



MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

And Mary kept all these things,
reflecting on them in her heart. - Lk 2:19

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

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD. ©LPI

Parish Stewardship for 2021-2022

Weekly amount budgeted for 2021-2022 \$3,365.00
 Offertory from December 12 thru December 19 ... \$2,435.00
 CSA 2022 Campaign Parish Goal \$32,404.00
 CSA pledges as of 12/19/2022 \$25,690.00

Thank you for supporting St. Joseph

Pope's Intention: We pray that educators may be credible witnesses, teaching fellowship rather than competition and helping the youngest and most vulnerable above all.



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

**Mass Schedule for December 31 thru January 9, 2023**

5:30 p.m. December 31—Vigil of Mary Mother of God
 9:15 a.m. January 1 - Solemnity of Mary Mother of God
 5:30 p.m. January 7—Vigil Mass of the Epiphany
 9:15 a.m. January 8 — Epiphany of the Lord
 8:30 a.m. January 9 — Baptism of the Lord

Faith Formations classes resume January 15th.

Confirmation Class resumes January 15th at 10:30 am

Reminder: The Catechist Training Session will be held January 8th from 10:15-12:15 at the Faith Formation Center. Please contact the Office #3 or #5 with your RSVP by Tuesday, January 3rd.



Choir Practice every Thursday at 6:00 pm.

New voices are always welcomed!



The Guardian Angel Giving Tree Bath Towel Project will end on January 8. If you did not get a gift tag from the Giving

Tree in the social hall, you can still donate a **bath towel**. All gift donations are to be **returned Sunday, January 8th** in the social hall or at the Faith Formation Center during office hours week of Jan.8th.

Thank you for your generosity.

**Baptismal Training January and February 2023**

January 3	6:30 pm	Queen of the World	834-4701
January 18	7:00 pm	Holy Rosary, Johnsonburg	965-2819
February 7	7:00 pm	St. Joseph, Force	787-4151
February 23	7:00 pm	St. Mark, Emporium	486-0569

Child Protection and Creating Safe Environments – 3 Ways for Teens to Reboot

Sending and receiving messages late at night can make it hard to fall asleep or interrupt sleep. Teens want to stay connected to friends, but the lack of sleep or interrupted sleep can affect everything from their mood to their sports performance. Here are 5 tips to follow at night that will help boost energy and focus in the morning. 1.) Log off your messaging apps, social media and email at bedtime. 2.) Turn off your phone when it's time for bed don't just set it to vibrate. 3.) Get in the habit of powering off your devices – especially if they are in your room. Turn off all electronics, like laptops, tablets, TVs, and video game consoles. Blinking lights and glowing screens can make it harder to fall and stay asleep. Sticking to a cut-off curfew each night for your devices will give your brain some much needed tech-free downtime. For additional resources visit www.eriecd.org/childprotection/



Mary the Mother of God and A New Year and God's Plans

As we start a new year, it is very fitting each year to celebrate during our Lord's Birth in the Christmas Season to acknowledge the fact that Mary the Blessed Mother is the Mother of God.

After the Angel Gabriel visited Mary announcing that She was chosen to be the Mother of the long-awaited Savior of which Mary's response was 'yes' to the Angel, Mary traveled to visit Her cousin Elizabeth. Upon seeing Mary, Elizabeth proclaimed Mary to be the Mother of God with the words: "Most Blessed are You among women and blessed is the Fruit of Your Womb. And how does this happen to me that the Mother of my Lord should come to me?" (Luke 1:42-43)

As we acknowledge the Blessed Mother Mary as Mother of God, we also ask for Her Intercessions that in this new year we not only do what we want to do, but also everyday to ask our Lord, "What is Your Will — What is Your Plan for me today?"

This weekend in our Gospel Reading according to St. Luke, Mary is reflecting in Her Heart all of the things that have taken place surrounding Jesus's Birth. She reflects especially on all the shepherds in the field who had told them and had seen: *The Star over Bethlehem, and the Angels singing.* It says that "Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in Her Heart." (Luke 2:19)

My friends, we are invited in this new year to do what Mary did — reflect on what Jesus is doing in our life and to look forward to His Plan for us in this new year. So, I ask these following questions for us to reflect upon and to answer:

- * What are the good things and events in your life that happened this past year?
- * How can these things and the positive effects of these events be sustained or even made better in this new year?
- * In what ways do you want God to help you with new goals and plans in this new year?
- * When we pray the "Our Father", especially the words 'Thy Will be done' believe that God will help to lead us successfully to His Plan in this new year and beyond.

God Bless,
Father Mark



We Celebrate, We Listen, We Pray

Date	Intention	Requested by	Celebration	Scriptures
Monday, January 2, 2023 No Mass	No Communion Service		Saint Basil the Great and Saint Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors of the Church	1 Jn 2:22-28 Jn 1:19-28
Tuesday, January 3, 2023 No Mass	No Communion Service		The Most Holy Name of Jesus	1 Jn 2:29—3:6 Jn 1:29-34
Wednesday, January 4, 2023 No Mass	No Communion Service		Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious	1 Jn 3:7-10 Jn 1:35-42
Thursday, January 5, 2023 No Mass	No Communion Service		Saint John Neumann, Bishop	1 Jn 3:11-21 Jn 1:43-51
Friday, January 6, 2023 No Mass FIRST FRIDAY	No Communion Service		Saint André Bessette, Religious	1 Jn 5:5-13 Mk 1:7-11
Saturday, January 7, 2023 No Mass FIRST SATURDAY	No Communion Service		Saint Raymond of Peñafort, Priest	1 Jn 5:14-21 Jn 2:1-11
Saturday, January 7, 2023 5:30 p.m. Mass	Gary Rio	Bonnie—wife	The Vigil of The Epiphany of the Lord	(see below)
Sunday, January 8, 2023 9:15 a.m. Mass	Living and Deceased Parishioners		The Epiphany of the Lord	Is 60:1-6 Ph 3:2-3a, 5-6 Mt 2:1-12

Ph. 814-787-4151

St. Joseph Church

Fax 814-787-4478

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

Deacon Paul Bauman..... Deacon Assistant

Parish Secretary: **Marlene Berasi**; Faith Formation Coordinator: **Mary Stoker**; Domestic Administrator: **Miriam Pane**Pastoral Council President: **Bryan Chiappelli**; Finance Council Moderator: **Leon Calliari**

17764 Bennetts Valley Hwy., P. O. Box 124, Force, PA 15841-0124

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

Monday - Thursday9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

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 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 11th grade and who are active in the Faith Formation process or attend a Catholic High School since 9th grade 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 annually at a parish Liturgy. The Sacrament is also available upon request.**Reconciliation** – The sacrament is celebrated weekly on Saturday from 4:45 – 5:15 p.m., or anytime by request. Parish Penance services are celebrated during Advent and Lent. 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.



3-D-4-2

For ad info. call 1-800-477-4574 • www.4lpi.com

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