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VISITATION PARISH MEMBERSHIP FORM

NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ ZIP _____

Check One: ☐ New Registration ☐ Change of Address ☐ Moving Out of Parish ☐ Want Envelopes

Please drop Membership Form into the offertory basket or mail to Rectory. 814-536-6110

Church of the Visitation
of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Rectory Phone: 536-6110
E-Mail: visitationjtown@dioceseaj.org
Website: www.visitationbvmparish.org
Fax: 536-3709

The Epiphany of The Lord
January 7th, 2024

MASS SCHEDULE

MONDAY - The Baptism of The Lord
12:05 PM - John Friecko Sr.
(Req. by Paul & Sandy Beiter)
Rescheduled from 1-5-2024

TUESDAY - No Mass

WEDNESDAY - No Mass

THURSDAY - Weekday in Ordinary Time
12:05 PM - Phyllis Urban
(Req. by Family)

FRIDAY - Weekday in Ordinary Time
12:05 PM - Rev. Ken Keene
(Req. by Father John)

SATURDAY - Vigil of 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
4:00 PM - Pro Populo

5:30 PM - Gloria Fenik
(VPM)
(Req. by Family)

SUNDAY - 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
9:00 AM - John Kubacka
(Req. by Dale, Anne & Ed Williams)

SANCTUARY CANDLE

In Memory of Mary Hawthorne
Req. by Cathy Fuska

The daily readings; may be found at USCCB.ORG
under the heading of daily readings and in the back of
the missalette.

1127 McKinley Avenue
Johnstown, PA 15905

Rev. John J. Slovikovski, PhD, Pastor
Mrs. Maureen Clark, DRE
Mrs. Kathleen Bumbernick, DMM
Mr. David Kozak, Chairperson, PC
Ms. Catherine Bennett,

Mr. Joseph Martella, Vice-Chairperson, PC
Steve Myers, Chairperson, FC
Rectory Office: 9:00—3:00 PM, Mon.—

IN LOVING MEMORY: The Sanctuary Lamp is available for your intentions by calling the parish office. Please attempt to request your intention as early as possible. A \$10 donation is suggested.

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE: Confessions are heard regularly on the First Saturday of every month at 3:00—3:30 PM (suspended until Ft. John is well). **Confession may ALWAYS be arranged with Fr. John personally by calling the rectory office. Please avail yourselves to this life-giving sacrament!**

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE: Scheduled no less than **nine months** prior to the date of marriage. Four preparation sessions with the pastor, as well as all diocesan requirements, must be met. All Catholic candidates for Marriage must be registered, practicing members of a parish at least 6 months prior to scheduling the wedding.

INFANT BAPTISM: Baptisms are generally celebrated during one of the Sunday Liturgies. Pre-baptismal instructions must be completed by the parents at least 3 weeks prior to the celebration of the sacrament. Catholic godparents must obtain a letter of eligibility from their pastors four weeks in advance. Baptisms are never celebrated during the Season of Lent.

ANointing of the Sick: Celebrated after any Sunday Mass as requested and as a parish during the Easter Season.

MEMBERSHIP: Forms are located on the back page of the bulletin (or on the parish website) to be filled out and sent to the parish. Registrations are also welcome by phone.

\$\$\$ INCOME \$\$\$

Collection - December 31, 2023

Loose Money.....	\$395.00
Sunday Collection.....	\$2206.00
Immaculate Conception.....	\$8.00
Solemnity of Mary.....	\$565.00
Christmas Offering.....	\$540.00
Christmas Flowers.....	\$30.00
Share in the Care.....	\$2.00
Initial Offering.....	\$195.00
Votive Shrines.....	\$25.00
St. Peregrine.....	\$20.00
Apartment Rental - Jan.....	\$625.00
Learning Lamp Rent - Jan.....	\$3800.00
Parking Lot Rent.....	\$135.00

TOTAL: \$8546.00

Let us continue to pray for the members of our parish community who serve in the military, as well as for the sick, elderly and homebound members of our parish especially:

Anonymous Petitioners, Helene and Pat Balagusz, Ralph Blair, David Clark, Ronald Cleaver, Dolores Danner, Dorothy Fisher, Barbara Fox, Emma Friecko, Paul Harnish, Catherine Heinlein, Baby Gianna Kniss, Karen Kohan, Betsy Konar, Marylee Konicky, Madeleine Krueger, Gaile Kru-menacker, Victoria Leflie, Michael Letzo, Patricia Mainhart, Marianne Mangiafico, Pat Meagher, Mary Mihalacki, Myla Minner, Larry Oravetz, Anna Petro, Francis Petro, Anna Ma-rie Pfeil, Maria Petro-Sanders, Mia Bella Rastall, Stacy Rob-erts, James Rován, Sean Rován, Leonard Russell, Doctor Larry Rutledge, Stephen Sanders, Jennifer Schellhammer, Ernestine Schmidt, Rose Sigg, Allegra Slick, Father John Slovikovski, Shirley Slovikovski, Megan Varnecky, Coralie Williams, Christi and Nancy Vavrek, Carrie Young

Please join us in remembering members of our parish family who celebrate their birthdays the week of January 8th to January 14th:



Robert Borosky

Francis Daly

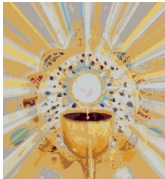
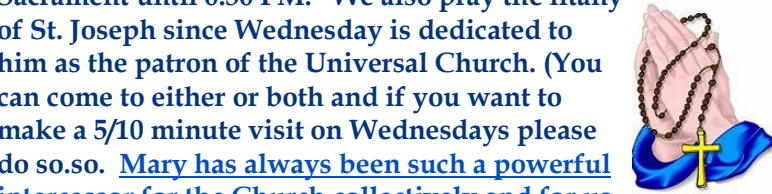
David Conrad

Eddie Corona

As part of our commitment to growing in intimacy in our relationship with Christ, please consider taking part in the following devotions:

Tuesday, 6:00 PM— Community Rosary

Wednesday—5:30 Mass followed by adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 6:30 PM. We also pray the litany of St. Joseph since Wednesday is dedicated to him as the patron of the Universal Church. (You can come to either or both and if you want to make a 5/10 minute visit on Wednesdays please do so.so. Mary has always been such a powerful intercessor for the Church collectively and for us personally. Wouldn't it be a blessing if we could carve out at least one Tuesday a month to pray with out brothers and sisters who gather regularly to pray the Rosary. Also, could you think about God who gave his son in Jesus Christ to be our salvation. Could you include him in your prayer by stepping forward to adore him for merely 30 minutes one time per week on Wednesdays during 2024.



PUBLIC ROSARY - A public rosary to Pray for The Unborn on Thursday, January 11th at 6:30 PM at St. Clement Church in Upper Yoder.

In celebration of the 800th anniversary of Saint Francis of Assisi creating the first Nativity scene in Greccio, Italy, which included live animals and people recreating the humble, yet magnificent birth of Christ, Catholics who visit a Franciscan parish and pray before the Nativity scene in that church can receive a plenary indulgence. This indulgence was approved by the Apostolic Penitentiary at the direc-tion of Pope Francis. More information in the online Magazine, Proclaim, the official portal for information concerning the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown, specifically, A Plenary Indulgence is Available with Visits to Certain Parishes this Christmas - Proclaim (dioceseaj.org). I regret that I was unable to print the exact link here.

Jim Golias : December was an inundating month for me and I shut down completely once I contracted COVID. During that time our beloved brother in Christ, **Jim Golias**, died on December 18, and was buried. Jim was a faith-filled man and that was demonstrated in so many ways. Within our own walls, he served as a beloved usher/greaeer. One cannot help but remember the years he met parishioners in the back where a greeting which more often than not became an engaging conversation with a lively demeanor. He was a very, very holy man. I visited him a few weeks before he died and he held his rosary tightly and professed his love for the Blessed Virgin Mary and Jesus with assurance and pride. He also showed love for his fellow human persons as a veteran of the Korean War (he had many conversa-tions with my dad who also served in post-war Ko-reas.) He volunteered for more than 25 years at the Women's Help Center in Johnstown. Jim was a man who not only embraced in faith in word, but also in action as he embraced "love command" through his service to and love of others. We have no doubt in our hope that the enjoys heaven-ly glory with God, JAMES GOLIAS, REST IN PEACE, DEAR FRIEND AND MODEL OF FAITH.



From the Pastor's Desk: There a quite a few things that I would like address this week; hopefully in a benign yet signifi-cant manner, all of which is written in an earnest way.

First I would like to say a few things regarding the Mass. First, hopefully every member of the parish in 2020 knew that the obli-gation to attend Sunday Mass (physically) was reinstituted. This means that according to Church teaching, to fail to attend mass (physically), unless one is ill or homebound, is a mortal sin. The convenience of watching mass at home or on the internet is no longer a valid reason for not attending Mass. The return to this practice reminds us that part of the reality of Church is communi-ty, for Christ is also present in the assembly. If you know of someone who does not come to mass for any unexcused rea-son, gently ask them to come home. Second, there are a few issues that we need to be reminded of regarding the cele-bration of liturgy: a.) remaining in the vestibule of the Church during Mass **does not** fulfill one's Sunday obliga-tion; b.) Mass does not end until the end of the final hymn. Please only leave early for the most serious of reasons; c.) it is customary the we stand during the reception of Holy Communion. You may also receive Communion in your mouth or in your hand. IT IS NOT OUR PRACTICE TO GENUFLECT OR KNEEL DURING THE RECEPTION OF COMMUNION. The reason is two-fold: it can be danger-ous to others around you (I have seen people trip when someone genuflects in front of them), Also, it goes com-pletely against the call of Vatican II for unity and uniformi-ty; and d.) please refrain from any unnecessary talking or conversion while Mass is being celebrated.

AS FOR GOOD NEWS THE PARISH IS DOING WELL AS WE BEGIN 2024. We are financially stable; however, we can always do better. Our numbers in terms of Church attend-ance we are relatively stable (again we can always do bet-ter). Our parish participation at liturgy has grown quite a bit over the last several months. I congratulate you for your decision to become people who exercise "full conscious, active" participation in the Eucharist. You have been **su-premely generous** to the poor, especially the food drives that we have periodically. Our buildings and grounds are quickly getting up to speed (after 20 years of mismanage-ment) and I have no worries about maintenance. And last, please consider giving to the "Catholic Ministry Drive." I am the first person to say that you have **every right** to have issues with the bishop and/or the diocese, due to a lack of mindfulness (perceived or real) in regard to parish in the past. Why I am asking you to participate is that I have heard through the grapevine that there may be some type of assessment for parishes who do not meet 25% of their goal or higher. Our goal is nearly \$27,500 one fourth of that amount would be \$6,875. Even if we made a modest effort to increase the amount the parish contributes, I believe the diocese would look favorably on this. However, giving to the CMD is a **truly a matter of conscience** and must be fol-lowed (whether you decide to give or not."

JUBILEE CORNER: Stage I

I finally made definitive arrangements with regard to the Visitation Pilgrimage to Italy in Celebration of the Great Jubilee year 2025. At present, the official flyer for the pilgrimage will be verified this Friday and they will become available next week-end after masses or by the calling the rec-tory during that week. All of the places we will be contained in the flyer including dates, locations to be visited, information on meals and much more important infor-mation. Hotels are asking tour companies for a down pay-ment in order to secure hotels and restau-rants. They in turn are asking that all in-dividuals make a \$500 deposit by March 15th of this year. The flyers that will be distributed will provide the necessary in-formation to make the down payment. Things are getting very exciting as every-thing is starting to take a formal shape. REMEMBER THAT THERE ARE AT LEAST TWO MORE MONTHS TO SIGN UP FOR THE PILGRIMAGE. If you are on the fence or do want to join us, you may have a brochure by calling the recto-ry.

Professional Parish Cookbook: Plans are in the works for a parish cookbook to be published pro-fessionally. If you wish to contribute a recipe (s), please take time to sign up in the main vestibule of the Church. I will compose the title, introductions, submit recipes etc. for the book. Also, I will be the primary editor of the book. Please consider partic-ipating in this project to make our parish's culi-nary delights available to a wider audience **You need only place your name and idea of the recipe on the sign-up sheet (you are not bound to the exact recipe ideas that you put down.**

