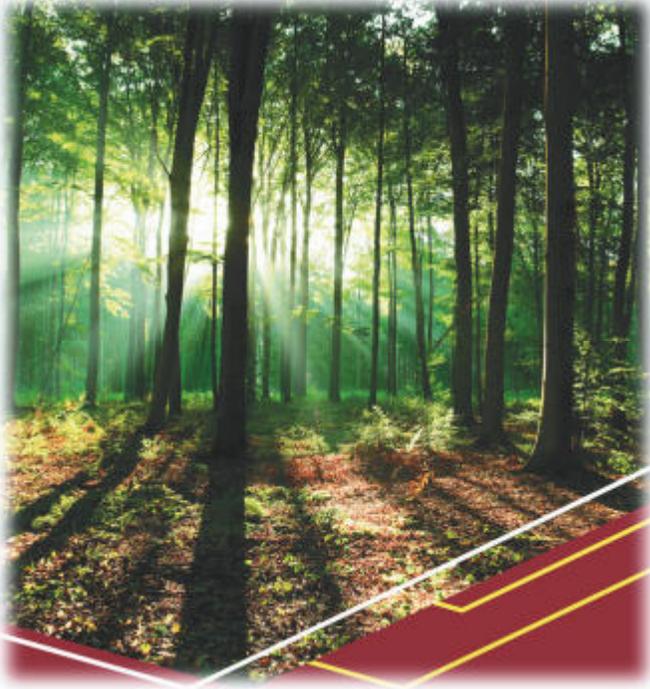




# Church of the Holy Spirit

## You are welcome here!

AUGUST 29, 2021 | THE TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



### AS WE RETURN TO MASS IN PERSON

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

- ❖ Hand sanitizer is available for you to use. Please use sanitizer before receiving the Holy Communion.
- ❖ Wearing masks while we are indoors is strongly recommended whether you are fully vaccinated or unvaccinated.
- ❖ 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 on a weekly basis.
- ❖ We continue to clean and sanitize the church at the end of each mass.



### Weekend:

- ❖ **Saturday:** 4 p.m. Vigil Mass
- ❖ **Sunday:** 8:30 a.m. & 11 a.m.

**Weekdays: Tuesday – Thursday:** 9 a.m.  
(Mass will be held in Rectory's Chapel)

**Holy day of Obligation:** Consult the bulletin and announcement for the mass time. Mass will be in the church.



May the grace and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you always! Time goes quickly, and already we are at the end of the month of August. The weather begins to get a bit colder as we can feel the Fall weather is coming soon. As our young parishioners are preparing to return to schools and colleges for another year of learning and discovering new things in the textbooks that they are going read, we wish them well and keep them in our prayers.

Returning to Mark's gospel, we get challenged with a question. Which one is most important to God: clean hands or a clean heart and mind? The Scribes and Pharisees got upset with Jesus because he allowed his disciples to break their ritual traditions by eating with unclean hands. In Jesus' time, the Pharisees loved to listen and obey the six hundred and thirteen rules and customs. In fact, they were obsessed with their rules and regulations. Moreover, the Pharisees rejected God's commandments and established their own human traditions that hindered the quest for holiness. Jesus tells the Pharisees that the purpose of God's commandments is to free people for a deeper relationship with God and each other. God's commandments are the signs of God's covenant with us. When we truly follow and faithfully observe the commandments, we are living in the right covenantal relationship with God and others. When we turn our hearts to God, we have life. God wants the contrite heart, a clean heart, a conversion of heart. May the Holy Spirit fill us with His wisdom so that we have a right understanding of God's commandments. Their purpose is about the right relationship with God and others, not about self-righteousness. May we take God's Commandments to heart and live a life of justice and truth. May you have a blessed week!

Peace & Blessings  
*Fr. Aug. V.*

### 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](http://holyspiritchurcheg.weebly.com)  
**Follow us on:**  
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# REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- ✚ As Moses prepared the Israelites to settle and live in the Promised Land he urged them to stay close to God's commandments and statutes in order to become a "great nation." Why do you think so many nations stray from this idea?
- ✚ In the opening verses of his letter, James urges his readers to be "doers of the word and not hearers only, deluding yourselves." Why do you think this is wise advice?
- ✚ In returning to the Gospel of Mark, we hear today how the religious leaders from Jerusalem questioned Jesus about keeping "the tradition of the elders." Jesus responded with the importance of being clean of heart. Why is this such a challenging spiritual exercise?



### This Sunday's Reading:

**First Reading:** Dt 4:1-2, 6-8  
**Second Reading:** Jas 1:17-18, 21b-22, 27  
**Gospel:** Mk 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

### Next Sunday's Reading:

**First Reading:** Is 35:4-7a  
**Second Reading:** Jas 2:1-5  
**Gospel:** Mk 7:31-37

### HOLY SPIRIT PARISH SACRIFICIAL OFFERING



#### Week of 8/22/21:

- \* Collection weekend masses: \$2,124.00
- \* Collection thru mail: \$310.00
- \* Collection thru E-Giving: \$1,488.92

**Total Collection: \$3,922.92**

**Catholic Mission collection: \$617.00**



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 way to give your donations. Please consider this option.



Bishop Scharfenberger invites you to a "Diocesan Day of Prayer and Celebration" for ALL the people of the Albany Diocese

**Come Holy Spirit!  
Renew Our Strength  
Reaffirm Our Hope**

**Saturday, Sept. 25th- 9 AM to 2 PM**

**St. Edward the Confessor Church, Clifton Park**

To Register: <https://webapps.rcda.org/ParishFaithFormation>  
 OR Call The Office of Lay Ministry & Parish Faith Formation (518) 453-6670. There is NO cost for this event

**Eucharistic Adoration** 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 AUGUST 2021

**The Church**—Let us pray for the Church, that she may receive from the Holy Spirit the grace and strength to reform herself in the light of the Gospel.

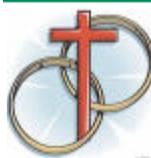
**Seasons of Faith** – Fall Season begins this week! All parishioners are invited to explore their faith with our Seasons of Faith courses this fall season. We have many options including mini retreats, scripture discussion, family gatherings, a book group, more in-depth learning and more! Registration and information can be found on our website: <https://holyspiritchurcheg.weebly.com/> Come explore with us.

### Upcoming Events

Day/Date	Occasion	Time	Place
Tues 8/31	Eucharist Adoration	7 p.m.	Church
Wed 9/1	Adult Bible Study	6:30 p.m.	Conference Room
Thurs 9/2	School Board Meeting	5:30 p.m.	Library



**RCIA—Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults:** We welcome those who are not Catholic to discover and learn about the Roman Catholic Faith Tradition. Those who have not been baptized are prepared to celebrate the sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation. Candidates raised in another Christian community are invited to full-communication in the Catholic Church by celebrating Confirmation and Eucharist. If you know of anyone who has not been baptized and wants to discover the Catholic Faith Tradition, please encourage the person to contact the parish office at (518) 477-7925.



**The 49th Annual Diocesan Marriage Jubilee Celebration** will be held Saturday, October 30th, 2021 at 2:00 PM at The Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Albany. Couples — celebrating their 25th, 40th, 50th or other special wedding anniversaries are invited to attend this celebration. Bishop Edward B. Scharfenberger will celebrate the Mass at 2:00 PM and will greet couples and their guests at a reception in the gathering area at the Cathedral immediately following Mass. Please register through your parish office or by email to [Marriage.Jubilee@rcda.org](mailto:Marriage.Jubilee@rcda.org).



## WHY DO WE DO THAT? CATHOLIC TRADITIONS EXPLAINED

**Question:** : My friend has never heard of Christ and I want to share the Gospel with her but I'm afraid to. How do I share my faith?

**Answer:** There are a lot of ways to bring up the topic of religion, without being judgmental or pushy. Begin by asking what her thoughts are about religion, or what her experience was growing up. Finding common ground is often easier than you think, because the questions and problems we have about God, the presence of evil, our purpose in life, and our relationship with God are universal concerns.

Why are you afraid? If you do not want to insult or offend someone, don't be pushy or judgmental. If you are uncertain about how to explain your own faith, do a little reading or practice with a friend. If you measure success only by this person converting, focus your attention more on beginning the conversation, not on bringing it to a perfect close! Faith is a journey of many acts of belief, many discussions about God, and many choices about how we practice what we preach. In some we will have great success; in others we will need forgiveness and perseverance. The most important thing to keep in mind is that the Holy Spirit is always at work and our most humble efforts can bear great fruit. Have faith in God because he has faith in you!

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### LIVE THE LITURGY - INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

What makes a person wise and intelligent? Certainly it is not the ability to memorize facts or minute details about a situation. What makes a person wise and intelligent is when their words and actions harmoniously unite and produce virtue. A person can know many facts and even do the right actions but still have a grave flaw in their character. We sometimes want to delude ourselves into thinking that as long as we are "doing" everything correctly, we are automatically in right relationship with all. Such is sadly not the case in the kingdom of God. We are called not to be just hearers of the Word, but doers as well. That means getting to the heart of what laws and rituals are meant to signify and nurture. If we do not bring the actions home, where they belong, and allow them to speak of the goodness, mercy, compassion, and love of God, then they are simply empty worthless gestures. Welcome the Word that has been planted within you so that you can be a truly wise and intelligent disciple of Jesus Christ.



Our parish picnic will be held at the Town Park on **Sunday, September 12**. We will have the

11 AM mass in the park followed by the picnic. Please mark the date on your calendar and invite your family members, friends, neighbors to join us. If you are able to help, please contact Ellen Murphy 518-479-7217 or [ebmurphy@gmail.com](mailto:ebmurphy@gmail.com)

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## GOSPEL MEDITATION

### The 22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

Albert Einstein said that the "true measure of intelligence is not knowledge but imagination." Being a disciple of Jesus Christ requires a great deal of imagination. It is not enough to simply attend to facts, rules and rituals and consider the job done. Quite contrarily, the Gospels demand creativity, of trying to discern how to put flesh on the Beatitudes and properly serve God's children. Jesus never doled out a top down agenda. Not once did he ever demand conformity over conversion or sacrifice over mercy. The Gospel is always about putting people in touch with their compassionate, forgiving, and unconditionally loving God and meeting them where they are.

For Jesus, it often meant breaking a few rules. Well respected and time-honored traditions had to be set aside in order to attend to what really mattered. God's compassion, mercy and true conversion were always the trump cards. The story of the Good Samaritan, healing on the Sabbath, and bypassing of purification rituals all display this theme. Human beings can get too hung up on protocol and tradition. This is so much so that often preserving all of these things is of greater concern than the beggar knocking on our door or the sinner looking for mercy. It is no wonder, then, that we can easily become hypocritical. Many can see us on our knees in prayer while our true heart and actions, rooted in judgment and self-preservation, are hidden from others. It is a trap into which we can easily fall. Who cares how we live our lives as long as our hands are properly washed!

Here enters the need for imagination and the distinction of truly being a wise and intelligent person. It takes a good measure of creativity and a lot of guts to really be a doer of God's word and not merely a hearer. Being a person who doesn't just tell people about God but shows people God requires courage and ingenuity. That's why people like St. Francis of Assisi and St. Teresa of Calcutta are timeless. Their genuineness speaks volumes generation to generation. It's risky business taking the step to allow God into our hearts. Permitting God to release us from the grip of our evil thoughts, infidelity, greed, malice, sexual improprieties, licentiousness, envy, arrogance, folly, and the like takes courage. That's why we prefer to spend our energy rearranging the future rather than take measures to secure a foundation that is most certainly crumbling.

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**The Social Action Ministry** would like to thank all those who donated school supplies and socks and underwear to the children at Concerns U and the South End Children's Cafe. Your generosity is very much appreciated.



## Holy Spirit Directory

Parish: 518-477-7925 [office@hsceg.org](mailto:office@hsceg.org)

School: 518-477-5739 [hssoffice@hsseg.org](mailto:hssoffice@hsseg.org)

### Parish Pastoral Team

*Pastor:* Fr. Quy Vo [pastor@hsceg.org](mailto:pastor@hsceg.org)

*Deacon:* Bill Dringus [deacon1275@aol.com](mailto:deacon1275@aol.com)

### *Pastoral Associate for Administration:*

Sowmya Sudulagandi [info@holyspiritchurcheg.org](mailto:info@holyspiritchurcheg.org)

### *Pastoral Associate for Liturgy:*

\* Fr. Quy Vo [pastor@hsceg.org](mailto:pastor@hsceg.org)

### *Family Ministry & Lifelong Faith Formation:*

\* Laura Countryman [faithformation@hsceg.org](mailto:faithformation@hsceg.org)

*Bookkeeper:* Aimee Martin-Vieira [finance@hsceg.org](mailto:finance@hsceg.org)

*Secretary:* [office@hsceg.org](mailto:office@hsceg.org)

*Maintenance Services:* Paul Weidman, Tim Casalla

### Holy Spirit School - 54 Highland Drive

*Principal:* Michael Kosar [principal@hsseg.com](mailto:principal@hsseg.com)

### Pastoral Council

Ellen Murphy: 518-479-7217 [ebmurphy@gmail.com](mailto:ebmurphy@gmail.com)

### Finance Committee

Steve Wiech: 518-477-5351 [steve\\_wiech@msn.com](mailto:steve_wiech@msn.com)

### Trustees

Matt Heitker: [heitkergm@acm.org](mailto:heitkergm@acm.org)

Kevin Haggerty: 518-378-5428 [khaggerty51@gmail.com](mailto: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!**



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 Sowmya, our parish manager by calling the parish office (518) 477-7925 or email [info@holyspiritchurcheg.org](mailto:info@holyspiritchurcheg.org).

**TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN  
ORDINARY TIME**



**Saturday 8/28—St. Augustine,  
Bishop & Doctor of the Church**

**4 p.m. Vigil:**

- ✚ Catherine (Rita) Beardsley—Req. Doris & Gary Beardsley
- ✚ Dominic N. Ali—Req. the Chiffolo Family

**Sunday 8/29—Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**8:30 a.m. Mass:**

- ✚ Fr. George St. John—Req. by HS

**11 a.m. Mass:**

- ✚ For the people of the parish

**Tuesday 8/31—Weekday in Ordinary Time**

- ✚ **9 a.m. Mass**—Intention Available

**Wednesday 9/1—Weekday in Ordinary Time**

- ✚ **9 a.m. Mass**—Intention Available

**Thursday 9/2—Weekday in Ordinary Time**

- ✚ **9 a.m. Mass**—Intention Available

**TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**Saturday 9/4—Weekday in Ordinary Time**

**4 p.m. Vigil:**

- ✚ Intention available

**Sunday 9/5—Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**8:30 a.m. Mass:**

- ✚ Fr. George St. John—Req. by HS

**11 a.m. Mass:**

- ✚ For the people of the parish



The sanctuary lamp is lit in memory of

*Dominic N. Ali*

Given by Chiffolo Family

**CELEBRATING THE SACRAMENTS**

**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](http://albanyvocations.org) (518) 453-6690.

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