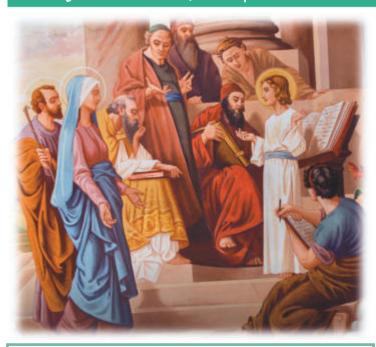


Church of the Holy Spirit You are welcome here!

JANUARY 23, 2022 | THE THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



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 REQUIRED by NY state mandate 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:

(Resume in the beginning of March)

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

> Twitter: @HolySpiritEG Facebook: @holyspiritchurcheg Instagram: @holyspiriteg

Follow us on:

May the grace and peace of Jesus be

Dear friends in Christ,

with you always! I pray that your week was good and filled with good news. This coming Tuesday January 25 is the feast of the conversion of St. Paul, the Apostle. The story tells us that Paul (Saul before conversion) had acquired a zealot's hatred of all Jesus' teaching. He began to harass the church and imprisoned those who followed Jesus, "entering house after house and dragging out men and women, he handed them over for imprisonment" (Acts 8:3b). While he was traveling to Damascus to arrest any followers of Jesus, Saul was struck by a blinding light, brighter than the noonday sun. He heard a voice say to him "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" When Saul asked who was speaking to him, the voice replied, " I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting." (Acts 9:5). Jesus wanted Saul to preach the gospel message to the Gentiles, their kings, and the people of Israel. After the encounter with Jesus, Saul had a different perspective of Jesus and discovered the true God—Jesus is the Messiah. He surrendered his life and put it in God's hands. Saul was now Paul, the apostle and the evangelist, preached the gospel message to the Gentiles and all people. As Paul endured suffering, pain, and hardship while he preached the gospel, his strength and help came from God—"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" (Phil. 4:13). Paul was anointed with the Holy Spirit. Like Jesus, he was sent to bring glad tiding to the poor, to proclaim liberty to captives and to let the oppressed go free. Paul glorified God by doing the will of God in his life and died for Christ. God crowned him with the crown of Martyrdom. Through our own Baptism, we are called to be the disciple of God and to preach the gospel message. A big step on our part is to surrender our lives and put it in the hands of God. St. Paul and other apostles and people throughout the history surrendered their lives and walked the way of Christ. They are now in heaven, sharing the eternal reward and enjoying their good fruits that they produced for God during their life time. We, too, can bear good fruits for God. Jesus is calling us and waiting for our response. What you think Jesus would do for you if you surrender your life and completely hand it over to him? Are you willing to take a chance? May you have a blessed week and dress warm when you are going out.

Fr. Quy Vo

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- Ezra and Nehemiah were the religious and political leaders of Judah in the mid-5th century BC. They grounded their leadership in Scripture ("the book of the law.") What role does sacred Scripture have in guiding your life?
- Paul used the human body as an analogy for the "many parts" of the Christian community in Corinth that should unite as the "one body" of Christ. In what ways do you find this a challenging vision for community?
- Today's reading contains both the opening prologue to the Gospel of Luke and the initial reaction to Jesus' return to his hometown of Nazareth. Luke is the only Evangelist to provide us with a prologue outlining his motivation to write his Gospel. What details do you find most interesting from Luke's prologue?



This Sunday's Reading:

First Reading: Neh 8:2-4a, 5-6, 8-10 Second Reading: 1 Cor 12:12-30 **Gospel:** Lk 1:1-4; 4:14-21

Next Sunday's Reading: First Reading: Jer 1:4-5, 17-19 Second Reading: 1 Cor 12:31-13:13

Gospel: Lk 4:21-30

HOLY SPIRIT PARISH SACRIFICIAL OFFERING



Collection weekend masses: \$2,450.00

Collection thru mail: \$483.00 Collection thru E-Giving: \$248.00

Total Collection: \$3,181.00



We are grateful for your continued financial support during the pandemic. We Wease DONATE 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.



Join us for our mini-retreat where we will reflect on Faith: Ordinary and Extraordinary. Part of our reflection will focus on the Conversion of St. Paul, whose feast

we will celebrate on January 25th. Come and spend 90 minutes reflecting on your faith and renewing your soul. Join us in the church on Sunday, 1/23 at 3pm.



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.



Holy Spirit School—Please join the Catholic Identity Team for a weekly rosary with the intention of Holy Spirit School. We will be

meeting every Thursday, doors open at 2:45pm, we will begin promptly at 3pm, on days that school is in session. Contact Sadie Murphy for more information, smurphy@hsseg.com"

Explore the Scripture Readings. Join us for our Simply Scripture gathering as we discuss the readings for the 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time. We will gather virtually on Thursday 1/27 at 6:30pm. Contact Laura Countryman to register for our virtual gathering. Come join the conversation!

Between Heaven and Mirth. Join us for our latest book for Words of Wisdom Book Group. We will be reading and discussing, Between Heaven and Mirth. Why Joy, Humor and Laughter are the Heart of the Spiritual Life by James Martin, SJ. We will gather virtually on Wednesday 1/26 at 6:30pm to discuss the first chapter. Register by with Laura Countryman in the Parish Office or at faithformation@hsceg.org. New participants are always welcome.



Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children

Pope Francis has said that respect for life is not just about the unborn child in the womb, but also about the least of our brothers and sisters. Yes, it is even upon the undocu-

mented resident alien who has no voice but ours. As followers of Jesus Christ, we are all called to protect the voiceless.

Good and gracious God, you blew into our nostrils the breath of life. You are the One to whom we owe our very existence. Give us the courage to take that unpopular position of protecting those who have no voice, the unborn child in the womb to the person taking his or her last breath.

The life you have given us is a gift beyond measure. Embolden us to speak the truth about protecting the child, the elderly, and the one without a voice in the public square. With thankful hearts, we ask all this of the One God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.



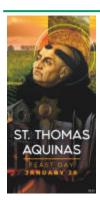
WHY DO WE DO THAT? CATHOLIC TRADITIONS EXPLAINED

Question: Is it right to sue someone? Isn't it a way of getting revenge?

Answer: Revenge is inflicting harm for harm's sake, the idea of an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth, and then some. There is often a fine line between justice and mercy, between compensation and forgiveness. Unfortunately, things can happen to us that cause harm, suffering, and damage, regardless of people's intentions. When someone is hurt, especially in such a way that special care or treatment is required, the cost of that care needs to be paid.

In a perfect world, those with special needs, handicaps, or disabilities would find the help and care they need, including those who are injured or hurt. But justice is not always forthcoming, and people are not always fair. So, using the legal system to right a wrong is sometimes the only option.

In some cases, it is the only way that people can get the help they need and deserve. However, frivolous lawsuits, or 'fishing for money' is not only unfair, but immoral as well. The law is there to protect people and making use of it when necessary is a good thing.



One of the most famous members of the Dominican Order, St. Thomas Aquinas (1225 – 1274) is well-known by many for his theological work, "The Summa Theologiae." Born in Italy, his mother wanted him to become a Benedictine and had high hopes that he would eventually become abbot of Monte Cassino, where he spent much of his youth. To change his vocation, she had him kidnapped by his brothers on his way to

Paris at the age of 19. He spent two years in their captivity. Despite this, nothing could shake him from his vocation to become a Dominican priest and he was eventually released. Once free, he went to Paris and then to Cologne, where he finished his studies with Albert the Great.

His greatest contribution to the Catholic Church is his writings. The unity, harmony, and continuity of faith and reason, of revealed and natural human knowledge, encompasses his writings. The *Summa Theologiae*, his last and, unfortunately, uncompleted work, deals with the whole of Catholic theology.

The patron saint of teachers, theologians and students, St. Thomas Aquinas died in 1274. His life and the impact he had on the whole Church, however, remains alive today.

A little bit of mercy makes the world less cold and more just.

-Pope Francis

GOSPEL MEDITATION

The Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Human history reveals many periods where people lost a sense of God's transcendence. It may even be argued that human beings have been wandering and lost more than they have been at home and focused. Human nature being what it is, we struggle with who God really is — the God of our salvation history or the "gods" of human constructs. Relying on our own designs and pursuits, we forget that we really are meant to listen to One upon whom the Spirit of the Lord rests, Jesus Christ, and not to ourselves. That same history that reveals our fickleness and infidelity also reveals God's constancy and faithfulness. God always finds us.

As people wander and fumble to find their way, God is there bringing them back to holiness and giving them the assurance of His presence. We have to allow God's Word, God's life, to touch us and change us. It can make us more flexible and attentive to the sacred in all facets of life so that every day is one that is holy. Every day is a time when fulfillment is possible for one's soul. Jesus stood before those gathered in the synagogue as the fulfillment of words of promise that were echoed long ago. God doesn't forget. He always comes for us.

Now it is time to remember to go to God. Sometimes our lives are so confused and tangled that it is difficult to see the Word and hand of God. But when we realize, deep within, the depth of friendship God offers to us it really has the power to turn sadness to joy. The promise is fulfilled. Going frequently to God's Word, allowing ourselves to be enriched and rejuvenated, and pondering the certainly of God's fidelity and promise permanently transforms us. We will be more aware of the sacred and the holy and less invested in things that pull us away.



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 assistant 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.



Who is the patron saint of lost things?

a) St. Peter

c) St. Anthony

b) St. Paul

d) St. Andrew

Holy Spirit Directory

Parish: 518-477-7925 office@hsceg.org School: 518-477-5739 hssoffice@hsseg.org

Parish Pastoral Team

Pastor:Fr. Quy Vopastor@hsceg.orgDeacon:Bill Dringusdeacon1275@aol.comPastoral Associate for Administration:

Sowmya Sudulaganti info@holyspiritchurcheg.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

Holy Spirit School - 54 Highland Drive

Principal: Michael Kosar principal@hsseg.com

Pastoral Council

Ellen Murphy: 518-479-7217 <u>ebmurphy@gmail.com</u>

Finance Committee

Steve Wiech: 518-477-5351 steve_wiech@msn.com

Trustees

Matt Heitker: <u>heitkergm@acm.org</u>

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 is 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 THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Saturday 1/22—Weekday in Ordinary Time 4 p.m. Vigil: Patricia Isabella—Req. by Anne & Mike Cronin

♣ Loren Dubay – Req. by Doris & Gary Beardsley

Sunday 1/23—The Third Sunday in Ordinary Time 8:30 a.m. Mass: Fr. George St. John & the deceased members of Fr. George's Family—Req. by HS 11 a.m. Mass: Frank Mercurio—Req. by Mercurio & Grady families

Maureen Angerami−Req. by Mercurio & Grady families

Tuesday 1/25—The Conversion of St. Paul the Apostle NO PARISH LITURGY

Wednesday 1/26—Sts. Timothy and Titus, Bishops NO PARISH LITURGY

Thursday 1/27—St. Angela Merici, Virgin NO PARISH LITURGY

THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Saturday 1/29—Weekday in Ordinary Time

- **4 p.m. Vigil:** Kathleen A. Cioffi—Req. by Rosemary Horan
- Tom DeJulio—Req. by Ann Taylor & Mike Cristo
- ☆ Ginny Mahlstedt—Req. by Joe & Amy Gordon

Sunday 1/30—The Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time 8:30 a.m. Mass: Fr. George St. John & the deceased members of Fr. George's Family—Req. by HS 11 a.m. 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)

4 Available by appointment, for any stage of illness

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.



Richard Zazvcki, Director • Call: 518-462-0899 11 Washington Street • Rensselaer, NY www.circlesofmercy.org





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