



# Church of the Holy Spirit

## You are welcome here!

SEPTEMBER 19, 2021 | TWENTY-FIFTH 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 sanitize your hands 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.

### 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



May the grace and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you always! Jesus, in today's gospel, talks about what it is like to be the greatest person in God's kingdom. While Jesus was speaking to the disciples about his passion and death, they were discussing among themselves who is the greatest. Who doesn't want glory and fame in life? Our society tells us that a good leader is a person who possesses great power, lots of wealth, fame, and prestige. He is the greatest person, and wherever he goes, he will have VIP status, and the best/head seat at the banquet table. However, Jesus' teaching is completely the opposite. A good leader is to be the servant of everyone. Jesus kept reminding his disciples that "he came not to be served but to serve" (*Matthew 20:28*). The greatest person in the kingdom of God is the lowly one, the one who is humble of heart, the one who is willing to empty himself of pride and self-seeking glory, the one who is seeking to be the servant for others.

Jesus is the perfect model of a servant. He knelt down to wash the feet of the disciples. He healed the sick, restored sight for the blind, opened the ears of the deaf, and the mouths of the mute. Jesus raised the dead to life; for those who were possessed by demons, Jesus cast out the demons and healed them. Moreover, the glory that Jesus possessed for himself is the cross. On that cross, Jesus has won for us eternal salvation. The greatest person is the servant of all. Are we ready to be the greatest person in God's kingdom? Do we have the courage to become the greatest person in God's kingdom?

The Fall season is on its way. Enjoy the rest of the summer weather!

Peace & Blessings

*Fr. Greg Vo*

### 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

- † The Wisdom writer reveals the mentality of the wicked, characterized by revenge and treachery. How best should people of faith respond to such behavior?
- † James offers insight into the human condition as it relates to how often our ambitions and passions can lead us astray. How do you keep yourself grounded in holy intentions?
- † We hear today how the disciples were afraid to ask Jesus questions and reluctant to share with him some of their tensions. Why do you sometimes hold back from opening up to the Lord?



### This Sunday's Reading:

**First Reading:** Wis 2:12, 17-20  
**Second Reading:** Jas 3:16—4:3  
**Gospel:** Mk 9:30-37

### Next Sunday's Reading:

**First Reading:** Nm 11:25-29  
**Second Reading:** Jas 5:1-6  
**Gospel:** Mk 9:38-43, 45, 47-48

### HOLY SPIRIT PARISH SACRIFICIAL OFFERING



#### Week of 9/5/21:

- \* Collection weekend masses: **\$2589.00**
  - \* Collection thru mail: **\$1060.00**
  - \* Collection thru E-Giving: **\$2534.00**
- Total Collection: \$6,183.00**

#### Week of 9/12/21:

- \* Collection weekend masses: **\$2123.00**
  - \* Collection thru mail: **\$1447.00**
  - \* Collection thru E-Giving: **\$293.39**
- Total Collection: \$3863.00**



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.



Our second collection next week will be for **The Catholic University of America and other Catholic higher educational needs**. I encourage you to join me in supporting this most worthwhile educational initiative. Grounded in the philosophy of the rich Catholic intellectual tradition, students who attend Catholic colleges and universities are well prepared for success in life and ready to make a difference in today's world. Please prayerfully consider how you can support this appeal.



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 SEPTEMBER 2021

**An Environmentally Sustainable Lifestyle** – We pray that we all will make courageous choices for a simple and environmentally sustainable lifestyle, rejoicing in our young people who are resolutely committed to this.

**Our New Fall Season has begun!** Join us this Fall Season as we grow in faith through scripture, discussing, reflecting and exploring our faith as a parish family. We have many course options this season. Check out our full schedule on the Seasons of Faith website or contact the office for a copy. We look forward to seeing you at one of our courses.

**Open Wide Our Hearts** – join us on Tuesday 9/21 in the Parish Office as we continue our conversation on the US Bishop's document on racism. If you prefer to join us virtually, we will gather on Wednesday 9/22 @ 6:30pm. Registration is required for our virtual gathering. Contact Laura Countryman to register.

**Simply Scripture** – join the discussion as we reflect on the readings for the 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time. We will gather virtually on Thursday 9/23 @ 6:30pm and in person on Sunday 9/26 at 9:30am in the Parish Office. Registration is required for our virtual gathering.

**Young families** are invited to join us for our first Church Life gathering of the Fall Season where we will learn about this Year of the Family. We will gather in the church on Sunday 9/26 at 3pm or virtually on Sunday 9/26 or Monday 9/27 at 6:30pm. Prior registration is required for our virtual gatherings. Contact Laura Countryman at [faithformation@hsceg.org](mailto:faithformation@hsceg.org) to register or if you have any questions.



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



We welcome a new member into our church through the sacrament of Baptism:

**Hailey June Hebert**

Congratulations on your special occasion.



## WHY DO WE DO THAT? CATHOLIC TRADITIONS EXPLAINED

**Question: Why are Catholics required to fast before Communion?**

*Answer:* How we prepare for an important event helps us with the intentionality of our actions and raises our awareness. We prepare our house for guests. We wash our car before an important trip. We create a nursery for a newborn child. All of these actions heighten our senses for what is about to come.

The fast required by canon law #919 before holy Communion has its roots in Jewish spiritual practices. We fast for cleansing and to demonstrate our reliance on God. Catholics used to fast for much longer periods of time, but it was Pope Paul VI in 1964 who set the time at one hour in an attempt to encourage people to receive the holy Eucharist more frequently. That one-hour observance allows us to pause and reflect on what we will participate in in the very near future. We deny our bodies so that we can focus more clearly on the Body of Christ that we will consume.

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### LIVE THE LITURGY - INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

What does it mean to be God's servant? In essence, it means being willing to call the world back to its childlike innocence, showing all that a joy-filled playfulness has a place in life. The servant of God serves to foster the Kingdom of God. God's kingdom is not a sterile, unhappy, strict, and rigid reality. It is quite the opposite. It is a kingdom devoid of jealousy and selfish ambition where peace, gentleness, mercy, and good works abound. To be a servant of this kingdom means that selfish ambition must be set aside so that others can be first, and justice pursued at all cost. The prayer of this kind of servant is not focused on self-advancement or need. Rather, the servant's prayer seeks to detach from self-concern in order to be used by God. In this way, we who are servants can be inspired, guided, empowered, and led by God. We can then be used to lay the cornerstones of the kingdom: faith, hope, and love. It is upon these that God's firm dwelling is built. Accepting this call may place us last in the world's eyes but first in God's.



A huge thank you to those who helped cook, clean, and serve the food for our parish picnic. Thank you to Ellen Murphy and her committee who helped organize the parish picnic event. Also, thank you to our families that are serving as ministers at our first monthly Family Mass this Sunday at 11am. Our next Family Mass will be on **Sunday 10/24 at 11am** May the Lord bless your kind heart and reward you richly in heaven.



**The Respect Life Team of Holy Spirit Parish** will be sponsoring Kathleen Gallagher of the NYS Catholic Conference as guest speaker on the topic: "Now...and at the Hour of our Death:

Catholic Considerations for End-of-Life Decision Making" on **Tuesday evening, October 19** in Holy Spirit Church. There will be Adoration at 6:00 PM; Benediction at 6:30 PM and Kathy's presentation at 7:00 PM. It will last approximately one hour.

## GOSPEL MEDITATION

### The 25<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

There is something about being first. Whether it be first in line, first to be picked for the team, or the first one to finish their work, great satisfaction is achieved. Our egos love being first. It somehow sets us apart from everyone else, gives us a sense of pride and positions us to feel better than others. When we are first, we can glory in our efforts, skills, and achievements. Isn't that what really matters? After all, we are taught from a very young age to be proficient, stay on top, be the best at what we do, and win the praise and esteem of others. This is the stuff that makes us successful and provides us with a comfortable, satisfying life.

Jesus wants none of it. All of the details we anguish over mean little to the kingdom of God. You want to be first? Then, be a servant and welcome a child. All of this is the opposite of our often vehement pursuits. If we are serious about following Jesus and living the Gospel, then we must put the needs of others before our own. If we continue to listen only to the noise of the world, we are going to continue to believe the illusions we inherit. Those illusions come in many forms, but all have things in common: me before you, being on top and not the bottom, us versus them, personal security over universal harmony and peace. When are we going to learn that always striving to be the best and first is an empty pursuit in our struggle for happiness? While satisfying our ego with this momentary boost of esteem may feel good for a moment, is it what we really desire?

If we can break from the world's noise and create a space of sacred silence in our lives, we can begin to listen and see that we are being called in another direction. What we really desire is not the bolstering of our egos but the innocence we lost somewhere along the way. When we can be playful, joyful, and even somewhat carefree, life is good. We want our relationships to work, a place to call home, and to live peaceful lives with our sisters and brothers. Only a servant can do this. The servant's prayer seeks to detach from self-concern in order to be used by God. Rather than worrying about being first and coming out on top, we can be inspired, guided, empowered, and led to do good works. Stop worrying about being first and put greater energy into feeling joy.



**The Social Action Committee** is holding its annual Pillow & Blanket drive on **October 2-3**. The collection will benefit Joseph's House in Troy, a homeless shelter. We are accepting new pillows and new and gently used blankets and towels. Monetary donations are also welcome. Please place your donations in the baskets at the front of the church. The winter's cold is not taking a pause because of the virus, and we ask you to support our brothers and sisters in need."

## 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 Sudulaganti [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)

*Accountant:* 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 is 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-FIFTH SUNDAY IN  
ORDINARY TIME**



**Saturday 9/18—Weekday in Ordinary Time**

**4 p.m. Vigil:**

✠ For the people of the parish

**Sunday 9/19—Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

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

✠ Fr. George St. John & the deceased member of Fr. George's Family—Req. by HS

✠ Boyd & Carmella Wynne & Lori Augustine  
Req. by—Patty & Rick Hannmann

**11 a.m. Mass:** Ann Loughlin—Req. by Jerry and Mary Hayes

**Tuesday 9/21—St. Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist**

**9:00 a.m.:** Intention Available

**Wednesday 9/22—Weekday in Ordinary Time**

**8:30 a.m.:** Intention Available

**Thursday 9/23—St. Pius of Pietrelcina, Priest**

**9:00 a.m.:** Intention Available

**TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**Saturday 9/25—Weekday in Ordinary Time**

**4 p.m. Vigil:**

✠ Peggy Ross—Req. by Netti

✠ Mary Francis Sweet—Req. by Lawrence & Linda Rowes

**Sunday 9/26—Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

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

✠ Fr. George St. John & the deceased member of Fr. George's Family—Req. by HS

**11 a.m. Mass:**

✠ For the people of the parish

✠ Joseph and Gail Goodwin—Req. by Peter & Pam Goodwin

**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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