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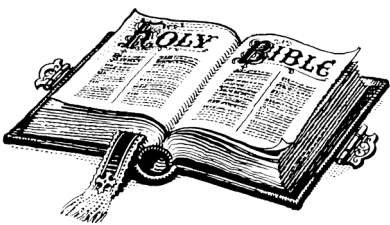
2nd Sunday of Lent,
February 25th, 2024

MASS SCHEDULE

- MONDAY - Lenten Weekday**
12:05 PM - Mary Hawthorne
(Req. by Cathy Fuska)
Rescheduled from 2-19-24
- TUESDAY - Lenten Weekday**
12:05 PM - Mary Alice Quinn
(Req. by Marie Mesaros)
- WEDNESDAY - Lenten Weekday**
5:30 PM - Ann Lecci
(Req. by Brian & Pam Henderson)
NO ADORATION
- THURSDAY - Lenten Weekday**
12:05 PM - Vickie Schmidt
(Req. by Gary & Linda Albert)
- FRIDAY - NO MASS**
- SATURDAY - Vigil of 3rd Sunday of Lent**
4:00 PM - Tammi Ann Winski
(Req. by Parents)
- SUNDAY - 3rd 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 Bumbnick, DMM
Mr. David Kozak, Chairperson, PC
Ms. Catherine Bennett,

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

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.

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 18, 2024

Loose Money.....	\$455.00
Sunday Collection.....	\$2659.00
Solemnity of Mary.....	\$3.00
Initial Offering.....	\$3.00
Ash Wednesday.....	\$503.00
Black & Indian Missions.....	\$149.00
Votive Shrines.....	\$56.00
St. Peregrine.....	\$30.00

TOTAL: **\$3858.00**

Second Collection - Fish Fry **\$757.00**

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 26th to March 3rd:



Bradley Lehman	Patricia Adams
Joanne Slater	Liam Daly
Roberta Oberhaus	Nancy Vavrek

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.



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 travel in the dark.

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 Thurs. Feb. 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. I am sad when I hear of pa-rishioners patronizing other churches and fire halls but not our own. Please make eve-ry effort to support us, even if it is only one time this year!



MEAT/CASH RAFFLE – There will be a meat/cash raffle at the St. Francis Activity Center on March 23rd, 2024. Tickets are \$10 and includes Kielbasa, Hot Dogs, Kraut, Macaroni Salad, Baked Beans and coffee & soda. Beer bracelets will be available for \$5.00. Doors open at 5:00PM and will run from 6:00PM – 9:00PM. For tickets, contact Fran King at (814)536-3667.

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. Confes-sions 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 afterwards.

Parish Cookbook: I am no longer accepting any recipes. In fact we have so many that I will have to take some away before I organize them for publication. This project will take longer than I thought and will not be ready until the middle of March to organize them and to create a narrative to go with some of the recipes. Thank you.



From the Pastor's Desk:

In this Sunday’s angelus message, Pope Francis dis-cussed the 40 days Jesus spent in the desert/wilderness. I also reflected much on the pope’s Wednesday audience and its mes-sage. Wild beasts and angels were His company. But, in a symbolic sense, they are our company too: indeed, when we enter the inner wildness, we can encounter wild beasts and angels there. He reflects first on the wild beasts. But in what sense? In the spiritual life we can think of them as the disordered passions that divide the heart, trying to take possession of it. They entice us, they seem seductive, but if we are not careful, we risk being torn apart by them. We can give a name to these “beasts” of the soul: the various vices, greed, which imprisons us in connio-ance and dissatisfaction, covetousness, which condemns us to restlessness and solitude, and vanity which gives rise to insecuri-ty and a continuous need for confirmation and prominence – let us not forget these things that we can encounter within – covet-ousness, vanity and greed. They are like “wild” beasts, and as such they must be tamed and fought; otherwise, they will devour our freedom. And Lent helps us to enter the inner wilderness to correct these things.. Also present were angels, messengers from God, who help us, who do us good: indeed, their characteristic, according to the Gospel, is service (cf. Mark 1:13): the exact oppo-site of possession, typical of the passions. angelic spirits instead recall the good thoughts and sentiments suggested by the Holy Spirit. While temptations tear us apart, the good divine inspira-tions unify us and let us enter into harmony. As we celebrate Lent, we can ask ourselves, first, what are the disordered passions, the “wild beasts” that agitate in my heart? Second question: to permit the voice of God to speak to my heart and to preserve it in goodness, am I thinking of retreating a little into the “wilderness”, are we trying to dedicate space in the day to do this with the help of our angels.



This Wednesday, February 21, 2024, the Holy Father did not schedule an audience for the people. This gives us more time to reflect upon those whom we meet in the desert this Lenten Season.

Since the pope did not hold an audience, I decided in addi-tion to concentrating on his Sunday Angelus Message to review the resource page of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. There are some VERY GOOD resources on their web-site. Please type in USCCB Lenten resources in your search en-gine to view the page.

You know as well as I do that prayer is very powerful: I pray for continued hope with regard to my illnesses. This year I would like you to think about fasting as abstaining from great amounts of food so that we can not be distracted and try to fill our hearts with God. Also, I want you to think about almsgiving for as the scripture says, Almsgiving takes away a multitude od sins. Give your alms not from your surplus; rather deny yourself some-thing that you want but may not need. You know that I talked about our parish financial situation last week; however, you can give alms to anyone or any worth cause. Our willingness (or un-willingness) to giving alms also informs us how deeply we are stuck in the mire of consumerism.

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 infor-mation 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 plan-ning and execution of our pilgrimage. Our sec-retary is calling all individuals making the pil-grimage to verify your participation.

PLEASE NOTE THAT VISITATION WILL NOT BE HAVING A PENANCE SERVICE THIS YEAR DUE TO THE LACK OF AVAILABLE PRIESTS. THE FOLLOWING CHURCHES IN OUR AREA WILL BE HOSTING A PENANCE SERVICE:

St. Francis of Assisi, Resurrection, and St. Terese will all be on March 11th at 5:00 PM at St. Therese parish. St. John Gualbert (I will be present) on March 13th at 6:00 PM Our Mother of Sorrows (I may be present) on March 18th & 19th at 6:00 PM St. Benedict (I will be present) on March 25th at 5:00 PM St. Patrick on March 27th at 6:00 PM

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. Chairpersons for both commit-tees should submit agenda items this Sunday by email: jslovikovski@dioceseaj.org. Actually, any member can submit an agenda item; however, there is no guarantee that we will get to them all. Items that are already on the Agenda are the website, finances, fundraising, the lack of coun-cil meetings, the structure and membership of the committees (parish and Finance), buildings and grounds, other committees, spiritual educa-tion programs, St. Peregrine triduum, and stage 4 security planning.