



• THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD •

**“THIS IS MY
BELOVED SON.”**

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 JANUARY
For Prayer with The Word of God

**Let us pray that praying with the Word of God be
 nourishment for our lives and a source of hope in
 our communities, helping us build a more
 fraternal and missionary Church.**



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 2026

February 24	6:30 pm	St. Mark, Emporium	814-486-0569
March 21	10:00 am	Sacred Heart	814-781-1019

Faith Formation: Class will resume on January 11, 2026.
ALL classes will meet in the Faith Formation building.

There will be a brief meeting after class on January 18th for the parents of our 2nd grade Reconciliation students. We will meet in the Faith Formation building conference room.

Reminder: The **2025 CSA Campaign** is coming to a close. There are still outstanding balances on pledges that were made. These outstanding balances, if not paid, will become the responsibility of St. Joseph Church to pay. Please submit any pledge payments before February 23rd so they can be processed and sent to the Diocese before the end of February. Thank you for your commitment to our CSA!

A Family Perspective: The words in today's Gospel, "This is my beloved, with whom I am well pleased," are words every child needs to hear often. Affirmation is crucial for raising happy and confident children.

Parenting Pointer: Apologizing isn't a sign of weakness. It shows you are big enough to admit your mistakes and models an important skill for your child. Is there anything you have done (or not done) during the past year that an apology would help heal? Be a big enough person to do it.

Word of Life - A Prayer for Hope: "Heavenly Father, in the sacrament of Baptism, You have given us the gift of new life. Through Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit, You have made us Your Own. Help us to recognize the gift of human life as a sign of hope in our world. Reveal to us the places where Your Precious Gift of life is most in need of protection and strengthen us to defend life in all stages and circumstances, from the child in the womb to the elderly and dying. Guided by Your Holy Spirit, guard us from discouragement and give us the grace to be messengers of hope, filled with confidence that nothing can separate us from Your Love."
 USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities "A Prayer for Hope"

As We Begin This New Year: 2026

My brothers and sisters, as we begin this New Year, 2026, we are grateful that God has brought us this New Year to live for God's Glory and Honor, and to establish new goals and plans in each of our lives.

The Good News I share with you is that our social hall reconstruction and restoration is coming along very well! We look forward to having our Lenten fish dinners that we enjoy doing as a parish! Our starting celebration will be a St. Valentine's Day celebration with a prayer blessing, appetizers, and a light meal after the 5:30 p.m. Mass on either Saturday, February 7th or 14th. On Sunday morning, we will have coffee, donuts, and sweet breads after the 9:15 a.m. Mass. The Faith Formation students will also have some donuts and cookies brought to them in the Faith Formation building.

As we begin this New Year, we pastors and office staff, are having further discussions with others from the St. Marys churches and all of the churches in the Elk Deanery about the Pastoral Plan. All of the churches involved in the discussions of the Pastoral Plan are: St. Joseph, Force; St. Boniface, Kersey; St. Leo, Ridgway; Holy Rosary, Johnsonburg; St. Mark, Emporium; and St. James, Driftwood; St. Mary and Sacred Heart Churches in St. Marys; and Queen of the World in St. Marys.

One of the main concerns that all of us pastors have is to inspire and encourage more people in our parish to come BACK TO MASS. We know that a lot of people have returned to Mass after COVID, but there are many that have not returned. There are some people, for whatever reason, that have not returned to Mass in many years. I pray for those people every day with the hope that they will return someday. If any of them need to talk to me, I am available to them. I love them and I welcome them back to Mass. I know, also, that you, the parishioners of St. Joseph Church, are also concerned for them and hope they will soon return to coming to Mass.

My brothers and sisters, as we begin this New Year, I encourage all of you to invite someone that you know has not been to Mass for a while, to come with you to Mass. By doing this outreach for the person or family you bring back to Church, they will be forever grateful to you. They will see that you care enough for them by inviting them back to rediscover Jesus' Presence in the celebration of the Holy Mass again. We as a community will also rejoice to share fellowship with them!

I will continue to share with you the development of the Pastoral Plan as it unfolds. **God Bless!**

We Celebrate, We Listen, We Pray

Date	Intention	Requested by	Celebration	Scriptures
Monday, January 12, 2026 8:30 a.m. Mass	Gerald Klaiber	Cindy & Dale Duell	Weekday (First Week in Ordinary Time)	1 Sm 1: 1-8 Mk 1: 14-20 (305)
Tuesday, January 13, 2026 8:30 a.m. Mass	Tom Anzalone	Cindy & Dale Duell	Weekday Saint Hilary, Bishop and Doctor of the Church	1 Sm 1: 9-20 Mk 1: 21-28 (306)
Wednesday, January 14, 2026 No Mass			Weekday	1 Sm 3: 1-10, 19-20 Mk 1: 29-39 (307)
Thursday, January 15, 2026 8:30 a.m. Mass	Lewis Cian	Tim & Lori Sims	Weekday	1 Sm 4: 1-11 Mk 1: 40-45 (308)
Friday, January 16, 2026 8:30 a.m. Mass	Eddie Zuchelli 2nd anniversary	Mary & Family	Weekday	1 Sm 8: 4-7, 10-22a Mk 2: 1-12 (309)
Saturday, January 17, 2026 No a.m. Mass			Saint Anthony, Abbott	1 Sm 9: 1-4, 17-19; 10: 1 Mk 2: 13-17 (310)
Saturday, January 17, 2026 5:30 p.m. Mass	John Mitchell	Mitchell Family	Vigil of Second Sunday in Ordinary Time	(see below)
Sunday, January 18, 2026 9:15 a.m. Mass	Living & Deceased members of St. Joseph Church		SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	Is 49: 3-6 1 Cor 1: 1-3 Jn 1: 29-34 (64)

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.

Saturday Vigil: 5:30 pm Sunday: 9:15 am Holy Days: 9:00 am & 7:00 pm Daily: Mon., Tues., Thurs., Fri. 8:30 am No Mass on Wednesday

(Pastoral Plan continued) The question is: **What role do you see yourself as fulfilling this process?**

My answer is the following: The role I see myself fulfilling in this process is to strive to be the best priest and pastor I can be and in being a patient listener to our people. Also, I want to be creative in doing outreach and evangelization. Finally, I want to be with my people and help them and walk with them through this pastoral plan as the Holy Spirit unfolds it.

Symbols of Baptism: 1. The Oils of Baptism-this is administered at the bottom of the neck in the Opening Rites. 2. Water-the water is blessed and it is poured over the individual's head with the words by the priest "*(name)* I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen." 3. The Oil of Chrism-which anoints the person as priest, profit, and king. This is administered on the crown of the head. 4. The presenting of the white garment to symbolize purity. 5. The candle that the dad holds symbolizes the Light of Christ.

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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.