

Third Sunday of
ADVENT



Parish Stewardship

Weekly collection for 11/23/25.....	\$1,801.00
Weekly collection for 11/30/25.....	\$2,715.00
Weekly budget goal.....	\$3,425.00
Difference (11/23/25).....	\$1,624.00
Difference (11/30/25).....	\$710.00
CSA 2025 Assessment Goal.....	\$30,504.00
CSA Pledges to date.....	\$30,845.00

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR CHURCH!

POPE'S INTENTION FOR DECEMBER**For Christians in Areas of Conflict**

Let us pray that Christians living in areas of war or conflict, especially in the Middle East, might be seeds of peace, reconciliation, and hope.



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

Faith Formation: ALL students are to remain in the church after Mass to practice for the Christmas Eve program. After practice, the students and teachers will go to the Faith Formation building for class until 11:30 am.

AREA PENANCE SERVICES

Tues., Dec. 16	6:00 pm	Queen of the World
Thurs., Dec. 18	6:00 pm	St. Leo, Ridgway
Sunday, Dec. 21	2:00 pm	St. Joseph, Force
Mon., Dec. 22	6:00 pm	Sacred Heart, St. Marys

Advent Penance Service at St. Joseph Church will be on Sunday, December 21st, beginning at 2:00 pm. We will have visiting priests to assist with the confessions.

**COME TO ENJOY THE BEAUTIFUL CHRISTMAS MUSIC!**

Christmas Eve beginning at 4:00 pm with the Adult Choir.

Children's Program begins at 4:15 pm

Mass to follow at 4:30 pm



Please arrive early to be seated before the choir starts at 4:00 pm.

Season 5 of The Chosen will be shown after the 5:30 pm Mass (Saturday evening Mass). We will meet in the Faith Formation Center. Refreshments will be provided.

Exposition, Adoration, and Benediction will be on Sunday evenings at 6:00 pm and will continue each Sunday, up to and including, Sunday, December 21st.

**Gaudete Sunday (Joyful Sunday)
Third Sunday of Advent**

If you or I could change our world and make it better where everyone is respected and love one another, what would we do to bring about this change? In our First Reading, Isaiah describes to God's People what his plans are to make things better for them. God would start with the land by turning their desert into gardens bursting with vegetation and abundant flowers as if they were singing a joyful song. This is part of the glory of God.

Then Isaiah says that the Messiah will come and bring healing to the blind, deaf, and lame. The Psalm even gives praise to God by mentioning that the hungry will be fed, the oppressed set free, the orphans and the widows will be helped and protected by the Lord.

In our Gospel Reading, Jesus tells His Disciples to go tell John the Baptist what you have heard and seen. (Mt 11: 4) Isaiah's prophecies are now being fulfilled-the Messiah is in our midst. What joy that must have brought to John the Baptist! My brothers and sisters, what joy it brings to us today too. The Messiah, Emmanuel, Jesus, is in our midst! Absolutely He is here in the celebration of the Eucharist!

This Third Sunday of Advent, Joyful Sunday, also called Gaudete Sunday, is a new opportunity to joyfully celebrate Jesus, Who is always in our midst, 24/7 and in a special way during this Advent Season, we experience Him with each other as we draw closer to the glorious Season of Christmas.

How also is the Messiah Jesus in our midst?

The answer is His Words of Hope in the Bible, whether it be a hard copy or online. Also, your words of hope to people who are feeling sad during these days leading up to Christmas are important because you are being instrumental in bringing joy to another person.

In addition, our actions of kindness in helping one another in need is a tremendous support, whether it be a typical daily activity, or a more involved emotional and stressful situation. Having a smile and a positive attitude of joy is what can help make this world a better and more joyful place where all feel welcome. Being joyful may be easier for some and not as easy for others. Through prayer, let's invite a spirit of joy in our hearts and toward all whom we come in contact with, now and throughout the coming Christmas Season and each new day in the New Year.

Rejoice!

God Bless,
Father Mark

We Celebrate, We Listen, We Pray

Date	Intention	Requested by	Celebration	Scriptures
Monday, December 15, 2025 8:30 a.m. Mass	Poor Souls in Purgatory		Advent Weekday	Nm 24: 2-7, 15-17a Mt 21: 23-27 (187)
Tuesday, December 16, 2025 8:30 a.m. Mass	Art Zambanini 100th birthday	wife-Gen, daughter-Pooney and family	Advent Weekday	Zep 3: 1-2, 9-13 Mt 21: 28-32 (188)
Wednesday, December 17, 2025 No Mass			Late Advent Weekday	Gn 49: 2, 8-10 Mt 1: 1-17 (193)
Thursday, December 18, 2025 8:30 a.m. Mass	Dave Marconi	Joe Sexton	Late Advent Weekday	Jer 23: 5-8 Mt 1: 18-25 (194)
Friday, December 19, 2025 8:30 a.m. Mass	Peter Anthony Morelli birthday and Rich Olszewski birthday	Don & Rita Olszewski	Late Advent Weekday	Jgs 13: 2-7, 24-25a Lk 1: 5-25 (195)
Saturday, December 20, 2025 No a.m. Mass			Late Advent Weekday	Is 7: 10-14 Lk 1: 26-38 (196)
Saturday, December 20, 2025 5:30 p.m. Mass	Tom Smith	wife-Dellene	Vigil of Fourth Sunday of Advent	(see below)
Sunday, December 21, 2025 9:15 a.m. Mass	Living & Deceased members of St. Joseph Church		FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT	Is 7: 10-14 Rom 1: 1-7 Mt 1: 18-24 (10)

St. Joseph Church

Ph. 814-787-4151

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.

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

Let's pray this Advent Prayer for the Jubilee of Hope

Heavenly Father, as we enter this season of waiting,
open our hearts to the light of Your Promise.

In this Jubilee of Hope, may we renew our trust in Your Mercy
and prepare a place for Christ in our lives. Kindle within us
the joy of His Coming--that our faith may shine, our love may deepen,
and our hope may be restored. Come, Lord Jesus, and make all
things new. Amen.



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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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