



Church of the Holy Spirit

You are welcome here!

DECEMBER 25, 2021 | THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD JESUS YEAR ABC



Dear friends in Christ!

Merry Christmas! And welcome to the Church of the Holy Spirit parish.

We are glad that you are here to celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus with us. May the grace and peace of our Lord Jesus be with you! The Christmas season begins today. 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.

Celebrating the birth of Jesus reminds us that God loves us unconditionally by giving to us the most amazing gift, Jesus, His Only Begotten Son, who was wrapped in swaddling clothes lying in a manger. Jesus was born and brought life and light to a world that is filled with darkness. Jesus is the reason for us to celebrate, to give thanks for God's goodness, and to share our gifts with each other, and to the less fortunate. When we gather together with our loved ones on Christmas day to give a gift or to receive one, we must remember to thank God for the gift of family and friends. When we decide to share or give others a gift, we express our faith and show others the greatest gift-giver who is our God, the one who loves humanity unconditionally. The greatest gift and joy of Christmas is to bring Jesus and his gifts of peace and love to others.

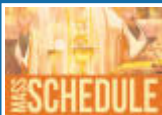
On behalf of our parish community and the staff, we wish you and your family a blessed Christmas. May the divine Child and His Mother grant you and your loved ones the peace and joy of this holy season and fill your home with the gifts of faith, hope, and love. Merry Christmas to you!

Fr. Quigley

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.



- ❖ **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 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

- ✠ The prophet Isaiah offered a song of praise in seeing the Lord's return and the salvation of his people. How will you celebrate today the birth of the Messiah?
- ✠ The opening prologue of the Letter to the Hebrews is similar in poetic structure and theology to the prologue of the Gospel of John (today's Gospel reading). Both texts place heavy emphasis on the divinity of Jesus. In the birth of Jesus where do you see his divinity present?
- ✠ The opening prologue to the Gospel of John offers a beautiful portrait of Jesus: "And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us." How does the celebration of Christmas help you sense God's presence in the world?

This Sunday's Readings: Nativity of the Lord

First Reading: **Is 52: 7-10**
Second Reading: **Heb 1: 1-6**
Gospel: **Jn 1: 1-18**

Next Sunday's Readings: Epiphany

First Reading: **Nm 6: 22-27**
Second Reading: **Gal 4: 4-7**
Gospel: **Lk 2: 16-21**

HOLY SPIRIT PARISH SACRIFICIAL OFFERING

Week of 12/19/21—NOT AVAILABLE DUE TO EARLY
SUBMISSION OF THE BULLETIN

If you are away, please remember the parish with your envelope gift on your return. We appreciate your ongoing support.



Father Quy Vo, Deacon Bill Dringus, and the Parish Staff of the Church of the Holy Spirit wish you and your loved ones a blessed Christmas. May the divine Child and his Mother grant you and your loved ones the peace and joy of this holy season, and fill your heart and home with the gifts of faith, hope, and love.



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.

A CHRISTMAS CREED

- ❖ I believe in Jesus Christ and in the beauty of the gospel begun in Bethlehem.
- ❖ I believe in the one whose spirit glorified a little town; and whose spirit still brings music to persons all over the world, in towns both large and small.
- ❖ I believe in the one who the rulers of the earth ignored and the proud could never understand; whose life was among common people, whose welcome came from person of hungry hearts.
- ❖ I believe in the one who proclaimed the love of God to be invincible.
- ❖ I believe in the one whose cradle was a mother's arms, whose modest home in Nazareth had love for its only wealth, who looked at persons and made them see what God's love saw in them, who by love brought sinners back to purity, and lifted human weakness up to meet the strength of God.
- ❖ I confess my ever-lasting need of God: The need of forgiveness for our selfishness and greed, the need of new life for empty souls, the need of love for hearts grown cold.
- ❖ I believe in God who gives us the best of himself. I believe in Jesus, the Son of the living God, born in Bethlehem this night, for me and for the world.



—Author Unknown



PRAYER FOR CHRISTMAS MORNING

Child of Bethlehem, grant that we share with all our hearts in this profound mystery of Christmas. Put into our hearts this peace for which we need sometimes seek so desperately, and which you alone can give us. Help us know one another better, and live as brothers and sisters, children of the same Father. Reveal to us also your beauty, holiness and purity. Awaken in our hearts love and gratitude for your infinite goodness. Join us all together in your love, and give us your heavenly peace.

By Saint John XXIII

Jesus was born in a stable, but was embraced by the love of the Virgin Mary and Saint Joseph. By his birth in the flesh, the Son of God consecrated familial love. My thoughts at this moment turn to families: to those who cannot come together today and to those forced to remain at home. May Christmas be an opportunity for all of us to rediscover the family as a cradle of life and faith, a place of acceptance and love, dialogue, forgiveness, fraternal solidarity and shared joy, a source of peace for all humanity.

- Pope Francis Christmas 2020



WHY DO WE DO THAT? CATHOLIC TRADITIONS EXPLAINED

Question: Why do we give gifts at Christmas?

Answer: Great events in and of themselves are not tangible. They occur in life but leave no mark behind, nothing that someone could come across and know that something significant occurred. So we mark the event with monuments, holidays, gold watches or plaques, making a meaningful event tangible and memorable.

Gifts at Christmas do the same thing. They mark the occasion of the birth of Jesus, communicating a bit of the joy of the day by allowing us to be both giver and receiver. Gift-giving sets aside the day as special and different. The special foods, customs, decorations, and gifts all help focus our attention on the importance and meaning of the day and at the same time allow us to share personally in its joy and happiness.

In giving gifts, though, we can share in the meaning of Christmas in a significant way. We imitate God in sharing with others. We give a bit of ourselves to others in the gifts we give, just as God gives us the gift of his Son. No wonder we often say that the best gifts are those that come from the heart. Given in love, these presents are wrapped in the best covering of all.

LIVE THE LITURGY - INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

Merry Christmas! There is something sacred about sun when it dances upon a field of newly iced snow. Lights and colors bounce around in myriad ways flashing prisms of beauty as if in tune with the rhythm of a melodic dance. The Word became flesh and now dwells among us. Humanity can now dance. We sparkle with the beauty and radiance of God and can now walk through life with confidence knowing that we have been divinely kissed. It is a sacred moment, a holy marriage between God and His sons and daughters. All is bright and all is well. Today we celebrate who we are in Christ and rest safely in God's care. God's presence, revealed in the humble birth of His Son, dances in our hearts, calling us to beauty, truth, purpose, and love. Today we know, without doubt, that we are not the product of the rambling offerings of a universe that created itself. We are loved, treasured, and blessed. We have a Savior who can show us the way. Accept him.



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.

GOSPEL MEDITATION

The Nativity of the Lord Jesus

"He so loved us that for our sake He was made man in time, through Whom all times were made; was in the world less in years than His servants, though older than the world itself in His eternity; was made man, Who made man; was created of a mother, whom He created; was carried by hands which He formed; nursed at the breasts which He had filled; cried in the manger in wordless infancy, He the Word without Whom all human eloquence is mute (St. Augustine, Sermon 188)." The miracle of what happens at Christmas is truly an awesome mystery. Revealed in the silent ordinariness of life is God's intimate love for humanity and all that he made. The Word, existing for all time, comes and dwells among us. God kisses us. We can seek and soar with playful delight as a joy never known before fills our heart.

Joy is best expressed through dance. There is just something truly wonderful about the self-abandon a beautiful melodic dance reveals. If we are able to let go and really be free, it celebrates life in a way few other experiences really can. With the birth of Jesus Christ, God takes the Divine Dance to a deeper and more tangible level. We can now not only see what we believe but believe what we see! This most perfect dance is a call to beauty, innocence, truth, purpose, hope, faith, and love. Today we know, beyond doubt, that we are a necessary part of God's beautifully choreographed masterpiece of life and not just a random happening without real intent or purpose. We are loved, treasured, and blessed.

Accepting the truth of God's birth in time we also accept an invitation to dance with God. We can let go of what tethers us to anxious concerns and superficial securities. Throw caution to the wind and go with God. We have been blessed with talents, gifts, and life eternal. Follow the rhythm of the dance with joy and listen to what the Word who became flesh tells us about what the next steps can be. Today, heaven remains the same, but earth has been profoundly changed.

Holy Spirit Church will be celebrating 100 years in 2022. Mark your calendars for our grand celebration on June 5, 2022. Events are being planned for the entire Holy Spirit family, which will include Mass with Bishop Scharfenberger.



The centennial committee is putting together a book commemorating the event, which will be made available to every registered household. Do you have photos, old documents and/or stories that you might like to share? If so, please contact Sowmya Sudulaganti, at the Holy Spirit Church office at 518-477-7925.

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@hsseg.com

Parish 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.



THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD JESUS

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: For the people of the parish

Tuesday 12/28—The Octave of the Nativity of the Lord

9 am—Intention Available

Wednesday 12/29—The Octave of the Nativity of the Lord

9 am —Intention Available

Thursday 12/30—The Octave of the Nativity of the Lord

9 a.m.—Intention Available

Friday 12/31—The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

6 p.m. Vigil Mass: Intention Available

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD JESUS

Saturday 1/1/22—The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

9 a.m. Mass: Intention Available

4p.m. Mass: Intention Available

Sunday 1/2—The Epiphany of the Lord Jesus

8:30 am Mass: For the people of the parish

11 am Mass: Danielle Smith—Req. by Helen Lewis

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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