



GLORY
TO GOD
IN THE
HIGHEST
AND ON
EARTH
PEACE TO
THOSE
ON WHOM
HIS FAVOR
RESTS.

LUKE 2:14

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

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Parish Stewardship for 2021-2022

Weekly amount budgeted for 2021-2022 \$3,365.00
 Offertory from December 5 thru December 12. . . . \$4,350.00
 CSA 2022 Campaign Parish Goal \$32,404.00
 CSA pledges as of 12/12/2022 \$25,690.00

Thank you for supporting St. Joseph

Pope's Intention: We pray that volunteer non-profit organizations committed to human development find people dedicated to the common good and ceaselessly seek out new paths to international cooperation.



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



Church Office closed December 23 thru January 1, 2023.

Mass Schedule

for December 26 thru January 8, 2023

* No Mass/No Communion Service
 December 26-30

* **Regular Weekend Masses** **December 31-January 1**

* No Mass/No Communion Service January 2-6

* **First Saturday, January 7 at 8:30 a.m.**

Communion Service with Adoration and Benediction

Regular Weekend Mass Schedule resumes on January 7

Church Doors Opening/Closing Hours

The week from Monday 12/26 thru Friday 12/30) the Church will be opened from 10 am until 4 pm and on the following days... Saturday morning, December 31 — 10 am thru 7 pm
 Sunday, January 1 — 8 am thru 4 pm
 Monday January 2 — 8 am thru 4 pm (regular hours)



The Guardian Angel Giving Tree Project has started. The gift tags are prepared and are on the Giving Tree in the social hall for pick-up before and after Mass from now until January 1st. This year's project is a **Bath Towel Gift**. Please no wash cloths or bath towel sets.

Gift donation **return date is Sunday, January 8th** in the social hall or at the Faith Formation Center during office hours week of January 8th. **Thank you for your generosity.**

Faith Formation classes resume January 15th.

Reminder: The Catechist Training Session will be held January 8th from 10:15-12:15 at the Faith Formation Center. Please contact the Office #3 or #5 with your RSVP by Tuesday, January 3rd.



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

Baptismal Training

January and February 2023

January 3	6:30 pm	Queen of the World	834-4701
January 18	7:00 pm	Holy Rosary, Johnsonburg	965-2819
February 7	7:00 pm	St. Joseph, Force	787-4151
February 23	7:00 pm	St. Mark, Emporium	486-0569



Your prayers are requested for the soul of **Gary Rio** who passed away December 11. May he rest in peace. Amen.



Christmas 2022

Angels and Our Songs to God

Angels have always fascinated me.

Many people I've talked to over the years feel the same way about Angels. Angels are awesome beings. There are nine choirs of Angels with different purposes. Each one is its own individual species. The power, spiritual gifts, knowledge, wisdom and abilities of one Angel are far greater than all the people that ever lived, now on this earth and people yet to be born in this world.

Many movies, stories, and artists have described and depicted angels in many creative ways. We must always know that Angels **always** do what God tells them to do. They are very humble, obedient, and very glorious. They are our Heavenly Friends.

Two stories of angels intervening in human history are told in Luke's Gospel. The first is when the Angel Gabriel came to Mary and announced that she is to be the Mother of our long-awaited Savior. Gabriel's greeting was "Hail full of grace! The Lord is with You." (Luke 1:28) Mary's 'yes' brought about the incarnation — Jesus's Birth.

The second story is the presence of a multitude of magnificent Angels whose heavenly voices filled the night skies with songs and praise and wonder on that first Christmas when they sang near the manger at Bethlehem. "Glory to God in the Highest." (Luke 2:14)

This chorus of the Angels' praises was necessary because this was a night like no other. It was a night that would and still does NOW unite all generations, all cultures, all races, all people of good will because of He Who was born — Jesus Christ our Savior. Our salvation is made real in this Holy Infant Jesus, Who will give us new life and joy in our songs to God.

What are some of the Christmas songs you enjoy singing? Whether they be country Gospel, Church Hymns or the beautiful traditional Christmas songs that gives praise to God over the centuries, listen to them and sing along.

My brothers and sisters, sing when you get together on Christmas Day whether before or after



your dinner. God the Father gave us the Gift of His Son for Christmas. In turn, let us like the Angels, give Him our thanks and praise by singing some Christmas songs. When you sing these songs sincerely with all your heart, new life in Christ can be made real to you right now!

Merry Christmas! God Bless, Father Mark

We Celebrate, We Listen, We Pray

Date	Intention	Requested by	Celebration	Scriptures
Monday, December 26, 2022 No Mass	No Communion Service		Saint Stephen, The First Martyr	Acts 6:8-10, 7:54-59 Mt 10:17-22
Tuesday, December 27, 2022 No Mass	No Communion Service		Saint John, Apostle and Evangelist	1 Jn 1:1-4 Jn 20:1a. 2-8
Wednesday, December 28, 2022 No Mass	No Communion Service		The Holy Innocents	1 Jn 1:5—2:2 Mt 2:13-18
Thursday, December 29, 2022 No Mass	No Communion Service		Saint Thomas Becket, Bishop and Martyr	1 Jn 2:3-11 Lk 2:22-35
Friday, December 30, 2022 No Mass	No Communion Service		The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph	Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 Mt 2:13-15, 19-23
Saturday, December 31, 2022 No a.m. Mass			Saint Sylvester I, Pope	1 Jn 2:18-21 Jn 1:1-18
Saturday, December 31, 2022 5:30 p.m. Mass	Living and Deceased Parishioners		The Vigil of The Solemnity Mary, the Holy Mother of God	(see below)
Sunday, January 1, 2023 9:15 a.m. Mass	Blessed Mother's Intentions	Parishioner	The Solemnity Mary, the Holy Mother of God	Nm 6:22-27 Gal 4:4-7 Lk 2:16-21

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****Christmas Week (12/25-12/31) Church Hours**

17764 Bennetts Valley Hwy., P. O. Box 124, Force, PA 15841-0124

St. Joseph Church: Sun. 7:30 am — 4 pm; Mon., Tues., Wed., Thurs., Fri. 10 am — 4 pm Sat. 10:00 am — 7:00 amOffice Email: stjosephforce@windstream.net Website: www.stjosephforce.org Faith Formation Email: stjosephforceff@windstream.net**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 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.



3-D-4-2

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