



Church of the Holy Spirit

You are welcome here!

DECEMBER 5, 2021 | THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR C



AS WE CELEBRATE 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 be changed, 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.



Dear friends in Christ!

May the grace and peace of Jesus, the Messiah for whose second coming the world is waiting, be with you always! On the Second Sunday of Advent, we hear the introduction of John the Baptist, the precursor of the coming of Jesus. Prophet Isaiah introduces John the Baptist as "a voice of one crying out in the desert: Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths. Every valley shall be filled and every mountain and hill shall be made low. The winding roads shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God." Advent is the time for us to reflect on these words of John the Baptist. What ways can we "prepare the way of the Lord"? We prepare the way of the Lord by spending more time in prayer, doing the corporal works of mercy, visiting those who are homebound, in a nursing home, or in prison, taking a friendship meal to a lonely neighbor, and reaching out to Catholics who have gone away from Church. We also take time out of our busy schedule to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation. This is how we prepare the way for the coming of our Lord Jesus.

During the holy season of waiting in joyful hope for the coming of the Lord Jesus, please consider celebrating the sacrament of Reconciliation/Penance. I am available on Tuesday evenings from 7:10 p.m. to 7:40 p.m., and also on Saturday afternoons from 3 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Take time off from your busy schedule to celebrate the sacrament of Penance where God wants to shower into our soul his grace, peace, and healing. May our Advent journey produce many good spiritual fruits for God as we continue our faith journey.

Peace & Blessings

Fr. Quigley

Contact us:

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

Parish Office Hours:

Monday & Tuesday: 9am-1pm
Wednesday, Thursday and Friday:
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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REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- † Baruch offers the captive Israelites in Babylon a vision of hope in which their broken relationship with God will be fully restored. What aspects of your relationship with God are in need of restoration?
- † Paul offers an opening prayer of joy for the believers in the city of Philippi. As the season of Advent continues, what brings joy to your life?
- † With Luke placing the preaching and activities of John the Baptist in its historical and political context, he communicates the idea that God is acting in real, human history. What do you see as the power of this assertion?



This Sunday's Reading:
First Reading: Bar 5:1-9
Second Reading: Phil 1:4-6, 8-11
Gospel: Lk 3:1-6

Next Sunday's Reading:
First Reading: Zep 3:14-18a
Second Reading: Phil 4:4-7
Gospel: Lk 3:10-18

HOLY SPIRIT PARISH SACRIFICIAL OFFERING



Week of 11/21/21:

- * Collection weekend masses: \$3821.00
- * Collection thru mail: \$505.00
- * Collection thru E-Giving: \$1528.92

Total Collection: \$5854.92

Special Collection for Catholic Charities: \$796.00

Week of 11/28/21:

- * Collection weekend masses: \$3329.00
- * Collection thru mail: \$1355.00
- * Collection thru E-Giving: \$430.45

Total Collection: \$5114.45



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.



There will be a communal Advent service on Wednesday Dec. 15 here at Holy Spirit. The service begins at 7 p.m. Take this opportunity to receive God's mercy and forgiveness.



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 DECEMBER 2021

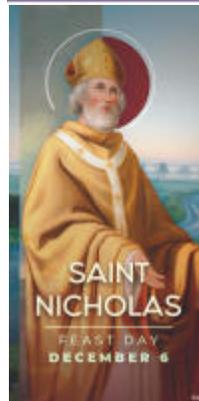
Catechists—Let us pray for the catechists, summoned to announce the Word of God: may they be its witnesses, with courage and creativity and in the power of the Holy Spirit.



FAITHLIFT



ADVENT



St. Nicholas of Bari (March 15, 270 – December 6, 343), the bishop of Myra in the fourth century, is the saint that Santa Claus is modeled after. Known for his kindness and generosity to the poor, the story has it that St. Nicholas once tossed bags of gold through the open window of a poor man's house to help his daughters avoid a life of prostitution.

According to legend, the gold landed in stockings dangling on the corners of the beds, which is why many of us celebrate St. Nicholas Day by hanging stockings and filling them with candy, fruit, and small toys. Not much else is known about this beloved saint, but regardless, his reputation as a generous man continues today.

POPE FRANCIS' 10 SECRETS TO A HAPPY LIFE FOR THE ADVENT SEASON.

1. Live and let live.
2. Be giving of yourself to others.
3. Proceed calmly in life.
4. Develop a healthy sense of leisure.
5. Make Sunday a Holy Day.
6. Create jobs for young people.
7. Respect life and nature.
8. Stop being negative.
9. Respect other's belief
10. Work for peace



Christmas Eve. Mass

- † 4:00 p.m. Vigil Mass
- † 6:00 p.m. Mass
- † 8:00 p.m. with singing Christmas Carols at 7:30 p.m.

Christmas Day Mass: 10:00 a.m. morning





WHY DO WE DO THAT? CATHOLIC TRADITIONS EXPLAINED

Question: With Christmas fast approaching, can you give me some practical tips to prepare myself and my family that will help us stay grounded in what this holiday is really about? With all the commercialism, it's easy to stray.

Answer: Happy times and events bring fond memories and a renewed sense of love and kinship with others. The anticipation is half the joy of the event itself. The coming of the Lord is that kind of event that people have been looking forward to for generations with fervent hope and desire. It gave them strength and courage as they waited for the coming of the Lord.

We know that Christmas is rushed. Sales begin in August and carols blare long before the season begins. Everyone laments the commercial aspects of the season, but as Advent begins, do something to help you be more mindful of the Lord's coming. Use an Advent wreath, or enthrone the Bible prominently, or read the readings from the Bible assigned to each day. Postpone the tree and decorations until closer to Christmas. Establish new family rituals, customs and prayers that help remind everyone that we are preparing to celebrate the birth of Jesus. Fasting, daily Mass, a special celebration of reconciliation, reaching out to those alienated from family or society, and visiting the homebound manifest the love of the Christ Child and the Holy Family. Resist the temptation to rush the season. In his own time and in his own way, God will come. Our task is simply to be watchful and ready.

LIVE THE LITURGY - INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

Sometimes, especially when life gets overwhelming and difficult, we can find ourselves feeling a bit downhearted and miserable. Wallowing in this uncomfortable darkness seems to be our norm and it's difficult to see a way out of, or through, this experience. If we listen carefully enough, we will hear God's voice calling out deep within, beckoning us to seek out its source and discover the inner calm and peace that can prevail over the darkness of despair. Faith tells us that God has already begun the creation of a good work in us and is with us, bringing it to completion, until Christ Jesus comes again. It is this light of God's glory for which we are asked to pave the way and straighten the paths of our lives so that it can shine. With all that life can ask of us and bring to us, it is our task to constantly discern what is of value. So that we do not get so weighed down by things that we no longer see, or feel, God's salvation.

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the sponsors of our bulletin

GOSPEL MEDITATION

The Second Sunday Advent

St. Ambrose shares some wisdom on our need to prepare the way and open the door for Christ. "You see that when the Word of God knocks hardest on your door, it is when his hair is wet with the dew of the night. In fact, he chooses to visit those who are in tribulation and trial, lest one of them be overwhelmed by distress. So, his head is covered with dew, with drops, when his body is laboring hard. It is important to keep watch so that when the Bridegroom comes, he is not shut out. If you are asleep and your heart is not keeping watch, he will go away without knocking; but if your heart is alert for his coming, he knocks and asks for the door to be opened to him." When life gets overwhelming and difficult and we find ourselves feeling a bit downhearted and miserable, these words can bring great comfort.

We sometimes choose to remain stuck in our uncomfortable darkness and being stuck becomes our norm. In this time of self-focus our hearts are closed to the graces and life God desires to give us. Wrapped in the robe of mourning and misery, we fail to see the mercy, justice, and love the Bridegroom wants to bring. If we take seriously the need to prepare the way for Christ and open our hearts in preparation for his visit, we can hear God's gentle voice calling us deep within. It beckons us to seek out its source and discover the inner calm and peace that can prevail over the darkness of despair. Sometimes our darkness is so dark that it may seem unsurmountable. Trusting in the spiritual friends who journey with us, and God's promise may bring a glimmer of light even when it is most difficult to keep our hearts' doors open. Sometimes, the only light in the darkness is found in trusting the faith of others both past and present.

We have to trust that God has already begun the accomplishment of good work in us and that humanity is on an incredible journey to something wonderful and awesome. God is not done. When we open the doors of our hearts, straighten the paths of our lives, and prepare the way, Jesus can come with God's simple gifts of peace, grace, and joy. Life throws a great deal at us. It is easy to get tired and confused. We have to train our hearts to keep watch, discern what is of value, and forge ahead. Not allowing ourselves to become so weighed down by things and brought out of focus is a tremendous goal to achieve this Advent season. God is knocking. Answer the door. You will see and understand life in ways you never thought possible before.

Circle of Grace is our required Safe Environment gathering for all children from Kindergarten through the age of 18. Each group will gather virtually.

Grades K-5: Sunday 12/5 at 3 pm

Grades 6-8: Monday 12/6 at 6:30 pm

Grades 9-12: Monday 12/13 at 6:30 pm

Please contact Laura Countryman in the Parish Office if you have any questions.

Holy Spirit Directory

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

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

Parish Pastoral Team

Pastor: Fr. Quy Vo pastor@hsceg.org

Deacon: Bill Dringus deacon1275@aol.com

Pastoral Associate for Administration:

Sowmya Sudulaganti info@holyspiritchurcheg.org

Pastoral Associate for Liturgy:

* Fr. Quy Vo pastor@hsceg.org

Family Ministry & Lifelong Faith Formation:

* Laura Countryman faithformation@hsceg.org

Accountant: 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!

BULLETIN & PULPIT ANNOUNCEMENT DEADLINE: Please submit a hardcopy or email (info@holyspiritchurcheg.org) no later than 9:00 a.m. on Monday for that week's bulletin and Pulpit announcement. Thank you for your cooperation.



SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Saturday 12/4—St. John Damascene, Priest & Doctor of the Church

4 pm. Vigil Mass: George Barna—Req. by Cheryl Seymar

✠ Michael DelPrete—Req. by Rose and Don Lyman

✠ Susan MacArevey—Req. by Patrick MacArevey

Sunday 12/5—Second Sunday of Advent

8:30 am Mass: Fr. George St. John

✠ Agnes Hurley—Req. by Christina Larsen

✠ Gerald Thull—Req. by his family

11 am Mass: Carmela Tempel—Req. by Bea Grant

Tuesday 12/7—St. Ambrose, Bishop & Doctor of the Church

9 a.m.: Intention available

Wednesday 12/8—The Immaculate Conception of Mary

8:30 a.m. Mass—Joseph Romer Jr.—Req. by H.S. School

6:00 p.m.—Intention Available

Thursday 12/9—Weekday of Advent

9:00 am Mass—Intention Available

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Saturday 12/11—St. Damasus I, Pope

4 pm. Vigil Mass:— Michele Iorio—Req. by Meaghan Rossbach

✠ Mary C. Murphy—Req. by Ann Taylor

✠ George Barna—Req. by H.S. Funeral Ministry

Sunday 12/12—Third Sunday of Advent

8:30 am Mass:

✠ Fr. George St. John

✠ Mary Murphy—Req. by Sandy & John McGraw

11 am Mass: For the people of the parish

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. One **SHOULD NOT** wait until someone is near death before requesting an anointing.

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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