



Church of the Holy Spirit

You are welcome here!

DECEMBER 19, 2021 | THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



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 our Lord Jesus, the Messiah for whose second coming the world is waiting, be with you always! This coming Friday morning will mark the end of the Advent season and the beginning of the Christmas season. As we come to the end of the Advent season, Luke's gospel tells us the story of Mary's visitation to the house of Zechariah and Elizabeth. The visitation of Mary is a great blessing for Elizabeth. Luke's gospel tells us that when Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting the infant in her womb leapt for joy, and Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb" (Luke 1:41-42). Elizabeth's encounter with Mary gives Elizabeth an insight that her cousin Mary is carrying the Messiah, the Savior of the world and humankind. Elizabeth recognizes the presence of God in the midst of the lowly, and unimportant people and places. Advent challenges us to recognize the presence of God in our midst. Do we recognize God in our relationships with family members, friends, and co-workers? Do we see the face of God in our lives?

Christmas is a time for us to celebrate the birth of Christ, and a time to recognize God's love and mercy for mankind. Our awesome God left the heavenly kingdom and became a human like us, without sin. Jesus, Word-made-Flesh, dwelt among us and shared with us many gifts. He came to bring peace to many troubled souls; he healed the broken hearted and the wounded people; he forgave sinners; he died for us so that we can have eternal life. Jesus is truly a gift from God the Father to mankind.

Peace & Blessings

Fr. Quyn 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
Follow us on:
Twitter: @HolySpiritEG
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REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- ✠ Micah prophesied a Messiah (“ruler”) would come through the line of David (“Bethlehem-Ephrathah”) and bring peace and harmony. In what ways do the upcoming birth of Christ bring you comfort?
- ✠ As the season of Advent draws to a close, the author of Hebrews reminds us that as disciples of Christ, we must strive to do God’s will above all else. How do you stay focused on such an important task?
- ✠ Luke is the only Evangelist to record the story of Mary visiting Elizabeth and only a portion of their conversation was preserved. What else do you imagine they talked about?



This Sunday’s Reading:

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

Next Sunday’s Reading:

First Reading: 1 Sam 1:20-22, 24-28
Second Reading: 1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24
Gospel: Lk 2:41-52

HOLY SPIRIT PARISH SACRIFICIAL OFFERING



Week of 12/12/21:

- * Collection weekend masses: **\$2679.00**
- * Collection thru mail: **\$1267.00**
- * Collection thru E-Giving: **\$441.28**
- * Immaculate Conception: **\$556.00**

Total Collection: \$4943.28



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 1st, 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.



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

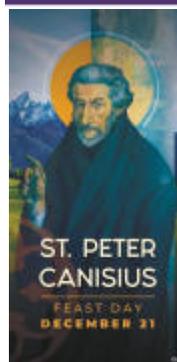
Catechists—Let us pray for the catechists, summoned to announce the Word of God: may they be its witnesses, with courage and creativity and in the power of the Holy Spirit.



FAITHLIFT



ADVENT



Born in Holland, St. Peter Canisius (May 8, 1521 – December 21, 1597) was a preacher, teacher, and writer throughout his whole life. At the age of 19, he received a master’s degree from the university at Cologne. Soon afterwards, St. Peter met Peter Faber, the first disciple of Ignatius of Loyola, who influenced him so much that he eventually joined the Society of Jesus.

St. Peter Canisius founded colleges and seminaries, served as a missionary, cared for the sick or imprisoned, and wrote close to eight volumes of letters — many about St. Cyril of Alexandria and St. Leo the Great.



Today marks the end of the Advent season and the beginning of the Christmas season. We have lit four candles these past four weeks and asked God to help us be present to our neighbors and friends. Now in the Christmas season we are called to be Christ in the flesh to our world.

Let us pray...

God, you became human through the obedience of a simple young woman named Mary.

Mary is our model of faith.

May we be faithful to your word as Mary was.

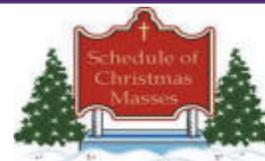
Give us the courage to face each day with the yes that Mary gave to you.

We ask this through the incarnate God, who comes to us again during this Christmas season. Amen.

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





WHY DO WE DO THAT? CATHOLIC TRADITIONS EXPLAINED

Question: I have been away from the Church for a few years and really want to get active again, not so much for me, but for my children. Is this a bad reason to come back to Church?

Answer: If you are on your way to the supermarket, and you are forced to detour from your usual route because of road work, does the food you buy taste different? Is the meal less filling? Are the vegetables less tasty? Of course not. In our faith journey, there are many detours called sin. Some are greater than others, some are even a bit longer. But God's grace comes to us in ways we understand and recognize and need. Your children leading you back to the Church is not as important as the fact that you are back.

This is an opportunity for you to renew, strengthen, and deepen your faith. Regardless of how we get to Church, or what draws us closer to God, the fact is we are there. Do what you need to do to get right with God and the Church. Go to confession, begin good family religious practices, and be involved in the ministries your parish offers. Be more than a lukewarm parishioner. Be the kind of Catholic you want your children to be.

LIVE THE LITURGY - INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

Did you ever find yourself wishing that God would just step in and fix all that is wrong with the world? After all, how much longer can all of this go on? There is so much inequity in life. Our world's political, economic, and environmental systems do not always serve the best interests of people. We read stories about injustice, disregard for human life, greed, heartache, and people being hurt and deprived every day. People are still starving and there is often little regard for human life. This is not the way God intended it to be. Realizing that we have caused most of these problems ourselves, we look to God for an answer and a way out of the difficulties we have created. Taking responsibility for our actions is not something that comes easily. What we fail to see is that God has already sent the answer in the person of Jesus Christ. God did fix our problem! Mary had to set her needs aside in order for the Son of Justice to come into the world. We need to do the same. It is only by believing in, listening to, and acting upon what God has spoken that true peace will ever come to be, and God's fix be made known.

Email scam warning: There were some emails sent this past week from someone impersonating Fr. Vo asking for your time and then for gift cards. Fr. Vo will never ask for money or gift cards by email. If you received one of these emails, please report it to your email provider. If you receive an email and are unsure if it really is Fr. Vo, please feel free to contact the Parish Office. Also check the actual email address. If it is different from the bulletin or not an rcda.org address, it is likely someone phishing.

GOSPEL MEDITATION

The Fourth Sunday Advent

"St. Augustine tells us that a "Christian is a mind through which Christ thinks, a heart through which Christ loves, a voice through which Christ speaks and a hand through which Christ helps." As we look around and out at the world, we do not have to search too far before we come face to face with inequity and injustice. There is so much unfairness, prejudice, anger, hatred, violence, and want. The stories of human heartache, people being hurt, deprived of life's necessities, loneliness, and sickness are far too commonplace. For many of the world's ills, the vices of greed, lust, pride, gluttony, and jealousy are clearly among the more significant root causes.

Why doesn't God just step in and fix this mess? After all, God created this world, and one would hope that he would step up and take some measure of responsibility for it! Once we sit with this thinking for a while, we can begin to realize just how flawed it really is. God did take responsibility and God did fix the problem! God sent us Jesus Christ as the divine solution to the world's ills. It is not God who has shirked responsibility, we have. We are the ones who continually fail to set our own personal needs, wants, and securities aside so that One more powerful than us can use us.

Mary had to set her needs aside in order for the Son of God to come into the world. Put simply, Mary listened and believed. Having opened herself to being an instrument of the Divine, God could use her as his mind, heart, voice, and hand. She became God's vessel so that God's greatness could reach the ends of the earth and peace could come upon the world. God's fix for the world's difficulties is you and me. We are the ones who confess that Jesus Christ came into the world as the Son of God, the Prince of Peace, and herald of justice. All we have to do is believe, as did Mary, that what has been spoken to us by the Lord will be fulfilled. Then, we can step aside and be the Christians we claim to be. What a difference it would make if every person who professed to be Christian truly understood that their one and only vocation is to be God's instrument. What a beautiful, equitable, and just world it would be.



Blessed Advent! Today we have two mothers meeting; they are related, and one carries in her womb John the Baptist and the other woman, Mary, carries in her womb Jesus. The Gospel account says that John, who would cry out in the desert the message that everyone needs to "prepare the way of the Lord," leapt with joy in the womb of his mother upon hearing Mary's greeting.

John's message in the desert is the message that we all need to heed as we get closer to the Christmas celebration. May our faith leap with joy at the chance to proclaim our Lord and to prepare the way!

Holy Spirit Directory

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

School: 518-477-5739 hsoffice@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

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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.



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

Tuesday 12/21—St. Peter Canisius, Priest and Doctor of the Church

9 am Mass—Intention Available

Wednesday 12/22—Weekday of Advent

9 am Mass—Intention Available

Thursday 12/23—Weekday of Advent

9 am Mass—Intention Available

Friday 12/24—Late Advent Weekday (Christmas Eve)

4 p.m. Mass—Intention Available

6 p.m. Mass—Intention Available

8 p.m. Mass—Al Hirt—Req. by Shirley Hirt

✠ Tom Horan—Req. by Rosemary, Jason, Courtney, Lucas and Alex

HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH

Saturday 12/25—The Nativity of the Lord Jesus

10 a.m. Mass: Marty Bernado—Req. by his family

✠ John Caruso—Req. by his family

✠ Beatrice Wong—Req. by her family

Sunday 12/26—Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

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

11 am Mass: Intention Available

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.

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