



4TH SUNDAY OF LENT

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



"His son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son.' But his father ordered his servants, 'Let us celebrate with a feast, because this son of mine was dead, and has come to life again.'"
- Lk 15:21-22a, 23b-24a

Parish Stewardship for 2021-2022
 Weekly amount budgeted for 2021-2022 \$3,365.00
 Offertory from March 14 thru March 21 \$2,841.00
 CSA 2022 Campaign Parish Goal. \$32,404.00

Fish/Shrimp Dinners were a great success this past week!
 A total of 354 dinners were sold. Thank you for your support!

Stations of the Cross will be 6:00 p.m. every Wednesday throughout Lent.

“Pray the Rosary everyday to obtain peace for the world.” Join us at St. Joseph Church each Tuesday at 6:00 pm

Baptismal Training Sessions for February/March

April 19	7 pm	St. Leo, Ridgway	772-3135
May 19	7 pm	St. Mary’s, St. Marys	781-1019
June 7	7 pm	St. Leo, Ridgway	772-3135

Confirmation Students Retreat will be Sunday, March 27 beginning at 10:30 until 1:30 pm. This retreat is a requirement for all Confirmation students. Everyone is to meet in the Faith Formation Center. There will be activities in the social hall and in the church. Lunch will be served.

Our Faith Formation Program needs teachers for classes of Grades K/1 and Grade 2 for the 2022-2023 school year. We also are in need of some volunteers to be substitute teachers. All those working with children and youth are required to have clearances. If you are interested, have some questions or would like additional information, please contact Mary at 814-787-4151 #5. Consider sharing your Faith time and talent with the young people of our Parish.

The 150th Anniversary of the Catholic Church’s presence in Bennetts Valley Bringing Eucharistic Life since 1872.

This is the theme of our 150th Anniversary that all of us are looking forward to as we prepare to celebrate with our bishop, Lawrence Persico on Sunday, October 9th. We are starting to collect pictures from the past of each of our four churches: St. Cecilia, St. Stanislaus, Our Lady of Help of Christians and St. Joseph. At this time if you have any pictures that can be used for our anniversary, we would greatly appreciate borrowing them. Please label each picture with your information. A box will be provided in the church office for your pictures. We thank you in advance as we prepare to celebrate this grand and glorious event!

The **Cemetery Committee** requests that you please remove the personal items that you placed on your loved one’s graves. The recent milder weather has provided an opportunity to clean up the grave site and allow maintenance the opportunity to clear the cemetery of the Joy of the Christmas Season and prepare the grounds for the Holy Season of Lent. Grounds clean-up and removal began Monday, March 21. Thank you for your cooperation.



Receiving Forgiveness then Forgiving Others

We just had one of Jesus’s famous stories at Mass this weekend of the Prodigal Son. It is a story of a selfish, young man whose life was very misdirected by the love of money and pleasure. After his so-called friends abandoned him and he suffered hunger and want for a period of time, he came to his senses and returned to his father. He returned a changed person. Fortunately for him, he had a loving, forgiving father who accepted him unconditionally. The father loved him so much that he gave his son the symbols of being restored back to a family and right relationship. These *ancient Jewish symbols* were the *robe, ring and sandals* and then a *feast*.

Now, the older son was filled with envy. We can see clearly how the relationship of the father and younger son unfolded. But, as regard to the relationship between the father and the older son, we know that the father pleaded with him to come and to celebrate. This son was always with the father, as to the decision of the older son whether to go into the banquet or not, Jesus leaves the conclusion open-ended. We have to reflect on what might have happened. We would want to believe that the older son changed his heart right then, forgave the younger son, as his father did, and then went to the celebration. Did he do this or did he refuse? How we end the story in our own opinion can tell us a lot about ourselves. Some may actually agree with the older son’s attitude or not.

My friends, a good question for each of us may be— *When in our lives are we like the older son — pointing out sins in other people’s lives; hypercritical to those around us; or thinking we are a much more faithful Catholic and better person compared to others who are far away from their Catholic faith?*

If we are like the older, unforgiving son, we need to know that our Heavenly Father comes to us and pleads with us to be forgiving and merciful as He is forgiving and merciful. The first step towards this attitude is to pray for the grace to be willing in being forgiving toward others.

Finally, when we are like the younger son in need of reconciliation with God our Heavenly Father because of our sins, may we be willing to ask God for forgiveness in the Sacrament of Confession and have the joy and peace this Sacrament gives and then be willing to forgive others.

God Bless,
 Father Mark

We Celebrate, We Listen, We Pray

Date	Intention	Requested by	Celebration	Scriptures
Monday, March 28 2022 8:30 a.m. Mass	Joseph Castellani (birthday)	John and Michele Castellani	Lenten Weekday	Is 65:17-21 Jn 4:43-54
Tuesday, March 29, 2022 8:30 a.m. Mass	Lawrence Chiodo (1st anniversary)	Family	Lenten Weekday	Ez 47:1-9, 12 Jn 5:1-16
Wednesday, March 30, 2022 No Mass			Lenten Weekday	Is 49:8-15 Jn 5:17-30
Thursday, March 31, 2022 8:30 a.m. Mass	Ryan Berasi	Bob (father)	Lenten Weekday	Ex 32:7-14 Jn 5:31-47
Friday, April 1, 2022 8:30 a.m. Mass FIRST FRIDAY	Gerry Fenice Williams	Sisters	Lenten Weekday	Wis 2:1a, 12-22 Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30
Saturday, April 2, 2022 8:30 a.m. Mass with Exposition, Adoration and Benediction FIRST SATURDAY	Mary Morelli	Kathy Fusaro	Lenten Weekday	Jer 11:18-20 Jn 7:40-53
Saturday, April 2, 2022 5:30 p.m. Mass	Edward Warmbrodt and Leo Panighetti	Charlene and Family	Vigil of the Fifth Sunday of Lent	(see below)
Sunday, April 3, 2022 9:15 a.m. Mass	Living and Deceased Parishioners		Fifth Sunday of Lent	Is 43:16-21 Phil 3:8-14 Jn 8:1-11

Ph. 814-787-4151

St. Joseph Church

Fax 814-787-4478

STAFF

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

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

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

OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Thursday 9:00 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.