



## 4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT



"His son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son.' But his father ordered his servants, 'Let us celebrate with a feast, because this son of mine was dead, and has come to life again.'"

- Lk 15:21-22a, 23b-24a

**Parish Stewardship**

Weekly collection for 03/23/25 .....	\$2,640.00
Weekly budget goal .....	\$3,425.00
Difference .....	<b>-\$785.00</b>
CSA 2025 Assessment Goal .....	\$30,504.00
CSA Pledges to date .....	\$26,365.00

Thank you for supporting St. Joseph Church!

**POPE'S INTENTION FOR MARCH  
For Families in Crisis**

Let us pray that broken families might discover the cure for their wounds through forgiveness, rediscovering each other's gifts, even in their differences.



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 2025**

April 30th	6:00 pm	St. Leo, Ridgway	814-772-3135
May 22nd	6:30 pm	St. Marys Church	814-781-1019
June 10	6:30 pm	Queen of the World	814-834-4701

**FAITH FORMATION** -- Students in Grades K-5 will meet in the Faith Formation building for class. **NO EDGE CLASS.**

**LENT PENANCE SERVICES:**

Tuesday, April 1	6:30 pm	St. Marys Church
Wednesday, April 9	6:00 pm	St. Leo, Ridgway
Sunday, April 13	2:00 pm	St. Joseph Church, Force

**What are you planning on doing for Lent? The following is what we are doing here at St. Joseph Church for Lent:**

- **Monday, March 31st at 6:30 pm--Adult Faith Formation**
- **Tuesday, April 1st at 6:00 pm--The Rosary in Church**
- **Wednesday, April 2nd at 6:30 pm--Stations of the Cross.**
- **Saturday, April 5th Movie after Mass--The Chosen**
- **Sunday, April 6th at 6:30 pm--Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament with Benediction**

**Faith Formation News** The Faith Formation Program was awarded a grant from the Catholic Foundation of NW PA in the amount of \$750.00. The grant monies were designated for new books for the Second Grade class, a cake for the reception after First Reconciliation, and the remainder of the funds were used for partial payment of our Formed subscription.

**Kersey K of C Monthly Breakfast** Sunday, April 6th, from 8 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. or sold out. St. Boniface Social Hall. \$10 for adults; \$5 for 16 and under. All are invited to come and enjoy this "all you can eat" breakfast buffet!



**Receiving Forgiveness then  
Forgiving Others**

One of Jesus' Famous Stories about forgiveness is read at Mass this weekend about the Prodigal Son. It is a story of a selfish young man, whose life was very misdirected by the love of money and pleasure. After his so-called friends abandoned him, and he suffered hunger and want for a period of time, he came to his senses and returned to his father's house. He returned a changed person. Fortunately for him, he had a loving, forgiving father, who accepted him unconditionally. The father loved him so much that he gave his son the symbols of being restored back to a family and right relationship. These ancient Jewish symbols were the *robe, ring, and sandals*, and then a *feast*.

We can see clearly how the relationship of the father and younger son unfolded. But there was an older son who was very jealous of the younger son. This son was always with the father, and obeyed all of the father's commands. The older son scolded his father for being so forgiving and generous to his wayward son and would not go into the banquet. After the father pleaded with the older son to come and celebrate, it is very possible that the older son may have joined them at the banquet. Jesus leaves the conclusion open-ended. We would want to believe that the older son changed his heart right then, forgave his younger brother, and then went to the celebration.

My friends, a good question for each of us may be "When in our lives are we like the older son?" ...pointing out sins in other people's lives, hypocritical to those around us, or thinking we are a much more faithful Catholic and better person compared to others who are far away from their Catholic faith?

If we are like the unforgiving older son, then we need to know that our Heavenly Father comes to us and pleads with us to be forgiving and merciful, as He is forgiving and merciful. The first step towards this attitude is to pray for the grace to be willing to be forgiving toward others.

Finally, when we are like the younger son, in need of reconciliation with God our Heavenly Father, go to the Sacrament of Confession and receive the joy and peace this Sacrament gives and then be willing to forgive others.

**God Bless,  
Father Mark**

# We Celebrate, We Listen, We Pray

Date	Intention	Requested by	Celebration	Scriptures
Monday, March 31, 2025 8:30 a.m. Mass	Kelly Duell birthday	Family	Lenten Weekday	Is 65: 17-21 Jn 4: 43-54 (244)
Tuesday, April 01, 2025 8:30 a.m. Mass	Raymond & Victoria Gornati	Family	Lenten Weekday	Ez 47: 1-9, 12 Jn 5: 1-16 (245)
Wednesday, April 02, 2025 No Mass			Lenten Weekday <i>Saint Francis of Paola, Hermit</i>	Is 49: 8-15 Jn 5: 17-30 (246)
Thursday, April 03, 2025 8:30 a.m. Mass	Lena Krulia and Sam Berasi	Paulette & Woodrow Yeane	Lenten Weekday	Ex 32: 7-14 Jn 5: 31-47 (247)
Friday, April 04, 2025 8:30 a.m. Mass	George Chiodo	Family	Lenten Weekday <i>Saint Isidore, Bishop and Doctor of the Church</i>	Wis 2: 1a, 12-22 Jn 7: 1-2, 10, 25-30 (248)
Saturday, April 05, 2025 8:30 a.m. Mass FIRST SATURDAY	Rose McCall	Tim & Lori Sims	Lenten Weekday <i>Saint Vincent Ferrer, Priest</i>	Jer 11: 18-20 Jn 7: 40-53 (249)
Saturday, April 05, 2025 5:30 p.m. Mass	Living and Deceased Parishioners		Vigil of the Fifth Sunday of Lent	(see below)
Sunday, April 06, 2025 9:15 a.m. Mass	Saba & Maria Betta and deceased family members	Walter & Christine Gavazzi	FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT	Is 43: 16-21 Phil 3: 8-14 Jn 8: 1-11 (36)

**St. Joseph Church**

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

Rev. Mark J. Mastrian..... 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.

Office Email: [stjosephforce@windstream.net](mailto:stjosephforce@windstream.net) Website: [www.stjosephforce.org](http://www.stjosephforce.org) Faith Formation Email: [ff@stjosephforce.org](mailto:ff@stjosephforce.org)

**God Bless the following Faith Formation students who recently celebrated receiving their First Reconciliation.**

- Jaycee Assalone (St. Joseph Church)
- Bo Cowan (St. Joseph Church)
- Adeline Galmish (St. Joseph Church)
- Aaryanna Nedza (St. Joseph Church)
- Leland Rollick (St. Joseph Church)
- Abel Tettis (St. Leo Magnus Church-Ridgway)
- Franco Yost (St. Boniface Church-Kersey)

**A retreat and the Penance service were held on Saturday, March 22nd. Confessions were heard by Father Mark Mastrian and Father Kevin Holland.**



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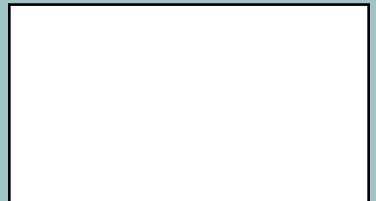
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**St. Joseph Church**  
**PARISHIONER INFORMATION**

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.