

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



3<sup>rd</sup>

# SUNDAY OF ADVENT

"This is the one about whom it is written: Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare your way before you." - Mt 11:10



**Parish Stewardship for 2021-2022**

Weekly amount budgeted for 2021-2022 .....	\$3,365.00
Offertory November 21 thru November 28 .....	\$1,902.00
Offertory November 28 thru December 5 .....	\$2,797.00
CSA 2022 Campaign Parish Goal .....	\$32,404.00
CSA pledges as of 12/05/2022 .....	\$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.



**Advent Penance Service**  
**This Sunday, December 18 at 2:00 pm**  
**St. Joseph Church**

**Christmas at St. Joseph Church**

(Faith Formation Children Musical Performance 4:15 pm)

**Christmas Eve Masses — 4:30 pm and 10:00 pm**

**Christmas Day Mass — 9:15 am**



The detailed schedule for St. Joseph Church Masses from Christmas Eve Vigil thru the Epiphany of Our Lord weekend is enclosed.



No Faith Formations sessions from December 25th thru January 8  
Classes will resume January 15th.



**The Guardian Angel Giving Tree Project** starts this weekend. 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 11th in the social hall or at the Faith Formation Center during office hours.

**Thank you for your generosity.**



**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



**Church Office closed**  
**December 23 thru**  
**January 1, 2023.**

**Gaudete Sunday**  
**(Third Sunday of Advent)**

If you or I could change our world and make it better where everyone is respected and love one another where all people's needs would be fulfilled, what would we do to bring about these changes? In our First Reading Isaiah describes to God's people what His plans are to make things better for them. God would start with the land turning their desert into gardens bursting with vegetation, abundant flowers, etc. as if it were singing a joyful song. This is part of the Glory of God.

Then, Isaiah says that the Messiah will come and bring healing to the blind, deaf and lame. The Psalm even gives praise to God for His Faithfulness and adds to Isaiah's list by mentioning the hungry, the oppressed, the orphans and the widows who will be helped and protected by the Lord.

In our Gospel Reading Jesus tells the disciples of John the Baptist "go tell John what you hear and see" (Mt 11: 4) Isaiah's prophecies are now being fulfilled — The Messiah is in our midst. What joy that must have brought John the Baptist! My brothers and sisters, what joy it brings to us today! The Messiah, Emmanuel Jesus is in our midst. That's why we celebrate this Third Sunday of Advent — a joyful Sunday — **Gaudet Sunday**. We light the **rose** candle and we wear rose-colored vestments to express joy.

**How is the Messiah in our midst?** His Words of Hope in the Bible. Whether spoken or through the use of social media, your words of hope to people who are feeling sad during these days leading up to Christmas are because Jesus is working through you. Our actions of kindness in helping one another in need is a tremendous support whether it is a typical daily activity or a more involved emotional and stressful situation. This attitude of joy is what can help make this world a better and more joyful place of welcoming and forgiveness. Remember, Jesus is in our midst. God Bless, Father Mark



# We Celebrate, We Listen, We Pray

Date	Intention	Requested by	Celebration	Scriptures
Monday, December 12, 2022 8:30 a.m. Mass	Living and Deceased Members of the Glen and Elda Benigni Family and Deborah Dillon	Family	Our Lady of Guadalupe	Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47
Tuesday, December 13, 2022 8:30 a.m. Mass	Matthew Klender	Family	Saint Lucy, Virgin and Martyr	Zep 3:1-2, 9-13 Mt 21:28-32
Wednesday, December 14, 2022 No Mass			Saint John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church	Is 45:6c-8, 18, 21c-25 Lk 7:18b-23
Thursday, December 15, 2022 8:30 a.m. Mass	Helen Mitchell	The Mitchell Family	Advent Weekday	Is 54:1-10 Lk 7:24-30
Friday, December 16, 2022 8:30 a.m. Mass	Art Zambanini (97th birthday)	Wife—Gen and daughter Pooney and Family	Advent Weekday	Is 56:1-3a, 6-8 Jn 5:33-36
Saturday, December 17, 2022 8:30 a.m. Mass			Late Advent Weekday	Gn 49:2, 8-10 Mt 1:1-17
Saturday, December 17, 2022 5:30 p.m. Mass	Living and Deceased Parishioners		The Vigil of Fourth Sunday of Advent	(see below)
Sunday, December 18, 2022 9:15 a.m. Mass	Gerard Secco, Sr.	Barb and Frank Azzato	Fourth Sunday of Advent	Is 7:10-14 Rom 1:1-7 Mt 1:18-24

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



3-D-4-2

For ad info. call 1-800-477-4574 • www.4lpi.com

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