



**DIVINE**

**MERCY**

*Sunday*

*St. Joseph Parish*

*Force, PA*

*Bringing Eucharistic Life to the Valley since 1872*

Parish Stewardship for 2019-2020

Weekly amount budgeted for 2019-2020. . . \$3,529.00

**Thank you for your continued support** for St. Joseph Church. Your generosity is appreciated immensely at this time when all of us must sacrifice and adjust our way of life because of Covid-19. Your future contributions may be dropped in the *shrine candle box located in the Church*. Thank You and God Bless You!

From the Office of The Most Reverend Lawrence T. Persico, JCL, Bishop of Erie: The celebration of **all** public Masses in the Diocese of Erie is suspended until further notice.

***St. Joseph Church will be open for individual visitation and prayer Daily: 9:00 am-4:00 pm***

### The History of Divine Mercy

In 1931, our Lord Jesus Christ appeared to St. Faustina in a vision. St. Faustina was from Poland and where she had received the visions. She saw Jesus clothed in a white garment with His right hand raised in a way as He was giving a blessing. His left hand was touching His garment in the area of His Heart where two large rays of light came forth. One of the rays of light was red and the other pale.

In the vision our Lord explained to St. Faustina the meaning of His Mercy flowing from the rays. They represent Blood and Water. The pale ray stands for water which makes the soul righteous. The red ray stands for the Blood which is life for the soul. The image of our Divine Merciful Lord indicates and represents all of the graces of Divine Mercy which is being poured out upon the world and especially within the Holy Sacraments of Baptism and the Eucharist.

The feast day was established by St. Pope John Paul II when he made the announcement during his homily at the canonization of St. Faustina on April 30, 2000. It was there that he declared: "It is important then that we accept the whole message that comes to us from the Word of God on the Second Sunday of Easter which from now on through out the Church, will be called Divine Mercy Sunday."



## Jesus's Mercy on Thomas and Us

*From the Gospel according to John 20:19-31:*

On the evening of that first day of the week, when the doors were locked, where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace be with you." When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His side. The disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." And when He had said this, He breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained."

Thomas - called Didymus - one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples said to Him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in His hands and put my finger into the nail marks and put my hand into His side, I will not believe."

Now a week later His disciples were again inside and Thomas was with them. Jesus came, although the doors were locked, and stood in their midst and said, "Peace be with you." Then He said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands, and bring your hand and put it into my side, and do not be unbelieving, but believe." Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you come to believe because you have seen Me? Blessed are those who have not seen and have believe."

Now, Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples that are not written in this book. But these are written that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that through this belief you may have life in His name.

My brothers and sisters, Thomas had a lot of doubts about the risen Christ. Sometimes we do, too. As Jesus had mercy on Thomas and helped him to come to believe in His presence; so also does Jesus have mercy on us in the midst of our doubts. Through prayer we can let go of our doubts and trust that Jesus will indeed renew our faith and belief in Him and all that He wants to do in our lives. Let us be open to receiving His Mercy everyday.

God Bless,  
Father Mark

# We Celebrate, We Listen, We Pray

Date	Intention	Requested by	Celebration	Scriptures
Monday, April 20, 2020	Yvonne Franzoni	Don and Nancy Chiappelli	Easter Weekday	Acts 4:23-31 Jn 3:1-8
Tuesday, April 21, 2020	Glenn Benigni (anniversary)	The Family	St. Anselm, Bishop and Doctor of the Church	Acts 4:32-37 Jn 3:7b-15
Wednesday, April 22, 2020			Easter Weekday	Acts 5:17-26 Jn 3:16-21
Thursday, April 23, 2020	Special Intention (wedding anniversary)	wife Pauline Lovenduski	Saint George, Martyr; Saint Adalbert, Bishop and Martyr	Acts 5:27-33 Jn 3:31-36
Friday, April 24, 2020	Minnie Gralak	Husband and Family	Saint Fidelis of Sigmaringen, Priest and Martyr	Acts 5:34-42 Jn 6:1-15
Saturday, April 25, 2020			Saint Mark, Evangelist	1 Pt 5:5b-14 Mk 16:15-20
Saturday, April 25, 2020	Living and Deceased Parishioners		Vigil of the Third Sunday of Easter	(See below)
Sunday, April 26, 2020	Dena Scott	Sherry & George Sidelinger	Third Sunday of Easter	Acts 2:14, 22-33 1 Pt 1:17-21 Lk 24:13-35

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  
 Email: [stjosephforce@windstream.net](mailto:stjosephforce@windstream.net) Website: [www.stjosephforce.org](http://www.stjosephforce.org)

**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 11<sup>th</sup> 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 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** – Is celebrated for all who are seriously ill annually at a parish Liturgy. The Sacrament is also available anytime 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.