



## 2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

*“Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make straight his paths.”*

- Lk 3:4



**Parish Stewardship**

Offertory collection for 11/24/24 .....\$2,043.00  
 Offertory collection for 12/01/24 ..... 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 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.

**AREA PENANCE SERVICES**

Thursday, December 12	6:30 pm	Queen of the World
Saturday, December 14	5:15 pm	St. Mark, Emporium
Wednesday, Dec. 18	6:30 pm	St. Leo, Ridgway
Friday, December 20	6:30 pm	Sacred Heart Church
Sunday, December 22	2:00 pm	St. Joseph Church

Thank you for your generous donations of money and food that was collected at the Thanksgiving Eve Mass. They will be donated to the St. Marys Food Bank.

**GIVING TREE** Our Faith Formation Edge Class will be collecting items for The Guardian Angel Center. This year, they are collecting pajamas/sleepwear. These are some suggestions that would best meet their needs:

- No pajamas/sleepwear for infants, toddlers, preschoolers.
- Pajama sets (top & bottom) for Boys and/or Girls ages 6-12. (Nightgowns are not preferred by girls)
- Bottoms/pants ONLY for Boys & Girls in their teenage yrs. If they come with a T-shirt-like top, great! No buttons.

Please do not wrap the gifts. They can be placed near the tree in the social hall before and after Masses or brought to the office.



**Our Invitation for Glory  
 Advent Week 2**

All of us are familiar with the word *glory*, when we sing together the “Gloria” at Mass each week. These words of praise and honor were the Holy Words of the angels who announced the praise to God on that Holy Night, when Jesus was born in Bethlehem. The words they sang were “Glory to God in the highest and on earth, peace to people of good will.”

Let’s take a few moments to reflect on the glory mentioned in our Scripture Readings at Mass this weekend and how glory can relate to our lives.

First, we must understand the full meaning of *glory*. Webster’s New Explorer Dictionary defines glory as “praise; cause for praise or renown; magnificence and heavenly bliss and honor offered in worship.” (Merriam Webster 2000, Pg. 270)

The First Reading at Mass, from the Book of the Prophet Baruch, uses the word glory six times in this passage:  
 “...put on the splendor of **glory** from God for ever” (Bar 5:1)  
 “...the **glory** of the eternal name” (Bar 5:2)  
 “...the **glory** of God’s Worship” (Bar 5:4)  
 “...aloft in **glory** as on royal thrones” (Bar 5:6)  
 “...Israel may advance secure in the **glory** of God” (Bar 5: 7b)  
 “...God is leading Israel in joy by the light of His **Glory**” (Bar 5: 9)

After a time of grieving, God is now inviting the people of Israel into Jerusalem, to remove their misery and to put on God’s Magnificent Glory of Justice, Peace, and Freedom.

At this point in this season of Advent: **What is the glory and goodness God is giving you after working through a problem?**

Also, read St. Paul’s letter to the Phillipians 1: 4-5, 8-11 and ask yourself: **What is the good work God is doing in you for His Glory and Honor?**

At times, if it is difficult to see God’s Glory in your life, ask Jesus to show you your great gifts of glory. It may help you if you write your gifts of glory on paper or in a journal and to read these Scriptures again to yourself.

Always remember that the Glory of God can be seen simply by a smile. We can look forward to a greater glory by doing what John the Baptist calls us to do in this Sunday’s Gospel: “Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight His Paths.” (Lk 3: 4b)

**Two Feast Days of the Blessed Mother this week:**  
December 8: Immaculate Conception-Mary preserved from the stain of original sin.  
December 12: Our Lady of Guadalupe-appears to Juan Diego on December 9, 1531, near Mexico City.

God Bless!

# We Celebrate, We Listen, We Pray

Date	Intention	Requested by	Celebration	Scriptures
Monday, December 09, 2024 8:30 a.m. Mass	Stanley Gralak, Jr.	cousin-Gerald Klaiber	THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY	Gn 3: 9-15, 20 Eph 1: 3-6, 11-12 Lk 1: 26-38 (689)
Tuesday, December 10, 2024 8:30 a.m. Mass	Helen Mitchell 13th anniversary	Jack & Deb Mitchell	Advent Weekday <i>Our Lady of Loreto</i>	Is 40: 1-11 Mt 18: 12-14 (182)
Wednesday, December 11, 2024 No Mass			Advent Weekday <i>Saint Damasus I, Pope</i>	Is 40: 25-31 Mt 11: 28-30 (183)
Thursday, December 12, 2024 8:30 a.m. Mass	Mike Chiodo	Veronica Brown and family	Our Lady of Guadalupe	Zec 2: 14-17 or Rv 11: 19a, 12: 1-6a, 10ab Lk 1: 26-38 or Lk 1: 39-47 (690A)
Friday, December 13, 2024 8:30 a.m. Mass	Vicki Winslow	Betty Leair	Saint Lucy, Virgin and Martyr	Is 48: 17-19 Mt 11: 16-19 (185)
Saturday, December 14, 2024 No Mass			Saint John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church	Sir 48: 1-4, 9-11 Mt 17: 9a, 10-13 (186)
Saturday, December 14, 2024 5:30 p.m. Mass	Living and Deceased Parishioners		Vigil of Third Sunday of Advent	(see below)
Sunday, December 15, 2024 9:15 a.m. Mass <i>Gaudete Sunday</i>	Angelo & Giovanne Dezanet and deceased family members	Walter & Christine Gavazzi	THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT	Zep 3: 14-18a Phil 4: 4-7 Lk 3: 10-18 (9)

**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](mailto:stjosephforce@windstream.net) Website: [www.stjosephforce.org](http://www.stjosephforce.org) Faith Formation Email: [ff@stjosephforce.org](mailto: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 ADVENT WREATH** A very important symbol that is set up in the Sanctuary during the Advent Season is the Advent Candle. The four candles, set on a circular frame and surrounded by evergreens, symbolizes our waiting for the Light of Christ to come into our shadowed, sinful world.

We light the first candle at the end of the Universal Prayers on the First Sunday of Advent, when we pronounce a blessing on the candles. We will light the other candles, before the Opening Prayer, for the next three Sundays of the Season of Advent. The purple candles symbolize our anticipation of Christ’s Light to shine even brighter in our own lives, so we can be ready for His Coming to us at Christmas. You can also make your own Advent Wreath for your home.

May each of us strive to receive and have a greater joy during this Advent Season as we prepare for a joyous Christmas to come!



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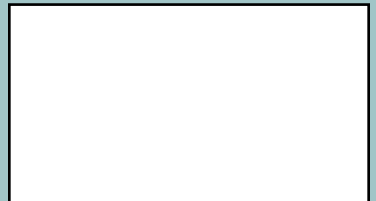
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**St. Joseph Church**  
**PARISHIONER INFORMATION**

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.