

# 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday OF ADVENT





**Parish Stewardship**

Offertory collection for 12/01/24 .....\$2,135.00  
 Offertory collection for 12/08/24 ..... 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**

Sunday evenings at 6:30 pm (December 15th and 22nd)

**Adult Faith Formation**

Monday evenings at 6:30 pm (December 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**

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



**COME ENJOY THE  
 CHRISTMAS MUSIC**



Christmas Eve at 4:00 PM  
 Adult Choir  
 Children's Program at 4:15 PM  
 Mass to follow.

**Christmas Mass Times for St. Joseph Church**



**December 24th Christmas Eve Mass 4:30 pm**

Come at 4:00 pm to enjoy the music of the adult choir!

Children’s choir music begins at 4:15 pm.

Parents & children must be seated in their pew by 4:00 pm

**December 24th Midnight Mass 10:00 pm**

**December 25th Christmas Day Mass 9:15 am**

**December 28th The Holy Family Mass 5:30 pm**

**December 29th The Holy Family Mass 9:15 am**

**January 1st Mary, the Holy Mother of God 9:00 am**



**Our Invitation for Joy**

You have just received a beautiful Christmas card from a relative you haven’t seen in years. You feel joy. You are filled with joy and relief when a friend sends you a text message that all of their medical tests are very good. A person that you know, who has been struggling to find employment, has now posted on Facebook that they were offered a job out of town in a career they have always wanted. You and others share in his joy.

The theme on this Third Sunday of Advent is the joy we anticipate of Christ’s Coming at Christmas. As we can be filled with joy by someone’s thoughtfulness toward us and by our sharing in other’s joy, so too, is our joy heightened this week of Advent.

Traditionally, this Third Sunday of Advent has been called *Gaudete Sunday*. Gaudete is Latin for **rejoice**. The First Reading, Psalm Response, and Second Reading at Mass speak of joy, rejoicing, and gladness we find in the following brief excerpts:

“Shout for **joy**, O daughter Zion!”

“The Lord, Your God, is in your midst, a mighty Savior; He will **rejoice** over you with gladness.” (Zep 3: 14-18a)

“Cry out with **joy** and gladness.” (Is 2: 2-3, 4, 5-6)

“**Rejoice** in the Lord always.

I shall say it again: **rejoice!**” (Phil 4: 4-7)

This is wonderful, but for someone who is going through stressful, anxiety-filled situations in life, grief, sadness, and possibly anger; they may ask the following question...

*How will I experience joy? Ask our Lord Jesus to come gently into my thoughts and feelings as I ask for His Peace to replace this inner struggle. The above Reading from Philippians Chapter 4 verses 4-7 can help.*

First, please know that Jesus (Emmanuel) is with you in your suffering. This name, Emmanuel, means God is with us.

Second, know that you are not alone. Pray for someone you know that is going through some difficulty, whether it be similar to your situation or not, and know someone is praying for you.

Third, slowly pray the following words, which is a continuation of the above quote of St. Paul in his Letter to the Philippians...

“Your kindness should be known to all.

The Lord is near. Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God. Then, the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.”

My friends, this is **true joy!** God Bless, Father Mark

# We Celebrate, We Listen, We Pray

Date	Intention	Requested by	Celebration	Scriptures
Monday, December 16, 2024 8:30 a.m. Mass	Art Zambanini birthday	wife-Gen daughter-Pooney and family	Advent Weekday	Nm 24: 2-7, 15-17a Mt 21: 23-27 (187)
Tuesday, December 17, 2024 8:30 a.m. Mass	Poor Souls in Purgatory		Late Advent Weekday	Gn 49: 2, 8-10 Mt 1: 1-17 (193)
Wednesday, December 18, 2024 No Mass			Late Advent Weekday	Jer 23: 5-8 Mt 1: 18-25 (194)
Thursday, December 19, 2024 8:30 a.m. Mass	Dale Forster	Becky & John Bricen	Late Advent Weekday	Jgs 13: 2-7, 24-25a Lk 1: 5-25 (195)
Friday, December 20, 2024 8:30 a.m. Mass	Connie Sadowski 15th anniversary	Brown Family	Late Advent Weekday	Is 7: 10-14 Lk 1: 26-38 (196)
Saturday, December 21, 2024 No Mass			Late Advent Weekday <i>Saint Peter Canisius, Priest and Doctor of the Church</i>	Sg 2: 8-14 or Zep 3: 14-18a Lk 1: 39-45 (197)
Saturday, December 21, 2024 5:30 p.m. Mass	Mr. & Mrs. Robert E. Burke	Family	Vigil of Fourth Sunday of Advent	(see below)
Sunday, December 22, 2024 9:15 a.m. Mass	Living and Deceased Parishioners		FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT	Mi 5: 1-4a Heb 10: 5-10 Lk 1: 39-45 (12)

**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)

**Las Posadas (means “Inns” or “Lodging”)** The Las Posadas religious festival is celebrated in Mexico and some parts of the United States. This festival starts on December 16th and concludes on December 24th. Las Posadas commemorates the long journey that Joseph and Mary made from Nazareth to the town of Bethlehem, in search of a safe refuge, where Mary could give birth to the baby Jesus.

Las Posadas celebration has four main parts to it. First is the prayer, then the caminata (singing during a long procession), food, and lastly the piñata. Mary, Joseph, and other people in the celebration make their way, walking through a garden while singing traditional songs of the celebration. Next, there is a dinner of the traditional food and beverage for the people participating in Las Posadas.

At the conclusion of Las Posadas, there is the breaking of the piñata. The piñata is a donkey-shaped figure, made out of paper-mâché, hung from a rope, stuffed with candy and other sweet goodies. A person is chosen to break it with a stick. They put a blindfold on and someone slowly turns the person around three times. Then, they are to figure out where the piñata is hanging and they start swinging at it in order to break it. When the piñata is broken, the candy is shared with everyone. The most important part of Las Posadas is that Mary and Joseph are given a spacious stable to stay as they await the birth of Jesus our Savior. (from: <https://www.britannica.com>topic Las Posadas>)

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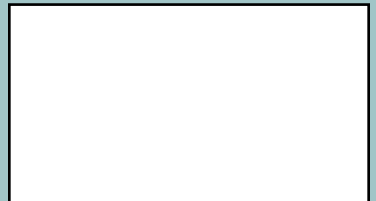
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**St. Joseph Church**  
**PARISHIONER INFORMATION**

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.