

# SAINT JOSEPH

## PARISH

Saint Joseph  
Church and  
Saint Luke  
Church  
Two Churches  
United in One  
Parish



*Our Mission is to encourage all of our brothers and sisters to share the valuable gifts that each person has to offer our parish community and to invite everyone to participate more fully through prayer, worship, education and fellowship as we proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.*

**St. Joseph Church:** 600 Pennsylvania Ave. West, Warren, Pa 16365,  
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**St. Luke Church:** 420 North Main St., Youngsville, PA 16371, Office: 814-  
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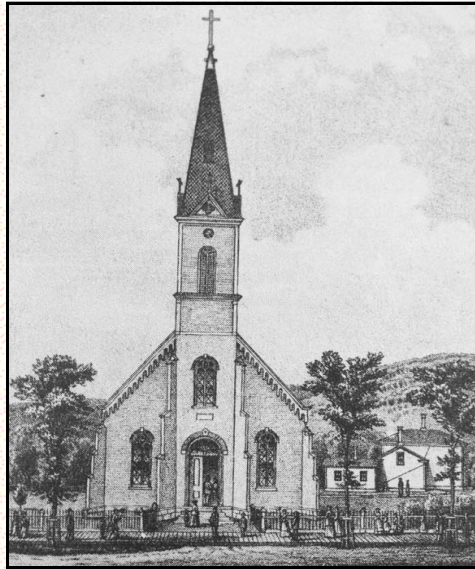
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### [Our History:](#)

On the site of a former Seneca Indian settlement now known as the Four Flags area just across the Allegheny River from our present location, the first Mass was held by Rev. Bonnecamp of the Celeron Expedition on August 19, 1749.

Over 100 years later in 1850, a small one thousand square foot brick church was erected on what is now the corner of 4th Avenue and Beech Street. At the time, there were 17 families in the congregation. The first priests were out of the Pittsburgh area.





In 1870, Father De La Roque came to Warren County as the pastor of St. Joseph Church. He oversaw the planning and completion of a new church in 1877. This brick church, which cost \$20,000, stood on the west side of Beech Street between Pennsylvania Avenue and Fourth Street. It was torn down in 1957.

In 1959, under the guidance of Msgr. Alfred Bauer, our current church

was built on the corner of Pennsylvania Avenue West and Hazel Street. In 1980, the St. Joseph Catholic School/Religious Educational Center was opened under the pastorship of Fr. Salvatore P. Lucci.

Over the life of our Church Community, we have been guided by the following pastoral leaders:

Rev. Sheridan 1858-1869

Rev. Thomas Lonergan 1869-1870

Rev. Marc Antoine DeLaRoque 1870-1893

Rev. Tracey 1893-1895

Rev. James A. McCabe 1895-1900

Rev. Joseph W. Sieverding 1900-1923

Rev. William C.L. Becker 1923-1924

Rev. Joseph H. Diamond 1924-1941

Rev. W.J. Moore 1941-1943

Msgr. Alfred M. Bauer 1943-1975

Msgr. George M. Hickey 1975-1976

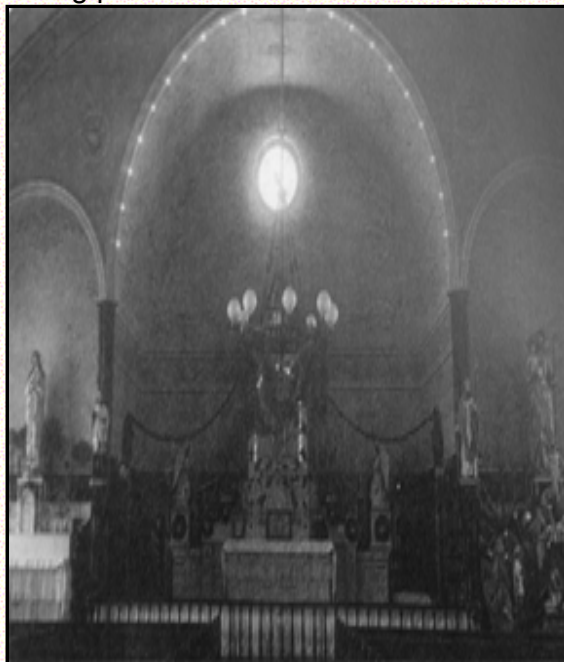
Rev. John O. Meyer 1976-1979

Rev. Salvatore P. Luzzi 1979-1995

Rev. Walter E. Packard 1995 - 2010

Rev. Richard J. Toohey 2010 - 2017

Rev. Richard C. Tomasone 2017 - present



Compiled by Gail Grosch

**Our Saint - St. Joseph:**

Patron of the Universal Church - Feast day: March 19





Everything we know about the husband of Mary and the foster father of Jesus comes from Scripture and that has seemed too little for those who made up legends about him. We know he was a carpenter, a working man, for the skeptical Nazarenes ask about Jesus, "Is this not the carpenter's son?" (Matthew 13:55). He wasn't rich for when he took Jesus to the Temple to be circumcised and Mary to be purified he offered the sacrifice of two turtledoves or a pair of pigeons, allowed only for those who could not afford a lamb (Luke 2:24).

Despite his humble work and means, Joseph came from a royal lineage. Luke and Matthew disagree some about the details of Joseph's genealogy but they both mark his descent from David, the greatest king of Israel (Matthew 1:1-16 and Luke 3:23-38). Indeed the angel who first tells Joseph about Jesus greets him as "son of David," a royal title used also for Jesus.

We know Joseph was a compassionate, caring man. When he discovered Mary was pregnant after they had been betrothed, he knew the child was not his but was as yet unaware that she was carrying the Son of God. He planned to divorce Mary according to the law but he was concerned for her suffering and safety. He knew that women accused to adultery could be stoned to death, so he decided to divorce her quietly and not expose her to shame or cruelty (Matthew 1:19-25).

We know Joseph was man of faith, obedient to whatever God asked of him without knowing the outcome. When the angel came to Joseph in a dream and told him the truth about the child Mary was carrying, Joseph immediately and without question or concern for gossip, took Mary as his wife. When the angel came again to tell him that his family was in danger, he immediately left everything he owned, all his family and friends, and fled to a strange country with his young wife and the baby. He waited in Egypt without question until the angel told him it was safe to go back (Matthew 2:13-23).

We know Joseph loved Jesus. His one concern was for the safety of this child entrusted to him. Not only did he leave his home to protect Jesus, but upon his return settled in the obscure town of Nazareth out of fear for his life. When Jesus stayed in the Temple we are told Joseph (along with Mary) searched with great anxiety for three days for him (Luke 2:48). We also know that Joseph treated Jesus as his own son for over and over the people of Nazareth say of Jesus, "Is this not the son of Joseph?" (Luke 4:22) We know Joseph respected God. He followed God's

commands in handling the situation with Mary and going to Jerusalem to have Jesus circumcised and Mary purified after Jesus' birth. We are told that he took his family to Jerusalem every year for Passover, something that could not have been easy for a working man. Since Joseph does not appear in Jesus' public life, at his death, or resurrection, many historians believe Joseph probably had died before Jesus entered public ministry.

Joseph is the patron of the dying because, assuming he died before Jesus' public life, he died with Jesus and Mary close to him, the way we all would like to leave this earth.

Joseph is also patron of the universal Church, fathers, carpenters, and social justice.

Prayer:

***"Saint Joseph, patron of the universal Church, watch over the Church as carefully as you watched over Jesus, help protect it and guide it as you did with your adopted son". Amen***

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