



Church of the Holy Spirit

You are welcome here!

JANUARY 2, 2022 | THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD JESUS



Dear friends in Christ!

May the grace and peace of our Lord Jesus, the Divine Child, be with you always! Happy New Year to you my friends. I wish you and your families a healthy and prosperous year. Many people have new year resolutions that they hope to achieve for the year. What do you really hope to seek and accomplish in the year of 2022? Perhaps, we can learn from the story of the Magi as we celebrate the feast of the Epiphany. Traditionally we understand that the Epiphany of the Lord is the feast where God reveals himself to mankind through the incarnation of Jesus, the Word-Made-Flesh. The well-known story is of the Magi who leave the comfort of their homes to follow the star that appears in the sky, to seek the Messiah—the One whom they believe will deliver the people. The Magi were the wise who possessed great knowledge, but were willing to open themselves to discover and seek something greater. They allowed the star to guide them on their journey. What did they find at the end of their journey? They found the Messiah, Jesus, who is the God of the poor and the lowly, the humble God who lays in a manger, the God who will change their lives and ours forever. Seeing Jesus, the magi were touched by the mercy, love, and compassion of God who revealed himself through Jesus.

The feast of the Epiphany reminds us that the God of the poor and lowly always invites us, and those with abundance, to seek God. Each year, God invites us to see and experience new things that he creates in our daily life, especially the new life that God creates each day for us. God also wants us to seek him in the face of the poor, the lowly, the marginalized, and the powerless, and he wants us to offer the gift of ourselves to Him. Do we have the courage to offer ourselves to God? May you have a blessed week!

Peace & Blessings

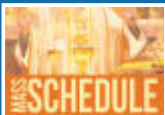
Fr. Quigley



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
Follow us on:
Twitter: @HolySpiritEG
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Instagram: @holyspiriteg

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- ✠ The prophet Isaiah foresaw a time of great joy for Israel when nations and kings would come to Israel praising the Lord. How do you show gratitude to the Lord for the great joys of your life?
- ✠ It was revealed to Paul that God intended to save all people (Jews and Gentiles) through his Son, Jesus Christ. Paul tried to convey the significance of this revelation to the Ephesians by using the language of “coheirs” and “copartners.” What does this language signal to you ?
- ✠ The visit of the Magi is one of the most well-known stories from the Gospel infancy narratives. It was an event that manifested God’s revelation of His newborn Son to the world. It also foreshadowed the threat that some would experience because of Jesus. How does Jesus challenge the status quo even today ?



This Sunday’s Reading:

First Reading: Is 60:1-6

Second Reading: Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6

Gospel: Mt. 2:1-12

Next Sunday’s Reading:

First Reading: Is 40:1-5, 9-11

Second Reading: Ti: 2:11-14, 3:4-7

Gospel: Lk 3:15-16, 21-22

HOLY SPIRIT PARISH SACRIFICIAL OFFERING



Week of 12/19/21:

- * Collection weekend masses: \$3,120.00
- * Collection thru mail: \$775.00
- * Collection thru E-Giving: \$1,452.33

Total Collection: \$5347.33



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 JANUARY 2022

For true human fraternity—We pray for all those suffering from religious discrimination and persecution; may their own rights and dignity be recognized, which originate from being brothers and sisters in the human family.



ST. ELIZABETH ANN SETON—Celebrate the first American-born saint! St. Elizabeth Ann Seton was born in New York City in the late 1700s and raised Episcopalian. She married William Seton. Together they had five children. He fell ill, and the family moved to Italy for his health. While there, Elizabeth discovered Catholicism. Her husband eventually passed away, but God had more plans for the Seton family. Elizabeth felt a further stirring in her heart. She opened a school for girls in 1808. The calling grew. Within a year, Elizabeth had founded the Sisters of Charity, the first community for religious women established in the United States. Their work established the first Catholic school system in the country. On her feast day this January 4th, pray for our teachers and students!



Prayer for the Epiphany

Dear Jesus, though a newborn, the wise men knew your greatness.

On a hint from the heavens, they traveled far from their places of comfort so that they could honor you. From their belief in your divinity, they gave amazing gifts, offerings that symbolized your life, power, and even your death. And because of a dream in the night, they altered their well-laid plans to return home in order to protect you. May we be so willing to honor, sacrifice, and obey, all for love of you, as we meditate on the meaning of this day. Amen



The Diocesan Appeal 2021-2022 (formal name Bishop’s Appeal) has already begun. Our parish goal to reach the Diocesan Appeal’s Assessment is \$52,049. Your generous contribution to the Diocesan Appeal will help training priests and deacons in their formation programs, assisting in faith formation programs, the work of diocesan tribunal in difficult marriages, and many other programs that will assist parishes throughout the diocese. Please make a prayerful consideration to give to the appeal. Envelopes for the appeal are available in the back vestibule or you can give the donation by using the online giving option at www.thediocesanappeal.org.



WHY DO WE DO THAT? CATHOLIC TRADITIONS EXPLAINED

Question: What happens to a consecrated host if it accidentally falls to the ground?

Answer: This a very practical question because, as we all know, accidents happen, even during the most careful celebration of the liturgy. The short answer to this question is that nothing happens to the consecrated host. The Real Presence of Jesus remains in the consecrated host or any consecrated wine that might accidentally be spilled.

Another question we might ask is: How should the ministers respond if the Eucharist is dropped or spilled? If this happens, the priest, deacon, or extraordinary minister of holy Communion should immediately pick up the dropped host and consume it. If it is a case of the Precious Blood being spilled, the minister would use the purificator (and additional purificators if needed) to clean the spill and then the area should be reverently washed as soon as the Mass is over and the water poured into the sacrarium (a special sink that is located in church sacristies for reverently disposing of holy water, the water used to clean sacred vessels, etc.).

LIVE THE LITURGY - INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

Human beings easily get bored. Life's routines can become so predictable that there is often little time for excitement or freshness. Today is all about the new and the wonderful. In celebrating the beauty and simplicity of the Epiphany, we see in tangible ways God's creative, redemptive, and restorative power. This refreshment and revitalization is offered not only to a select few but to everyone throughout the world. There is nothing routine or static about God. Surprises, wonders, miracles, opportunities, healings, and joy without measure are available to those who believe. There are never any endings, just beginnings. And, when darkness, boredom, and gloom seem to be the order of the day, a bright new light now shines pointing us to truth and reminding us that we are loved.



Prayer for the New Year

Dear Lord, at the beginning of this New Year, I remember that you are a God of beginnings and endings. You created the world, with all its eternal patterns. Winter begins in frost, and ends in spring's thaw. Spring begins in new, green life, ending in summer's heat. Summer begins in sunshine, and ends in autumn's breezes. Autumn's color leads to the white of Winter again. As another year ends and begins in our lives, help us to remember that you have made a world of cycles. When fortune turns to trials, or hardship turns to joy, help me take delight in the life I've received from you. Remind me that I will one day pass from this world and enter a new life like those who've gone before me. Amen.

GOSPEL MEDITATION

The Epiphany of the Lord Jesus

In his Apostolic Exhortation, *The Joy of the Gospel*, Pope Francis references a thought from Pope Benedict XVI: "Being a Christian is not the result of an ethical choice or a lofty idea, but the encounter with an event, a person, which gives life a new horizon and a decisive direction." Today we celebrate an encounter with the Person of Jesus Christ! This simple but holy event in time dramatically changes human life, pointing it toward a new horizon and giving it a decisive direction. This is a message and truth that is not meant to be shared with only a select few who qualify but with the entire world. Pope Francis continues saying, "Thanks solely to this encounter or renewed encounter with God's love, which blossoms into an enriching friendship, we are liberated from our narrowness and self-absorption. We become fully human when we become more than human, when we let God bring us beyond ourselves in order to attain the fullest truth of our being."

Look around at people. Where is life heading for them? What gives them direction? Even we who are people of faith can get distracted and lose our focus. God, in all of His fullness, is revealed in Jesus Christ and we can encounter Him! God is tangible, real, vulnerable, poor, and full of wonders, surprises, and opportunities. For those who are struggling and lost, today is a day of great joy. All they have to do is reach out and touch the truth of Christ. This presence is revealed in the poor, exploited, and vulnerable ones who cry out for compassion and love. But it is also found in the faithful ones who see in the Epiphany of God a liberation from structures and systems that hurt us, a narrowness of mind and heart that constricts us, and an absorption in our self-agenda that prevents us from seeing anything other than ourselves as important.

We have been given the charge of preaching this Good News. If only we could find a way to be more effective, it might stand a chance of doing what God intended it to do. There is always tomorrow and our memory of that bright new light that shone so brilliantly that Bethlehem night pointing us to truth and reminding us that we are loved.

Open Wide our Hearts—Join us on Wednesday, 1/12 at 6:30 pm (virtual) as we continue our conversation on racism with the book, *A White Catholics Guide to Racism and Privilege*, by Daniel P. Horan, O.F.M.

Books can be ordered from the publisher at avemariapress.com or wherever books are sold. If this course is of interest to you and you would like to meet on site, please contact Laura Countryman at 518-477-7925 to make arrangements.

Holy Spirit Directory

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

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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 bkhse@rcda.org

Secretary: office@hsceg.org

Maintenance Services: Paul Weidman, Tim Casalla

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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 EPIPHANY OF THE LORD JESUS

Saturday 1/1/22— The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
9 a.m. Mass:

Sunday 1/2— The Epiphany of the Lord Jesus

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

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

Tuesday 1/4—St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious

9 am—Intention Available

Wednesday 1/5—St. John Neuman, Bishop

9 am —Intention Available

Thursday 1/6—Christmas Weekday

9 a.m.—Intention Available

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD JESUS

Saturday 1/8—Saturday after Epiphany

4p.m. Vigil Mass: Intention Available

Sunday 1/9— The Baptism of the Lord Jesus

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

✠ Julia Garcia—Req. by the Buckley Family

11 am Mass: Helen Fischetti—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 (518) 453-6690.

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