

1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

WAIT
IN HOPE



Parish Stewardship for 2022-2023

Weekly amount budgeted for 2022-2023 \$3,365.00
 Offertory collection 11/13/2023 thru 11/19/2023 \$2,861.00
 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.

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Monday evenings, at 6:30 pm, we will be having Exposition, Adoration, and Benediction in the Church. We will continue each Monday through Monday, Dec. 18th.

REMOVAL OF CEMETERY DECORATIONS In preparation of the Christmas season and with the weather cooperating, we are reminding everyone to please remove all summer decorations that are currently on the graves. You may begin placing your Christmas flowers/wreaths on the graves this week. Thank you.

Confirmation classes for this month of December will be held on Sunday, December 10th and December 17th.

Fall Fish Dinners: Thank you to everyone who made our Fall Fish Dinners a great success! So many volunteer hours are put into each dinner. And the support of the community who purchase dinners is greatly appreciated! We are already looking forward to the Lenten dinners, which will begin on February 14, 2024, Ash Wednesday. Again, THANK YOU!

Kids Christmas Party Saturday, December 9th from 2-4 pm at the American Legion in Weedville. Includes Santa visit, cookies/refreshments, activities, and sign up for great prizes! Children must be accompanied by an adult.



"THE GRIEVING SPIRIT RETREAT SERIES"
 with Dr. Jan Satterlee

Grief and the Holidays December 5, 2023

Visit bethanyretreatcenter.org or call 814-263-4855 to register.

Sacred Heart Church 31st Annual Bah Humbug Festival
 at the Sacred Heart Parish Center December 9th 9am-2pm
 See bulletin insert for more details!

Child Protection and Creating Safe Environments- Teaching Kids to Be Smart About Social Media: There are plenty of good things about social media – but also many risks and things kids and teens should avoid. To help your child find the balance, it's important to talk with your kids about how to use social media wisely. Emphasis to your child that it's important to: 1.) Be nice. Mean behavior is not OK. 2.) Think twice before hitting "enter". Remind them that what they post can be used against them. 3.) Use privacy settings. 4.) Don't "friend" strangers. If you don't know them, don't friend them. 5.) Teach kids not to share anything on social media that they wouldn't want their teachers, college admissions officers, future bosses – and even grandma – to see. For additional resources visit www.eriecd.org/childprotection/

**The Examen During Advent**

As we begin this Holy Season of Advent, the Scriptures help us to be consciously aware of some special ways God is working in our lives. God will take the initiative to show us personally, but we must strive to watch for it so we can recognize God's action. The Gospel says quite clearly to "Be watchful! Be Alert! You do not know when the time will come." (Mark 13:33)

St. Ignatius of Loyola can help us be aware of God's Presence and Action in our lives with the prayer practice called the *Examen*. This is simply to take ten to fifteen minutes toward the end of the day to review and reflect on ways God was helping you understand His Activity in our lives. It might be about a complex issue that you worked through and was easily resolved. It may be a new insight into your faith. But, it can also be an affirming complement from another person, the amazement of a new talent or ability you've discovered, or the lyrics and melody of a new song you heard that lifted your spirits. Once you can identify something of God during your day, then proceed with the following steps as much as time allows...

Thanksgiving: Identify the actual blessing you have received from God and say in prayer: "Thank You, God."

Light: Pray to be able to see the truth of yourself as God sees you.

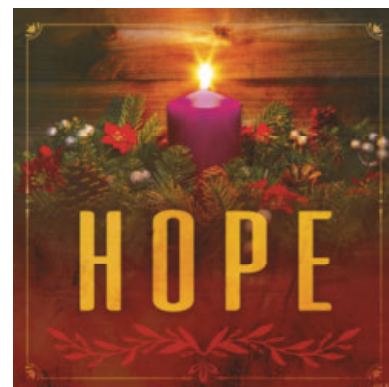
Review of the Day: As you look at how things went in your life this day, ask yourself; What was the one thing or event that stands out most? What are your thoughts and feelings about that moment of reflection?

Response: In response to the above questions, was it something positive or negative? Were there both positive and negative events that occurred that day?

Action: If the event or experience was not good or wrong, then plan how to correct it for the next day. If the events or the experiences that day are good, positive and joyful events, attitudes, or situations that went well, then decide how it can be repeated for the next day. Conclude with an *Our Father*.

Advent is a season of *hope and joy*.
 Let's watch for it!

God Bless,
 Father Mark



We Celebrate, We Listen, We Pray

Date	Intention	Requested by	Celebration	Scriptures
Monday, December 04, 2023 8:30 a.m. Mass	Mary Youngmark	Elaine Stotler	Advent Weekday Saint John Damascene, Priest and Doctor of the Church	Is 2: 1-5 Mt 8: 5-11
Tuesday, December 05, 2023 8:30 a.m. Mass	Dan and Mary Scanish and deceased children	Family	Advent Weekday	Is 11: 1-10 Lk 10: 21-24
Wednesday, December 06, 2023 No Mass			Advent Weekday Saint Nicholas, Bishop	Is 25: 6-10 Mt 15: 29-37
Thursday, December 07, 2023 8:30 a.m. Mass	Jean Assalone	daughter Sandra and family	Saint Ambrose, Bishop and Doctor of the Church	Is 26: 1-6 Mt 7: 21, 24-27
Friday, December 08, 2023 9:00 am Mass 7:00 pm Mass Holy Day of Obligation	Blessed Mother's Intention Penny Coccimiglio	 Richard and Family	The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary	Gn 3: 9-15, 20 Eph 1: 3-6, 11-12 Lk 1: 26-38
Saturday, December 09, 2023 No Mass			Advent Weekday Saint Juan Diego Cuauhtlatotzin	Is 30: 19-21, 23-26 Mt 9: 35—10: 1, 5a, 6-8
Saturday, December 09, 2023 5:30 p.m. Mass	Helen Mitchell (anniversary)	Family	Vigil of the Second Sunday of Advent	(see below)
Sunday, December 10, 2023 9:15 a.m. Mass	Living and Deceased Parishioners		The Second Sunday of Advent	Is 40: 1-5, 9-11 2 Pt 3: 8-14 Mk 1: 1-8

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.

SACRAMENTS OF HEALING

Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick—Celebrated for all who are seriously ill. The Sacrament is also available upon request.

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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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