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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

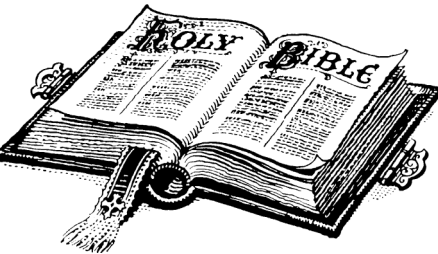
2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time,
January 14th, 2024

MASS SCHEDULE

- MONDAY** - Weekday in Ordinary Time
12:05 PM - Ann Lecci
(Req. by Monica & Gary Ripple)
- TUESDAY** - Weekday in Ordinary Time
12:05 PM - Gloria Rager
(Req. by Alexis & Dave Kozak)
- WEDNESDAY** - No Mass
- THURSDAY** - Weekday in Ordinary Time
12:05 PM - Vickie Schmidt
(Req. by Pamela & Loren Hauman)
- FRIDAY** - No Mass
- SATURDAY** - Vigil of 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
4:00 PM - Pro Populo
- SUNDAY** - 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
9:00 AM - Michael Kozak
(Req. by Mr. & Mrs. Francis Daly)

SANCTUARY CANDLE

The Spiritual and Temporal Welfare
of all the members of Visitation Parish.



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
Mr. Steve Myers, Chairperson, FC
Ms. Caris Houghton, Maintenance

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 - January 7, 2024

Loose Money.....	\$141.00
Sunday Collection.....	\$1679.00
Solemnity of Mary.....	\$38.00
Christmas Offering.....	\$80.00
Initial Offering.....	\$147.00
Votive Shrines.....	\$90.00
St. Peregrine.....	\$28.00
Perquisites - Dunkle Funeral.....	\$100.00
Parking Lot Rent.....	\$420.00
Ordinary Donations.....	\$50.00

TOTAL: \$2773.00

2023 CALENDAR PROFIT: \$8400.00

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 Frieko, Paul Harnish, Catherine Heinlein, Baby Gianna Kniss, Karen Kohan, Betsy Konar, Marylee Konicky, Madeleine Krueger, Gaile Krumenacker, Victoria Leflie, Michael Letzo, Patricia Mainhart, Marianne Mangiafico, Pat Meagher, Mary Mihalacki, Myla Minner, Larry Oravetz, Anna Petro, Francis Petro, Anna Marie Pfeil, Maria Petro-Sanders, Mia Bella Rastall, Stacy Roberts, James Rován, Sean Rován, Leonard Russell, Doctor Larry Rutledge, Stephen Sanders, Jennifer Schellhammer, Ernestine Schmidt, Rose Sigg, Allegra Slick, Father John Slovickovski, Shirley Slovickovski, Megan Varnecky, Coralie Williams, Christi and Nancy Vavrek, Carrie Young

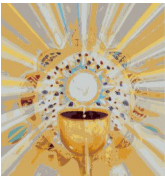
Please join us in remembering members of our parish family who celebrate their birthdays the week of January 15th to January 21st:



- Charles Arnone
 Mark Schiffhauer
 Colleen Brady
 Joanne Boyle
 Louis Crocco
 Paul Schmidt
- Nicholas Gjurich
 Rebecca Bumernick
 Asher Hauman
 Stella Callahan
 Leonard Russell

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.

SAVE THE DATES: It is difficult to believe that Lent is less than a month away. With this in mind, I would like you to reserve the following dates: Saturday, February 10th, we will celebrate our Annual Mardi Gras party from 5:00 PM until 6:30 PM in the school cafeteria. In years gone by, we had almost 100 participants; the last time it was held there was just under 1/2 of that amount of attendees. Please consider joining us that day for good food and fun fraternizing. As always, this gathering is FREE for all who attend. Second, I would ask you place on your schedule Ash Wednesdays and all of the Fridays in Lent (except Good Friday) as days that we will be holding our annual Fish Fry from 11:00 AM until 6:00 PM. I ask you to place these dates in your calendar for two reasons: so that you may patronize our Fish Fry and/or serve as a volunteer. I have high expectations that many of you will come out to help us in 2024, as it is one of our major fundraisers of the year, and a significant way of helping our parish remain alive and stable. More information will follow next weekend. Thank you!

As noted above, Ash Wednesday is February 14th this year. Our Annual Fish Fries are just around the corner. There will be a planning meeting on Wednesday, January 17 at 6:00PM in the rectory assembly room. All volunteers are URGED to attend. As noted above, I hope to see some new faces, in particular, those who benefit from the Parish's substantial



contribution: to their education: that means both the Adults and children of these families. Please know that the parish is observing all of these families in order to decide if the memoranda of understand will be signed. Finally, new members of the parish are asked to consider stepping us to help with these fundraisers.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE PARISH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED ON MONDAY JANUARY 15TH, 2024 FOR THE DIOCESAN OBSERVANCE OF THE MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. HOLIDAY!



From the Pastor's Desk: Please note that the first two pieces of this column are taken from last week's bulletin. They need to be repeated because of their importance and the fact that our attendance was very poor due to the inclemency of the weather.

First I would like to say two things regarding the Mass. First, hopefully every member of the parish in 2020 knew that the obligation 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 community, for Christ is also present in the assembly. If you know of someone who does not come to mass for any unexcused reason, gently ask them to come home. Also, on this point I would like to remind you that staying in the main vestibule during the Sunday Mass does not meet your obligation to attend Mass. When you are not part of the worshipping community physically, you are not considered to be a full, active, conscious participator in the liturgy. Also, I humbly ask that you 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 at least 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 followed (whether you decide to give or not—you will never be judged by your decision by me or this community).

The State of the Parish continues to be healthy. I hoped to offer a class; however, my teaching schedule and my irregular medical appointments prevent me from doing so. I am more that stable and I continue to need your ongoing prayers for me. In light of this and a bit of personal reflection, I am considering a Lenten project called "Partners in Prayer." This is not difficult; if you sign up for this activity you will have someone pray for you during the season of Lent anonymously. You, in return, will have someone praying for you. I strongly encourage you to participate as part of your Lenten observances for 2024.

I would also like to remind you that you can schedule an appointment with me at any time. These appointments can involve the sacrament of reconciliation and/or talking about either a general matter or something that tugs at your heart. In any regard, Lent is a time for healing our relationships with God, neighbor, self, and world, and I would enjoy greatly being a part of that process with you. NB: Lent is just one opportunity for this, and I can make myself available at anytime.

JUBILEE CORNER: Stage I, Part III -WEEKLY UPDATE II

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 in approximately two weeks. You may pick up the flyers either after masses or by the calling the rectory during the week. All of the places we will visit will be contained in the flyer including dates, locations to be visited, arrangement of meals and much more pertinent information. Hotels are asking tour companies for a down payment in order to secure hotels and restaurants. They in turn are asking that all individuals make a \$500 deposit by March 15th of this year. The flyers that will be distributed will provide the necessary information to make the down payment. Things are getting very exciting as everything is starting to take a formal shape. REMEMBER THAT THERE ARE FOUR MONTHS LEFT 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 parish office.

Professional Parish Cookbook: Sign up sheets remain in the main vestibule of the Church. When considering possible recipes, note that I need to see a representation from every category; however, I will be filling in all of the areas not covered. Note that I will not be actively beginning this project until the end of February. Remember, all the profit that we make will be placed in our general account.

On Friday, January 5th, Visitation Parish assisted HATTIE DUNKLE on her journey from time to eternity. I experienced Hattie as kind soul who was both prayerful and humble. Approximately one month after my father died, she called to make an appointment to speak with me. I wondered what this 92 year old woman from Sell Street might want of me. Much to my surprise she came to offer her condolences and to ask me about many of the mysteries of our faith. What a beautiful encounter. I am filled with hope that she now experiences the joys of heaven. Hattie, Rest In Peace!!

