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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.visitationbvmchurch.com
Fax: 536-3709

3rd Sunday of Lent,
March 3rd, 2024

MASS SCHEDULE

- MONDAY - Lenten Weekday**
12:05 PM - **Albert Reynolds Sr.**
(Req. by Family)
- TUESDAY - Lenten Weekday**
12:05 PM - **Vickie Schmidt**
(Req. by Gary & Linda Albert)
Rescheduled from 2-29-24
- WEDNESDAY - Lenten Weekday**
5:30 PM - **Mary Hawthorne**
(Req. by Cathy Fuska)
Reschedule from 2-19
***Adoration of Blessed Sacrament**
After Mass until 6:30 PM*
- THURSDAY - NO MASS**
- FRIDAY - Lenten Weekday**
12:05 PM - **John Frieko**
(Req. by Michelle & George Walters)
- SATURDAY - Vigil of 4th Sunday of Lent**
4:00 PM - **Francis J. Beaujon**
(Req. by Ed Torchia)
- 5:30 PM - **Spiritual & Temporal Welfare of The Jeanjaquet, Kohan and Skovensky Families**
(Req. by Rita Leis Family)
- SUNDAY - 4th Sunday of Lent**
9:00 AM - **Pro Populo**

SANCTUARY CANDLE
Spiritual & Temporal Welfare
Of Father John

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. Slovickovski, 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.

\$\$ INCOME \$\$\$

Collection - February 25, 2024

Loose Money.....	\$692.00
Sunday Collection.....	\$2588.00
Ash Wednesday.....	\$50.00
Votive Shrines.....	\$25.00
St. Peregrine.....	\$20.00
Perquisites - Karmanocky Funeral.....	\$150.00
Learning Lamp Rent - March.....	\$3800.00
Parking Lot Rent.....	\$205.00
Ordinary Donations.....	\$20.00

TOTAL: \$7550.00

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, Sean Rován, Leonard Russell, Doctor Larry Rutledge, Stephen Sanders, Jennifer Schellhammer, Ernestine Schmidt, Rose Sigg, Allegra Slick, Father John Slovikovski, Shirley Slovikovski, Megan Varnecky, 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 March 4th to March 10th:



Mary Figura	Vicki Rosa
Emma Smitley	Stephen Myers
Kevin McMonagle	Aliza Cascino
Barbara Poole	Patrick Bezek

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

The invitations to the rosary every Tuesday at 6:00 PM and on Wednesdays to attend the 5:30 Mass fol-lowed by adoration of the Blessed Sacra-ment until 6:30 PM continue to be extend-ed to 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 intentions for the Rosary and adoration are your own.



Please know that Stations of the Cross will continue be held on the Fridays of Lent at 3:00 PM .for the benefit of those persons who find it difficult to travel at night.



Annual Fish Fry: Our Annual Fish Fry continues 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 Thursdays 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 every effort to support us, even if it is only one time this year!



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 **OMOS** (I may be present) on March 18th & 19th at 6:00PM **St. Benedict** (I will be present) on March 25th at 5:00 PM **St. Patrick** on March 27th at 6:00 PM. Please make every effort to attend one of these celebrations of communal Penance.

In ancient Greek there are two words for “time” as opposed to one in English. The first is *chronos* which refers to the passage of time that can be measured by a clock. The sec-ond is *Kairos*, that is, moments of opportunity that cannot be measured. Lent provides us the *Kairos* (the time) needed to become more aware of who we are (which may involve go-ing into the dark night of the soul) and how to see others in a new way so as to respond out of love.

From the Pastor’s Desk:

I am truly saddened that once again I have become aware that the gossip mills are fully operational not only with me but with regard to other pa-rishioners as well. Gossip in a general way can merely apply to talk of a personal or trivial na-ture. But the sin of gossip is more specifically considered to be idle talk or rumor, especially about the personal or private affairs of others. It usually involves uncharitable or inappropriate conversation about others not present and has a reputation for the introduction of errors and variations into the information transmitted. St Thomas includes it in his treatise on justice (II, IIae 72-76) in the Summa since, by it, we unjustly harm the reputation of others, through either lies or truths shared inappropriately. The Catechism of the Catholic Church includes gossip under its treatment of the 8th Commandment, “You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor CCC, especially 2477). Plainly stated, you are in a very serious state of sin when you gossip. An easy way to remedy this despicable, ungodly behavior is to ask a person directly about this situ-ation which for that matter is really none of your business. If the individual feels that you have a right to the truth, they will respond. If they don't, I suggest that you stop using your time idlily by dreaming up stories, for if not you risk greater sin. The sad thing is, with regard to gossip about me, I know most of the guilty; so I would suggest that you look before you leap. I could just confront you at any moment. But now onto bigger and better things..



In the Angelus this past Sunday, the Pope reflected upon the Gospel of the second Sunday of Lent which presents us with the epi-isode of the Transfiguration of Jesus (cf. Mk 9:2-10). Jesus takes Pe-ter, James, and John with him and goes up a high mountain, and physically manifests himself there in all his light. In this way, he reveals to them the meaning of what they had experienced together up to that moment. The preaching of the Kingdom, the forgiveness of sins, the healings, and the performed signs were, indeed, sparks of a greater light, namely, of the light of Jesus, of the light that Jesus is. And from this light, the disciples are never to direct their eyes away, especially in moments of trial, like those of the Passion which was near at this point. This is today’s message: never direct your eyes away from the light of Jesus. It is a little like what farmers used to do in the past while plowing their fields: they focused their gaze on a specific point ahead of them and, while keeping their eyes fixed on that point, they traced straight furrows. This is what we are called to do as Christians while we journey through life: to always keep the luminous face of Jesus before our eyes. Brothers and sisters, let us be open to welcome the light of Jesus! He is love, He is life without end. Along the roads of existence, which can be tortuous from time to time, let us seek His face, that is full of mercy, fidelity, and hope. It is Prayer, listening to the Word and the Sacraments, especially Confes-sion and the Eucharist, that help us to do this: Prayer, listening to the Word and the Sacraments help us to keep our eyes fixed on Jesus. And this is a good Lenten resolution: cultivating a welcoming out-look, becoming "seekers of light," seekers of the light of Jesus, both in prayer and in people. So let us ask ourselves: do I keep my eyes fixed on Christ who accompanies me? And in order to do so, do I make space for silence, prayer, adoration? Finally, do I seek out every little ray of Jesus' light, which is reflected in me and in every

brother and sister I encounter? And do I remember to thank him for this?

At his Wednesday audience, Francis spoke of envy and vainglory. Envy, already present in the story of Cain and Abel, is a destructive force fueled by resentment towards others, and can lead to deadly hatred. The rem-edy to envy lies in Saint Paul’s exhortation: “Love one another with brotherly affection, compete in esteeming one another” (Rom 12:10). Vainglory is marked by an inflated self-esteem, a craving for constant praise and frequently prone to using other people for one’s own ends. Saint Paul’s example of boasting of his weakness rather than achievements offers an effective way for overcoming vainglory. May we, like him, know that God’s grace is sufficient, since his power is made perfect in weakness, and all the more gladly boast of our weak-nesses, that the power of Christ may set us free for a more generous love of others.

JUBILEE CORNER: Stage I, Part I V –WEEKLY UP-DATE JUNE 30th is the Absolute Last Day to sign up for the 2025 Jubilee Pilgrimage. Please remember that all individuals must make a \$500 deposit by March 15th of this year. The flyers that will be dis-tributed 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 call-ing the parish office. Thank you for your cooperation with the planning and exe-cution of our pilgrimage. Our secretary has called individuals interested in making the pilgrimage to verify your participation. We need our final number of participants by this Sunday, if you plan to meet the March 15th date.

PUBLIC ROSARY – There will be a public rosary to honor St. Jo-seph & to pray for marriage on Thursday, March 14th at 6:30 PM at St. Clement Church on Lind-berg Avenue & Goucher Street and on Saturday, March 16th at noon at the St. Anne Shrine at St. John Gualbert Cathedral in downtown Johnstown.

MEAT/CASH RAFFLE – There will be a meat/cash raffle at the St. Francis Activity Center on Mar 23rd, 2024. Tickets are \$10 & 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 the activity lasts until 6:00PM – 9:00PM. For tickets, contact Fran King at (814)536-3667.

