



1ST SUNDAY OF LENT

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



After John had been arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God: "This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel." - Mk 1:14-15

Parish Stewardship

Offertory collection for 02/11/24.\$2,830.50

CSA Campaign Assessment for 2024.\$31,134.00

Thank you for supporting St. Joseph Church!

**Pope's Intention for February
For the Terminally Ill**

Let us pray that the sick who are in the final stages of life, and their families, receive the necessary medical and human care and accompaniment.

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

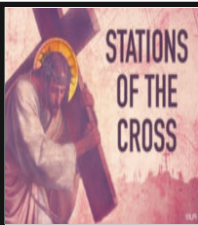
Baptism Preparation Classes

February 29	6:30 pm	St. Mark Church (Emporium)	814-486-0569
March 23	10:00 am	Sacred Heart Church	814-834-7861
April 16	7:00 pm	St. Leo Church	814-772-3135

The office will be closed on Monday, February 19th, for Presidents Day. We will re-open on Tuesday, February 20th at 9:00 am.



Our Fish/Shrimp dinners are being served every Friday during Lent from NOON to 6:30 pm (or until sold out). Cost is \$15 per dinner. Come out to enjoy a delicious dinner and support St. Joseph Church!

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS**

There will be Stations of the Cross at 6:00 pm on Wednesday evenings throughout Lent, beginning on February 21st and will continue through March 27th.

Adult Faith Formation classes will follow in the social hall.

The **CSA Campaign for 2024** has begun. If you have not made your pledge, there are CSA pledge envelopes in the pews and in the vestibule. Our assessment for this year is \$31,134.00 Please remember that once our assessment is reached, any money that exceeds our assessment remains here at St. Joseph Church. That money will be used for repairs and improvements to the left front of the Church sidewalk and step area. If we do not reach our assessment, St. Joseph Church is obligated to pay the shortage from our weekly collections, until the assessment amount is met. Thank you for your consideration and generosity!

Prayer and Finding God in the Silence with Dr. Jan Satterlee
February 25th 11:00 am to 3:30 pm at Bethany Retreat Center, Frenchville, PA Call or go online to register (814) 263-4855
bethanyretreatcenter.org

Ridgway K of C will be hosting a Turkey Dinner fundraiser on Sunday, February 25th, from 11 am until sold out. Cost is \$13.00 Dinner includes Turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes, vegetables, cranberries, dessert and drink. Dine in or take out. Located at 331 Main St. Ridgway, PA Benefits members in need.

St. Boniface K of C will be having a Breakfast Buffet on Sunday, March 3rd, from 8:00 am to 11:30 am or until sold out. \$10 for adults/\$5 for kids. St. Boniface Social Hall Cafeteria, Kersey

**The School of Lent**

Are you enrolled in the school of Lent? The "school" begins on Ash Wednesday and concludes at the beginning of the Holy Triduum; the Mass of the Lord's Supper-Holy Thursday.

Of course, we call it the Holy Season of Lent. But, in many ways, this Holy Season is like a "school" where we spend more time than ever learning about God and the Sacraments of the Church, especially the Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Confirmation, and the Holy Eucharist.

This Holy Season and "school" of Lent is especially a necessary opportunity to learn about ourselves, our relationship with Jesus our Lord, and areas of our lives that we need to work on in order to become the holy person God is calling each of us to be and to become even more.

We first want to consider what Jesus tells us in our short Gospel reading from Mark this weekend when He says; "This is the time of fulfillment. The Kingdom of God is at hand. Repent and believe in the Gospel." (Mk 1: 15) So, let's look at each one of these sentences and see for ourselves what Jesus is saying to each of us individually.

"This is the time of fulfillment." Ask yourself; what longing, what need, what healing or blessing that has started in your life that has not been fulfilled? Ask Jesus to bring it to a greater fulfillment. Read a scripture passage, such as in St. Paul's letter to the Philippians Ch 1 Verse 6 that says; "I am sure of this much: that God Who has begun a good work in you will carry it through to completion right up to the day of Christ Jesus." Claim these words in prayer for the area of your life that needs fulfillment.

"The Kingdom of God is at hand." The kingdom in Jesus' Mind is all of the good things that He wants us to have for our human life here on earth that will prepare us for the absolutely glorious, fulfilling, ever-lasting life of Heaven. St. Paul calls it "justice, peace, and the joy that is given by the Holy Spirit." (Romans Ch. 14: 17) If all of these virtues and many other good, spiritual benefits were at hand (or close by) during Jesus' time, how much more at hand are they to us today? Pray for them and thank God for them. What great gifts and virtues these are in our lives and in the lives of the people around us.

"Repent and believe in the Gospel." Ah, here is where the "school" of Lent really needs to take place. First, what are the areas we need repent of and go to confession in order to receive the healing forgiveness of Jesus our Lord?

Finally, believing in the Gospel means to believe in the Good News of Christ. What this means to each of us personally is to take time in this "school" of Lent to read the Gospel daily and pray for the Grace to BELIEVE that the Life, Words, and Actions of Christ our Lord will help to transform areas of your life and make you more of a disciple of Christ in the "school" of LIFE as well as in the "school" of LENT. God Bless, Father Mark

We Celebrate, We Listen, We Pray

Date	Intention	Requested by	Celebration	Scriptures
Monday, February 19, 2024 8:30 a.m. Mass	Leonard Lovenduski	Donald & Nancy Chiappelli	Lenten Weekday	Lv 19: 1-2, 11-18 Mt 25: 31-46 (224)
Tuesday, February 20, 2024 8:30 a.m. Mass	Dennis Klaiber	Brothers and Sister	Lenten Weekday	Is 55: 10-11 Mt 6: 7-15 (225)
Wednesday, February 21, 2024 No Mass			Lenten Weekday Saint Peter Damian, Bishop and Doctor of the Church	Jon 3: 1-10 Lk 11: 29-32 (226)
Thursday, February 22, 2024 8:30 a.m. Mass	Eddie Levenduski 85th birthday	Wife-Janice	The Chair of Saint Peter the Apostle	1 Pt 5: 1-4 Mt 16: 13-19 (535)
Friday, February 23, 2024 8:30 a.m. Mass	Patricia Keefer	Rita Fenice	Lenten Weekday Saint Polycarp, Bishop & Martyr	Ez 18: 21-28 Mt 5: 20-26 (228)
Saturday, February 24, 2024 No Mass			Lenten Weekday	Dt 26: 16-19 Mt 5: 43-48 (222)
Saturday, February 24, 2024 5:30 p.m. Mass	Living and Deceased Members of St. Joseph Parish	Family	Vigil of Second Sunday of Lent	(see below)
Sunday, February 25, 2024 9:15 a.m. Mass	Veronica Dezanet Payne	Walter & Christine Gavazzi	Second Sunday of Lent	Gn 22: 1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18 Rom 8: 31b-34 Mk 9: 2-10 (26)

St. Joseph Church

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

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

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

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.

Reconciliation – 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.



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