

2nd Sunday IN ORDINARY TIME

"John the Baptist saw Jesus coming toward him and said, 'Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!'" Jn 1:29

Parish Stewardship

Weekly collection 12/14/25	\$2,508.00
Weekly collection 12/21/25	\$3,109.00
Christmas collection	\$2,401.00
Weekly collection 12/28/25	\$1,925.00
Weekly collection 01/04/26	\$2,009.00

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING ST. JOSEPH CHURCH!

POPE'S INTENTION FOR JANUARY
For Prayer with The Word of God

Let us pray that praying with the Word of God be nourishment for our lives and a source of hope in our communities, helping us build a more fraternal and missionary Church.



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

Baptismal Training Sessions 2026

February 24 6:30 pm St. Mark, Emporium 814-486-0569
March 21 10:00 am Sacred Heart 814-781-1019

The Church office will be closed on Monday, January 19th in observance of Martin Luther King Day.

Faith Formation: Grades K-5 will meet for class this weekend. NO Edge and NO Purpose classes.

There will be a brief meeting after class on January 18th for the parents of our 2nd grade Reconciliation students. We will meet in the FF building conference room.

Reminder: The **2025 CSA Campaign** is coming to a close. There are still outstanding balances on pledges that were made. These outstanding balances, if not paid, will then become the responsibility of St. Joseph Church to pay. Please submit any pledge payments before February 23rd so they can be processed and sent to the Diocese before the end of February.

A Family Perspective "Have you testified that Jesus is the Son of God?" If you're not discussing Jesus within your family, you're missing an opportunity to testify. Remember, if your actions don't align with your words, your children will see your words as meaningless.

Elk County Right to Life will sponsor a Holy Hour with exposition of the Blessed Sacrament on Jan. 23rd in support of the March For Life in Washington, DC to end abortion. The Holy Hour will be lead by Deacon Andy at Sacred Heart Church @ 3PM with the Divine Mercy followed by the rosary and prayer. It will conclude with Benediction @ 4PM. Come pray with us!

We received a thank you card from the Christian Food Bank in St. Marys. It reads:

Dear St. Joseph Parish,
Thank you for your ongoing generous support to the Christian Food Bank! We are most grateful for your weekly collection of food. Many families benefit from your donations. God Bless you all! Sincerely, Christian Food Bank Board of Directors

The Proclamation of the Gospel at Mass

My brothers and sisters, the Holy Bible, these Sacred Scriptures, are God's Words to us to direct our lives on how to live in *this* life in order to prepare ourselves for our *next* life of eternity with God. But, ABOVE ALL, God's Word is His Love Letter to us. His letter tells us that He loves us so much that He became one of us in the Person of Jesus Christ our Lord, Who taught us how to live, and Who suffered and died on the Cross for our sins, and rose from the dead to give us the promise of eternal life. This truth is above all revealed in the four Gospels according to Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.

"It is true that all scripture is inspired by God. But, the Gospels have a special place 'because they are the principal witness for the life and teaching of the Incarnate Word, our Savior.'" (Dr. Ed Sri The Mass pg. 79 and Dei Verbum, 24) The Gospels, in other words, are the life, words, and actions of Jesus our Savior.

The first preparation of the Gospel Reading is standing as the "Alleluia", the Gospel Acclamation, is sung or recited. This is an acclamation of praise to God in preparation of hearing the Gospel proclaimed. Next, there is a procession to the Ambo with the Book of the Gospels by the priest or deacon. The priest now prays a private prayer to prepare himself, or he would pray a prayer of blessing over the deacon before he would proclaim the Gospel. The Gospel Reading is introduced by the words; "The Lord be with you" and the people's response; "And with your spirit." The dialogue continues; "A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew" and the people respond "Glory to You, O Lord." The priest or deacon now proclaims the Gospel Reading and at the end he says; "The Gospel of the Lord." People's response; "Praise to You Lord Jesus Christ."

As we hear the content of the Gospel proclaimed, we hear stories and events of Jesus' Life, His Birth, His Life with Mary and Joseph, and eventually with His Apostles that He had chosen. We hear the parables of Jesus, which are stories about people, that have a moral lesson to teach. We hear about Jesus' conversations when confronting people like the scribes and pharisees. We especially hear of Jesus' tremendous love and mercy being poured out to heal the sick, disabled, and public sinners. We hear of Jesus' tremendous miracles like the multiplication of the loaves and fishes, raising of Lazarus from the dead, and finally, Jesus's own Death, Resurrection, Ascension into Heaven, and sending the Holy Spirit upon His Followers and Disciples--the Church. WOW! The Gospels tell it all! God Bless, Father Mark

We Celebrate, We Listen, We Pray

Date	Intention	Requested by	Celebration	Scriptures
Monday, January 19, 2026 8:30 a.m. Mass	Pauline Lovenduski	Philip Regulski	Weekday Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday	1 Sm 15: 16-23 Mk 2: 18-22 (311)
Tuesday, January 20, 2026 8:30 a.m. Mass	Angeline Cheslock	grandson-David Sweed	Weekday <i>Saint Fabian, Pope and Martyr;</i> <i>Saint Sebastian, Martyr</i>	1 Sm 16: 1-13 Mk 2: 23-28 (312)
Wednesday, January 21, 2026 No Mass			Saint Agnes, Virgin and Martyr	1 Sm 17: 32-33, 37, 40-51 Mk 3: 1-6 (313)
Thursday, January 22, 2026 8:30 a.m. Mass	Helen Prechtl	daughter-Debi and Jack	Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children	1 Sm 18: 6-9; 19: 1-7 Mk 3: 7-12 (314)
Friday, January 23, 2026 8:30 a.m. Mass	Mary Morelli	Bill & Marie Michelini and Family	Weekday <i>Saint Vincent, Deacon and Martyr;</i> <i>Saint Marianne Cope, Virgin</i>	1 Sm 24: 3-21 Mk 3: 13-19 (315)
Saturday, January 24, 2026 No a.m. Mass			Saint Francis de Sales, Bishop & Doctor of the Church	2 Sm 1: 1-4, 11-12, 19, 23-27 Mk 3: 20-21 (316)
Saturday, January 24, 2026 5:30 p.m. Mass	Living & Deceased Members of St. Joseph Church		Vigil of Third Sunday in Ordinary Time	(see below)
Sunday, January 25, 2026 9:15 a.m. Mass Word of God Sunday	Donald & Mabel Cameron	Grandchildren	THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	Is 8: 23-9: 3 1 Cor 1: 10-13, 17 Mt 4: 12-23 (67) National Catholic Schools Week begins

St. Joseph Church
Ph. 814-787-4151

Rev. Mark J. Mastriani Pastor

Parish Secretary: **Barb Allegretto** Faith Formation : **Emily Luchini** 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 thru Thursday 9a.m. to 4 p.m.

Saturday Vigil: 5:30 pm Sunday: 9:15 am Holy Days: 9:00 am & 7:00 pm Daily: Mon., Tues., Thurs., Fri. 8:30 am No Mass on Wednesday

THE HOMILY AT MASS

We all have a story of our faith journey with our Lord and Savior. Our stories involve the Sacraments, beginning with our Baptism, our faith formation classes, and sharing portions of our journey with family and friends.

When we participate in worship at Mass, we hear the faith journey of the people of Israel in the First Reading. In the Second Reading, we are instructed about the faith journey of the early Christian communities. And, in the Gospel Reading, we hear about the Life of Jesus and the faith journey of Him and His Apostles. Given by bishops, priests, or deacons, the Homily explains the theme of the Readings through contemporary stories of people, teachings of the Church, and through illustrations of everyday life.

The Homily is to come from the preachers' own life experiences and inspirations with God's Word. Certainly, **this must be the goal of the Homily at Mass.**

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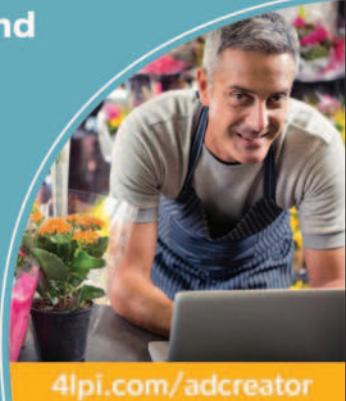
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St. Joseph Church PARISHIONER INFORMATION

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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