

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

3RD SUNDAY OF LENT

**MAKE YOUR
WAYS KNOWN,
O LORD**



Parish Stewardship for 2022-2023

Weekly amount budgeted for 2022-2023 \$3,365.00
 Offertory collection 2/21/23 thru 2/27/23 \$3,224.00
 CSA 2023 Campaign Parish Goal \$31,773.00

Thank you for supporting St. Joseph Church

Pope’s Intention for March

We pray for those who have suffered harm from members of the Church; may they find within the Church herself a concrete response to their pain and suffering.



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



**Baptismal Training
 March, April, and May 2023**

March 25	10:00 am	Sacred Heart, St. Marys	834-7861
April 18	7:00 pm	St. Leo, Ridgway	772-3135
May 25	7:00 pm	St. Mary, St. Marys	781-1019



**Stations of the Cross at 6:00 p.m.
 EVERY WEDNESDAY throughout Lent**



Let us pray for the happy repose of the soul of **Richard Bonanno** who passed February 26. May he rest in peace. Amen.



**40 Days for Life
 February 22, 2023-April 2, 2023**



The Spirit of God has made me, and the breath of the Almighty gives me life. Job 33:4

Because we are made in the image of God, all human life has inherent dignity and value from the moment of conception to its natural end.

Contact 1-888-LIFE-AID (1-888-543-3243) or optionline.org or text HELPLINE TO 313131.2023

For those wishing to pray for these innocents, prayer sheets are available in the church vestibule.

Deadline for Removal of Cemetery Grave Memorials

We have been very fortunate regarding the weather and being able to have our grave memorials remain in the cemetery. However, it is time to remove all items (**except for the solar lighting**) by Wednesday, March 29th. The cemetery should be cleared because of Passion Sunday (April 2) and the preparation of Holy Week. Cemetery maintenance will remove all items if any remain on March 30th. Thank you.

**Scripture passage
 from St. Paul’s Letter to the Romans 12:1-2**

I urge you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God, your spiritual worship. Do not conform yourself to this age but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may discern what is the will of God what is good and pleasing and perfect.



**The Preparation of the Gifts
 Our Need for Transformation**

At this time of the Liturgy the priest prepares for the great **Eucharistic Prayer**. The bread and wine are brought to the Altar. The bread is offered up first with the words: “Blessed are You, Lord God of all creation, for through Your Goodness we have received the bread we offer you: fruit of the earth and work of human hands it will become for us the Bread of life.” The people’s response: “Blessed be God forever.”

Following this Blessing is the blessing of the wine. The wine is poured into the chalice and a small amount of water is poured into the wine. The priest or deacon will then pray: “By the Mystery of this water and wine may we come to share the Divinity of Christ Who humbled Himself to share in our humanity.” Then, the priest slightly elevates the chalice and prays the words aloud for the people to hear: “Blessed are You, Lord God of all creation, for through Your Goodness we have received the wine we offer You, fruit of the vine and work of human hands. It will become our spiritual drink.” The people respond: “Blessed be God forever.”

In The Mass, page 110, Dr. Ed Sri says of this action—“In a traditional interpretation of this practice, the wine symbolizes Christ’s Divinity and the water symbolizes our humanity. The mingling of the water and wine points to the Mystery of God becoming man. It also points to our call to share in Christ’s Divine Life.”

After this, the priest has water poured over his hands by the server as a symbolic gesture of washing before he prays the Holiest Prayer at the Mass —the **Eucharistic Prayer**). The background of this cleansing ritual is found in the Old Testament where “the priests needed to wash their hands (and feet) in a bronze basin of water before entering the tabernacle or drawing near to the Altar of Incense.” The priest prays the prayer silently: “Lord, wash away my iniquity and cleanse me of my sin.” (Exodus 30:17-21, The Mass, page 112)

At the conclusion of the **Preparation of the Gifts** is the following “**Dialogue Prayer**” in which the priest and the people have gathered. The priest says: “Pray, brethren, that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God the Almighty Father.” The people respond: “May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of His Name, for our good and the good of all His Holy Church.” At these words we are truly offering ourselves up with Christ’s own Sacrifice and giving of Himself so that we, too can share in the transformation of our lives to a new life that Christ gave us by His Death and Resurrection.

Wow! This is important for our salvation. Think of the following [Scripture passage from St. Paul’s Letter to the Romans 12:1-2](#) during this part of Mass. Allow it to bring healing and transformation in the areas of your life where you need it most.

God Bless, Father Mark.

We Celebrate, We Listen, We Pray

Date	Intention	Requested by	Celebration	Scriptures
Monday, March 13, 2023 8:30 a.m. Mass	Blessed Mother's Intentions	Parishioner	Lenten Weekday	2 Kgs 5:1-15ab Lk 4:24-30
Tuesday, March 14, 2023 No Mass	No Communion Service		Lenten Weekday	Dn 3:25, 34-43 Mt 18:21-35
Wednesday, March 15, 2023 No Mass			Lenten Weekday	Dn 4:1, 5-9 Mt 5:17-19
Thursday, March 16, 2023 8:30 a.m. Mass	Ray and Bertie Schneider	Barb	Lenten Weekday	Jer 7:23-28 Lk 11:14-23
Friday, March 17, 2023 8:30 a.m. Mass	Richard Bonanno	Kathleen, RJ, and Laura	Saint Patrick, Bishop	Hos 14:2-10 Mk 12:28-34
Saturday, March 18, 2023 8:30 a.m. Mass			Saint Cyril of Jerusalem, Bishop and Doctor of the Church	Hos 6:1-6 Lk 18:9-14
Saturday, March 18, 2023 5:30 p.m. Mass	Josephine Moyer	Michele Castellani - daughter	The Vigil of the Fourth Sunday of Lent	(see below)
Sunday, March 19, 2023 9:15 a.m. Mass	Living and Deceased Parishioners		The Fourth Sunday of Lent	1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a Eph 5:8-14 Jn 9:1-41 or 9-1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38

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 : **Mary Stoker**; Domestic Administrator: **Miriam Pane**

Pastoral Council President: **Bryan Chiappelli**; Finance Council Moderator: **Leon Calliari**

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

OFFICE HOURS

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		
	Monday -	Stations of the Cross at 6:00 p.m. EVERY WEDNESDAY throughout Lent	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 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 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.