

1st Sunday OF ADVENT



St. Joseph Parish Force, PA

Bringing Eucharistic Life to the Valley since 1872

Parish Stewardship for 2020-2021

Weekly amount budgeted for 2020-2021 \$3,462.00
Offertory from November 15 thru November 22
Unavailable due to Thanksgiving Holiday Closing
 CSA 2021 Campaign Parish Goal \$33,199.00
 CSA 2021 Total Pledged \$21,380.00
 CSA 2021 Total Pledged Amount Received \$20,400.00



“Pray the Rosary everyday to obtain peace for the world.” Join us at St. Joseph Church each Tuesday at 6:00 p.m.

**Changes to the Communion Rite**

Since 2003, the posture of the people during the Communion Rite in the Diocese of Erie has differed from the practice of most dioceses in the United States. Since that time, much has changed. After much reflection, Bishop Lawrence Persico has determined that the time is opportune for us to return to the practice of kneeling after the singing of the Lamb of God. Once the people return after receiving Holy Communion, they may kneel or be seated. All will stand at the “Let us pray” for the prayer after Communion. This restored practice is intended to help to unify posture and assist those parishioners who are unable to stand for long periods of time, as well as bring our practice into union with our neighboring dioceses. Those who are unable to kneel should feel free to sit instead. This directive goes into effect the First Sunday of Advent, 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, November 27, 2021.

Cemetery Memorials Removal To begin preparing the cemetery for the winter months, Monday, November 29th all memorials you have placed on the graves of your loved ones are to be removed. Since the Christmas season follows so closely, any memorials you would like to place for this season can replace the items of the prior seasons. The **deadline to remove all items except for the solar lighting must be removed by Tuesday, February 1, 2022.**

Food Bank Your non-perishable food donations may be placed in the vestibule in the church or at the church office. At this time of the Thanksgiving season, your donations are appreciated even more. Thank you for your ongoing support to the Christian Food Bank and especially at these special collections. You are helping many. The total for the October collection was 100.7 lbs.

St. Andrew Christmas Novena is prayed 15 times a day for 25 days beginning this Tuesday on the **Feast of St. Andrew**, the Apostle until the **Eve of Christmas**. It is believed that whoever recites this novena prayer 15 times a day for 25 days will obtain what is asked. The novena is not addressed to Saint Andrew but to God Himself, asking Him to grant our request in the honor of the birth of His Son at Christmas . . .

Hail and blessed be the hour and moment in which the Son of God was born of the most pure Virgin Mary, at midnight, in Bethlehem, in piercing cold. In that hour, vouchsafe, O my God! to hear my prayers and grant my desires, (mention your request here) through the merits of Our Savior Jesus Christ, and of His Blessed Mother. Amen.

2022 Lectors: The new liturgical year begins on the weekend of November 27-28. Your 2022 Lector's Workbook is on the table in the vestibule.



Advent

Our Cause for Inner Strength

I have been told of the story of a courageous woman who lived in the early 20th century who was poor and had five children. Her husband died suddenly — four days before her sixth child was born. Can we imagine what she was going through? She spent hours praying in the closest Catholic Church. She gained inner strength to carry on with the help of friends and with the grace of God in order for her to provide for her children as a single mom. This provided a new hope for her. In a like manner God had provided hope and strength to His people as we hear about in the following Readings.

In the First Reading during this First Sunday of Advent are affirming words of strength and hope to the people of Israel in the midst of being taken over by the enemy Babylonians. The Prophet Jeremiah says: “The days are coming, says the Lord when I will fulfill the promise I made to the House of Israel and Judah ... Judah shall be safe ... Jerusalem shall dwell secure ...” (Jeremiah 33:14-16) The inner strength and hope of these people are God’s reign and Kingdom which will come through a messiah in the line of David which was fulfilled in Jesus.

The Second Reading from the First Letter of Saint Paul to the Thessalonians gives inner strength to a Christian community who are anxiously and even desperately awaiting the return of Christ in glory. They need to be patient, but St. Paul does affirm their love in order to replace the doubt in their hearts and to strengthen them. St. Paul’s words are . . .

Brothers and sisters;

“May the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we have for you, so as to strengthen your hearts.”

(1 Thessalonians 3:12-13a)

Finally, in the Holy Gospel according to Luke, Jesus is direct in saying that the time before He comes back again will be a time of dismay among nations, fear and fright in people’s hearts and in daily anxieties. But, His Words of hope and strength are “Be vigilant at all times and pray that you have the strength to escape the tribulations that are imminent and to stand before the Son of Man” (Luke 21:36)

Now, ask yourself in light of these Sacred Scriptures the following questions:

-Where in my life have I experienced the inner strength of God helping me with a problem or great concern over something or someone?

Whatever your answer is, pray the above Scripture Passages and it can be your cause for inner strength now and well beyond the Season of Advent.

We Celebrate, We Listen, We Pray

Date	Intention	Requested by	Celebration	Scriptures
Monday, November 29, 2021 8:30 a.m. Mass	Dan and Mary Scanish and Deceased Children	Family	Advent Weekday	Is 2:1-5 Mt 8:5-11
Tuesday, November 30, 2021 8:30 a.m. Mass	Leo Brown	Family	Saint Andrew, Apostle	Rom 10:9-18 Mt 4:18-22
Wednesday, December 1, 2021 No Mass			Advent Weekday	Is 25:6-10 Mt 15:29-37
Thursday, December 2, 2021 8:30 a.m. Mass	Ann Michelini (1st anniversary)	Bill and Marie Michelini and Family	Advent Weekday	Is 26:1-6 Mt 7:21, 24-27
Friday, December 3, 2021 8:30 a.m. Mass FIRST FRIDAY	The Living and Deceased Members of the Glen and Elda Benigni Family and Deborah Dillon	The Family	Saint Francis Xavier, Priest	Is 29:17-24 Mt 9:27-31
Saturday, December 4, 2021 8:30 a.m. Communion Service, Adoration and Benediction FIRST SATURDAY			Saint John Damascene, Priest and Doctor of the Church	Is 30:19-21, 23-26 Mt 9:35—10:1, 5a, 6-8
Saturday, December 4, 2021 5:30 p.m. Mass	Living and Deceased Parishioners		Vigil of the 2nd Sunday of Advent	(See below)
Sunday, December 5, 2021 9:15 a.m. Mass	Donald Dudley	Chris Meier	Second Sunday of Advent	Bar 5:1-9 Phil 1:4-6, 8-11 Lk 3:1-6

Ph. 814-787-4151

St. Joseph Church
STAFF

Fax 814-787-4478

Rev. Mark J. Mastrian..... Pastor
Deacon Paul Bauman..... Deacon AssistantParish Secretary: **Marlene Berasi**; Faith Formation Coordinator: **Mary Stoker**; Domestic Administrator: **Miriam Pane**
Pastoral Council President: **Bryan Chiappelli**; Finance Council Moderator: **Leon Calliari**Church
HoursSt. Joseph Church: **Sun., Mon., Tues., Thurs., Fri. 7:30 am — 4 pm; Wed. 8 am — 4 pm; Sat. 9:00 am — 7 pm**

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

Office 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

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

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