

3RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me.
- Lk 4:18

Parish Stewardship
 Offertory collection for 01/19/25 \$1,830.00
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The Power of Words

Words always had and will continue to be a powerful and effective way of communication. The use of words in describing things, people, places, facts, truths, and experiences can touch our deepest emotions, intellect, and imagination.

If I were to describe a beautiful winter day, the sun shining in a bright, blue sky, snow on the ground, with the branches of each tree encircled with a beautiful glaze of ice and snow, you would be able to see it in your mind and perhaps the exact place where you last saw that description of nature’s artwork. Words have a way of taking us there. So does Gods Word take us there. Where, you might ask? To the happiness of eternal life that begins here and now and the power of the Holy spirit you have within you now.

The First Reading from the Book of Nehemiah and the Gospel from Luke are about reading and listening to God’s Word as recorded in the Sacred Scriptures. The head of the people, Nehemiah, and his priest/scribe, Ezra, encouraged the down-trodden people after reading from the Book of the Law by saying to them... “do not be saddened this day, for rejoicing in the Lord must be your strength.” (Neh 8: 10b) The people of God were able to freely imagine this joy.

In a like manner in our Gospel Reading, Jesus returned “to Nazareth where He had grown up” (Lk 4: 16a) He read from the Prophet Isaiah the words that would begin to be Jesus’s Own Mission Statement:

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to bring glad tidings to the poor. He has sent Me to proclaim liberty to captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, and to proclaim a year acceptable to the Lord” (Lk 4: 18-19)
 The people in Nazareth were happy to hear these words. They were able to freely imagine this *Good News*.

My friends, find the daily Readings at Mass, which are listed in our bulletin each week, or get the **Laudate app** from the App Store on your smart phone and go to the link “**Daily Bible Verse**”.

Let the Word of God transform your day.

God Bless, Father Mark

HOW DO I GET IT?
If you do not have a Smart phone, you can download and access Laudate from your internet browser on your PC or MAC. Just type in Laudate and click on “download”. Your Laudate app icon will immediately come up on your icon screen.

POPE’S INTENTION FOR JANUARY
For the Right to an Education
 Let us pray for migrants, refugees, and those affected by war, that their right to an education, which is necessary to build a better world, might always be respected.

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

Baptismal Training Sessions 2025

February 18th	6:30 pm	St. Boniface	814-885-4488
February 20th	6:30 pm	St. Mark, Emporium	814-486-0569
March 22nd	10:00 am	Sacred Heart Church	814-781-1019

Sunday, January 26--Faith Formation students, Grades K-5, will meet for class at the FF building following Mass. Edge students will meet in the Social Hall for class.



Kersey K of C Monthly Breakfast Sunday, February 2nd, 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!

St. Boniface Parish will be hosting a Cash Bash on Saturday, March 1st, in the Social Hall. **NO ONE UNDER 21 WILL BE PERMITTED.** Cost: \$10 ticket donation which includes food, pop, beer, and a chance to win \$500, \$750, or \$1000. Other raffles, drawings, small games of chance throughout the night. Come and enjoy what is sure to be a fun-filled night of music, laughter, and luck! All proceeds to benefit St. Boniface Parish.

Sacred Heart Parish Center Bingo on Friday, February 7th. Doors open @ 4pm - FREE lunch served @ 5:30 pm. Games @ 6:45 pm. Benefit: Sacred Heart Parish

Parenting Pointers Let your children know when you see them acting responsibly, talking initiative, or being helpful. Use phrases like, “I appreciate that.” or a simple “thank you.”

A Family Perspective In today’s Gospel, Jesus was ‘praised by all’ except in his hometown of Nazareth, where ‘the eyes of all were intently on Him.’ Acceptance can be difficult to find a home due to unrealistic EXPECTATIONS. Jesus challenges us to ‘proclaim liberty’ to anyone ‘oppressed’ or ‘captive’ by our EXPECTATIONS.

Marriage Moment “No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.” (Jn 15: 13) On your wedding day, you laid your very life into the hands of another person without knowing what the future held. (Leif Kehrwald, *Marriage & the Spirituality of Intimacy*) Sometimes it is hard to love unconditionally, isn’t it?

We Celebrate, We Listen, We Pray

Date	Intention	Requested by	Celebration	Scriptures
Monday, January 27, 2025 8:30 a.m. Mass	Donald "Abe" Kentoski	Kathleen & John Lobb	Weekday <i>Saint Angela Merici, Virgin and Religious Founder</i>	Heb 9: 15, 24-28 Mk 3: 22-30 (317)
Tuesday, January 28, 2025 No Mass			Saint Thomas Aquinas, Priest and Doctor of the Church	Heb 10: 1-10 Mk 3: 31-35 (318)
Wednesday, January 29, 2025 No Mass			Weekday	Heb 10: 11-18 Mk 4: 1-20 (319)
Thursday, January 30, 2025 8:30 a.m. Mass	Frances McCarren	Parishioner	Weekday	Heb 10: 19-25 Mk 4: 21-25 (320)
Friday, January 31, 2025 8:30 a.m. Mass	Daniel Cortina	A Force neighbor	Saint John Bosco, Priest	Heb 10: 32-39 Mk 4: 26-34 (321)
Saturday, February 01, 2025 8:30 a.m. Mass FIRST SATURDAY	Jennie Chiappelli	Family	Weekday <i>BVM</i>	Heb 11: 1-2, 8-19 Mk 4: 35-41 (322)
Saturday, February 01, 2025 5:30 p.m. Mass	Germaine Olewnik	Don & Evelyn Kentoski	Vigil of The Presentation of the Lord	(see below)
Sunday, February 02, 2025 9:15 a.m. Mass	Living and Deceased Parishioners		THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD	Mal 3: 1-4 Heb 2: 14-18 Lk 2: 22-40 or 2: 22-32 (524)

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

A Saint in January

Saint Thomas Aquinas: Priest and Doctor (teacher) of the Church. (1225-1274) Saint Thomas Aquinas's greatest contribution to the Church is entitled "*The Summa Theologiae*" which is the summing up of the whole of Catholic Theology. Interestingly enough, he stopped his work of completing the *Summa*. After celebrating Mass in December, 1273, he realized that all that he wrote "was like straw" compared to the heavenly ecstasy he experienced that day. We study the *Summa Theologiae* in Seminary because of the great comprehensive work that Saint Thomas gave us in understanding our Catholic Faith. It is the experience of our Faith in our love for Jesus our Lord at Mass that Saint Thomas had, and that hopefully each one of us have, when we receive Holy Communion at Mass. This was Saint Thomas' ecstasy which can also be ours.

Saint Thomas, Pray for Us.



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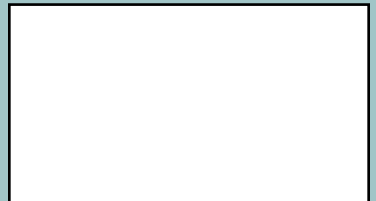


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St. Joseph Church
PARISHIONER INFORMATION

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.