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Church of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

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

1st Sunday of Lent,
February 18th, 2024

MASS SCHEDULE

MONDAY - Lenten Weekday
12:05 PM - **Mary Hawthorne**
(Req. by Cathy Fuska)

TUESDAY - NO MASS

WEDNESDAY - Lenten Weekday
5:30 PM - **Spiritual & Temporal Welfare
Of Rev. Msgr. Robert C. Mazur**
(Req. by Father John)
***Adoration of Blessed Sacrament
After Mass until 6:30 PM***

THURSDAY - NO MASS

FRIDAY - Lenten Weekday
12: 05 PM - **Msgr. Peter Tay**
(Req. by Jeno Lecci & Family)

SATURDAY - Vigil of 2nd Sunday of Lent
4:00 PM - **Velma Harteis**
(Req. by daughter Sharon)

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

SUNDAY - 2nd Sunday of Lent
9:00 AM - **Pro Populo**

SANCTUARY CANDLE
In Memory of Basil Balagusz
(Birthday Remembrance)
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 Bumbnick, DMM
Mr. David Kozak, Chairperson, PC
Ms. Catherine Bennett,

Mr. Joseph Martella, Vice-
Chairperson, PC
Mr. Steve Myers, Chairperson, FC

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

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

Collection - February 11, 2024

| | |
|-------------------------|-----------|
| Loose Money..... | \$315.00 |
| Sunday Collection..... | \$2465.00 |
| Ash Wednesday..... | \$47.00 |
| Votive Shrines..... | \$52.00 |
| St. Peregrine..... | \$25.00 |
| Sanctuary Candle..... | \$20.00 |
| Parking Lot Rent..... | \$175.00 |
| Ordinary Donations..... | \$25.00 |

TOTAL: **\$3124.00**

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 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

Please join us in remembering members of our parish family who celebrate their birthdays the week of February 19th to February 25th:



- Casey Cumberledge
 Agnes Hornick
 Dr. Russell Moore
 Donna Decker
- Donald Denk
 Judith Lansberry
 Teresa Arnone
 Stephanie Rovansek

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 fol-lowed by adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 6:30 PM.CONTINUE TOWARD ALL PARISHION-ERS 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 continues Friday dur-ing 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 Thursday February 22nd 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 pat-ronizing other churches and fire halls but not our own. Please make every ef-fort 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 is for those persons for whom it is difficult to go out in the dark.

Stations in the Shadows - The St. Cement Parish will also present these Stations on Sunday, February 25th at 3:00 PM at All Saints Parish Activity Center in Boswell. All are wel-come!

I am no longer collecting recipes for our parish cookbook. I hope to have the book to the publisher by the end of April.

We will have a second collection this Sunday to help off-set the costs of the Fish Fry this year. Please be as gener-ous as your means allow, but please to do not let it im-pede your regular Sunday offering (see my note in From the Pastors Desk). This is one of our major fundraisers of the year.

THE PARISH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 19TH, 2024 IN OBSERVANCE OF PRESIDENT’S DAY! There will be no one in the office that day. The office will be open on the next day, Tuesday February 20th, 2024. Thank you!



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 Deme-trius Gallitzin, servant of God. Please ask that your prayers may be joined with theirs that I may return to good health.

As you may have noted, our weekly collection was \$3124. If we would collect \$3475 in addition to our monthly collection from the Learning Lamp as well as our monthly rent from our apartment, we would be able to just stay ahead of our bills, re-quired diocesan payments, and other essential needs (in addition to fundraisers). At this point we are not meeting that need. If our regular weekly collection doesn’t return to an average of at least \$3500 per week (just a few years ago we were averaging more than \$4000 per week) we will need to investigate some seri-ous cuts to our budget that will affect you as parishioners.

In this Sunday’s angelus message, Francis wrote that today’s Gospel presents us with the healing of a leper (cf. Mk 1:40-45). To the sick man, who implores Him, Jesus answers: “I will; be clean!” (v. 41). He utters a very simple phrase, which He immediately puts into practice. Indeed, “immediately the leprosy left him, and he was made clean” (v. 42). This is Jesus’ style with those who suffer: few words, and concrete deeds.” It is a wonderful way to love, and how it would do us good to imagine it and assimilate it...Let us ask our-selves today: do I know how to listen to people, am I ready to meet their requests? Or do I make excuses, procrastinate, hide behind abstract or useless words? In real terms, when was the last time I went to visit someone who was alone or sick – everyone can answer in their heart – or when was the last time I changed my plans to meet the needs of someone who asked me for help?”

I also reflected much on the pope’s Wednesday audience and its message. Continuing his reflections on the vices and vir-tues, the Holy Father addressed the vice of **acedia** or **sloth**, which, although associated in English with laziness, is above all a deep spiritual apathy, manifested by discontent and aversion to attentive prayer and growth in our relationship with God. Also, it refers to the fact of being unable to see happiness in this world. According to the monastic tradition, this “noonday devil” is best overcome by the patience of faith. This includes ac-cepting the poverty or dark night of faith, which then enables us, by God’s grace, to sense the divine presence and to continue to reach out to God. The saints themselves show us that perseverance in time of temptation leads us to set practical goals, however small, for our daily life and moves us to lean on Jesus, who always re-mains with us. Faith, tormented by the test of acedia, does not lose its value. On the contrary, it is the true faith, the very human faith, which despite everything, despite the darkness that blinds it, still humbly believes. It is that faith that remains in the heart, like embers beneath the ashes. It always remains. And if one of us falls prey to this vice, or to the temptation of acedia, try to look within and fan the embers of faith; that is how we keep going. Beware of sloth; however, for it creeps up when we least expect it.



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 bro-chure by calling the parish office. Thank you for your cooperation with the planning and execution of our pilgrimage. Our secretary is calling all in-dividuals 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 recog-nized speaker and musician Cooper Ray will be the keynote speaker. Father Michael Pleva & Father Bri-an 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 dio-cesej.org or pick up a hard copy registration form at any parish.

Please note that there is a combined council meeting on Monday, February 26 in the rectory meeting room. It is EXTREMELY important that all members attend this meeting. There will also be a finance council meeting on Monday, March 11, 2024 and a parish council meeting on Mon-day, April 15, 2024. Please be certain to mark your calendars.

Apart from the cross, there is no other ladder by which we may go to heaven.” –St. Rose of Lima

INFANT OF PRAGUE NOVENA - FEBRUARY 25TH-MARCH 4TH, 2024. Each Evening: Adoration at 6:00 PM. Mass at 7:00 PM at St. Andrew Catholic Church. Confessions available after Mass. Please note: Saturday , March 2nd, the Novena will start at 4:00 PM. There will NOT be a 7:00 PM Novena Mass. As usual, many religious items will be available for sale af-terwards.