• THE HOLY FAMILY •
TAKE THE CHILD AND HIS MOTHER.
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Parish Stewardship

Due to early bulletins, collections will be published in January

CSA 2025 Assessment Goal $30,504.00
CSA Pledges to date $30,845.00

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.

The Church office will be closed this week and will reopen on Monday, January 5, 2026.
Happy New Year!

Baptismal Training Sessions 2026

January 06	6:30 pm	Queen of the World	814-834-4701
February 24	6:30 pm	St. Mark, Emporium	814-486-0569

Faith Formation: NO classes on December 28th and January 4th. Classes will resume on January 11, 2026.

Christmas Mass Times for St. Joseph Church

December 27th	The Holy Family	5:30 pm
December 28th	The Holy Family	9:15 am
January 1st	Mary, the Holy Mother of God	9:15 am
January 3rd	Epiphany of the Lord	5:30 pm
January 4th	Epiphany of the Lord	9:15 am
January 10th	The Baptism of the Lord	5:30 pm
January 11th	The Baptism of the Lord	9:15 am

There is still plenty of time to take a tag from our tree and purchase a hoodie for the Guardian Angel Center. The clothing will be delivered sometime in January, possibly early February. Thank you for your generous donations to the Guardian Angel Center.

ECO TIP #203: NEW YEAR COMING

EASY: Remember at least one happy/joyful occasion from 2025. Share it.

CHALLENGING: Looking ahead to 2026, identify at least one improvement you want to make in your lifestyle – perhaps buying less, perhaps being kinder to those who have different opinions than you, perhaps…

Kersey K of C Monthly Breakfast Sunday, January 4th, from 8 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. or until sold out. St. Boniface Social Hall. $10 for adults; $5 for 16 and under. All are invited to come and enjoy this "all you can eat" breakfast buffet!

Pastoral Plan (Part Two)

Question 3. What are the benefits of your expectations and recommendations?

Answer: By all of us being honest and transparent of our hopes and goals in this process and including, of course, asking the Holy Spirit to guide us, I believe that we can say at the "end of the day" we are being led by God's Spirit in doing His Will. The recommendations of going gently and patiently reflects the Fruits of the Holy Spirit as recorded in St. Paul's letter to the Galatians, Chapter 5 Verse 22. People would be more willing to stay and not leave the Church, to support it financially. I believe we can avoid a lot of anger from the people's reactions.

Question 4. Do the benefits address the long-term future of this geographic area of the Diocese?

Answer: It is true, at this point, for me to say that it is always a benefit to discern the short- and long-term goals of one's life and in this case, the longevity of each of our parishes. Please consider this verb LONGEVITY.

With this in mind, I believe that there does NOT have to be a "one size fits all" structure change just because some other deaneries and parishes had to cluster and partnership with each other. This pastoral planning may need to have some changes of Mass times, sharing of ministries, and Faith Formation of children and of adults, such as OCIA. That would be great and in some parishes is already happening. The EDGE program is a wonderful evangelistic way that our young people enjoy! In some ways, the long-term goals of the future of this geographic area have to be ONE of the top priorities. But other top priorities are to be asked: How well has this church served this geographic community? Are we evangelizing our young people and reaching out to young families as to how can the Church help them at this time of their life? Moreover, if younger people as in some universities, start coming to Mass in droves because of their love for Jesus, we will need Churches and ministries. I know that finances are important for all parishes. Increased offertory efforts and conducting a census or outreach to have people re-register in a parish can generate a better financial return, especially to emphasize using their assigned envelopes.

Question 5. What are the risks involved if we maintain the status quo or implement a pastoral plan?

Answer: One risk that would be involved if we maintain the status quo would be financial risks. Older people are the ones who are giving more (or able to give more than younger). Someday, when the older pass on, will those who are young now continue to support the Church? The risk involved in implementing the pastoral plan could make people not want to go to church or support it financially. They'll come to a negative conclusion and not teach their children how important Sunday Mass is.

Question 6. What are some of the challenges and obstacles?

Answer: Challenges are our aging population in all of our parishes. The views of news, social media, and of people that have negative views of the Church are both challenges and obstacles. **Better news is coming!**

We Celebrate, We Listen, We Pray

Date	Intention	Requested by	Celebration	Scriptures
Monday, December 29, 2025 **No Mass**			Fifth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord *Saint Thomas Becket, Bishop and Martyr*	1 Jn 2: 3-11 Lk 2: 22-35 (202)
Tuesday, December 30, 2025 **No Mass**			Sixth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord	1 Jn 2: 12-17 Lk 2: 36-40 (203)
Wednesday, December 31, 2025 **No Mass**			Seventh Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord *Saint Sylvester I, Pope*	1 Jn 2: 18-21 Jn 1: 1-18 (204)
Thursday, January 01, 2026 **9:15 a.m. Mass** **NEW YEAR'S DAY** **World Day of Prayer for Peace**	Timothy W. Sims	Family & Friends	The Octave Day of the Nativity of the Lord SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD	Nm 6: 22-27 Gal 4: 4-7 Lk 2: 16-21 (18)
Friday, January 02, 2026 **No Mass**			Saints Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops & Doctors of the Church	1 Jn 2: 22-28 Jn 1: 19-28 (205)
Saturday, January 03, 2026 **No a.m. Mass**			Christmas Weekday *The Most Holy Name of Jesus*	1 Jn 2: 29-3: 6 Jn 1: 29-34 (206)
Saturday, January 03, 2026 **5:30 p.m. Mass**	Ken Mitchell birthday	Jack & Deb	Vigil of The Epiphany of the Lord	(see below)
Sunday, January 04, 2026 **9:15 a.m. Mass**	Living & Deceased members of St. Joseph Church		THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD	Is 60: 1-6 Eph 3: 2-3.5-6 Mt 2: 1-12 (20)

St. Joseph Church **Rev. Mark J. Mastrian** Pastor
17764 Bennetts Valley Hwy., P. O. Box 124, Force, PA 15841-0124
OFFICE HOURS: Monday thru Thursday 9a.m. to 4 p.m.

On this Feast of The Holy Family, I want to share with you a beautiful prayer that Saint Pope John Paul II composed for all families to pray together. As you read it, I suggest you allow each line to personally speak to your family.

Lord God, from You every family in Heaven and on earth takes its name. Father, You are love and life. Through Your Son, Jesus Christ, born of woman, and through the Holy Spirit, the fountain of divine charity, grant that every family on earth may become for each successive generation a true shrine of life and love. Grant that Your Grace may guide the thoughts and actions of husbands and wives for the good of their families and of all the families in the world.

Grant that the young may find in the family solid support for their human dignity and for their growth in truth and love. Grant that love, strengthened by the grace of the sacrament of marriage, may prove mightier that all the weaknesses and trials through which our families sometimes pass.

Through the intercession of the Holy Family of Nazareth, grant that the Church may fruitfully carry out her worldwide mission in the family and through the family.

We ask this of You, Who is life, truth, and love with the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen. (Pope John Paul II, 1999)

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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.