



# Church of the Holy Spirit

## You are welcome here!

DECEMBER 12, 2021 | THE THIRD 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! We have come to the midpoint of the Advent season, and I pray that your Advent spiritual discipline produces good spiritual fruits as you await for the coming of Jesus. Traditionally, the Third Sunday of Advent is known as the *Gaudete* Sunday. *Gaudete* is the Latin word meaning "rejoice". This word is the first word in the entrance antiphon which is taken from Philippians 4:4-5 "Rejoice in the Lord always, again I say rejoice! The Lord is near." The rose candle will be lit on the Advent wreath, and today's message reminds us that we should rejoice because our salvation is near. Moreover, we rejoice even more today because of God's presence in our lives; and his mercy endures forever for each of us.

During this time of the year, it is easy for us to get caught up in the pitfalls of consumerism and secularism and lose our focus on Jesus who is the BIG reason for us to celebrate Christmas. The words of St. Paul re-affirms for us that the reason to be rejoicing is the Lord. The only way we can recognize the Lord's presence is prayer. St. Paul also tells us "Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing." It is only in prayer that we can recognize God's presence and feel the peacefulness that God has for us. For this coming week, we need to stay connected with Jesus through prayer. Take a few minutes away from your busy schedule and sit quietly to pray and feel God's presence. Give the Lord your time and let his presence fill your heart. This season is the season of love where we spend time with those we love, especially the One who loves us most, Jesus—Emmanuel—God-with-Us. May this season of Advent be the season of grace and hope for each of us.

Peace & Blessings

*Fr. Greg 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 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](http://holyspiritchurcheg.weebly.com)  
**Follow us on:**  
Twitter: @HolySpiritEG  
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# REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- ✠ The words of the prophet Zephaniah focus on hope for a new beginning of the Lord's presence in their midst. How has the season of Advent thus far brought you spiritual renewal?
- ✠ As his letter draws to a close, Paul encourages the Philippians to be a community that rejoices in the Lord. How would you rate your own spiritual happiness?
- ✠ John the Baptist exhorted the crowds, tax collectors, and soldiers to live a moral and other-centered life within the parameters of their day-to-day work. What would this look like for you in your current station in life?



### This Sunday's Reading:

**First Reading:** Zep 3:14-18a  
**Second Reading:** Phil 4:4-7  
**Gospel:** Lk 3:10-18

### Next Sunday's Reading:

**First Reading:** Mi 5:1-4a  
**Second Reading:** Heb 10:5-10  
**Gospel:** Lk 1:39-45

### HOLY SPIRIT PARISH SACRIFICIAL OFFERING



#### Week of 12/6/21:

- \* Collection weekend masses: **\$2783.00**
- \* Collection thru mail: **\$895.00**
- \* Collection thru E-Giving: **\$3401.00**
- \* Christmas Flower Collection: **\$1144.00**

**Total Collection: \$8223.00**



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.

**Seasons of Faith will be making some changes.** Our Winter/Spring Season of 2022 will begin in January and end in June.



Beginning July 1<sup>st</sup>, our season schedule will change to Summer/Fall (July, August, September, October) Winter (November, December, January, February) Spring (March, April, May, June). Look for our Winter/Spring schedule to be released shortly. Seasons of Faith is our lifelong, intergenerational faith exploration for the entire parish community.

Please remember to patronize the sponsors of our bulletin.



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

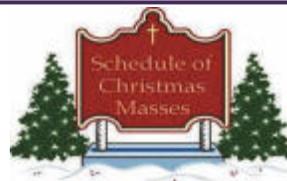


A name that means "light," St. Lucy (283 – 304) is the patron saint of those blind or suffering with eye trouble. Not much is known about her life, except that she was determined to remain a virgin and thus refused marriage. History tells the story of a frustrated suitor who eventually accused St. Lucy of being a Christian (at crime at the time), and she was executed in Syracuse, Sicily, in the year 304.

Today, we celebrate a number of traditions that incorporate symbolic meaning of St. Lucy as the "bearer" of light in the darkness of winter. This is particularly seen in Scandinavian countries, with their long dark winters. There, a young girl dressed in a white dress and a red sash (as the symbol of martyrdom) carries palms and wears a crown or wreath of candles on her head. In Denmark, Norway and Sweden, girls dressed as Lucy carry rolls and cookies in procession as songs are sung.

#### Christmas Eve. Mass

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



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

*"During Advent we do not just live in anticipation of Christmas; we are also called to rekindle the anticipation of the glorious return of Christ, when he will return at the end of time, preparing ourselves, with consistent and courageous choices, for the final encounter with him. We remember Christmas, we await the glorious return of Christ, and also our personal encounter: the day in which the Lord will call."*

Pope Francis, Angelus, 2nd December 2018



## WHY DO WE DO THAT? CATHOLIC TRADITIONS EXPLAINED

**Question: Is Our Lady of Guadalupe only a cultural devotion?**

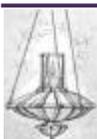
**Answer:** You may be familiar with Our Lady of Guadalupe from devotions in Hispanic communities. There is a rich heritage originating in Mexico, the site of the apparition of Our Lady of Guadalupe. But Mary is for all of us! Our Lady of Guadalupe is, in fact, named the patroness of all the Americas, from the Chilean Patagonian mountains to the Arctic islands of Canada. After Mary appeared to St. Juan Diego as a young, mestizo woman, conversions to Catholicism began to grow exponentially throughout Latin America. Our Lady of Guadalupe has been meaningful to the Mexican people, and her image and devotions have been incorporated as broader symbols of culture.

This apparition inspires across lines of nationality and culture. Juan Diego, recipient of the apparition, was a poor laborer. The famous image of Our Lady of Guadalupe did not appear on silk or stone, but on the simple, natural woven fibers of Juan Diego's tunic. The apparition affirms the dignity of the poor and shows striking solidarity. Mary appeared as the people appeared. In the apparition, Mary is indeed radiant, with the sun behind her and a cloak of stars around her. But her dress is simple, and she is pregnant. This apparition also reminds us of the sanctity of life and the need for life's protection at all stages. Mary's moving words to Juan Diego are words for us all: "Am I not here who am your mother? Are you not under my shadow and protection? Are you not in the folds of my mantle, in the crossing of my arms?"

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### LIVE THE LITURGY - INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

Shout for joy! When was the last time you ever felt like doing that? Fear, uncertainty, pressure, negativity, disappointment, and myriad other human experiences can rob us of joy. We can never predict what life will bring. As unsettling as that can often seem, life's unpredictability is also the very thing that allows it to be exciting and adventuresome! We know that life can be difficult, and it is unrealistic to expect it to be otherwise. God never promised an easy road. But, when a person truly falls in love with God and discovers the peacefulness and assurance of God's presence, then a depth of understanding will be brought to everything they do and experience. Nothing will be able to rob them of joy! When we realize that God, the King of Israel, is in our midst and with us, there is no further misfortune to fear. We celebrate the beauty and wonder of God's gift of joy today as we ready ourselves, even more excitedly, for the coming of our Savior. Do not fear and do not be discouraged. There is a power and presence within us, our God, who has made us, who loves us and who will keep us. What more do we need? Rejoice!



The sanctuary lamp is lit in to honor  
**Marie R. Goding**  
Given by Gary & Doris Beardsley

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## GOSPEL MEDITATION

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### The Third Sunday Advent

*"From silly devotions and sour-faced saints, good Lord, deliver us!" St. Teresa of Avila*

We've all heard the adage, "Laughter is the best medicine." In many ways, it really is. When was the last time you really laughed? The gift of imagination allows us to see possible things that are yet to be. Imagine a world filled with laughter. We take life too seriously sometimes. Fear, uncertainty, pressure, negativity, disappointment, and myriad other human experiences can rob us of the joy needed for laughter. God never promised us an easy road, and we do have to take the course of our lives seriously. However, there is a balance to be sought and a possible joy that can be brought even to the darkest and most challenging of encounters.

St. Therese of Lisieux reminds us that, "Joy is not found in the material objects surrounding us but in the inner recesses of the soul. One can possess joy in a prison cell as well as in a palace." Falling in love with God, who is present in all of creation, allows us to bring a depth of understanding to everything we do and experience. We can more easily see above and beyond things while pursuing the only One who can truly satisfy our hearts. When we realize that God, the king of Israel, is in our midst and with us, there is no further misfortune to fear. We can celebrate the wonder and beauty of God's gift of joy. It is no wonder that many saints radiate joy and have no reservations expressing laughter. They are happy because they have found a pearl of great price.

We celebrate with joy today with hearts filled with expectation, wonder, awe, and beauty as we ready ourselves, even more excitedly, for the coming of our Savior. Do not fear and do not be discouraged. If you haven't laughed in a while, why? Something is preventing you from expressing the magnificence of your soul and the presence of God who dwells within. God's power and presence within us assures us that we are loved and kept in that presence. What more is really needed? Rejoice and laugh in the presence of God! It really is the best medicine and a most perfect way to convince others that God is really with us. "Go ahead, laugh! Live your life with joy and serve the Lord with laughter! Joy, with peace, is the sister of charity. Serve the Lord with laughter." (St. Padre Pio of Pietrelcina)

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**Celebrating God's Mercy and Forgiveness** – Join us for this opportunity to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation as a parish community. Come and experience this sacrament of healing on Wednesday, 12/15 at 7 pm. We will have three priests available for individual confessions.

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**Waiting in Joyful Hope** – Join us for our Advent Prayer Service as we reflect on Advent - Waiting in Joyful Hope. We will gather in the church on Monday 12/20 at 6pm. This is a great opportunity to enrich your Advent experience. Families are also invited to attend.

## Holy Spirit Directory

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

School: 518-477-5739 [hsoffice@hsceg.org](mailto:hsoffice@hsceg.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@hsceg.com](mailto:principal@hsceg.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)

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**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!**

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**BULLETIN & PULPIT ANNOUNCEMENT DEADLINE:** Please submit a hardcopy or email ([info@holyspiritchurcheg.org](mailto: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.

## THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

**Saturday 12/11—Weekday of Advent**



**4 pm. Vigil Mass:**

- ✠ Michelle Iorio—Req. by Meaghan Rossbach
- ✠ Mary C. Murphy—Req. by Ann Taylor
- ✠ George Barna—Req. by HS Funeral Ministry

**Sunday 12/12—Third Sunday of Advent**

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

- ✠ Mary Murphy—Req. by Sandy and John McGraw

**11 am Mass:** For the people of the parish

**Tuesday 12/14—St. John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church**

**9 am Mass—**Intention Available

**Wednesday 12/15—Weekday of Advent**

**9 am Mass—**Intention Available

**Thursday 12/16—Weekday of Advent**

**9 am Mass—**Intention Available

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

**Saturday 12/18—Weekday of Advent**

**4 pm. Vigil Mass:** Joyce Lapham—Req. by her family

- ✠ John Hurley—Req. by the Cicchinos
- ✠ Loretta Jones—Req. by HS Funeral Ministry

**Sunday 12/19—Fourth Sunday of Advent**

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

- ✠ Agnes Hurley—Req. by Christina Larsen
- ✠ Rhonda Sharp—Req. by Tom and Allison Sharp

**11 am Mass:** Louis and Mary Nettle—Req. by Amelia and Joe Gordon

- ✠ Michael P. Oleski—Req. by Carol and Gary Cuttler
- ✠ Bernadine Blake—Req. by Bob and Mary Kay Blake and 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. 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](http://albanyvocations.org) (518) 453-6690.

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