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# Church of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Rectory Phone: 536-6110  
E-Mail: [visitationjtown@dioceseaj.org](mailto:visitationjtown@dioceseaj.org)  
Website: [www.visitationbvmparish.org](http://www.visitationbvmparish.org)  
Fax: 536-3709

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time,  
February 11th, 2024

## MASS SCHEDULE

MONDAY - Weekday Ordinary Time  
12:05 PM - Peter Janiga  
(Req. by Anonymous)

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

WEDNESDAY - Ash Wednesday  
12:05 PM - Ann Lecci  
(Req. by James Mirabile)  
5:30 PM - The Ill and Infirm of  
Visitation Parish  
(Req. by Father John)

THURSDAY - NO MASS

FRIDAY - Friday After Ash Wednesday  
12: 05 PM - Loretta Meyers  
(Req. by Family & Friends)  
\*Rescheduled from 2-5-24\*

SATURDAY - Saturday After Ash Wednesday  
4:00 PM - Basil Balagusz  
(Birthday Remembrance)  
(Req. by Family)  
5:30 PM - Gloria Rager  
(VPM) (Req. by Alexis & Dave Kozak)

SUNDAY - 1st Sunday of Lent  
9:00 AM - Pro Populo

## SANCTUARY CANDLE

Living and Deceased Members  
Of Visitation Parish

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

Mr.

**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 ar-  
ranged 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 mar-  
riage. Four preparation sessions with the pas-  
tor, 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 cele-  
brated during one of the Sunday Liturgies. Pre-  
baptismal instructions must be completed by  
the parents at least 3 weeks prior to the cele-  
bration of the sacrament. Catholic godpar-  
ents 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. Regis-  
trations are also welcome by phone.

## 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



**Collection - February 4, 2024**

Loose Money.....	\$344.00
Sunday Collection.....	\$3363.00
Solemnity of Mary.....	\$20.00
Initial Offering.....	\$15.00
Ash Wednesday.....	\$40.00
Votive Shrines.....	\$51.00
St. Peregrine.....	\$20.00
Apartment Rent - Feb.....	\$625.00
Parking Lot Rent.....	\$65.00
Ordinary Donations.....	\$70.00

**TOTAL:      \$4613.00**

*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 Slovickovski, Shirley Slovickovski, 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 February 12th to February 18th:**




Kelly Garanich	Jeffrey Palm
Brent Hancock	Margaret Wildner
Patricia Kozak	Madeleine Krueger
Ann Marie Lynch	Janice Martella
Matthew Oberhaus	Zoey Furman
Barbara Mulvehill	Raymond Riek

## For the Good of the Vineyard and Our Particular Part of It:



The invitations to the rosary every Tuesday at 6:00 PA and on Wednesdays to attend the 5:30 Mass followed by adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 6:30 PM. CONTINUE TOWARD ALL PARISHIONERS We also pray the litany of St. Joseph since Wednesday is dedicated to him as the patron of the Universal Church. Remember the parish intention is for Fr. John's health. But your personal intention for the Rosary and adoration are your own.

**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 with a menu including 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 each. 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's 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!



**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.**

**Stations in the Shadows** - All are invited to begin Lent at St. Clement Church on February 16th, the first Friday of Lent, at 6:30 PM as parish volunteers present Stations in the Shadows. This unique portrayal of Christ's last steps follows the Way of the Cross using portrayers casting their shadows on the screen. We transport you back to the streets as we walk with Christ to Calvary. This beautiful form of prayer with song is the perfect way to start Lent! The Parish will also present these Stations on Sunday, February 25th at 3:00 PM at All Saints Parish Activity Center in Boswell. All are welcome!

I have only received 17 recipes for the COOKBOOK to this date. If I do not receive at least 30 more recipes for the cookbook will be only a dream and not a reality. Sorry. Also, I do not need any more salad or dessert recipes!!!

Please remember our Prayer Partner spiritual gift to God and Other this Lent. Today you can write your name and place it in a container of the vestibule of the Church. On the 1st Sunday of Lent you will need to pick a name from that same container and this person will be your anonymous Prayer partner for Lent. If you cannot place your name today you can do so on Ash Wednesday. Please only pick another name if you happen to pick your own.

**From the Pastor's Desk:** This week was bad at the beginning but picked up quite well toward the end. As of the writing of this piece (Wednesday) I am feeling strong and stable. Again, I thank you for you for your prayers and ask you to continue to storm heaven by praying to Jesus Christ, and through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, and Demetrius Gallitzin, servant of God. Please ask that your prayers may be joined with theirs that I may return to good health.

*In this Sunday's angelus message, Francis wrote about Jesus goes toward wounded humanity and shows us the face of the Father. It may be that within us there is still the idea of a distant, cold God, indifferent to our fate. On the contrary, the Gospel lets us see that Jesus, after teaching in the synagogue, goes out, so that the Word He has preached may reach, touch and heal people. By doing this, He reveals to us that God is not a detached master who speaks to us from on high; on the contrary, He is a Father filled with love who makes Himself close to us, who visits our homes, and wants to save, liberate, and heal from every ill of the body and spirit. God is always close to us. God's attitude can be expressed in three words: closeness, compassion and tenderness. God makes Himself close to accompany us, tenderly, and to forgive us. **Do not forget that God's attitude is closeness, tenderness and compassion.***

*Jesus' incessant walking challenges us. We might ask ourselves: have we discovered the face of God as the Father of mercy, or do we believe and proclaim a cold God, a distant God? Does faith instill in us the restlessness of journeying or is it an intimist consolation for us, that calms us? Do we pray just to feel at peace, or does the Word we listen to and preach make us go out, like Jesus, towards others, to spread God's consolation? It will be good for us to ask ourselves these questions during Lent*

I also reflected much on the pope's Wednesday audience and its' message. In his catechesis on the virtues and the vices, he brought us to **SLOTH**, our attention on spiritual apathy and sadness. Saint Paul speaks of a "godly grief" and a "worldly grief" (2 Cor 7:10). The former prompts conversion, enabling us to cling to hope and, therefore, leads to joy. The latter stems from dashed hopes and disappointments, eroding the soul with discouragement and sadness. Unlike most vices that seek fleeting pleasures, sadness indulges itself by wallowing in sorrow, hindering spiritual growth. As an antidote to this kind of despondency, the Desert Fathers recommended embracing Christ's resurrection; for the risen Jesus redeems all the happiness that has remained unfulfilled in our lives. **May faith cast out fear and Christ's resurrection remove sadness like the stone before his tomb.**

*BY THE WAY, I wanted to update you on the ongoing Church Maintenance account, i.e., MAP II account, As of this Sunday we have a total of \$37, 722. We had a total a little larger than that; however, we had some significant expenses with the Church and school. All and all, we are doing very well. Please keep up you generous giving, and know that larger amounts are appreciated at any time.*

\*\*\*\*\*  
JUBILEE CORNER: Stage I, Part I V -WEEKLY  
UPDATE June 30-last day to signup

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. 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 cooperation with the planning and execution of our pilgrimage. Our secretary is calling all individuals making the pilgrimage to verify your participation.

**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 & Father Brian Norris will 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](http://dioceseaj.org) or pick up a *hard* copy registration form at any parish.

**Volunteers** are needed to assist with preparing the Church for the Lenten and Easter Seasons. For Lent, we will decorate on Tuesday, Feb 13 following the 12:05 PM mass.; For Palm Sunday we will be decorating on Saturday, Mar. 23 at 9:00 AM. On Monday -Wednesday during Holy Week the Church will return to purple; then on Thursday it will change to white once we decorate at 9:00 AM that morning.. Good Friday preparations will occur after Holy Thursday Mass, and decorating for **Easter** will occur Sat., Mar. 30, at 9:00 AM.

I am adding this, only because the diocese knows that I have not done this in over two years. **Please consider remembering Visitation Parish in your WILL in some way.** I want to add this with the caveat that you can only do so as you means allow, and this a free decision on your part. I will never go out directly and solicit money from any of you.

Please note that there is a combined council meeting on Monday, February 26 at the rectory meeting room. It is EXTREMELY important that all members attend this meeting.