

Rev. Matthew B. Wetsel

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February 16, 2021

Dear Parishioners & Friends of Holy Trinity Church and Church of the Holy Spirit:
Lenten greetings to you! I hope that this letter finds you and your loved ones filled with the joy and peace that Christ alone can give.

I am sending this letter to you for a few reasons. The first is to let you know that I am so grateful and appreciative of your continued generosity in supporting your parishes with prayers and fiscal gifts throughout the pandemic. Simply stated, we would be in a much different state without your consistent help. Thank you!

On a related note, I want to let you know about the upcoming liturgies and prayer services that will be offered at our parishes during the season of Lent. Naturally, we still need to employ the usual COVID-related practices (social distancing, mask-wearing, disinfecting the church after Masses, etc). That being said, I am grateful to be able to celebrate Holy Week and Easter with all of you again. Likewise, we will be able to offer extended hours for confession, a mini retreat, weekly stations of the cross at both parishes, and our usual weekend liturgies for your spiritual nourishment. When we take into consideration the disappointment that we all felt last year with having to temporarily discontinue public worship, we have much to give thanks for.

Mini Retreat

The mini retreat will take place on **Saturday, March 20th from 9 am until approximately 10 am** at Church of the Holy Spirit. It will take the form of a Saturday morning Mass with a conference-style homily. The theme of the retreat is “Be Still and Know that I Am God: Reflections on Trust in God and Finding Peace During Times of Turmoil.” I chose this theme based on a handful of books that I have found helpful over the course of the last year as well as reflecting on the worry and anxiety that so many of us feel on a regular basis.

If you cannot attend the retreat in person, you can follow the livestream on Zoom with the following log-in information:

ID: 740 737 2043

Passcode: MBW313

The Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Confessions are offered every Saturday afternoon at Church of the Holy Spirit from 2:15 pm – 3:45 pm. They are also offered following the First Saturday Mass that rotates locations each month (including the Saturday, March 6th, 8:30 am Mass at Holy Spirit). A time of extended confessions will also be offered on Thursday, March 25th from 2 pm – 7 pm at Holy Trinity Church. This will be provided in lieu of a traditional parish Lenten penance service with priests from neighboring communities joining us in order to limit the number of people in the church at any given time. If you would prefer to make an appointment to see me privately, please call the rectory at 518 762 2011, extension 2 and I would be happy to help.

Stations of the Cross

Stations of the Cross are offered every Friday during Lent at 12:10 pm at Church of the Holy Spirit and 5:30 pm at Holy Trinity Church (with the exception of Good Friday stations which will be offered at 3 pm at Holy Trinity on Friday, April 2nd).

Holy Week

Holy Thursday Mass will be offered on Thursday, April 1st at 5:30 pm at Holy Trinity. The Good Friday Service will be offered on Friday, April 2nd at 5:30 pm at Holy Trinity. The Easter Vigil Mass will be offered on Saturday, April 3rd at 8:00 pm at Holy Spirit. Easter Sunday Masses will all be offered at their normal Sunday times (8 am and 10 am at Holy Trinity, 11:30 am at Holy Spirit). All of the Holy Week liturgies will be streamed on the corresponding parish facebook page (see the livestreaming update below for more details).

Livestreaming update

As you may or may not know, all of the weekend Masses are livestreamed via Facebook (including the 8 am Mass starting February 21st) and the 4 pm Mass is available for on demand viewing on my YouTube page the day after.

To watch a Mass as it is being offered live, simply log on to the respective parish facebook page when the Mass begins (for instance, log on to the Holy Spirit Gloversville facebook page at 4 pm on Saturday afternoons) and look for the “live video” icon to appear. Click on the icon.

If you prefer to watch a Mass on YouTube instead, the 4 pm Vigil is normally uploaded for viewing anytime on Sunday morning. When you log on to YouTube, search “Matt Wetsel” in the search bar. My page icon will appear. Click on the icon and you will find a library of on demand Masses labeled accordingly. If you subscribe to my channel, the Masses should automatically appear in your YouTube news feed. As a reminder, the Masses are 4 pm Holy Spirit, 8 am and 10 am Holy Trinity, and 11:30 am Holy Spirit.

Thank you again for your generosity! I wish you a most blessed Lent!

God Bless,

Fr. Matt Wetsel