

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

IT MAY BEAR  
FRUIT IN THE  
**FUTURE.**

— LUKE 13:9 —

**Parish Stewardship**

Weekly collection for 03/16/25 ..... \$2,665.00  
 Weekly budget goal .....\$3,425.00  
 Difference ..... - \$760.00  
 CSA 2025 Assessment Goal ..... \$30,504.00  
**Thank you for supporting St. Joseph Church!**



**Christian Prayer**

**POPE'S INTENTION FOR MARCH  
 For Families in Crisis**

Let us pray that broken families might discover the cure for their wounds through forgiveness, rediscovering each other's gifts, even in their differences.



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

**Baptismal Training Sessions 2025**

April 23rd	6:00 pm	St. Leo, Ridgway	814-772-3135
May 22nd	6:30 pm	St. Marys Church	814-781-1019
June 10	6:30 pm	Queen of the World	814-834-4701

**FAITH FORMATION** -- Students in Grades K-5 and Edge will meet in the Faith Formation building for class.

**LENT PENANCE SERVICES:**

Sunday, March 23	6:00 pm	St. Mark, Emporium
Monday, March 24	6:00 pm	Holy Rosary, Johnsonburg
Thursday, March 27	6:30 pm	Queen of the World
Tuesday, April 1	6:30 pm	St. Marys Church
Wednesday, April 9	6:00 pm	St. Leo, Ridgway
Sunday, April 13	2:00 pm	St. Joseph Church, Force

**What are you planning on doing for Lent? The following is what we are doing here at St. Joseph Church for Lent:**

- **Monday, March 24th at 6:30 pm--Adult Faith Formation**
- **Tuesday, March 25th at 6:00 pm--The Rosary in Church**
- **Wednesday, March 26th at 6:30 pm--Stations of the Cross.**
- **Saturday, March 29th Movie after Mass--The Chosen**
- **Sunday, March 30th at 6:30 pm--Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament with Benediction**

*In Remembrance*

Please pray for the repose of the souls of **Ronald Mitchell, Grace Gavazzi, and Rose Youngmark.** May God grant them eternal rest.

Now that all of the snow and ice has melted, please remove any flowers/decorations that were placed on your loved one's grave. Clean-up of the cemetery will soon begin. Any flowers left in the cemetery will be discarded. Thank you.

“Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks, receives; and the one who seeks, finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.” (Matthew 7: 7-8)

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* describes prayer as God's Gift. Only when we recognize that God is the giver, and we are the humble ones who receive His Gifts, are we open to prayer. (This is Our Faith by Michael Pennock, page 323)

Prayer is also the place of covenant. Prayer comes from the heart. As the *Catechism* describes: “The heart is our hidden center, beyond the grasp of our reason and of others; only the Spirit of God can fathom the human heart and know it fully” (This is Our Faith by Michael Pennock, page 323) (2563)

Third, prayer is being in communion with God. Prayer is the habit of being in God's Presence.

(Catechism of the Catholic Church 2565)

The Scripture passage above from the Gospel of Matthew Chapter 7 is Jesus affirming and encouraging us to truly ask God for spiritual gifts that we need in our life. Several of the most important gifts are the Fruits of the Holy Spirit according to St. Paul's Letter to the Galatians Chapter 5 Verse 22 which reads: “The Fruits of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self control.”

In this weekend's Gospel, Jesus speaks of the fig tree being cultivated with the hope of bearing good fruit in the future. We hope that the Fruits of the Holy Spirit will be cultivated and grow in our life as a result of **our prayers we pray to God.** The following prayer is asking Jesus to be His Light and the Fruit of His Presence to shine through us.

**Radiating Christ (The Fragrance Prayer)**

Dear Jesus,  
 Help me to spread Your Fragrance wherever I go.  
 Flood my soul with Your Spirit and Life.  
 Penetrate and possess my whole being so utterly,  
 that my life may only be a radiance of Yours.  
 Shine through me, and be so in me  
 that every soul I come in contact with  
 may feel Your Presence in my soul.  
 Let them look up and see no longer me, but only Jesus!  
 Stay with me, and then I shall begin to shine as You shine,  
 so to shine as to be a light to others.  
 The light, O Jesus, will be all from You;  
 none of it will be mine. It will be You,  
 shining on others through me.  
 Let me thus praise You the way You love best,  
 by shining on those around me.  
 Let me preach You without preaching,  
 not by words but by example,  
 by catching force of the sympathetic influence of what I do,  
 the evident fullness of the love my heart bears to you.  
 Amen.

This beautiful prayer was recited daily by Saint Teresa of Calcutta and her Sisters of Charity. This prayer is also known as The Fragrance Prayer. *By Venerable John Henry Cardinal Newman February 21, 1801-August 11, 1890).*  
**God Bless, Father Mark**

# We Celebrate, We Listen, We Pray

Date	Intention	Requested by	Celebration	Scriptures
Monday, March 24, 2025 8:30 a.m. Mass	Tom & Sandy Farley	Joe Sexton	Lenten Weekday	2 Kgs 5: 1-15b Lk 4: 24-30 (237)
Tuesday, March 25, 2025 8:30 a.m. Mass	Timothy Olszewski and Mildred Olszewski	Don & Rita Olszewski	THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD	Is 7: 10-14, 8: 10 Heb 10: 4-10 Lk 1: 26-38 (545)
Wednesday, March 26, 2025 No Mass			Lenten Weekday	Dt 4: 1, 5-9 Mt 5: 17-19 (239)
Thursday, March 27, 2025 8:30 a.m. Mass	Michael Chiodo	Dennis & Deborah Bonanno	Lenten Weekday	Jer 7: 23-28 Lk 11: 14-23 (240)
Friday, March 28, 2025 8:30 a.m. Mass	William & Mary Alice Cassels and deceased members of the Cassels Family	Lamont & Frances Gray	Lenten Weekday	Hos 14: 2-10 Mk 12: 28-34 (241)
Saturday, March 29, 2025 No Mass			Lenten Weekday	Hos 6: 1-6 Lk 18: 9-14 (242)
Saturday, March 29, 2025 5:30 p.m. Mass	Donald Kentoski	Donald & Nancy Chiappelli	Vigil of the Fourth Sunday of Lent	(see below)
Sunday, March 30, 2025 9:15 a.m. Mass	Living and Deceased Parishioners		FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT	Jos 5: 9a, 10-12 2 Cor 5: 17-21 Lk 15: 1-3, 11-32 (33)

**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)

**“Christ shield me this day: Christ with me,  
 Christ before me, Christ behind me, Christ in me,  
 Christ beneath me, Christ above me, Christ on my  
 right, Christ on my left, Christ when I lie down,  
 Christ when I arise, Christ in the heart of every  
 person who thinks of me, Christ in the eye that sees  
 me, Christ in the ear that hears me.”**

**(from “The Breastplate of St. Patrick”)**





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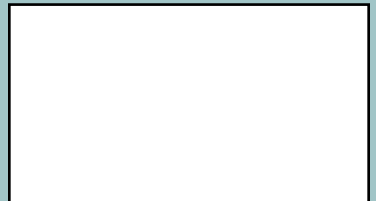
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**St. Joseph Church**  
**PARISHIONER INFORMATION**

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.