



**MASS INTENTIONS**  
Dec. 31: †*Kateryna Lackey* – Mike & Barb Fedele  
Jan. 7th: †*Maggie Clemente* – Mom & Dad

THE NEW LECTOR SCHEDULE WILL BE MAILED OUT THIS WEEK. PLEASE CALL THE OFFICE IF YOU DO NOT RECEIVE ONE.

MEMORIAL CANDLES		Dec. 15-31, 2023	
Church Sanctuary	† <i>Elizabeth, Alice, Susan, &amp; Marjorie</i> -Mary & Jeanne		
Chapel Sanctuary	† <i>Elizabeth, Alice, Susan, &amp; Marjorie</i> -Mary & Jeanne		
Blessed Mother	† <i>Jack Hanobic – Wife &amp; Family</i>	† <i>The Gilmore Family– Janet</i>	† <i>Class of 1976 – Cathy Himmel</i>
Saint Joseph	† <i>Mattioli Family – Janet</i>	† <i>Mark Morocko – The Kurutz Family</i>	† <i>Charles Maxwell Jr– Lisa &amp; Jack Houser</i>

**IN OUR PRAYERS♥**

Jennifer Sauter, John “Tink” Green, Sandy Francis, John Laubscher, Kay Hirlinger, Connie Shope, Deanna Dare, Donald Felty, Bill O’Neill, Karen Tomko Strobel, Susan Nelson, Thomas Packer, Bill Leary Jr., Melinda O’Neill-Lewis, Bart Pickering, Katherine Huggler, Gayle Jenkins, Elaine Charcalla, John Kapp, Ron J. Long, Ruth Donnell, Vera Hough, Jeane Bressler, Grace DeSanto, Grace “Susie” Kisko, Liz Kalafut, Arnie Burrows, Brenda DeJoice, Caleb Leone, Adam Smith, Joyce Winkleman O’Brien, Chad Willard, Connie O’Toole Conrad, Kevin Dwyer, Denise Colvin, Frank Morton, Sue Sette, Mary Tripp, Estefan Nevarez, Merle Prebble, Larry Conly, Shawna Weaver, Kathy Jo Kalafut, Ben Moser, Kasey Knauff, Ruby Prebble, Chris Howlett, Willy Dressler, Joey Herridge, Anna O’Neill, Terry O’Laughlin, Mike Fantazier, John Tarantella, Lynn Anderson, Lisa Myers, Ed McGuire, Danielle Luzier, Kathy Smith, David Moore, Emma Christner, and Monica Fox

WEEKLY SCHEDULE    Collection Counters: Mary, Louie, and Ann			
<b>MONDAY</b> 1/01			
<b>TUESDAY</b> 1/02	Communion Service	8:30 am	Chapel
<b>WEDNESDAY</b> 1/03			
<b>THURSDAY</b> 1/04			
<b>FRIDAY</b> 1/05	Communion Service / Benediction	6:00 pm	Chapel
<b>SATURDAY</b> 1/06			
<b>SUNDAY</b> 1/07	CCD (K -9)	10:45 am	Rectory
	Mass	12 noon	Church

December 31, 2023

# CHURCH OF SAINT JOSEPH

925 Huron Avenue • Renovo, PA 17764  
570-923-0172 • stjosephrenovo@dioceseaj.org  
Website: www.stjosephchurchrenovopa.org



MASS TIME

Sunday: 12 noon

CONFESSION:

Sunday: 11:35 – 11:55 am  
Wednesday by appt.



COMMUNION SERVICES

Tuesday: 8:30 a.m. (Chapel)  
First Friday: 6:00 p.m. (Chapel)

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday: 9 am - 2 pm  
Tuesday: Closed  
Wednesday: 9 am - 5 pm  
Thursday: 9 am - 2 pm  
Friday: Closed

MISSION STATEMENT

As members of the family of God, our mission is to joyfully share the good news, reconnect with lapsed Catholics, and warmly welcome them back into the fold. We are dedicated to serving as positive role models for the youth in our parish, exemplifying the richness of the Catholic Faith. Through the pillars of prayer, education, hospitality, outreach, and stewardship, we aim to open our arms wide, embracing all who seek to be a part of our vibrant faith community.

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS,  
MARY & JOSEPH

PARISH STAFF

Rev. Joseph Orr.....*Pastor*  
Rev. Daniel Heiser.....*Deacon*  
Alison Heiser.....*Secretary/DRE*  
Terry O’Laughlin.....*Finance/Sacristan*  
Louis Roteigliano.....*Design Specialist/PR*

SICK CALL

Please notify the office when a parish member is in the hospital or cannot attend Church and wishes to receive Holy Communion at home.

MARRIAGES & BAPTISMS

Call the church office to schedule an appointment.

PARISHIONER REGISTRATION

If you wish to become a member of the parish, please reach out to the parish office. Additionally, if you are relocating from the parish, kindly inform us. Active membership, demonstrated through registration, practicing stewardship, and regular participation in the Sacraments, qualifies individuals to serve as godparents or sponsors. As a Church community aspiring to be faithful disciples and responsible stewards, contributing our time, talent, and treasure is vital for the collective well-being.

## BLESSING OF COUPLES

### Vatican Declaration Fiducia Supplicans “On the Pastoral Meaning of Blessings”

The recent statement from the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith approved by Pope Francis has caused confusion and widespread concern among some of the faithful regarding the sacrament of marriage. For those who have not read the document here is a synopsis.

The declaration reaffirms “the traditional doctrine of the Church about marriage, not allowing any type of liturgical rite or blessing similar to a liturgical rite that can create confusion”. The official definition to which the dicastery refers is that “marriage is a covenant between a man and a woman”. Even the pope lacks the authority to change the substance of that doctrine.

Fiducia Supplicans, however, leaves it up to the priest whether he will for pastoral reasons give a simple blessing to a couple approaching him for a blessing regardless of their circumstances while “avoiding all serious forms of scandal and confusion among the faithful”. It would apply to situations such as an engaged couple who might be living together or a couple invalidly married who are seeking to have their marriage convalidated in the Church and who wish in private to receive a special grace to aid them in living a holy life and avoiding sin as they go through the process preparing for the sacrament of marriage. This is in keeping with the traditional theological understanding of blessings.

Unfortunately, the declaration may be misused by some priests and bishops as a justification for them to go beyond a legitimate interpretation of the document and actually conduct an illicit and invalid formal marital ritual which in the eyes of the faithful would seem to elevate to the level of a sacrament an illicit and possibly sinful union. Be assured that in most dioceses and parishes this will not happen. Please, pray for the pope, bishops, and priests of the Church that we may be faithful to the task entrusted to us by our Lord, Jesus Christ and, as the dicastery requests, avoid causing “scandal and confusion among the faithful”. Pray also for all God’s people, especially those struggling in troubled relationships that we may all respond to God’s gift of grace, deal appropriately with our human weaknesses, and be found pleasing in the eyes of God.



*May God’s will be at the center of your family and  
bring bountiful blessings in the coming year! God Bless!*

Father Orr, Deacon Dan, and Alison

A New Year Prayer Lord, whether we're leaving behind a year of joy and blessing or trials and difficulties, we pause to give thanks. We thank You that You are always with us, every single day of every single year. Please remind us of Your presence in the year ahead, even when life is busy. Amen.

**\*The parish office will be closed tomorrow Monday, Jan. 1 in observance of the New Year. The office will reopen Wednesday, Jan. 3<sup>rd</sup> at 9:00 am.**

### NORTHERN DEANERY RAFFLE

For just \$10 per ticket, participants have the opportunity to win one of four thrilling prizes. Starting in January, we will have an early bird drawing each month of 5 winners. Each winner will receive five replacement tickets for the one ticket drawn, and the seller listed on the ticket will receive a check for \$50!! This year, you can accept cash instead of the prize.

- 1st Prize is a \$30,000 Car Voucher or \$25,000 cash
- 2nd prize is a Houseboat Vacation or \$1,500 cash
- 3rd Prize is a Seven Springs Excursion or \$750 cash
- 4th Prize is a Yeti Cooler Package or \$200 cash

The church will be undecorating on Sunday, January 7th, after the noon Mass. If you are available, your help will be greatly appreciated.

### **COMMUNION SERVICES**

Did you know that every Tuesday at 8:30 am, the dedicated volunteer Mike Fedele orchestrates a 20-minute Communion Service? Despite the profound significance of this regular gathering, it often goes unnoticed, with only a handful of parishioners, typically numbering between 4 to 5, in attendance each week. It seems that the awareness of this spiritually enriching event hasn't reached as many as it could, making it a hidden gem in our weekly schedule. Also, on every First Friday, Deacon Dan conducts a Communion service adorned with Benediction and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. Given our limitation of one Mass per week, we find ourselves at a slight disadvantage compared to places where daily Mass is more accessible. Yet, we consider ourselves truly fortunate to have a compassionate deacon and dedicated volunteers who generously offer these additional services. Perhaps consider attending one of these uplifting gatherings a part of your 2024 spiritual journey: Tuesday, Jan. 2<sup>nd</sup> at 8:30am / Friday, Jan. 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm

**WELCOME**

Welcome to all, especially visitors and guests, who have come to worship in our Church today! No matter how long you plan to be in the neighborhood, please consider St. Joseph’s your parish home. Call the parish office, 570-923-0172, to schedule an appointment with Father Orr to register.

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 or Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9/Col 3:12- 21 or 3:12-17 or Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19/Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22, 39-40  
Monday: Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 (2a)/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21  
Tuesday: 1 Jn 2:22-28/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/Jn 1:19-28  
Wednesday: 1 Jn 2:29—3:6/Ps 98:1, 3cd-4, 5-6/Jn 1:29-34  
Thursday: 1 Jn 3:7-10/Ps 98:1, 7-8, 9/Jn 1:35-42  
Friday: 1 Jn 3:11-21/Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5/Jn 1:43-51  
Saturday: 1 Jn 5:5-13/Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20/Mk 1:7-11 or Lk 3:23-38 or 3:23, 31-34, 36, 38  
Next Sunday: Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 (see 11)/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12

This weekend’s certainly easier than last. Yes, a Sunday—the Feast of the Holy Family—and a holiday—New Year’s Eve and Day—come crashing together again. But, it’s easier because in the United States usually when a holy day of obligation falls on a Saturday or Monday, the obligation to participate in Mass is taken away. (Christmas, for what I hope are obvious reasons, is one of the exceptions.)

But, let’s think about January 1. It carries levels and levels of meaning. The original feast in ancient Rome was in honor of Mary as the Mother of God. Vatican II revived that emphasis. For many centuries, it was the feast of the Circumcision—the rite that made Jesus part of the Jewish people. In some Christians it was the feast of the Holy Name—also reflecting the gospel of the day. And, of course, in modern times it becomes the beginning of the civil year—with all our best hopes and promises to do better this time. In even more modern times, Pope St Paul VI named it the World Day of Prayer for Peace.

What can do with this multifaceted day this year? You don’t have to come to Mass; but what better way to begin afresh than with God’s sacramental grace and blessing? (And if you don’t, please don’t confess it—you can’t sin against a rule that just isn’t there!) Especially in the light of war, terrorism and violence, shouldn’t we do something for peace? Offer a prayer? Read something about the struggles of folks in Israel or the Ukraine? Be informed about our world and its needs. Reconcile with someone we’re not on good terms with? Do something for the poor? Make resolutions that are deeper than personal fitness, resolutions that heal and forgive and bring at least peace to our lives?

**† Our Gifts to God †**  
**Sunday Offering: Dec. 24, 2023**

Regular Collection:	\$ 1,970.00
Monthly:	355.00
Children	7.00
	<u>\$ 2,332.00</u>

Votive: \$ 41.00  
Christmas Flowers: \$360.00

*CHRISTMAS*

Regular Collection:	\$ 3,877.00
Monthly:	0.00
Children	10.00
	<u>\$ 3,887.00</u>

*Thank you for being good stewards.*

**CANDY BAR SALE**

Indulge in the holiday spirit with our freshly restocked selection of delightful candy bars, perfect for spreading cheer! 🌟 For just \$1.00, treat yourself or a loved one to the sweet satisfaction of a delicious chocolate bar (peanut butter, roasted almond, crisp rice, and milk chocolate)

**2024 CALENDARS**

Free 2024 calendars are available in the back of the church, donated by Maxwell Helt Funeral Home. Every Catholic household should have one. Thank you to Maxwell’s Funeral Home for sponsoring St. Joseph's calendars.

**2024 OFFERTORY ENVELOPES**

Your new offertory envelopes will be in the back of the church. Please pick yours up and your neighbors or friends. Please contact the parish office if you do not see a box with your name. Thank you!

**PARISH COUNCIL**

All parish council members are asked to attend the meeting for January, which will be held next Wednesday, Jan. 10th, at 6:00 pm in the rectory.