



2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

“One mightier than I is coming after me.”

- Mk 1:7a

St. Joseph Parish Force, PA Bringing Eucharistic Life to Bennetts Valley since 1872

Parish Stewardship for 2022-2023

Weekly amount budgeted for 2022-2023 \$3,365.00
 Offertory collection 11/20/2023 thru 11/26/2023 \$2,326.00
 CSA 2023 Campaign Parish Goal \$31,773.00

Thank you for supporting St. Joseph Church!

Pope's Intention for December

For persons with disabilities

We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the center of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programs which value their active participation.

"Pray the Rosary everyday to obtain peace for the world."
 Join us at St. Joseph Church each Tuesday at 6 p.m.

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Monday evenings, at 6:30 pm, we will be having Exposition, Adoration, and Benediction in the Church. We will continue each Monday through Monday, Dec. 18th.

REMOVAL OF CEMETERY DECORATIONS In preparation of the Christmas season and with the weather cooperating, we are reminding everyone to please remove all summer decorations that are currently on the graves. You may begin placing your Christmas flowers/wreaths on the graves this week. Thank you.

Advent Penance Service at St. Joseph Church will be on Sunday, December 17th beginning at 2:00 pm. We will have visiting priests to assist with the confessions.

Giving Tree This year, the Guardian Angel Center in Kersey has expressed a need for bed sheets. Our Confirmation class will be collecting new bed sheets in sizes TWIN and/or FULL. You can place your unwrapped gifts under the tree in the social hall or you can bring them to the office M-Th 9am-4pm. They will then be delivered to the Guardian Angel Center in January. Thank you!

Confirmation classes for the month of December will be held on Sunday, December 10th and December 17th.

Area Advent Penance Services

Monday, Dec. 11th Holy Rosary (Johnsonburg) 6:00 pm
 Thursday, Dec. 14th Queen of the World 6:30 pm
 Saturday, Dec. 16th St. Mark (Emporium) after 4pm Mass
 Sunday, Dec. 17th St. Joseph (Force) 2:00 pm
 Wednesday, Dec. 20th Sacred Heart Church 6:30 pm
 St. Boniface 3:15 pm on Saturdays and after ALL weekend Masses during Advent.

Marriage Encounter Retreat The holidays are here! In all the preparations, will you think lovingly of your spouse? or be buried in expectations? It is a busy time. Consider this: a weekend away after the holidays to just be the two of you—husband & wife—and refocus on being that couple. Worldwide Marriage Encounter is a faith based enrichment for any married couple. Feb. 9-11, 2024 Grove City, PA
 For more information, go to www.WWME.org.

St. Leo Church in Ridgway Year Long 50/50 drawing. ONE winner will be drawn on Dec. 17th. Winner will receive at least \$9,850! Get your ticket by calling the parish office at 772-3135

St. Joseph Church Prayer Chain We are looking to reorganize our Parish prayer chain. We need a contact person to head the chain and be willing to contact the others on the prayer chain. If you are interested in joining the prayer chain group, please call the office at 814-787-4151 x3 OR Father Mark extension 4.

Thank you!

**ADVENT****A Season of Preparing and Waiting**

Advent is a season of preparing and waiting. It is a time when we prepare our homes in many creative ways with Christmas decorations, lights, and manger scenes. As God's people, Israel, had prepared themselves for the long awaited Messiah, we, at our time now, look forward again to celebrate Jesus's birth in Bethlehem at Christmas, while at the same time, anticipate His return in glory someday.

What is Advent all about? John the Baptist, son of Elizabeth, comes to us in our Gospel and tells us what Advent is as he says: "Prepare the way of the Lord. Make straight His Paths." (Mk 1: 1)

OK. How? By being here at Mass. Being ready for people in our lives. Also, make or buy an Advent wreath. It is more fun to make one! Make one for a table or to put on a wall if made with construction paper. Maybe write on the candles what you need to do to prepare for Jesus' coming into your life in greater ways this Advent season.

Season of Waiting

Is God waiting for each of us? Yes, God is waiting for us to prepare ourselves for His Coming into our lives. Where in our lives are we aware of that need for change? Ask the Lord for the grace to change.

One important way is by going to Confession. Our Penance service is being held on Sunday, December 17th at 2:00 pm. What a good and holy way to prepare ourselves for Jesus' Coming into our lives in new and refreshing ways at Christmas!



God Bless,

Father Mark

We Celebrate, We Listen, We Pray

Date	Intention	Requested by	Celebration	Scriptures
Monday, December 11, 2023 8:30 a.m. Mass	Tom Winkler (4th anniversary)	wife-Chris	Advent Weekday Saint Damasus I, Pope	Is 35: 1-10 Lk 5: 17-26
Tuesday, December 12, 2023 8:30 a.m. Mass	Blessed Mother's Intention	Parishioner	Our Lady of Guadalupe	Zec 2: 14-17 or Rv 11: 19a; 12: 1-6a, 10ab Lk 1: 26-38 or Lk 1: 39-47
Wednesday, December 13, 2023 No Mass			Saint Lucy, Virgin and Martyr	Is 40: 25-31 Mt 11: 28-30
Thursday, December 14, 2023 8:30 a.m. Mass	Matthew Klender	Family	Saint John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church	Is 41: 13-20 Mt 11: 11-15
Friday, December 15, 2023 8:30 a.m. Mass	Art Zambanini (birthday)	wife Gen, daughter Pooney and family	Advent Weekday	Is 48: 17-19 Mt 11: 16-19
Saturday, December 16, 2023 No Mass			Advent Weekday	Sir 48: 1-4, 9-11 Mt 17: 9a, 10-13
Saturday, December 16, 2023 5:30 p.m. Mass	Living and Deceased Parishioners		Vigil of the Third Sunday of Advent	(see below)
Sunday, December 17, 2023 9:15 a.m. Mass	Judy Benevich (2nd anniversary)	Peggy, Jerry, and Bernadette	Third Sunday of Advent	Is 61: 1-2a, 10-11 1 Thes 5: 16-24 Jn 1: 6-8, 19-28

St. Joseph Church

17764 Bennetts Valley Hwy., P. O. Box 124, Force, PA 15841
Ph. 814-787-4151

Rev. Mark J. Mastrian..... **Pastor**

Domestic Administrator: Miriam Pane **Secretary:** Barb Allegretto **Faith Formation:** Mary Ann Toney

Church Hours: St. Joseph Church: Sun. 7:30 am — 4 pm; Mon., Tues., Wed., Thurs., Fri. 8 am—4 pm Sat. 9:00 am —7:00 pm

Pastoral Council President: Bryan Chiappelli **Finance Council Moderator:** Leon Calliari

OFFICE HOURS

Monday—Thursday 9a.m.—4 p.m.

Office Email: stjosephforce@windstream.net Website: www.stjosephforce.org Faith Formation Email: stjosephforceff@windstream.net

LITURGY SCHEDULE

Saturday Vigil: 5:30 p.m.; **Sunday:** 9:15 a.m.; **Holy Days:** 9:00 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.; **Daily:** Mon., Tues., Thur., Fri. 8:30 a.m., No Mass on Wednesday

BULLETIN INFORMATION

Groups or individuals wishing to have information published in the bulletin are asked to submit the information in writing, by email or by phone by **Monday at 10:00 a.m.**

SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION

Baptism – A baptism preparation session is required of all parents wishing to have their child(ren) baptized. Parents must be registered parishioners. Sessions are held periodically at parishes throughout the Deanery. It is always preferred that baptisms be celebrated during a regular Sunday Liturgy. Call the Parish office for more information.

Eucharist – Children preparing for Eucharist (Gr. 3) and who are active in the Faith Formation process (including Catholic School children) are eligible to enter the sacramental preparation sessions.

Confirmation – High School youth who are entering the 9th grade and who are active in the Faith Formation process or attend a Catholic High School are eligible to enter the Confirmation preparation sessions.

R.C.I.A. – Rite of Christian Initiation for adults are initiated into the Church through this process. Any individual who may be interested in becoming a member of the Catholic Church is invited. Please call the Church office.

SACRAMENTS OF VOCATION

Priesthood/Permanent Diaconate – Men who feel that they may be being called to the vocational life of Priesthood or Diaconate can contact the pastor at any time or call the Diocesan Vocation Office at 814-824-1111.

Matrimony – There is a required preparation process which normally includes 3 sessions with the pastor and an Engagement Encounter or Nova experience. Please notify the pastor at least 6 months prior to the anticipated date of marriage.

SACRAMENTS OF HEALING

Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick—Celebrated for all who are seriously ill. The Sacrament is also available upon request.

Reconciliation – Children preparing for Reconciliation (Gr. 2) and who are active in the Faith Formation process (including Catholic School children) are eligible to enter the sacramental preparation sessions.

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St. Joseph Church

PARISHIONER INFORMATION

All practicing Catholics living in the Bennetts Valley Area who consider themselves members of St. Joseph Parish should be registered in the parish. All registered members of St. Joseph receive envelopes and receive periodic parish mailings. St. Joseph Parish is a Sacrificial Giving Parish, committed to serving the Lord with God-given time, talents and treasures. All registered members should be using their envelopes regularly. Parish membership is required to be a sponsor, to be married in the parish, to have a child baptized or to be registered in our Faith Formation program. Please call the church office to arrange a meeting to register in our parish.



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