

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD
**THE WISE
STILL SEEK HIM**



Parish Stewardship

Weekly amount budgeted for 2023-2024 not available
 Offertory collection not available
 CSA 2023 Campaign Parish Goal \$31,773.00
Thank you for supporting St. Joseph Church!

Pope's Intention for January
For the Gift of Diversity in the Church

Let us pray that the Holy Spirit helps us recognize the gift of different charisms within the Christian community, and to discover the richness of different ritual traditions in the heart of the Catholic Church.

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

Baptism Preparation Classes

January 09	6:30 pm	Queen of the World	814-834-4701
February 08	7:00 pm	St. Joseph Church	814-787-4151
February 29	6:30 pm	St. Mark Church (Emporium)	814-486-0569

St. Boniface Knights of Columbus will be having a Breakfast Buffet on Sunday, January 7th, 2024 from 8:00 am - 11:30 am (or until sold out). \$10 for adults/\$5 kids
 Saint Boniface Social Hall Cafeteria, Kersey, PA

Faith Formation classes will resume January 7, 2024.
 Confirmation classes will resume on January 14, 2024.

Child Protection and Creating Safe Environments – January is Human Trafficking Prevention Month. Child Sex Trafficking is a form of child abuse that occurs when any child under age 18 is advertised, solicited, or exploited through a commercial sex act where sex is traded for money, food, shelter, drugs, or anything of value. Traffickers can be anyone including friends, gangs, family members, foster parents, perceived trusted adults or boyfriends. Talk to your child openly about this reality and build resiliency. Address the myths and misconceptions that glamorize the commercial sex industry. Social media and gaming platforms are increasingly becoming the tool traffickers and other predators use to target, groom, and recruit victims. At some point your child will likely be confronted with inappropriate messages or see things online that they know are wrong. Teach your child how to handle these situations. You can report suspected child sex trafficking or make a tip at 1-800-843-5678 or CyberTipline.org. For additional resources visit www.eriecd.org/childprotection/

The feast of the Epiphany is when the 3 wise men visited the Holy Family. Think of a wise thing that your child has done or something that he/she has taught you? Affirm this wisdom in your child. Learn from each other.

Thank you to all who donated to the food collection throughout 2023! Your contributions of food and/or money to the **St. Marys Food Bank** is greatly appreciated! Many families benefit from your generosity. **Thank you!**

Giving Tree We are still collecting new bed sheets in sizes TWIN and/or FULL for the Guardian Angel Center. You can place your unwrapped gifts under the tree in the social hall or you can bring them to the office M-Th 9am-4pm. Items will be delivered to the Guardian Angel Center in January.



EPIPHANY
The Diligence of the Magi

The most inspiring lesson that the Magi (The Three Kings) can give to us during this Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord is their diligent, persistent spirit in traveling almost 1,000 miles in search of the "newborn King of the Jews." (Mt. 2: 2) It simply says they were from the East and they used the night stars as their compass that led them to Jerusalem. Once there, they asked for further directions and said; "we saw His Star at it's rising and have come to do Him homage." (Mt 2: 2)

After King Herod got instructions from the chief priests as to where the Christ was to be born, he sent the Magi "to Bethlehem and said; 'go and search diligently for the child. When you have found Him, bring me word that I, too, may go and do Him homage.'" (Mt 2: 8) Of course, as we all know, Herod had no intention to offer homage to the Christ child. But, the Magi on the other hand, "were overjoyed at seeing the star and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary, His Mother." (Mt 2: 10-11) Their diligent search for the Christ child was completed. They then knelt down and offered the most precious gifts to the Baby Jesus: Gold, Frankincense, and Myrrh. Their act of homage was their greatest gift.

My friends, as we conclude the Christmas Season this coming week, may each of us ask ourselves; Were we searching for something from Jesus during this Christmas Season? Did we find Who we were diligently searching for? May we say Yes, I've found Christ as the Magi did. And to say, I've found Christ in another person, in myself, and at Mass, during this Holy Season.

God Bless!
 Father Mark



We Celebrate, We Listen, We Pray

Date	Intention	Requested by	Celebration	Scriptures
Monday, January 08, 2024 No Mass			The Baptism of the Lord	Is 55: 1-11 or 1 Jn 5: 1-9 Mk 1: 7-11
Tuesday, January 09, 2024 No Mass			Weekday (First Week in Ordinary Time)	1 Sm 1: 9-20 Mk 1: 21-28 (306)
Wednesday, January 10, 2024 No Mass			Weekday	1 Sm 3: 1-10 19-20 Mk 1: 29-39 (307)
Thursday, January 11, 2024 No Mass			Weekday	1 Sm 4: 1-11 Mk 1: 40-45 (308)
Friday, January 12, 2024 No Mass			Weekday	1 Sm 8: 4-7, 10-22a Mk 2: 1-12 (309)
Saturday, January 13, 2024 No Mass			Weekday St. Hilary, Bishop & Doctor of the Church	1 Sm 9: 1-4, 17-19, 10: 1 Mk 2: 13-17 (310)
Saturday, January 13, 2024 5:30 p.m. Mass	Living and Deceased Members of St. Joseph Parish		Vigil of Second Sunday in Ordinary Time	(see below)
Sunday, January 14, 2024 9:15 a.m. Mass	Stanley & Mary Gusherowski and grandson Steven Perkins	Barb and Dave Lease	Second Sunday in Ordinary Time	1 Sm 3: 3b-10, 19 1 Cor 6: 13c-15a, 17-20 Jn 1: 35-42 (65)

St. Joseph Church

17764 Bennetts Valley Hwy., P. O. Box 124, Force, PA 15841
Ph. 814-787-4151

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

Rev. Mark J. Mastrian..... Pastor

Domestic Administrator: Miriam Pane **Secretary:** Barb Allegretto **Faith Formation:** Mary Ann Toney
Pastoral Council President: Bryan Chiappelli **Finance Council Moderator:** Leon Calliari

OFFICE HOURS

Monday—Thursday 9a.m.—4 p.m.

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

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 on 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 9th grade and who are active in the Faith Formation process or attend a Catholic High School 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.

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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.



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