

1st Sunday OF ADVENT



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

Parish Stewardship for 2021-2022

Weekly amount budgeted for 2021-2022 \$3,365.00
Offertory collection unavailable
 CSA 2022 Campaign Parish Goal \$32,404.00
 CSA pledges as of 11/14/2022. \$23,835.00

Thank you for supporting St. Joseph



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



Pope’s Intention: We pray for children who are suffering, especially those who are homeless, orphans, and victims of war; may they be guaranteed access to education and the opportunity to experience family.

We will not be having our Monday evening of Exposition, Adoration, and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. We will announce when this service will start again in the New Year.

Baptismal Training for November
 November 29 7:00 pm St. Marys, St. Marys 781-1019

St. Joseph Committee Schedule
Parish Council Monday, December 5 3:00 p.m.



Choir Practice every Thursday at 6:00 pm.
New voices are always welcomed!

Concert Choir of Elk County presents
“Christmas is Coming”

Tuesday, November 29th at St. Leo Magnus, Ridgway.
 There will also be a performance on Saturday, December 3rd at Sacred Heart Church, St. Marys.
 Both performances will be at 7:30 pm.
 No Admittance charge/free will offering.
 Questions? Call Lois at 814-834-2321.

You are cordially invited to sign up for our 4-week Adult Faith Formation Advent Presentation entitled **Because of Bethlehem Love is Born Hope is Here** starting on Monday, November 28th, in the social hall. The morning sessions will begin at 9:15 a.m. (immediately after the morning Mass). Evening sessions will begin at 6 p.m. If you would like to attend the classes, please sign up on the sheet in the vestibule. We want to make sure we have enough study guides for each participant. It promises to be a great preparation for your spiritual Christmas Holiday.

The Immaculate Conception of Mary

We celebrate the Feast Day (Holy Day of Obligation) of The Immaculate Conception of Mary every year on December 8th. This teaching has been developed in the Church since the 7th Century. In 1854, Pope Pius the 9th gave the infallible statement: “The Most Blessed Virgin Mary, in the first instant of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege granted by Almighty God, in view of the merits of Jesus Christ, the Savior of the Human race, was preserved free from all stain of Original Sin.”
(Saint of the Day: pgs. 327-328 L. Foley 1991)



Advent 2022

Can we really believe it is already the Season of Advent? It seems like we should still be enjoying the unseasonably warm, sunny and dry weather that we had up to the end of the second week of November. We thank God for those good temperatures, and now we are called to prepare ourselves for the cooler temperatures, darkness sooner in the late afternoon and the joyful awareness that this Season of Advent can bring to all of us.

My friends, consider the two words together: joyful awareness. This joyful awareness is expressed in the Communion Antiphon, found in our new Breaking Bread books, page 36, that we have in the pews. This is read at daily Mass everyday, but is replaced by a Communion Hymn at the weekend Mass. So, we don’t hear it read on the weekend Mass.

The words of this particular Communion Antiphon reads as follows: “Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights, and behold the joy which comes to you from God.” (Baruch 5:5; 4:36)

Let’s analyze what is being said to us. First, we are the new Israel. The promises made to the people of Israel recorded in the Old Testament are promised and fulfilled to us-to all Christians through Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection. So when you see or hear the names Jerusalem and Israel, it is God speaking to us, The Church-The Body of Christ.

So, now, we are to stand in confidence and encouragement and to see and receive “the joy which comes to you from God.” We may say; Oh, yes, Christmas is coming and it is a joy in stringing the lights and placing decorations around the house and listening to Christmas music. Yes, that can bring joyful moments in preparation for the Christmas season. But, right now, even more important as we begin the Advent season is to ask ourselves, Where in my personal life is joy really needed? 1.) Do I have excessive worries about getting everything done in my responsibilities? 2.) Do I have enough money to pay the bills and some essentials, let alone gifts for Christmas? 3.) Am I pressured in relationships or am I grieving the loss of a loved one at this time?

Whatever the need for joy in our lives, it can come to us by praying for the grace to **sit quietly before the Lord in prayer. Tell Jesus the issue you are struggling with and ask Him to give you joy.** End with an Our Father, Hail Mary, and a Glory Be ...

Finally, reflect on these words of the Communion Antiphon by Googling, Baruch Ch. 5:5; 4:36 or read it in our Breaking Bread book. Also, attend our Penance Service which will be on Sunday, Dec.18th.
Be still and quiet, pray and receive JOY!

God Bless, Father Mark

We Celebrate, We Listen, We Pray

Date	Intention	Requested by	Celebration	Scriptures
Monday, November 28, 2022 8:30 a.m. Mass	Judy Benevich 1st Anniversary	Donna and Jack Allar	Advent Weekday	Is 4: 2-6 Mt 8: 5-11
Tuesday, November 29, 2022 8:30 a.m. Mass	Leo Brown Anniversary	Family	Advent Weekday	Is 11: 1-10 Lk 10: 21-24
Wednesday, November 30, 2022 No Mass			Saint Andrew, Apostle	Rom 10: 9-18 Mt 4: 18-22
Thursday, December 1, 2022 8:30 a.m. Mass	Mary Youngmark	Debby and Charlie Richards	Advent Weekday	Is 26: 1-6 Mt 7: 21, 24-27
Friday, December 2, 2022 8:30 a.m. Mass FIRST FRIDAY	Ann Michelini 2nd Anniversary	Frank (husband)	Advent Weekday	Is 29: 17-24 Mt 9: 27-31
Saturday, December 3, 2022 8:30 a.m. Mass FIRST SATURDAY	Irene Gregori	Robert and Theresa Reese	Saint Francis Xavier, Priest	Is 30: 19-21, 23-26 Mt 9: 35—10: 1, 5a, 6-8
Saturday, December 3, 2022 5:30 p.m. Mass	Living and Deceased Parishioners		The Vigil of Second Sunday of Advent	(see below)
Sunday, December 4, 2022 9:15 a.m. Mass	Charles Murray	Audrey (wife)	Second Sunday of Advent	Is 11: 1-10 Rom 15: 4-9 Mt 3: 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 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.