Vo pastor@hsceg.org

Deacon: Bill Dringus deacon1275@aol.com

Pastoral Associate for Administration:

Sowmya Sudulagandi info@holyspiritchurchceg.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!



**FOURTEENTH SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME**



Saturday 7/3—Weekday in Ordinary Time

4 p.m. Vigil:

✠ Fr. George St. John—Req. by HS parish

Sunday 7/4—Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:30 a.m. Mass:

✠ Rosemarie Rossbach—Req. Rosemary Horan

11 a.m. Mass:

✠ For the people of the parish.

Tuesday 7/6—St. Maria Goretti, Virgin and Martyr

9 a.m. Mass—Intention Available

Wednesday 7/7—Weekday in Ordinary Time

9 a.m. Mass—Intention Available

Thursday 7/8—Weekday in Ordinary Time

9 a.m. Mass—Intention Available

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Saturday 7/10—Weekday in Ordinary Time

4 p.m. Vigil: Fr. George St. John—Req. by HS parish

✠ Herbert Suitto—Req. by Trudy & Vance Sorell

Sunday 7/11—Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:30 a.m. Mass:

For the people of the parish.

11 a.m. Mass:

✠ Ted Fischetti—Req. by Bob & Mary Kay Blake & Family

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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