



The Nativity of the Lord

Parish Stewardship

Offertory collection for 12/08/24\$3,590.00
 Offertory collection for 12/15/24 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 evening at 6:30 pm (December 22nd)

Adult Faith Formation

Monday evening at 6:30 pm (December 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. This will be the last Penance Service before Christmas.



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

January 4th Epiphany of the Lord 5:30 pm

January 5th Epiphany of the Lord 9:15 am

January 11th The Baptism of the Lord 5:30 pm

January 12th The Baptism of the Lord 9:15 am

The Church office will be closed from December 24th through January 1st. We will open again on January 2, 2025 at 9:00 am

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!



Old Fashioned Christmas

When I think of an old fashioned Christmas, I first think of the large snowfalls. I remember growing up in Warren, PA. Snow would often come around Thanksgiving and stay on the ground until St. Patrick’s Day or even later. With the snow that constant, going sled riding and tobogganing was a Sunday afternoon event. In addition, going ice skating to Christmas songs playing in the background was also popular. Oh, we can’t forget going cross-country skiing and snowmobiling on the weekends, too. I’m sure these were many of your Winter experiences as well.

An old fashioned Christmas always included decorating the Christmas tree right before Christmas, setting the Manger scene, hanging lights around the outside trees, and decorating throughout the house with Christmas cards on the mantle. The delicious food was, and still is, a tradition in many homes: a turkey dinner with all the trimmings, along with apple and pumpkin pie. The Italian tradition was to have seven different kind of fish. Along with that would be several different pasta dishes. An old fashioned Christmas also included groups of carolers, townspeople going from house to house ringing the door bell and singing one or two Christmas songs. Family members all got together and neighbors visited each other, bringing desserts or Christmas candy to each other.

My friends, we all know that a great tradition we had, and still have at Christmas time, was being together with family and giving gifts to each other. The most inspiring time at Christmas and the reason for the season was going to midnight Mass and receiving the greatest gift of all, our Lord Jesus Christ in Holy Communion.

Out of God the Father’s Love for us and for all people who ever lived and those yet to be born, was giving us His Son, Jesus Christ, born of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Bethlehem, in a humble stable. The Messiah, Jesus, then given to us, to teach us about God’s Kingdom and to be the final Lamb of God, Who will take away the sins of the world, through His Death and Resurrection. This is what Christmas is all about.

This Christmas, take some precious time to recall those “Old Fashioned Christmases” and to thank God for the One Person, Jesus, our Lord, Who connects us and our cherished memories, with those past Christmases to this Christmas; RIGHT HERE. RIGHT NOW. May each of us in our own unique and creative ways, make NEW CHERISHED MEMORIES THIS CHRISTMAS, that will make it one of the best Christmases ever.

Merry Christmas and God Bless!
 Father Mark



We Celebrate, We Listen, We Pray

Date	Intention	Requested by	Celebration	Scriptures
Monday, December 23, 2024 8:30 a.m. Mass	Peter Anthony Morelli birthday	daughter-Rita	Late Advent Weekday <i>Saint John of Kanty, Priest</i>	Mal 3: 1-4, 23-24 Lk 1: 57-66 (199)
Tuesday, December 24, 2024 4:30 p.m. Mass 10:00 p.m. Mass	Geraldine Schloder Paulette Winkler Wallace	John & Becky Bricen Family	Late Advent Weekday	Morning: 2 Sm 7: 1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16 Lk 1: 67-79 (200) Vigil: Is 62: 1-5/Acts 13: 16-17, 22-25 Mt 1: 1-25 or 1: 18-25 (13) Night: Is 9: 1-6/Ti 2: 11-14/Lk 2: 1-14 (14)
Wednesday, December 25, 2024 9:15 a.m. Mass	Living and Deceased Parishioners		The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)	Dawn: Is 62: 11-12 Ti 3: 4-7 Lk 2: 15-20 (15) Day: Is 52: 7-10/ Heb 1: 1-6/Jn 1: 1-18 or 1: 1-5, 9-14 (16)
Thursday, December 26, 2024 No Mass			Saint Stephen, The First Martyr	Act 6: 8-10, 7: 54-59 Mt 10: 17-22 (696)
Friday, December 27, 2024 No Mass			Saint John, Apostle and Evangelist	1 Jn 1: 1-4 Jn 20: 1a, 2-8 (697)
Saturday, December 28, 2024 No Mass			The Holy Innocents, Martyrs	1 Jn 1: 5--2: 2 Mt 2: 13-18 (698)
Saturday, December 28, 2024 5:30 p.m. Mass	Living and Deceased Parishioners		Vigil of The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph	(see below)
Sunday, December 29, 2024 9:15 a.m. Mass	Germaine Olewnik	Rosemary Portera	THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH	1 Sm 1: 20-22, 24-28 1 Jn 3: 1-2, 21-24 Lk 2: 41-52 (17)

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

A Country Christmas It is beautiful to see a country church with a manger scene near the church. Many Christmas cards show this, with a snow covered landscape, a horse and buggy in front of the church, and people dressed out of the 19th Century era walking into the church. Life looked so simple in those pictures.

Then my thoughts take me to that first Christmas, which was in a small country town: Bethlehem. The shepherds, who saw and heard the angels singing, were in a field. The country and small towns and villages, must be very important to God the Father for His Son, our Lord Jesus, to be born in.

My friends, a country Christmas can be a song or poem or a short story. But for us, let's be especially grateful to Jesus our Lord that the stories of our lives and our Christmas celebrations are lived out in our villages of Bennetts Valley. A country Christmas can be for us a quiet, peaceful, slower paced experience so we can really take in the meaning of Jesus' Birth for each of us. Let this be our greatest joy this Christmas. Amen!



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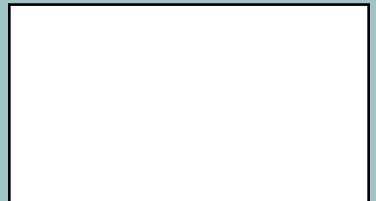


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St. Joseph Church
PARISHIONER INFORMATION

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.