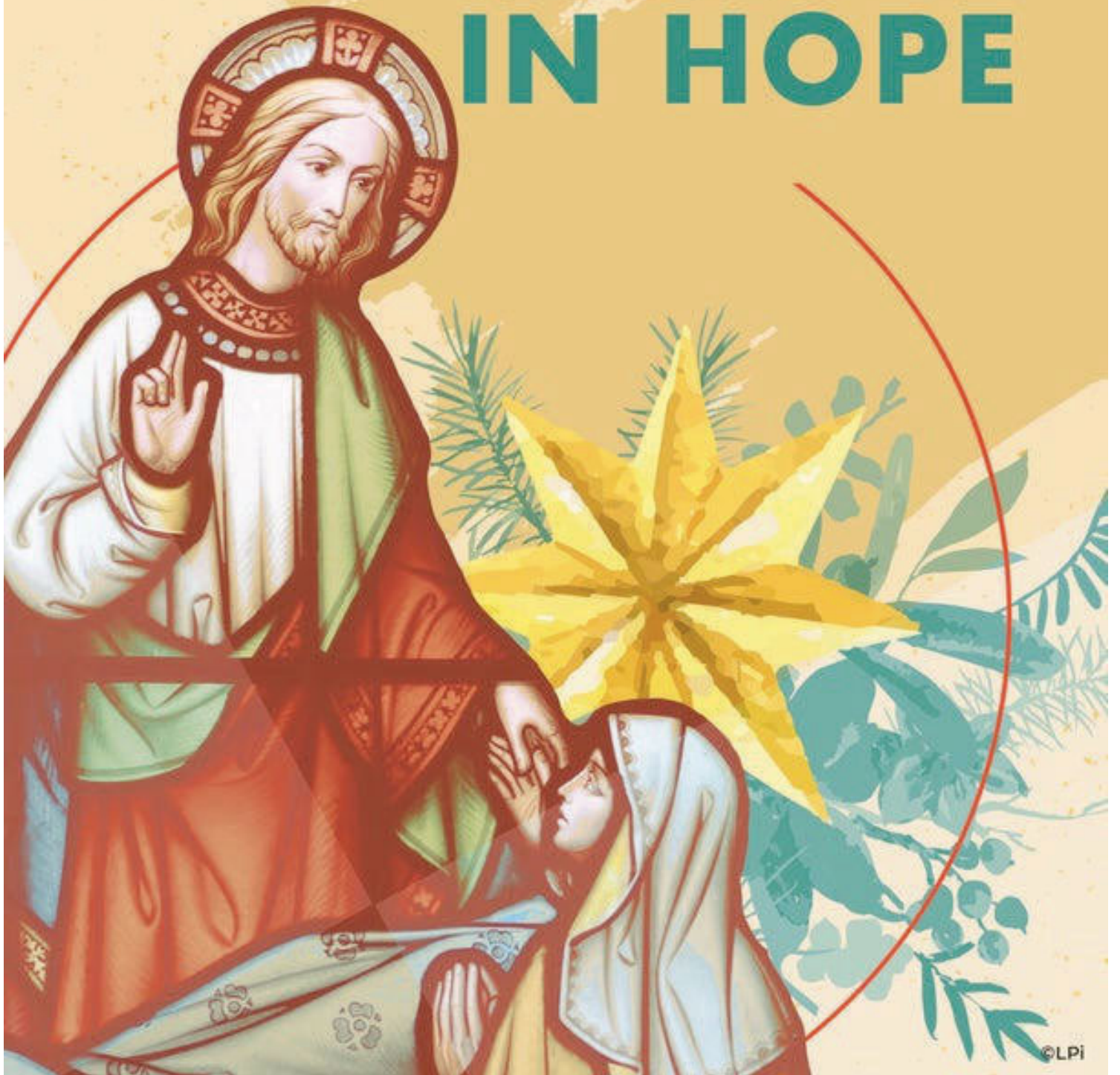


1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

WAIT
IN HOPE



Parish Stewardship

Offertory collection for 11/17/24\$2,668.00
 Offertory collection for 11/24/24 not available
 Weekly offertory budgeted for 2023-2024 \$3,365.00
 CSA Campaign Assessment for 2024.....\$31,134.00
 CSA Pledges to date.....\$28,210.00

Thank you for supporting St. Joseph Church!

**Pope’s Intention for December
 For persons with disabilities**

We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the center of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programs which value their active participation.

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

Advent Adoration and Adult Faith Formation:

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will be held Sunday evenings, at 6:30 pm, during the season of Advent, beginning on Sunday, December 1st, and continuing each Sunday evening (December 8th, 15th, and 22nd).

Adult Faith Formation will be held in the social hall Monday evenings, at 6:30 pm, during Advent, beginning Monday, December 2nd, and continuing each Monday evening (December 9th, 16th, and 23rd). All are welcome!

ADVENT RECOLLECTION: WHAT AND HOW TO PREPARE FOR THE COMING OF OUR LORD

Friday, December 6th @ 6:30 p.m. at St. Mary’s Church
 A social will follow in the Parish Center Cafeteria
ALL ARE WELCOME!
 Guest Speakers: Fr. Ben Dagher and Fr. Ignatius Camello, OSB

2024 COLLECTION FOR RETIRED RELIGIOUS

Included in the bulletin this weekend is a letter from Bishop Persico regarding the collection for Retired Religious, which will be taken next weekend, December 7/8. This collection offers financial support for those Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests who worked for years for little or no stipends. Thank you for your generosity.

ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE at St. Joseph Church will be on Sunday, December 22nd, beginning at 2:00 pm. We will have visiting priests to assist with the confessions. Families with students in Grades 3 and up are encouraged to attend this penance service.

SACRED HEART PARISH BINGO

Merry Christmas Giving Away Friday, Dec. 6th
 Doors open @ 4:00 pm FREE lunch served @ 5:30 pm
 Early Bird games @ 6:30 pm Games @ 6:45 pm
 Benefit: Sacred Heart Parish



THE CONCERT CHOIR OF ELK COUNTY presents

“Go Tell It On The Mountain”

Tuesday, December 3rd at St. Leo Church in Ridgway **AND**
 Saturday, December 7th at Sacred Heart Church in St. Marys.
 Both concerts will begin at **7:00 p.m.** Social to follow.
 Please join them in ushering in the Christmas Season!



Advent

Our Invitation for Inner Strength

I have been told the story of a courageous woman who lived in the early 20th century. She was poor and had five children. Her husband died suddenly--four days before their sixth child was born. Can we imagine what she was going through? She spent hours praying in the closest Catholic church. She gained inner strength to carry on with the help of friends and with the Grace of God, in order for her to provide for her children as a single mom. This provided a new hope for her. In a like manner, God had provided hope and strength to His People, as we hear about this in the following Readings.

In the First Reading, during this First Sunday of Advent, there are affirming words of strength and hope to the people of Israel in the midst of being taken over by the enemy Babylonians. The Prophet, Jeremiah, says: “The days are coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the House of Israel and Judah...Judah shall be safe...Jerusalem shall dwell secure...” (Jer 33: 14-16) The inner strength and hope of these people are God’s Reign and Kingdom, which will come through a messiah in the line of David, which was fulfilled in Jesus.

The Second Reading, from the First Letter of Saint Paul to the Thessalonians, gives inner strength to a Christian community, who are anxiously and even desperately, awaiting the return of Christ in glory. They need to be patient, but St. Paul does affirm their love in order to replace the doubt in their hearts and to strengthen them. St. Paul’s words are...

Brothers and sisters;

“May the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we have for you, so as to strengthen your hearts.” (1 Thes 3: 12-13a)

Finally, in the Holy Gospel according to Luke, Jesus is direct in saying that the time before He comes back again will be a time of dismay among nations, fear and fright in people’s hearts, and in daily anxieties. But, His Words of hope and strength are “Be vigilant at all times and pray that you have the strength to escape the tribulations that are imminent and to stand before the Son of Man.” (Lk 21: 36)

Now, ask yourself, in light of these Sacred Scriptures, the following question:

Where in my life have I experienced the inner strength of God helping me with a problem or great concern over something or someone?

Whatever your answer is, pray the above Scripture Passages. It can be your invitation for inner strength and peace, now and well beyond the Season of Advent. →

We Celebrate, We Listen, We Pray

Date	Intention	Requested by	Celebration	Scriptures
Monday, December 02, 2024 8:30 a.m. Mass	Raymond & Victoria Gornati Wedding anniversary	Family	Advent Weekday	Is 2: 1-5 Mt 8: 5-11 (175)
Tuesday, December 03, 2024 8:30 a.m. Mass	Terry Asalone	Family	Saint Francis Xavier, Priest	Is 11: 1-10 Lk 10: 21-24 (176)
Wednesday, December 04, 2024 No Mass			Advent Weekday <i>Saint John Damascene, Priest and Doctor of the Church</i>	Is 25: 6-10a Mt 15: 29-37 (177)
Thursday, December 05, 2024 8:30 a.m. Mass	Donald Dudley	wife-Kitty	Advent Weekday	Is 26: 1-6 Mt 7: 21, 24-27 (178)
Friday, December 06, 2024 8:30 a.m. Mass First Friday	Mike Chiodo	Mom & Family	Advent Weekday <i>Saint Nicholas, Bishop</i>	Is 29: 17-24 Mt 9: 27-31 (179)
Saturday, December 07, 2024 8:30 a.m. Mass First Saturday	Guido & Cass Berasi	nieces: Dolly, Judy, and Polly (Berasi)	Saint Ambrose, Bishop and Doctor of the Church	Is 30: 19-21, 23-26 Mt 7: 35--10: 1, 5a, 6-8 (180)
Saturday, December 07, 2024 5:30 p.m. Mass	Gerry Fenice Williams	Rita & Carolyn	Vigil of Second Sunday of Advent	(see below)
Sunday, December 08, 2024 9:15 a.m. Mass	Living and Deceased Parishioners		SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT	Bar 5: 1-9 Phil 1: 4-6, 8-11 Lk 3: 1-6 (6)

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

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 Website: www.stjosephforce.org Faith Formation Email: ff@stjosephforce.org

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

The Examen As we begin this Holy Season of Advent, the Scriptures help us to be consciously aware of some special ways God is working in our lives. God will take the initiative to show us personally, but we must strive to watch for it so we can recognize God’s Action. St. Ignatius of Loyola can help us be aware of God’s Presence and Action in our lives, with the prayer practice called the *Examen*. This is simply to take ten to fifteen minutes, toward the end of the day, to review and reflect on ways God was helping you to understand His Activity in your life. Sit quietly and do the following:

Thanksgiving: Identify the actual blessing you have received from God and say in prayer “Thank you, God.”

Light: I pray to be able to see the truth of myself as God sees me.

Review of the Day: As I look at how things went in my life this day, what was the one thing or event that stands out most? What are my thoughts and feelings about it?

Response: In response to the above questions, was it something positive or negative? Were there both positive and negative events that occurred that day?

Action: If the event or experience was not good, then plan how to correct it for the next day. If the things in life that day are good, positive, joyful events, attitudes or situations that went well, then decide how it can be repeated for the next day. Conclude with the *Our Father*. Advent is a season of *hope and joy*. Let’s watch for it! God Bless!

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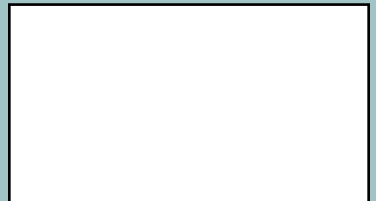
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St. Joseph Church
PARISHIONER INFORMATION

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.