



PALM SUNDAY

Saint Joseph Parish Force, PA *Bringing Eucharistic Life to the Valley since 1872*

And when he entered Jerusalem the whole city was shaken and asked, “Who is this?” And the crowds replied, “This is Jesus the prophet, from Nazareth in Galilee.” —Mt 21:10-11

Parish Stewardship for 2019-2020

Weekly amount budgeted for 2019-2020. . . \$3,529.00

A Message from Father Mark

We know these are difficult times for everyone. St. Joseph remains committed to the spiritual care of our parishioners and the faithful in our communities. Although how we do this is changing temporarily, our purpose remains the same. Please be assured of our prayers for you and your families, particularly in the daily private Mass I am offering for your intention.

Our church doors will be open for your visitation and prayers from Monday thru Thursday 9:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m. and Friday thru Sunday 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Please be aware that like any family, our parish has ongoing operating costs. St. Joseph Church is entirely dependent upon you to meet those financial obligations. Please continue to make your weekly offertory gifts. You may drop your offering in the Shrine box in the Church or mail it to P.O. Box 124, Force, PA 15841. I thank you for your continued support. Together we will meet this challenge that is presented to us throughout the world with our prayers and cooperation to the instructions given to us by our medical experts.

**From the Office of The Most Reverend
Lawrence T. Persico, JCL,
Bishop of Erie**

The celebration of all public Masses
in the Diocese of Erie is suspended
until further notice

(St. Joseph Church hours for individual visitation and prayer
Mon-Thurs:9:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m. /Fri-Sun: 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.)

Until further notice St. Joseph Church **will not be**
serving its Lenten Fish/Shrimp Dinners
due to the Corvid-19 Pandemic. St. Joseph Church
appreciates your support for these dinners hopes to
begin serving them again.



St. Joseph "Prayer Chain"

If there is someone who could use the prayers of our
Parish, please call Gina at 787-7593.



"Care & Concern"

Do you know someone who would like to be
remembered with a card or note?
Please call 787-4151.



"Food Bank"

Thank you for your ongoing support to the
Christian Food Bank! Thank you!

A Message from the Christian Food Bank the Christian Food Bank, located at 817 S. Michael Rd., St. Marys, PA will continue to distribute food as scheduled each Thursday from 1:00-3:00 for people/families in need who reside with the St. Marys Area School District. In an effort to keep our clients and volunteers safe by limiting exposure we've modified our distribution to a drive-thru process. Recipients will be checked in and your food loaded for you while you remain in your vehicle. To avoid a dangerous traffic situation, please don't arrive early. No one will be admitted before 1:00.



**Bible Passages
to Help Reflect on Holy Week**

My brothers and sisters, as we enter Holy Week, let us be mindful to walk compassionately with Jesus as we recall His Passion and Death on the Cross for our salvation. Jesus walks compassionately with each of us, all the days of our lives and especially during this worldwide Covid-19 pandemic. Jesus shares in our joys and our sufferings in order to heal us and give us strength. Then, He wants us to share our understanding and strength with others.

"Praised be God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all consolation! He comforts us in all our afflictions and thus enables us to comfort those who are in trouble, with the same consolation we have received from Him." (2 Corinthians 1:3-4)

Ask yourself, "What are the areas in your life that have received or are receiving consolation from Jesus?"

Palm Sunday Readings:

Continue Bible reflections by reading the **Gospel of Matthew 21:1-11** which is the Gospel Reading before the Palm Sunday procession. Next, read **Isaiah 50:4-7; Philippians 2:6-11**, and then the **Passion of the Lord Jesus Christ** according to **Matthew 26:14 — 27:66**.

Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper are the following Readings: **Exodus 12:1-8, 11-14; Psalm 116:12-13, 15-16bc, 17-18; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; and the Gospel of John 13:1-15**. An additional Psalm for reflection is Psalm 42:2-3:

"As the deer longs for the running waters so my soul longs for You, O God. A thirst is my soul for God, the Living God. When shall I go and behold the Face of God?"

Again, ask yourself, "In what ways is your soul thirsting for God? What/Who will satisfy this longing in your soul during this critical time?"

Good Friday of the Passion of Our Lord. The Readings are as follows: **Isaiah 52:13—53:12; Psalm 31:2, 6, 12-13, 15-16, 17, 25; Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9; and the Gospel of John 18:1—19:42**.

In union with Christ's Passion, pray the **"Prayer of Abandonment"** by Blessed Charles de Foucauld. "Father, I abandon myself into Your hands; do with me what You will. Whatever You may do, I thank You: I am ready for all, I accept all. Let only Your will be done in me, and in all Your creatures—I wish no more than this, O Lord. Into Your hands I commend my soul: I offer it to You with all the love of my heart, for I love You, Lord, and so need to give myself, to surrender myself into Your hands without reserve, and with boundless confidence, for You are my Father."

God Bless, Father Mark

We Celebrate, We Listen, We Pray

Date	Intention	Requested by	Celebration	Scriptures
Monday, April 6, 2020	Special Intention	Yvonne Gralak	Monday of Holy Week	Is 42:1-7 Jn 12:1-11
Tuesday, April 7, 2020	Gula Watkavitch (birthday) and John M. Winkler (5th Anniversary)	Family	Tuesday of Holy Week	Is 49:1-6 Jn 13:21-33, 36-38
Wednesday, April 8, 2020			Wednesday of Holy Week	Is 50:4-9a Mt 26:14-25
Thursday, April 9, 2020	Rudy Cadori and son Robert		Mass of the Lord's Supper (Holy Thursday)	Ex 12:1-8, 11-14 1 Cor 11:23-26 Jn 13:1-15
Friday, April 10, 2020			Passion of the Lord (Good Friday)	Is 52:13—53:12 Heb 4:14—16, 5:7-9 Jn 18:1—19:42
Saturday, April 11, 2020	Living and Deceased Parishioners		Easter Vigil	Gn 1:1 — 2:2 or 1:1, 26-31a Ex 14:15—15:1 Is 55:1-11 Ez 36:16-17a, 18-28 Rom 6:3-11 PS 118:1-2 Mt 28:1-10
Sunday, April 12, 2020	George Chiodo (birthday)	wife, children and grandchildren	EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD	Acts 10:34a, 37-43 Co; 3:1-4 or 1 Cor 5:6b-8 Jn 20:1-9 or Mk 28:1-10

Ph. 814-787-4151

St. Joseph Church

Fax 814-787-4478

STAFF

Rev. Mark J. Mastrian Pastor
 Deacon Paul Bauman Deacon Assistant
 Parish Secretary: **Marlene Berasi**; Faith Formation Coordinator: **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
 Email: stjosephforce@windstream.net Website: www.stjosephforce.org

OFFICE HOURS: Monday - Thursday 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

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 – Is celebrated for all who are seriously ill annually at a parish Liturgy. The Sacrament is also available anytime 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.