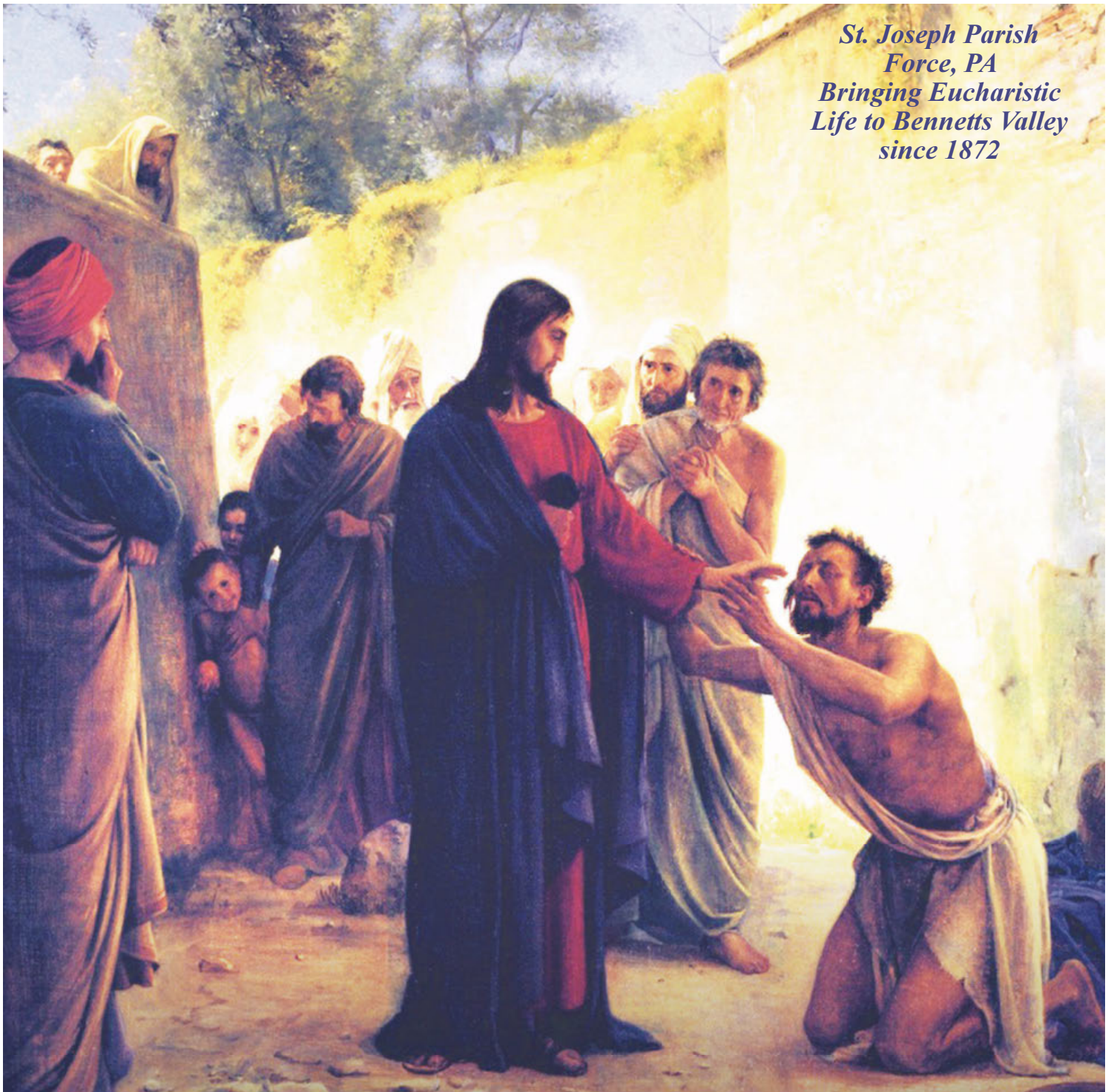


*St. Joseph Parish
Force, PA
Bringing Eucharistic
Life to Bennetts Valley
since 1872*



4TH SUNDAY OF LENT



When Jesus heard that they had thrown him out,
he found him and said, "Do you believe in the
Son of Man?" - Jn 9:35

Parish Stewardship for 2022-2023

Weekly amount budgeted for 2022-2023 \$3,365.00
 Offertory collection 3/06/23 thru 3/13/23\$3,381.00
 CSA 2023 Campaign Parish Goal \$31,773.00

Thank you for supporting St. Joseph Church

Pope's Intention for March

We pray for those who have suffered harm from members of the Church; may they find within the Church herself a concrete response to their pain and suffering.



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



**Baptismal Training
 March, April, and May 2023**

March 25	10:00 am	Sacred Heart, St. Marys	834-7861
April 18	7:00 pm	St. Leo, Ridgway	772-3135
May 25	7:00 pm	St. Mary, St. Marys	781-1019



**Stations of the Cross at 6:00 p.m.
 EVERY WEDNESDAY throughout Lent**



Let us pray for the happy repose of the soul of **David R. Pirazzi** who passed February 21 and the soul of **Klaus-Peter Heim** who passed March 8. May they rest in peace.



**Days for Life
 February 22, 2023-April 2, 2023**

Because we are made in the image of God, all human life has inherent dignity and value from the moment of conception to its natural end. Contact 1-888-LIFE-AID (1-888-543-3243) or optionline.org or text HELPLINE TO 313131.2023 For those wishing to pray for these innocents, prayer sheets are available in the church vestibule.

Update Regarding the Deadline of Cemetery Memorials

The deadline (by Wednesday, March 29th) for removing items from the graves (**except for the solar lighting**) remains the same, however it is time to remove all items which are very old or faded and those of a Christmas theme. At this time you may place your Easter/Spring arrangement. On March 30th cemetery maintenance will remove all items that do not pertain to Easter/Spring.

Please remember to donate to the **CRS Rice Bowl collection** and make a difference in the lives of people in your local community and around the world! Your Lenten alms are helping communities find solutions to problems like hunger and malnutrition.

**Time for the Bennetts Valley Senior Center
 Spring Auction Extravaganza!**

Saturday, March 25th—4 pm Sale of auction tickets; 5 pm Food and Beverages; 5:30 pm Entertainment by Greg Snelick on the accordion. Items will be auctioned throughout the evening. Auction items on display and tickets may be purchased March 20, 21 & 23 between 11 am and 1 pm. See insert for more details. **EVERYONE IS WELCOME!**



**The Preface at Mass
 Popular Saints in March**

The most important prayer at Mass is the **Eucharistic Prayer** when the simple gifts of bread and wine are prayed over and become the **Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ**. In order to properly prepare ourselves for the grace of this prayer, we begin with a dialogue between the priest and the people. This dialogue and the prayer that follows is called the **Preface**.

Priest: The Lord be with you.
 People: And with your spirit.
 Priest: Lift up your hearts.
 People: We lift them up to the Lord.
 Priest: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
 People: It is right and just.

Let's take the words *The Lord be with you*. **What does this mean? Why does the priest say this to the people?** The priest is assuring us that the Lord will be with us as we prepare to hear this **Most Sacred Eucharistic Prayer**.

Also, in the people's response — *and with your spirit*— the people are assuring the priest that the Lord is with his spirit as he prays this prayer.

In the part of this dialogue the words of the priest—*Lift up your hearts*; the people respond with *we lift them up to the Lord*. The words of *Lift up your hearts* are actually found in the Bible in the Old Testament in the Book of Lamentations 3:4 — “*Let us lift up our hearts and hands to God in heaven.*” The heart is emphasized here. **But why?** Dr. Ed Sri explains: “In the Bible, the heart is the center of the person from which thoughts, emotions and actions originate. All intentions and commitments flow from the human heart. Therefore, when the priest at Mass says ‘*Lift up your hearts*’, he is summoning us to give our fullest attention to what is about to unfold. This is a wake-up call to set aside all others concerns and focus our mind, will, and emotions — our heart— on the sublimity of what is happening in the **Eucharistic Prayer**.” (Dr. Ed Sri, *The Mass*, page 228)

The priest concludes with *Let us give thanks to the Lord our God*. The word **Eucharist** means *giving thanks*. Therefore, it is appropriate that we start expressing our thanksgiving now at Mass with the words *It is right and just*. It certainly is right and just to thank God throughout the day and EVERYDAY!

St. Patrick: This popular saint is actually the Patron Saint of our Diocese as well as the Patron Saint of Ireland. The first cathedral in our Diocese was named after St. Patrick. Sometime later St. Peter Cathedral was built and became our diocesan cathedral.

St. Patrick is well-known for bringing the Christian faith to Ireland. In his famous writings— **Confessio** —he expresses a humble gratefulness in all God has done for him. Pictures depict him with a shamrock which he used to explain the **Blessed Trinity**.

St. Joseph—our Patron Saint was a *just and humble man* who always obeyed the Will of God. **St. Joseph, pray for us** that we, too, will do God's Will in our lives. Amen.

We Celebrate, We Listen, We Pray

Date	Intention	Requested by	Celebration	Scriptures
Monday, March 20, 2023 8:30 a.m. Mass	JoAnn Klaiber (birthday)	Gerald—husband	Saint Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary	2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16 Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22 Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a or Lk 2:41-51a
Tuesday, March 21, 2023 8:30 a.m. Mass	Lawrence Chiodo (2nd anniversary)	Family	Lenten Weekday	Ez 47:1-9, 12 Jn 5:1-16,
Wednesday, March 22, 2023 No Mass			Lenten Weekday	Is 49:8-15 Jn 5:17-30
Thursday, March 23, 2023 8:30 a.m. Mass	Victor Cortina	Nadine Facchine and Family	Saint Turibius of Mogrovejo, Bishop	Ex 32:7-14 Jn 5:31-47
Friday, March 24, 2023 8:30 a.m. Mass	Louise Coccimiglio Edith Giazzoni	Bonnie	Lenten Weekday	Wis 2:1a, 12-22 Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30
Saturday, March 25, 2023 8:30 a.m. Mass			The Annunciation of the Lord	Is 7:10-14, 8:10 Heb 10:4-10 Lk 1:26-38
Saturday, March 25, 2023 5:30 p.m. Mass	Living and Deceased Parishioners		The Vigil of the Fifth Sunday of Lent	(see below)
Sunday, March 26, 2023 9:15 a.m. Mass	William C. and Kathy Tyler	Lamont and Frances Gray	The Fifth Sunday of Lent	Ez 37:12-14 Rom 8:8-11 Jn 11:1-45 or 11:3-7,17, 20-27, 33b-45

St. Joseph Church

Ph. 814-787-4151 Fax 814-787-4478

Rev. Mark J. Mastrian..... Pastor
Deacon Paul Bauman Coordinator Deacon Assistant
Parish Secretary: **Marlene Berasi**; Faith Formation : **Mary Stoker**; Domestic Administrator: **Miriam Pane**
Pastoral Council President: **Bryan Chiappelli**; Finance Council Moderator: **Leon Calliari**

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

OFFICE HOURS

Monday—Thursday 9a.m.—4 p.m.

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

Church Hours: St. Joseph Church: Sun. 7:30 am — 4 pm; Mon., Tues., Wed., Thurs., Fri. 8 am—4 pm Sat. 9:00 am —

Stations of the Cross at 6:00 p.m. EVERY WEDNESDAY throughout Lent

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 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 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.