



THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS



Jesus said to Nicodemus: "No one has gone up to heaven except the one who has come down from heaven, the Son of Man." For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him. - Jn 3:13, 17

Parish Stewardship

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Weekly collection for 08/31/25..... | \$2,307.00 |
| Weekly budget goal | \$3,425.00 |
| Difference | \$1,118.00 |
| CSA 2025 Assessment Goal | \$30,504.00 |
| CSA Pledges to date | \$30,845.00 |

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR CHURCH!

POPE'S INTENTION FOR SEPTEMBER

For Our Relationship With All of Creation

Let us pray that, inspired by Saint Francis, we might experience our interdependence with all creatures who are loved by God and worthy of love and respect.



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

September 16th 6:30 pm St. Boniface, Kersey 814-885-4488
October 11th 10:00 am Sacred Heart 814-781-1019

Sunday, September 21st, will be the first day of Faith Formation classes for all students in Grades K-5, Edge, and Confirmation.

Father Mark will meet with parents of students immediately following Mass on September 21st in the Church. Students will report to the Faith Formation building.

Child Protection and Creating Safe Environments- Diocesan

Child Protection Policies: The Diocese of Erie is committed to protecting minors who are entrusted to our care. The Diocese has policies and procedures in place to address the national problem of child abuse, to aid in the prevention of abuse, and to develop and maintain safe environments. All those who minister to minors are screened, trained, and agree to a Code of Conduct.

To read the Policy that includes the Code of Conduct, go to:
<https://www.eriecd.org/childprotection/policies-1.html>

For more information, contact the diocesan Office for the Protection of Children and Youth at 814-824-1195.

Elk County Right to Life is sponsoring a bus to the March For Life in Harrisburg on September 22, 2025. The cost is \$10.00.

Come be a voice for the unborn. Contact Mary Bea Maloney at 814-834-3834 for information.

ECO TIP #188 FOOD

EASY: Reduce the amount of food you waste. Buy what you need. Eat it up

CHALLENGING: If possible, create a space outside your home to compost food waste. Bonus: Eventually, it creates healthy soil for a garden to grow more food.

What Prayer Is

The traditional Catholic definition of prayer is "the raising to God of one's mind and heart." In recent years, there has been a preference for the definition of prayer as "speaking with God." This understanding is helpful: it includes all types of prayer, and at the same time, reminds us that prayer is not a monologue but a dialogue, a conversation. In prayer, we answer God, Who first spoke through His Word, and especially through the Word made flesh. Our prayer is an answer to Jesus Christ.

It is most helpful to keep in mind the four general types of prayer: adoration, thanksgiving, contrition, and petition. Our prayer can be asking God for something if it is God's Will that we receive it. However, we must beware of praying only when we want something. The ideal, as life goes on, is to give God more adoration and thanksgiving, as well as true contrition in prayer.

©1975 Most Rev. John F. Whealon, STL, SSL, DD Archbishop of Hartford, CT Vatican II Weekday Missal

In conclusion, my brothers and sisters,

Adoration: This is spending time praying in Church, before the blessed Sacrament, and it is celebrated during the Exposition and the Benediction Service. It can also be quiet meditation and contemplative, alone with God.

Thanksgiving: This prayer can be as easy as thanking God each day when we wake up for life that day! It can be the words: "Thank you, Jesus, for answering my prayers."

Contrition: This prayer is a prayer of sorrow for doing something we know was not helpful, but wrong. It is admitting to God that we have sinned and then asking for His Forgiveness. This prayer is formally expressed when going to confession and praying the Act of Contrition.

Petition: This prayer is asking God for the special intentions we have. It is asking God for personal healing and recovery of good health for ourselves and our loved ones. It is asking for the things we need in life, such as, food, housing, clothes, and employment. It can be asking for things we need that we will also share with others. Our petitions can be just simply asking for a special blessing for a positive outcome of a situation and it can be constantly praying for others and for peace on earth.

As we celebrate this Feast Day today of the Exaltation of the Cross, let's pray in petition for God's Words in John's Gospel Chapter 3: 16 to be fulfilled for ever person on this earth: "For God so loved the world that He gave His Only Son, so that EVERYONE WHO BELIEVES in Him might not perish, but might have eternal life."

God Bless, Father Mark

We Celebrate, We Listen, We Pray

| Date | Intention | Requested by | Celebration | Scriptures |
|---|---|-------------------------------|--|--|
| Monday, September 15, 2025 8:30 a.m. Mass | Albino & Hazel Bleggi | Family | Our Lady of Sorrows (Twenty-Fourth Week in Ordinary Time) | 1 Tm 2: 1-8 (443) Jn 19: 25-27 or Lk 2: 33-35 (639) |
| Tuesday, September 16, 2025 8:30 a.m. Mass | Poor Souls in Purgatory | | Saint Cornelius, Pope, and Cyprian, Bishop, Martyrs | 1 Tm 3: 1-13 Lk 7: 11-17 (444) |
| Wednesday, September 17, 2025 No Mass | | | Weekday <i>Saint Robert Bellarmine, Bishop and Doctor of the Church; Saint Hildegard of Bingen, Virgin and Doctor of the Church</i> | 1 Tm 3: 14-16 Lk 7: 31-35 (445) |
| Thursday, September 18, 2025 8:30 a.m. Mass | Al Terlinski | cousin | Weekday | 1 Tm 4: 12-16 Lk 7: 36-50 (446) |
| Friday, September 19, 2025 8:30 a.m. Mass | Leo Calliari | Evelyn Kentoski and family | Weekday <i>Saint Januarius, Bishop and Martyr</i> | 1 Tm 6: 2c-12 Lk 8: 1-3 (447) |
| Saturday, September 20, 2025 No a.m. Mass | | | Saints Andrew Kim Tae-gön, Priest, and Paul Chông Ha-sang, and Companions, Martyrs | 1 Tm 6: 13-16 Lk 8: 4-15 (448) |
| Saturday, September 20, 2025 5:30 p.m. Mass | Living & Deceased Members of St. Joseph Church | | Vigil of Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time | (see below) |
| Sunday, September 21, 2025 9:15 a.m. Mass | Gerard Secco, Sr. birthday | wife-Barb | TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME | Am 8: 4-7 1 Tm 2: 1-8 Lk 16: 1-13 or 16: 10-13 (135) |

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.

Our Labor Day Celebration

I want to take this time to thank all of the people of our parish who volunteered their time in making our Bennetts Valley Labor Day Celebration a very joyous, fulfilling, and wonderful celebration this year!

I am very grateful for all of the work and time spent of those who created our beautiful float with the Hope and Resurrection theme and those who handed out cards along the parade route! I am very grateful for all the work and time spent of those who worked in our food booth in frying our fish, wing dings, French fries, and pizza. And those working at the counter serving and those working behind the scenes. I am very grateful for all of the work and time spent of those who transported and set up the tables, chairs, and equipment that was used in our food booths! I thank all of you parishioners who supported our food booths in having your lunch or supper there! We as a community look forward to this annual celebration each year!

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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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