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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

5th Sunday in Ordinary Time,  
February 4th, 2024

MASS SCHEDULE

MONDAY - St. Agatha, Virgin and Martyr

12:05 PM - Loretta Meyers  
(Req. by Family and Friends)  
**\*Re-scheduled from 1-30-24\***

TUESDAY - St. Paul Miki & Companions, Martyrs

12:05 PM - John J. Slovikovski Sr.  
(Req. by Betty Ann Witkosky)

WEDNESDAY - Weekday in Ordinary Time

5:30 PM - Albert Reynolds Sr.  
(Req. by Cathy Fuska)  
**\*Adoration of Blessed Sacrament  
After Mass until 6:30 PM\***

THURSDAY - Weekday in Ordinary Time

12:05 PM - Gloria Fenik  
(Req. by Family)

FRIDAY - Weekday in Ordinary Time

No Mass

SATURDAY - Vigil of 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:00 PM - Mary Donate  
(Req. by Chuck and Terri Arnone)

SUNDAY - 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:00 AM - Pro Populo

SANCTUARY CANDLE

In Memory of John J. Slovikovski Sr.  
(Req. by Family)

The daily readings; may be found at either  
USCCB.ORG or under the headings of daily readings  
listed in 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  
Ms. Chris 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 Fr. 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 28, 2024

Loose Money.....	\$279.00
Sunday Collection.....	\$2311.00
Solemnity of Mary.....	\$50.00
Initial Offering.....	\$15.00
Votive Shrines.....	\$51.00
St. Peregrine.....	\$30.00
Parking Lot Rent.....	\$240.00
Learning Lamp Rent - Feb.....	\$3800.00

TOTAL:     **\$6776.00**

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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 Frieko, 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*

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**Please join us in remembering members of our parish family who celebrate their birthdays the week of February 5th to February 11th:**



William Lansberry  
Shannon Stephens

Kathleen Hipp  
Elizabeth Cramer

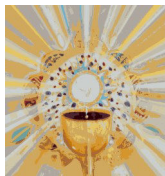
**For the Good of the Vineyard and Our Particular Part of It:**  
**SAVE THE DATE -** It is difficult to believe that Lent is less



that three weeks away. With this in mind, I would like you to reserve the following date: **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.**

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**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. So Also gave God, 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? On Wednes-days 5:30 Mass usually is 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.**



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**Annual Fish Fry: Our Annual Fish Fry will begin on February 14th (Ash Wednesday) and continue every Friday during Lent (except on Good Friday) from 11:00 AM until 6:00 PM. The cost is \$13 dollars. The menu includes an 8 oz. Fish Sandwich with coleslaw and with a choice of macaroni and cheese, French fries, or sweet Potato fries. Any extra sides are \$1 a piece. Volunteers are needed to help prepare for the Fish Fry on Monday, February 12th and Thursday February 15th at 10:00 AM in the school cafeteria. We hope to see you there. Also, I am asking you to patronize our Fish Fry. It is a shame when I hear of parishioners patronizing other churches and fire halls but not our own. Please make every effort to support us, even if it is only one time this year!**

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**Please note that Stations of the Cross will be held on the Fridays of Lent at 3:00 PM. This accommodation for those persons for whom it is difficult to go out in the dark.**



**From the Pastor's Desk:** This week has been a hard week. I was feeling ill on Thursday, and then on Friday, I felt the affects of my testing and procedures resurge once again over the weekend. Please continue to pray for me every day. Remember me especially in your conversations with our Lord, his Blessed Mother Mary, and with Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton and Demetrius Gallitzin, servant of God. I would like to be his first miracle if it is God's will. Regardless, I continue to trust and hope in God (I know that my dad is rooting for me as well).

I spent a great deal of time thinking about the devil's work to tempt us as did Pope Francis in his Sunday Angelus Message on January 28: **There are addic-tions that devour our relationships, perfectionism and temptations that undermine self-esteem, that undermine peacefulness, and the ability to choose and love life. An-other chain is fear, which makes us look to the future with pessimism, and dissatisfaction, which always blames others. And there are many, many more. Jesus frees us from the power of evil but – let us be careful – he drives out the devil but he never negotiates with him!** *Jesus never negotiated with the devil and when he was tempted in the desert, Jesus' responses were always words from the Bi-ble, never a dialogue. Brothers and sisters: with the devil there must be no dialogue because if you start speaking to him, he will always win. Be careful. So, what should we do when we feel tempted and oppressed? Negotiate with the devil? No. There must be no negotiating with him. We must invoke Jesus: let us call on Him from those places where we feel that the chains of evil and fear are tightest. We must fight temptations with all our might and recognize just how powerful the devil is. We must call upon Jesus when we are tempted the least and when we are tempted most. His is the only relationship that can save us!!*

I also spent a good deal of time reflecting om the Pope's mes-sage at his weekly audience of Wednesday, January 31. This year the pope has been reflecting on the virtues and vices. In this past audience he decided to continue to offer catechesis on the vice of **WRATH**, saying that it is a particularly dark vice. In its most acute manifestation, wrath is a vice that concedes no respite. It is born of an injustice suffered (or believed to be suffered), often it is unleashed not against the offender, but against the first unfortunate victim. In other words it is an uncontrolled anger that comes from injustices (real or per-ceived) received, but ends up being self-destructive and dam-aging to our relationships. Jesus teaches us to forgive those who sin against us, while Saint Paul urges us never to let the sun set on our anger. Yet there is an appropriate kind of anger, which consists in righteous indignation before evil and injus-tice. *How long have we been holding onto anger/wrath that really only destroys us.*

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***No one heals oneself by harming another! (Saint Ambrose)***  
*(This goes well with our reflection on wrath today).*

\*\*\*\*\* **JUBI-LEE CORNER: Stage I, Part I**  
**V – WEEKLY UPDATE**  
*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 PIL-GRIMAGE. 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 pil-grimage.*



**MEN'S CONFERENCE** - Register today for the 2024 Di-ocese 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.

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**Parish Cookbook: This weekend is the last weekend to sign-up for the parish cookbook. Please have your recipes to the rectory no later Friday.**  
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**ALL SAINT'S PARISH** will offer a lecture on Italian by Sam Patti on Monday Feb 5th at 6:30 at the Parish Hall (505 Center Street) entitled “*Understanding Italian American Culture: Reading, Listening, Watching and Googling into Clarity.*” He has been a student and teacher of Italian American History for 45 years. He has done graduate work at University of Pittsburgh and at the University of Pennsylvania.

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There will be a meeting to organize our Annual Parish Basket Party in the late spring on **Mon., Feb. 19th at 6:00 PM in the school cafeteria.** All are welcome. New members and children's parents who benefit from our contribution to your child's Catholic Education are STRONGLY encouraged to attend.