

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



## 2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER (DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY)

Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands, and bring your hand and put it into my side, and do not be unbelieving, but believe." - Jn 20:26-27



**Parish Stewardship for 2022-2023**

Weekly amount budgeted for 2022-2023 . . . . . \$3,365.00  
 Offertory collection 3/27/23 thru 4/03/23 . . . . . \$3,256.00  
 Offertory collection 4/03/23 thru 4/11/2023 . . . . . \$5,962.00  
 CSA 2023 Campaign Parish Goal . . . . . \$31,773.00

Thank you for supporting St. Joseph Church

**Pope's Intention for April**

We pray for the spread of peace and non-violence by decreasing the use of weapons by States and citizens.



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

**Baptismal Training****April, May, June, and July 2023**

April 18	7:00 pm	St. Leo Magnus, Ridgway	772-3135
May 25	7:00 pm	St. Mary, St. Marys	781-1019
June 13	7:00 pm	St. Leo Magnus, Ridgway	772-3135
July 11	7:00 pm	St. Joseph, Force	787-4151

If you haven't done so yet, please remember to turn in your **Rice Bowl donation** to the Faith Formation Center. The Center is open Monday-Thursday 9-4. Your Lenten alms are helping communities find solutions to problems like hunger and malnutrition. Thank you for your generosity.

**Divine Mercy Sunday**

**Divine Mercy Chaplet** will be recited this Sunday, April 16 at 3 pm. in church followed by a film on St. Faustina in the social hall.

After 5:30 pm Mass on Saturdays April 15th, 22nd, 29th, and May 6th, St. Joseph Church will be showing the popular film **"The Chosen"** which explores the life of Jesus through the eyes of those that knew him. The film will be shown in the social hall where pizza will be served. If you plan on attending, please sign up in the vestibule for the pizza count. **All are Welcome!**

**Our Retired Diocesan Priests**

In two weeks we will have our annual Good Shepherd Collection in our parish to assist with the needs of caring for our retired diocesan priests. There is a special need to assist them with the escalating health care costs and long-term care expenses. As more priests become eligible to retire from active ministry in the next few years, our Priest Retirement Plan must be adequately funded to cover their future needs. Please consider a generous gift to the annual Diocesan Good Shepherd Collection on the weekend of April 29 and 30. Use the special envelope provided or any envelope and mark on it "Good Shepherd Collection."

"Our Drums will echo again at Bethany on April 29th! Our drumming retreat will include lunch, group drumming, storytelling, ritual, ceremony, and prayer. If you attended previously, there is always something new and if you haven't experienced the power of group drumming, join us for this daylong retreat. To learn more or register, call 814-263-4855 or visit [bethanyretreatcenter.org](http://bethanyretreatcenter.org)."

**The Image of Divine Mercy**

In 1931, our Lord Jesus Christ appeared to St. Faustina in a vision. St. Faustina was from Poland where she had received the visions. She saw Jesus clothed in a white garment with His right hand raised in a way as He was giving a blessing. His left hand was touching His garment in the area of His heart where two large rays of light came forth. One of the rays of light was red and the other pale in color.

In the vision our Lord explained to St. Faustina the meaning of His Mercy flowing from the rays. They represent Blood and Water. The pale ray stands for water which makes the soul righteous. The red ray stands for the Blood which is life for the soul. The image of our Divine Merciful Lord indicates and represents all of the graces of Divine Mercy which is being poured out upon the world and especially within the Holy Sacraments of Baptism and the Eucharist.

The feast day was established by St. Pope John Paul II when he made the announcement during his homily at the canonization of St Faustina on April 30, 2000. It was there that he declared: "It is important then that we accept the whole message that comes to us from the Word of God on the Second Sunday of Easter, which from now on throughout the Church, will be called 'Divine Mercy Sunday.'"

**Are You Like Thomas?**

On this special day when we celebrate Divine Mercy, in our Gospel Reading we hear the healing Words of Jesus when He appears to His Apostles: "Peace be with you." He continues to offer healing to them by the Holy Spirit Who can bring them Forgiveness. Forgiveness towards each other and towards the Pharisees and Roman soldiers who condemned Jesus to death. We also hear of Thomas who had the problem of doubt. Jesus continues His Healing by showing Thomas that He is truly present with His Words: "Put your finger here in my hand and side and believe." Thomas was healed of his doubt.

My friends, a good question for all of us . . . **Where in our lives do we need Jesus's Healing PEACE, His Healing FORGIVENES, and His Healing FROM DOUBT.**

God Bless,  
 Father Mark



# We Celebrate, We Listen, We Pray

Date	Intention	Requested by	Celebration	Scriptures
Monday, April 17, 2023 8:30 a.m. Mass	George and Grace Berasi (77th anniversary)	Marlene, Bob, Sandy and Joanne	Easter Weekday	Acts 4:23-3 Jn 3:1-8
Tuesday, April 18, 2023 8:30 a.m. Mass	Winston Streich (birthday)	Sandra — wife	Easter Weekday	Acts 4:32-37 Jn 3:7b-15
Wednesday, April 19, 2023 No Mass			Easter Weekday	Acts 5:17-26 Jn 3:16-21
Thursday, April 20, 2023 8:30 a.m. Mass	Ruth Ann Gregori	Rita Fenice	Easter Weekday	Acts 5:27-33 Jn 3:31-36
Friday, April 21, 2023 8:30 a.m. Mass	Aunt Dolores, Aunt Barb, Aunt Louise and Mom Theophila	Peggy and Bernadette	Saint Anselm, Bishop and Doctor of the Church	Acts 5:34-42 Jn 6:1-15
Saturday, April 22, 2023 No Mass			Easter Weekday	Acts 6:1-7 Jn 6:16-21
Saturday, April 22, 2023 5:30 p.m. Mass	Living and Deceased Parishioners		The Vigil Third Sunday of Easter	(see below)
Sunday, April 23, 2023 9:15 a.m. Mass	Virginia Benevich	Patty, Audrey and Ed	Third Sunday of Easter	Acts 2:14,22-33 1 Pt 1:17-21 Lk 24:13-35

## 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](mailto:stjosephforce@windstream.net) Website: [www.stjosephforce.org](http://www.stjosephforce.org) Faith Formation Email: [stjosephforceff@windstream.net](mailto: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 —7:00 pm**

## 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 11<sup>th</sup> 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.



3-D-4-2

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