



THE HOLY FAMILY

The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom;
and the favor of God was upon him. - Lk 2:40

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

Parish Stewardship for 2022-2023

Weekly amount budgeted for 2022-2023 \$3,365.00
 Offertory collection not available
 CSA 2023 Campaign Parish Goal \$31,773.00
Thank you for supporting St. Joseph Church!

Pope's Intention for December**For persons with disabilities**

We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the center of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programs which value their active participation.

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

The Church office will be open on Tuesday, January 2, 2024 at 9:00 am

**Mass Times**

Saturday, Dec. 30	5:30 pm	Vigil of The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph
Sunday, Dec. 31	9:15 am	Feast of The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph
Monday, Jan. 1	9:15 am	Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God (not of obligation this year)

There will be NO Faith Formation classes December 31st. Classes will resume January 7, 2024. Confirmation classes will resume on January 14, 2024.

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

Giving Tree This year, the Guardian Angel Center in Kersey has expressed a need for bed sheets. Our Confirmation class will be collecting new bed sheets in sizes TWIN and/or FULL. 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.

Sacred Heart Parish Center Super Bingo

Friday, Jan. 5, 2024 Doors open @4pm FREE lunch served @ 5:30pm. Early Bird games @6:30pm Games @6:45pm Jackpot \$2500 in 52#'s—Guaranteed \$1000 Benefits Sacred Heart Parish St. Marys, PA

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



The Holy Family

Your Family is Holy, too.

The weekend after Christmas is celebrated The Feast of The Holy Family; Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. The most popular way this has been imaged to us is the manger scene. The Baby Jesus sleeping on the cradle, while Mary and Joseph are kneeling in adoration, with a donkey and cow in the background, brings tremendous delight in knowing in faith that Our Savior was born into this world and Who wants to be born anew in our hearts and lives. This can happen as we briefly reflect on The Holy Family.

First, the Holy Family was not immune from difficulties. Mary and Joseph traveled over 90 miles on rough terrain in order to get to Bethlehem. Once they arrived, as we know, there was no room at the inn. They had to place the Baby Jesus in a manger where animals ate. They were in a cold cave with nothing to eat. In addition to this, the Holy Family had to quickly go to Egypt when Herod was searching to kill the Baby Jesus. Eventually, the Holy Family came back to Israel and settled in Nazareth. None of these events were easy for them. Nevertheless, the Holy Family remained faithful to God.

The Holy Family teaches us and our families to be faithful to God in the midst of life's rushes and challenges we did not expect. The Holy Family also can teach us that in more calming, normal, day to day activities and responsibilities, we can take the time to study the Sacred Scriptures and learn more about the rich teachings of our Catholic Faith in which Jesus Himself initially gave us at our Baptism. Finally, the Holy Family teaches us to have enduring, patient love with each person in our own family.

My friends, when we are striving to be faithful and loving to God during unexpected circumstances, and taking the necessary time to learn and read about our faith and to patiently take time for each other in our family, we too, then, are becoming holy within our family.

In conclusion, the following prayer for the family was written by Pope Saint John Paul II. Pray it for your family.

PRAYER FOR THE FAMILY

LORD God, from You every family in heaven and on earth takes its name.

Father, you are Love and Life.

Through Your Son, Jesus Christ, born of woman, and through the Holy Spirit, fountain of divine charity, grant that every family on earth may become for each successive generation a true shrine of life and love.

Grant that Your Grace may guide the thoughts and actions of husbands and wives for the good of their families and of all the families in the world.

Grant that the young may find in the family solid support for their human dignity and for their growth in truth and love.

Grant that love, strengthened by the Sacrament of marriage, may prove mightier than all the weaknesses and trials through which our families sometimes pass.

Through the intercession of the Holy Family of Nazareth, grant that the Church may fruitfully carry out her worldwide mission in and through the family.

Through Christ our Lord, Who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life for ever and ever. Amen (Pope John Paul II)

God Bless,
 Father Mark

We Celebrate, We Listen, We Pray

Date	Intention	Requested by	Celebration	Scriptures
Monday, January 01, 2024 9:15 a.m. Mass	Dennis Klaiber (birthday)	brothers and sister	Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God (not of obligation this year)	Nm 6: 22-27 Gal 4: 4-7 Lk 2: 16-21 (18)
Tuesday, January 02, 2024 No Mass			Saints Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops & Doctors	1 Jn 2: 22-28 Jn 1: 19-28 (205)
Wednesday, January 03, 2024 No Mass			Christmas Weekday The Most Holy Name of Jesus	1 Jn 2: 29 - 3: 6 Jn 1: 29-34 (206)
Thursday, January 04, 2024 No Mass			Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious	1 Jn 3: 7-10 Jn 1: 35-42 (207)
Friday, January 05, 2024 No Mass			Saint John Neumann, Bishop	1Jn 3: 11-21 Jn 1: 43-51 (208)
Saturday, January 06, 2024 No Mass			Christmas Weekday Saint André Bessette, Religious	1Jn 5: 5-13 Mk 1: 7-11 Lk 3: 33-38 (209)
Saturday, January 06, 2024 5:30 p.m. Mass	Ken Mitchell	brother Jack and family	Vigil of The Epiphany of the Lord	(see below)
Sunday, January 07, 2024 9:15 a.m. Mass	Living and Deceased Members of St. Joseph Parish		The Epiphany of the Lord	Is 60: 1-6 Eph 3: 2-3a, 5-6 Mt 2: 1-12 (20)

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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