



Church of the Holy Spirit

You are welcome here!

JANUARY 9, 2022 | THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD JESUS



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



Dear friends in Christ!

May the grace and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you always! The feast of the Baptism of the Lord Jesus marks the end of the Christmas season. In today's gospel, Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized. While Jesus was being baptized, the Holy Spirit descended upon him like a dove. The heavens opened, and the voice declared "You are my beloved Son, with you I am well pleased." This is a remarkable statement because it reveals to us Jesus' true essence and identity, and it also reminds us of our own baptism.

What is the sacrament of baptism? Some people may answer baptism is a way to bless a child. Others may have said that baptism is a family tradition. Indeed, for some people baptism is one way to bless the child, or a family tradition. However, our church teaches us that the sacrament of Baptism is one of the sacraments of the initiation into the faith. Baptism is one of the sacraments that God instituted. In the sacrament of Baptism, the Bishop, Priest or Deacon pours water (three times) over the forehead or head of a candidate who is being baptized and says "I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit." Another way to perform the rite of baptism is to immerse the body into the water. This practice of immersion in water is the norm in some cultures because it symbolizes the dying of sin and rebirth into a new life in the Holy Spirit. Through the sacrament of Baptism, our sins, including the Original Sin, are being washed away, and we are cleansed in the fire of the Holy Spirit. We also become God's sons and daughters. Baptism makes us members of the Body of Christ and incorporates us into the Church. St. Paul says, "for by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body."

As we celebrate the feast of the baptism of our Lord Jesus, may we once again recognize that we are God's beloved children. May the grace of Baptism strengthen us so that we have the courage to profess our faith in Christ and live out that faith in the world.

Peace & Blessings
Fa. 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

- † The prophet Isaiah was called to bring words of comfort and good news to the beleaguered Israelites held captive in Babylon. How do you minister to those in your life struggling to find God's presence?
- † Paul taught Titus that baptized believers are called "to live temperately, justly, and devoutly." How well do you think you live by this moral and ethical standard?
- † We hear today the account of the baptism of Jesus and God's words from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased." What do you imagine Jesus did (prior to the start of his public ministry) that was so pleasing to God?



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. Hilary of Poitiers, Bishop and Doctor of the Church | January 13—Born a pagan, St. Hilary (c. 315 – c. 367) studied philosophy and the meaning of life, eventually making his way through the bible. He became a convert and was appointed bishop of Poitiers in 353. Sometimes referred to as the Hammer of the Arians, St. Hilary defended the Nicene Creed against a popular heresy, Arianism. He was exiled to Phrygia for opposing Roman emperor Constantius II, who preferred the heresy which denies Christ's divinity. From Phrygia St. Hilary fought with his pen, zealously writing against the heresy.

Eventually he was allowed to return to Poitiers, but did so by a circuitous route, preaching against Arianism all the way. St. Hilary was likely the first writer of hymns in the West, his writings on the Trinity, Psalms and Gospel of Matthew survive today. St. Hilary was created Doctor of the Church, a title given to those who provided important contributions to theology and doctrine, in 1851 by Pope Pius IX.



Diocesan Appeal

The Diocesan Appeal 2021-2022 (formerly named 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.

Please join us for our **Dine To Donate Fundraiser at Crisp Cannoli** on January 18th. Use Code HOLYSPIRIT2022 for a portion of your purchase to benefit the school!



This 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

Next Sunday's Reading:

First Reading: Is 62:1-5

Second Reading: 1 Cor 12:4-11

Gospel: Jn 2:1-11

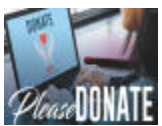
HOLY SPIRIT PARISH SACRIFICIAL OFFERING

Week of 1/2/22:

- * Collection weekend masses: **\$2550.00**
- * Collection thru mail: **\$2445.00**
- * Collection thru E-Giving: **\$666.25**
- * New Year Masses: **\$567.00**



Total Collection: \$6,228.25



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.



ENVELOPES & TAXES: It is that time of year when tax returns have to be filed. As you may know, you can claim your church offertory contributions as a tax deductible donation, as long as we have a record of your contributions (i.e. if you use envelopes and E-giving).

This is a good time of year to encourage those who do not use envelopes to think about using them. Contribution statements are available by calling the parish office at (518) 477-7925.

Please remember to patronize the sponsors of our bulletin.



WHY DO WE DO THAT? CATHOLIC TRADITIONS EXPLAINED

Question: At my grandson's Baptism, the priest put a bib on the baby. I do not remember seeing this before. Why is this done? Is it something new?

Answer: When an adult is baptized, there is a part in the ceremony when the newly baptized is vested in a white garment. It is symbolic of the changes that baptism brings in the life of the baptized as they are freed from the bonds of sin and brought into the saving grace of Christ. Realities that are so profound are symbolically presented so that we might better grasp and understand them.

Infants are often dressed in a baptismal dress, which is the baptismal garment. In some places, the bib is used as a kind of baptismal garment. At the place in the ceremony where the investiture takes place, the bib is used. Some are poncho-like and fit over the baby's head. Others are simply placed on the baby's chest. If the baby is dressed in a white garment, nothing else is needed. The prayer says it all: "See in your white garment the outward sign of your Christian dignity ... bring that dignity unstained into the everlasting life of heaven." In baptism, we are given our purpose and goal in life as believers, and this is symbolized by the white garment.

LIVE THE LITURGY - INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

Jesus stood in line with everyone else and was baptized. There is something incredibly humbling about how this must have played out. Then, God did something truly awesome and inspiring. Through a very gentle and simple action he let the world know about the special relationship He shares with Jesus. That's exactly what is so incredible about our baptisms as well! Through those holy waters God announces to the world the special place we also occupy in His heart. We no longer have to wonder about the purpose of our lives or struggle to find our way. We do not need to fumble around, tripping over ourselves and wondering why we are even here. The answer has been given. All we have to do is live out the vocation we have received, to live the Gospel in fidelity to our Creator. There is nothing to fear and worry has no place. Standing in line with other sinners, we have our anchor and God is very pleased.

Seasons of Faith will be making some changes. Our Winter/Spring Season of 2022 began this week. Starting July 1st, our season schedule will change to Summer/Fall (July, August, September, October) Winter (November, December, January, February) Spring (March, April, May, June). Seasons of Faith is our lifelong, intergenerational faith exploration for the entire parish community.



GOSPEL MEDITATION

The Baptism of the Lord Jesus

"We are called to live our baptism every day, as new creatures, clothed in Christ." — Pope Francis

What reference point do you use when making decisions? Many times, impulse takes control and decisions are made based solely on emotion and desire. We all know that these types of decisions can often get us into trouble. When a person has a confident sense of who they are and a real understanding of what is important and of value, the likelihood of kneejerk impulsive choices diminishes. Baptism gives us what we need to make well informed and purposeful decisions. By this simple gesture, God claims us as His own and provides us with the identity and purpose we need to properly live life.

It is tremendously reassuring, when we truly embrace this revelation and realize that we no longer have to wonder about the purpose of our lives or struggle to find our way. The answer of who we are in God has been given to us. We no longer have to fumble around, trip over ourselves or walk aimlessly about. Issues surrounding the sacredness of life, the meaning of death, the protection of those most vulnerable, care for the weak and the poor, offering hospitality to those in search of a home, the purpose and proper place of work, how to create a just social order, caring for creation, and understanding our roles as heralds and stewards are just a few of the wonderful gifts baptism brings. When we make decisions based on things such as these core Gospel truths we really act as Christ himself, revealing to others the new creations that we are. This is how we live our baptism.

It is difficult to walk against the tide. Yet, that is precisely what baptism calls us to do. Although we are sinners, in need of mercy and far from perfection we are called to order our life and make decisions based upon the wisdom and guidance of Almighty God. He alone is the one who can claim us as His sons and daughters. Standing up for our principles will not make us popular. But who ever said Christianity is a popularity contest? Baptism calls us to stand up for that which goes against the grain of secularism. Standing in line with other sinners, we have our anchor to steady us in the tempests of life and God is very pleased. Forge ahead. There is nothing to fear.

A White Catholic's Guide to Racism and Privilege, by **Daniel P. Horan, O.F.M.** Join us as we begin our discussion on this new book from Ave Maria Press. We will gather virtually on Wednesday 1/12 at 6:30pm to begin discussing the introduction. The USCCB has asked us to Open Wide Our Hearts to "Christ's love for all people and to the experiences of those who have been harmed by the evil of racism." (USCCB – Open Wide Our Hearts) Contact Laura Countryman at faithformation@hscg.org to register.

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 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.

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 BAPTISM OF THE LORD JESUS

Saturday 1/8—Saturday after Epiphany

4p.m. Vigil Mass: Joseph Palasz—Req. by Betty Palasz

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 & Mary K. Blake & Family

Tuesday 1/11—Weekday in Ordinary Time

9 am—Intention Available

Wednesday 1/12—Weekday in Ordinary Time

9 am —Intention Available

Thursday 1/13—St. Hilary, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

9 a.m.—Intention Available

THE SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Saturday 1/15—Weekday in Ordinary Time

4p.m. Vigil Mass:

✠ Robert Casillo—Req. by Anne & Mike Cronin

✠ Mary Murphy—Req. by Ann Taylor

Sunday 1/16—The Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

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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