

ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH 309 AVENUE F, MATAMORAS, PA 18336 PH 570-491-2618 or 570-491-4404
 EMAIL: stjosephchurch@optonline.net OFFICE HOURS MONDAY & THURSDAY 10:00am – 2:00pm

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

Monday	12:00 PM	July 26	Mary Rita Cortright requested by Jim & Ellen Burnett
Tuesday		July 27	NO MASS
Wednesday		July 28	NO MASS
Thursday	12:00 PM	July 29	Arthur Smith requested by Louise Piccirillo
Friday		July 30	NO MASS
Saturday		July 31	John Hess requested by Donna & Ray Calvario
Sunday	8:30 AM	August 01	For the People of St. Joseph's Parish
Sanctuary Candle		7/25 – 7/31	In Memory of Russell & Rusty Haas requested by Carol Haas

Weekly Offering July 11, 2021 \$3813.00 July 18, 2021 \$2412.00 *Thank you for your generosity!*

IN MEMORIUM

Please remember in your prayers *Arlene Herbert & Joyce Paulison* who passed away. May their souls and all the souls of the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace. Amen.

WELCOME VISITORS

We're so glad you've chosen to worship with us today. Whether you're a visitor to the area, a neighbor, or a prospective parishioner, we hope you'll find a warm welcome. All are welcome at St. Joseph's regardless of your status in the church, personal history, or prior religious experience. We hope to see you again soon!

ST. JOSEPH'S PARISH COUNCIL

is looking to fill vacancies on the Parish Council. If you are interested in serving the parish in this ministry please contact Lee Kenney at 570-491-2620.

MASS DISPENSATION ENDING

Beginning August 15th, the Dispensation granted by the Diocese of Scranton regarding Mass attendance will end and the obligation to attend Mass on Sunday and Holy Days of Obligation will resume. Please read Bishop Bambera's Letter on the back of this page.

UPDATED MASS GUIDELINES AS OF JUNE 28, 2021

Effective immediately all FULLY-VACCINATED individuals are not required to wear masks while attending Mass. You are welcome to wear a mask if desired. If you are NOT FULLY-VACCINATED, you are strongly encouraged to wear a mask during Mass/Holy Communion but are not mandated. PLEASE be respectful of someone's choice to wear a mask in Church. If you are experiencing any Covid-19 symptoms PLEASE DO NOT ENTER THE CHURCH. Thank you!

CONFESSIONS

Confessions are heard in the Confessional on Saturdays from 3 – 3:30pm.

WEBSITE

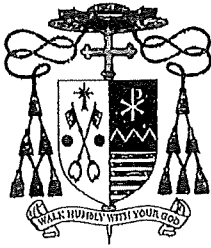
Please visit our website, www.stjosephsmatamoras.com for the most recent announcements, spiritual references and updates. You can also follow us on Facebook at [@stjosephsmatamoraspa](https://www.facebook.com/stjosephsmatamoraspa) and on Twitter [@stjosephs_pa](https://twitter.com/stjosephs_pa)

ONLINE GIVING

If you are interested in making your donations online, online, please visit our website and click on WeShare. We are grateful for your continued generosity.

ST. JOSEPH'S PRAYER CIRCLE

Anyone who wishes to have prayers said for themselves or another may call Karen Sweeney @ 570-491-2228 or Tom Hogan @ 570-872-4925. If you wish you may also send the name via email to sweeneyfive2002@yahoo.com or tchogan@ptd.net



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON
300 WYOMING AVENUE
SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA 18503-1279

July 15, 2021

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

For more than a year, the COVID-19 pandemic has posed unique challenges in our lives. It has brought hardship and struggle to some - separation, anxiety and isolation to others. We pray for those who have been directly affected by the virus, those that are still impacted by its effects and those who have lost loved ones.

Since March 2020, there has been a dispensation in the Diocese of Scranton from the obligation to participate at Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation. In light of the continued decline in cases and hospitalizations locally, that dispensation will end on Sunday, August 15, 2021, the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. This change will occur in each diocese in Pennsylvania on the same date.

The Sunday celebration of Mass is the center of the Church's life. The importance - and necessity - to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days is rooted in our Baptism as Christians. Baptism compels us, as Christians, to unite ourselves with Christ at the altar in his saving Sacrifice of the Cross. Put simply, attending Mass is an encounter with Our Risen Lord.

This is a moment to thank God anew for the great gift of the Mass and the Real Presence of Jesus to us in His Holy Body and Blood as well as the joy of gathering together as people of faith.

As Pope Francis reminded us in his 2013 Apostolic Exhortation, *Evangelii Gaudium*, "The joy of the gospel fills the hearts and lives of all who encounter Jesus." Long before we knew a pandemic was on the horizon, the Holy Father reminded us the Sunday encounter gives us the strength to experience the present with confidence and courage and to go forth with hope.

I invite and encourage all of the faithful in our community - including those who may have left the Church long before the pandemic - to return to the Table of the Lord - and be nourished by the Bread of Life! Our participation at Mass in-person is a gift for our own spiritual well-being, happiness and eternal salvation. It is also our responsibility to our brothers and sisters with whom we journey in faith.

It is important to note that people who are seriously ill or have a serious health risk, as well as those who have significant fear or anxiety of being part of a large group will continue to be legitimately excused from participating in Mass on Sundays and Holy Days. Those individuals are still encouraged to spend time in prayer, meditating on the Death and Resurrection of the Lord, reading Sacred Scripture and uniting themselves to Christ in his worship of the Father of us all.

Please continue to pray for all of our clergy and religious - who work tirelessly to make sure our parish communities remain safe and vibrant!

Faithfully yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, D.D., J.C.L.
Bishop of Scranton