



4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



“She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus,
because he will save his people from their sins.” - Mt 1:21

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

Parish Stewardship for 2021-2022

Weekly amount budgeted for 2021-2022 \$3,365.00
 Offertory unavailable due to holiday schedule
 CSA 2022 Campaign Parish Goal \$32,404.00
 CSA pledges as of 12/05/2022. \$25,690.00

Thank you for supporting St. Joseph

Pope's Intention: We pray that volunteer non-profit organizations committed to human development find people dedicated to the common good and ceaselessly seek out new paths to international cooperation.



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



Advent Penance Service
Today, December 18 at
2:00 pm

Christmas at St. Joseph Church

(Faith Formation Children Musical Performance 4:15 pm)
 Christmas Eve Masses — 4:30 pm and 10:00 pm
 Christmas Day Mass — 9:15 am



No Morning Mass/Communion Service
 December 26 thru December 30
 and January 3 thru January 5

Church Office closed
 December 23 thru January 1, 2023.



No Faith Formations sessions from December 25th thru January 8
 Classes will resume January 15th.



The Guardian Angel Giving Tree Project has started. The gift tags are prepared and are on the Giving Tree in the social hall for pick-up before and after Mass from now until January 1st. This year's project is a **Bath Towel Gift**. Please **no wash cloths or bath towel sets**. Gift donation return date is Sunday, January 8th in the social hall or at the Faith Formation Center during office hours week of Jan. 8th.
Thank you for your generosity.



Choir Practice every Thursday
at 6:00 pm.
New voices are always welcomed!



Baptismal Training
January and February 2023

January 3	6:30 pm	Queen of the World	834-4701
January 18	7:00 pm	Holy Rosary, Johnsonburg	965-2819
February 7	7:00 pm	St. Joseph, Force	787-4151
February 23	7:00 pm	St. Mark, Emporium	486-0569



Your prayers are requested for the soul of **Michael Gallagher** who passed away last week. May he rest in peace. Amen



Fourth Sunday of Advent
God's Promise to St. Joseph and to Us

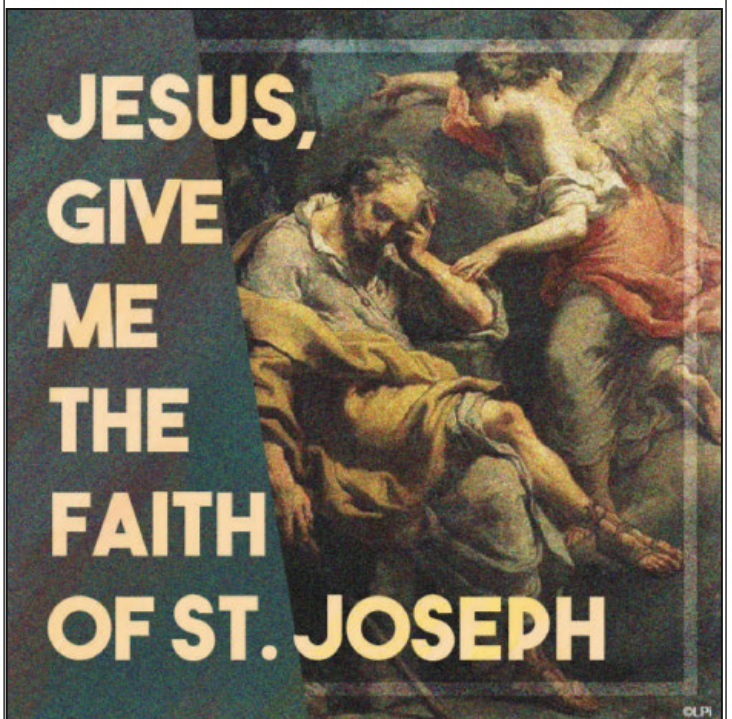
During this Fourth Sunday of Advent, we begin to hear of the events surrounding Jesus's Birth. In our Gospel the remarkable story of Joseph, a righteous man who listened to the Angel in a dream, found a way to make room in his life and in his heart for this unexpected child.

Joseph's faith had a developing process in that he begins to understand that he is uniquely the recipient and guardian of God's long-awaited promise — the Messiah Jesus. He is given consolation and peace in the knowledge of Sacred Scripture being fulfilled as we heard from Isaiah in our First Reading today "the Virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall name Him Emmanuel. (Is 7:14)

God is with us (Mt 1:24). Joseph obeys God's commands, takes Mary as his wife into his home, and becomes the human father of the Son of God.

My brothers and sisters, we, too, are recipients of God's Promise of Christ Jesus our Lord and Savior. Through our Baptism, the Sacraments, and our personal prayer time with God, we receive graces and blessings especially in the Mass. In the Holy Eucharist we receive God's Word and Jesus Himself as we go to the Altar and receive the Body and Blood, Soul, and Divinity of Christ our Lord. Pray that Jesus's Gift to us in the Mass is always shining with great anticipation and desire in our lives and brings about fulfilling happiness.

God Bless, Father Mark



We Celebrate, We Listen, We Pray

Date	Intention	Requested by	Celebration	Scriptures
Monday, December 19, 2022 8:30 a.m. Mass	Souls in Purgatory		Late Advent Weekday	Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a Lk 1:5-25
Tuesday, December 20, 2022 8:30 a.m. Mass	Susan Huff	Donald and Nancy Chiappelli	Late Advent Weekday	Is 7:10-14 Lk 1:26-38
Wednesday, December 21, 2022 No Mass			Saint Peter Canisius, Priest and Doctor of the Church	Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a Lk 1:39-45
Thursday, December 22, 2022 8:30 a.m. Mass	Minnie Hiding (1st anniversary)		Late Advent Weekday	1 Sm 1:24-28 Lk 1:46-56
Friday, December 23, 2022 8:30 a.m. Mass	John Winkler and Paulette Winkler Wallace	Family	Saint John of Kanty, Priest	Mal 3:1-4, 23-24 Lk 1:57-66
Saturday, December 24, 2022 No a.m. Mass			Late Advent Weekday	2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16 Lk 1:67-79
Saturday, December 24, 2022 4:30 p.m. Vigil Mass 10:00 p.m. Christmas Night Mass	Parishioners — John and Louise Azzato	Jim—grandson	The Vigil of The Nativity of the Lord	Is 62:1-5 Acts 13:16-17, 22-25 Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25
Sunday, December 25, 2022 9:15 a.m. Mass Christmas Day Mass	Living and Deceased Parishioners		The Nativity of the Lord	Is 52:7-10 Heb 1:1-6 Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14

Ph. 814-787-4151

St. Joseph Church

Fax 814-787-4478

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

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