



24TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



Peter approached Jesus and asked him, "Lord, if my brother sins against me, how often must I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus answered, "I say to you, not seven times but seventy-seven times." - Mt 18:21-22

Parish Stewardship for 2022-2023

Weekly amount budgeted for 2022-2023 \$3,365.00
 Offertory collection 8/28/2023 thru 9/05/2023 \$2,309.00
 Offertory collection 9/5/2023 thru 9/11/2023.....not available
 CSA 2023 Campaign Parish Goal\$31,773.00

Pope's Intention for September**For people living on the margins**

We pray for those persons living on the margins of society, in inhumane life conditions; may they not be overlooked by institutions and never considered of lesser importance.

**Please plan on having your picture taken for our
 St. Joseph Church Pictorial Directory!**

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

**Baptismal Training October 2023**

Oct. 14 10:00 am Sacred Heart, St. Marys 834-7861

Child Protection and Creating Safe Environments- Diocesan

Child Protection Policies: The Diocese of Erie is committed to protecting minors who are entrusted to our care. The Diocese has policies and procedures in place to address the national problem of child abuse, to aid in the prevention of abuse and to develop and maintain safe environments. All those who minister to minors are screened, trained, and agree to a Code of Conduct. To read the Policy that includes the Code of Conduct, go to: <https://www.eriercd.org/childprotection/policies-1.html> For more information, contact the diocesan Office for the Protection of Children and Youth at 814-824-1195.

Catechetical Sunday is September 17th. The blessing of the catechists and students will be held during our 9:15am Mass. Following Mass, all parents and students will meet with Father Mark and the teachers in the Social Hall for a meeting and then Grades K-8 and their parents will proceed to the Faith Formation Center for the Child Protection/Safe Environment video training required by the Diocese of Erie. Confirmation students and their parents will remain in the Social Hall for their training and a meeting about the upcoming Confirmation year. We are looking forward to seeing everyone!

The **Catholic Education Collection** is being held on the weekend of September 16-17. Please generously support this collection. Half of the funds raised from this collection remain in our parish to support local education and faith formation programs. The other half provides funds across the diocese. Thank you for your generosity.

St. Bernard Church, Falls Creek, famous spaghetti dinner will be on Sunday, September 17th. Dinner will be dine-in and take-out and available 11am-1pm OR until sold out. Sauce and meatballs only will be available for take-out on Saturday, September 16th, after the 4:30pm Mass. Please bring your own containers for take-out.

**HOW OFTEN MUST I FORGIVE?**

I am familiar with a story of a group of guys who on a regular basis would go fishing and hunting throughout the year. One of the fellows was extremely good at both sports with a lot of experience and was more successful than the others. Two of the men from the group became angry and jealous at his luck and success so they broke away from the group. Eventually the other guys in their group did the same. The successful man felt hurt and betrayed by his friends.

Years later, this man and his family had moved to a different part of the state due to a new job opportunity. He met workers that enjoyed hunting and fishing, so he joined them. One of the fellows in his new group of friends was actually acquainted with one of the old friends from his past fishing and hunting group. When he found this out, he was apprehensive to continue his new acquaintance.

Eventually, his new friend convinced him to join him with his old friend at a dinner with other fishermen. The two men who had been estranged from each other got reacquainted and their friendship was healed and renewed.

What happened? Forgiveness from the heart and with the help of friends.

In our Gospel Reading, Peter probably had some issues with one of the other Apostles, so he asked Jesus the question: "Lord, if my brother sins against me, how often must I forgive? As many as seven times?" (Matthew 18: 21-22) Peter uses the number seven because that number indicates perfection in the Jewish way of thinking. Peter must have thought Jesus would immediately say 'yes' to that many times we must forgive. But what did Jesus say? "...I say to you, not seven times but seventy-seven times." (Matthew 18: 21-22) In other words, we must forgive others every time they sin against us.

OK, but this is tremendously difficult. True, but our Lord Who commands us to do this, will certainly give us the ability and the Grace to forgive. This Grace will be given in the Sacrament of Confession. Confess anger and unforgiveness in Confession and Jesus our Lord will give you the spiritual strength and grace to forgive others—even seventy-seven times, and possibly with the help of friends.

God Bless,
 Father Mark

We Celebrate, We Listen, We Pray

Date	Intention	Requested by	Celebration	Scriptures
Monday, September 18, 2023 8:30 a.m. Mass	Gary Rio	Sandy & Joanne	Weekday	1 Tm 2: 1-8 Lk 7: 1-10
Tuesday, September 19, 2023 8:30 a.m. Mass	Gerard Secco, Sr. (birthday)	Barb (wife)	Saint Januarius Bishop and Martyr	1 Tm 3: 1-13 Lk 7: 11-17
Wednesday, September 20, 2023 No Mass			Saints Andrew Kim Tae-gôn, Priest Paul Chông Ha-sang, and Companions, Martyrs	1 Tm 3: 14-16 Lk 7: 31-35
Thursday, September 21, 2023 8:30 a.m. Mass	Alphonse Terlinski (birthday)	Tim (cousin)	Saint Matthew Apostle and Evangelist	Eph 4: 1-7, 11-13 Mt 9: 9-13
Friday, September 22, 2023 8:30 a.m. Mass	Susan Huff (1st anniversary)	Ruth Wendel	Weekday	1 Tm 6: 2c-12 Lk 8: 1-3
Saturday, September 23, 2023 No Mass			Saint Pius of Pietrelcina, Priest	1 Tm 6: 13-16 Lk 8: 4-15
Saturday, September 23, 2023 5:30 p.m. Mass	Living and Deceased Parishioners		Vigil of the 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time	(see below)
Sunday, September 24, 2023 9:15 a.m. Mass	Judy Benevich	Tina (godchild)	25th Sunday in Ordinary Time	Is 55: 6-9 Phil 1: 20c-24, 27a Mt 20: 1-16a

St. Joseph Church

Ph. 814-787-4151 Fax 814-787-4478

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

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

OFFICE HOURS

Monday—Thursday 9a.m.—4 p.m.

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

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 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 Deaconate – Men who feel that they may be being called to the vocational life of Priesthood or Deaconate 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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