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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

1127 McKinley Avenue
Johnstown, PA 15905

Rev. John J. Slovickowski, 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
Ms. Chris Houghton, Maintenance

4th Sunday in Ordinary Time,
January 28th, 2024

MASS SCHEDULE

MONDAY - Weekday in Ordinary Time
12:05 PM - Frank Karmanocky
(Req. by Janet Hanley)

TUESDAY - Weekday in Ordinary Time
12:05 PM - Loretta Meyers
(Req. by Family and Friends)

WEDNESDAY - Weekday in Ordinary Time
5:30 PM - Spiritual and Temporal Welfare of
Rev. Matthew Misurda
(Req. by Anonymous)
***Adoration of Blessed Sacrament
After Mass until 6:30 PM***

THURSDAY - No Mass

FRIDAY - The Presentation of the Lord
12:05 PM - Edward Stofko
(Req. by Pauline Molchany)

SATURDAY - Vigil of 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time
4:00 PM - Pro Populo

SUNDAY - 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time
9:00 AM - Lucille Hoover
(Req. by Cathy Fuska)

SANCTUARY CANDLE

Spiritual and Temporal Welfare of
Father John

The daily readings; may be found at either
USCCB.ORG or under the headings of daily readings
listed in the back of the missalette.

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.

ANOIDING 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 21, 2024

Loose Money.....	\$338.00
Sunday Collection.....	\$2180.00
Solemnity of Mary.....	\$55.00
Christmas Offering.....	200.00
Initial Offering.....	\$33.00
Votive Shrines.....	\$64.00
St. Peregrine.....	\$30.00
Sanctuary Candle.....	\$20.00
Parking Lot Rent.....	\$35.00
Extraordinary Donation.....	\$620.00

TOTAL: \$3575.00

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, Francis Dietz, Dorothy Fisher, Barbara Fox, Emma Frieke, Paul Har-nish, Catherine Heinlein, Mary Carol Hill and children, Donna Johnson, Baby Gianna Kniss, Karen Kohan, Betsy Konar, Marylee Konicky, Madeleine Krueger, Gaile Kru-menacker, Victoria Leflie, Michael Letzo, Joanne Macri, Patri-cia 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 Slovikovski, Shirley Slovikovski, Megan Var-mecky, 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 29th to February 4th:



Gerald Gorentz

Anthony Hunko

For the Good of the Vineyard and Our Particular Part of It:
 SAVE THE DATES - It is difficult to believe that Lent is less that 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 Wednesday and all of the Fridays in Lent (except Good Friday) as days that we will be holding our annual Fish Fry take out and delivery service 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!



Young Adult Group (18-39) - Theology on Tap returns January 31st from 6-8pm at The Boulevard Grill (165 Southmont Boulevard). Our January guest speaker is Remil Teny - Education Director of the Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation. Young adults of all faiths aged 18-39 are welcome to join us for faith, fellowship, and free food with a cash bar! Thank you to Saint John Gualbert Cathedral for providing January's food. For more information contact Geoffrey Stumpo at (814) 659-7415 or geoffstumpo@gmail.com.

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. It would be a blessing to carve out at least one Tuesday a month to pray with out brothers and sisters who gather to pray the Rosary. Also, God gave his son in Jesus Christ to be our salvation. Could you include him in your prayer by stepping forward to adore him for 30 minutes one night per week?



Our Secretary, Catherine, will be out of the office for two (2) weeks following an operation that she had on Wednesday, January 24. Unfortunately we will be without help during that time. If you call the rectory and no one answers, please leave a message on the secretary's phone and someone will return your call within 24 hours. Thank you.

From the Pastor's Desk: A REMINDER: The inclemency of the weather has not been good for us here at Visitation Parish. With the amount of money that we have taken in over the last THREE weekends we need to be creative with our monthly budget in order to meet our financial obligations, especially some unexpected expensive repairs to our school building and rectory: therefore, I am NOT asking you to increase your contributions. I am merely asking that if you were unable to make it to Mass that you please continue to make your contribution for those days. We really need to maintain our normal weekly collection (which is approximately \$4000 per week) to be financially stable. You may provide your offering in one of three ways. First, you can bring your envelopes to church, placing them in the collection. Second you may drop them off at the parish using the mail slot. Third, you may mail them to the parish. Thank you for keeping our parish financially stable.

Last week was a week of discernment with regard to my health. I ask you to continue to pray to Our Lord Jesus Christ, the Blessed Virgin Mary and Demetrius Gallitzin, servant of God, on my behalf. I truly hope the that the Lord will guide me in some critical decisions that I need to make.

It will be a difficult two week period for us with no diocesan help as I had been promised. On Catherine's day of surgery I was told that I would need to find my own help. Please be patient with us regarding calls and visits to the Church office during this period of time. As noted elsewhere, we will return phone calls within a 24 hour period. If you need to come to the rectory during office hours, please call before you come to see if someone is here that day.

I am teaching a course entitled "Death and the Christian Believer" this semester at Mount Aloysius College. This week I taught about the Catholic view of Death and the Afterlife as explained in the New and Old Testament. Although I use a text to lead the class, I find it very rewarding for all of my lecture notes come from my own thoughts and research, and I absolutely love the subject matter. I hope and pray that I remain well –to fulfill my duties at Mount Aloysius College and our Parish. Finally. I want to respond to a question asked by serval parishioners: Why do I pause when I pray for the dead in the second Eucharistic prayer? Well, the answer is rather simple and it is a combination of punctuation and spirituality. At the end of the phrase, "Remember also our brothers and sisters who have fallen asleep in the hope of the resurrection, and all who have died in your mercy;" "welcome them into the light of your face." You will notice a semi-colon present which the Oxford English Grammer indicates most often separates two independent clauses and sometimes even two dependent clauses . The latter occurs at the aforementioned part of Eucharistic Prayer II. When a semicolon is present there is an unmetered pause between the two clauses. My unmetered pause is to pray for the deceased remembered that day, my father, my family and friends who have died and all members of the parish who have died. It should be clear that I am not doing anything radical; I am following the punctuation of the English language .

JUBILEE CORNER: Stage I, Part IV –WEEKLY UPDATE

Having made definitive arrangements with regard to the Visitation Pilgrimage to Italy in Celebration of the Great Jubilee year 2025, the official flyer for the pilgrimage is currently available and you may pick up the flyers either after masses (in the sacristy) or by the calling the rectory during the week. Please remember that all individuals must 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. REMEMBER THAT THERE ARE 3 1/2 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. Thank you for your incredible patience and cooperation with the planning and execution of our pilgrimage. Also, please call the rectory to make us aware that you have paid the deposit and that you are definitely joining making the pilgrimage. Thank You!



MEN'S CONFERENCE - Register today for the 2024 Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown STRENGTH IN CHRIST men's conference on Mar. 3 from 11:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at Mount Aloysius College in Cresson. The theme is:" Journey to Jesus." Nationally recognized speaker and musician Cooper Ray will be the keynote speaker. Father Michael Pleva and Father Brian Norris will also share their faith journeys. Also, a great panel discussion with six Catholic men from throughout the diocese sure to inspire men on their faith journey. The day includes lunch and Mass at 5:00 p.m. with Bishop Mark. There is no cost. Seating is limited, so register before Feb. 23 online at dioceseaj.org or pick up a hard copy registration form at any parish..

Parish Cookbook: You may sign up to place a recipe in the parish cookbook by Sunday February 4th and I will require your recipes no later than February 25th. Please attend to these dates because they are helping me to ready the recipes by the end of March. Unfortunately, these dates must be set in stone to meet our deadlines. Thank you for your cooperation.

We will be celebrating our annual Mardi Gras party on Saturday, February 10th from 5:00 until 6:30. We will provide the main foods; however, side dishes and deserts would be appreciated. THERE IS NO COST TO ATTEND THIS EVENT. A sign-up sheet is located in the main vestibule of the Church.

