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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.visitationbvmchurch.com  
Fax: 536-3709

5th Sunday of Lent,  
March 17th, 2024

MASS SCHEDULE

MONDAY - Lenten Weekday  
12:05 PM - Carol Houghton  
(Req. by Family)

TUESDAY - St. Joseph, Spouse of the  
Blessed Virgin Mary  
12:05 PM - John Slovikovski Sr.  
(Req. by Barbara Rutledge)

WEDNESDAY - Lenten Weekday  
5:30 PM - Angeline Lecci  
(Req. by Jeno Lecci)  
\*Adoration of Blessed Sacrament  
After Mass until 6:30 PM\*

THURSDAY - NO MASS

FRIDAY - Lenten Weekday  
12:05 PM - Sue Karmanocky  
(Req. by Elieen Zibura)

SATURDAY - Vigil of Palm Sunday  
4:00 PM - Spiritual & Temporal Welfare  
Of Patricia Balagusz  
(Birthday Celebration)  
(Req. by Family)  
5:30 PM - Spiritual & Temporal Welfare of the  
Jeanjaquet, Kohan and  
Skovensky Families  
(Req. Rita Leis Family)

SUNDAY - Palm Sunday  
9:00 AM - Pro Populo

SANCTUARY CANDLE

Spiritual and 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. 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. Chris 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 Fr.  
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.



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

Collection - March 10, 2024

Loose Money.....	\$237.00
Sunday Collection.....	\$1590.00
Catholic Relief Services.....	\$26.00
Ash Wednesday.....	\$25.00
Sanctuary Candle.....	\$20.00
Parking Lot Rent.....	\$210.00
Ordinary Donations.....	\$25.00

TOTAL:     \$2133.00

\*This is low amount is due to Fr. John’s emergency hospital visit.\*

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 18th to March 24th:



Ronald Conahan	Valerie Gjurich
Andrea Nosko	Carrie Young
David Doepken	Delaney Leis
Thomas Oberhaus	Maureen Clark
Michael McDaniel	Patricia Balagusz

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 Thurs-days at 10:00 AM in the school cafete-ria. We hope to see you there. Also, I am asking you to patronize our Fish Fry. I am sad when I hear of parish-ioners 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!



THIS IS OUR LAST FISH FRY FOR THE 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:

OMOS on March 18th & 19th at 6:00PM

St. Benedict 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.

St. Therese Piroghi Sale - St. Therese will be selling their famous fresh potato and cheese piroghis on Friday during Lent except Good Friday. Phone orders will be taken at 814-539-7633 on Mondays from 9 AM - 11 AM. Pick up is on Thursdays from 11 AM - 1 PM or Fridays from 10 AM - 12 PM at the Social Hall. The cost is \$8.00.

From the Pastor’s Desk: Dear friends of Visitation Parish, this week I spent several days in the hospital that were frightening for me. It made me think that I am so happy to have life today despite my various ailments. I continue to place my faith in God and in you. I ask that you continue to pray for me that I continue to have hope and to heal my present illness or at least to maintain stabil-ity with the medical problems that I have. Please pray directly to our Lord, to his blessed Mother Mary, to Saint Joseph, Saint Jude, and to Demetrius Gallitzin Servant of God.

Also, you will be receiving a letter from me at the end of the week. It is important that you read it carefully.

And now onto better things, at this Sunday’s Angelus, Pope Francis focused on Nicodemus, a Pharisee who was open to Jesus Message. He went to meet Jesus at night so as not to be seen. The Lord welcomes him, converses with him, and reveals to him that He came not to condemn, but to save the world. Let us pause to reflect on this: Jesus came not to condemn, but to save. This is beautiful! Often in the Gospel we see Christ revealing the intentions of the people He meets, at times unmasking their false attitudes, such as with the pharisees or making them reflect on the disorder of their life, as with the Samaritan woman (cf. Jn 4: 5-42). There are no secrets before Him; He reads all of them in the heart. And in doing so, he does not point a finger at us, but rather embraces us, to free us from sins and to save us. Jesus is not inter-ested in putting us on but to embrace our life; He wants none of us to be lost. His gaze is a gentle glimmer of a friendly lamp, which helps us to see the good in ourselves and to be aware of the evil, so that we may be converted and healed with the support of His grace. Again, Jesus came not to condemn, but to save the world. Think of us, who very often condemn others; many times, we speak badly, to go in search of gossip against others. Let us ask the Lord to give us, all of us, this merciful gaze, to look at others as He looks at us.

At his Wednesday audience, Pope Francis looked at his catechesis on the virtues and the vices, and considered the nature of virtue, which the Catechism defines as “a habitual and firm disposition to do the good.” The pope noted that having been created in the im-age and likeness of God, we were made for goodness, yet in our fallen world the pursuit of virtue and detachment from vice re-quire discipline and perseverance. Growth in virtue is the noblest expression of our human freedom, but must necessarily be sus-tained by God’s prior gift of grace. For this reason, the Scriptures counsel us to pray for the Holy Spirit’s gift of wisdom, to know the Lord’s will and to let it shape our every decision as we strive to conform our lives ever more fully to his gracious and loving plan for our human family. \*My note: there are more virtues than we can count and we would do well to follow them and we will have few external sources of wisdom at any time in our lives, e.g., the commandments and teaching of the Church.

ANNUAL VISITATION SPRING BASKET PARTY–MAY 5, 2024 : We will be holding our annual Basket Party on Sunday, May 5 2024. A sign-up sheet will be available next week in the main vestibule of the Church for those persons willing to contrib-ute a basket or other donation for this event. For more infor-mation please contact Gaile Krumenacker at 255-5697. Thank you for your support.

JUBILEE CORNER: Stage I, Part I V – WEEKLY UPDATE Even though the March 15th date has passed, you may still join our pilgrimage to Rome. The last day to sign up will be JUNE 30, 2024. If you haven’t given much thought to this trip, please consider coming with us. Your life will be forever changed by visiting the eternal city (Rome) and Assisi

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.

Young Adult Group (18-39) - Our February Theology on Tap was our largest yet with 40+ coming to hear Fr. Ananias O.S.B. We also volunteered with our member’s special needs group on Saint Patrick’s Day. Over our first year we have grown to over 85 young adults strong with new members joining monthly. Fr. Curtis Kiddy C.P. (Passionist Priest and Retreat Di-rector at Saint Paul of the Cross Retreat Center in Pittsburgh) is our March 27th speaker on “The Pas-sion of Jesus in Lent and Life” at the Boulevard Grill from 6-8pm. All faiths aged 18-39 are welcome to join us for faith and fellowship! We take monthly freewill offerings but are seeking sponsors to defer our excess buffet and speaker costs to avoid charging a set fee. For more information contact Geoffrey Stumpo at (814) 659-7415 or geoffstumpo@gmail.com.

CCW Spring Series - The Carmelite Community of the Word is offering A Five Week Spring Series on April 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29, 2024 at the CCW Incarnation Center from 10AM – 12N and at the Basilica of St. Michael in Loretto from 6-8PM. This series will take a new and fresh look at Jesus: who he is, what he is really like, what he taught, and what he did for our salvation. This encounter with Christ will inspire and empower you to center your entire life around him as you come to know and love him in an ever deeper and more intimate way. Pre-registration for either location is required by March 27. To register for either program, contact 814-886-4098 or email: CommunityofficeCCW@gmail.com or srmari-lynw@CCWCommunity.org. Please provide your name, address, phone and email and include the name of the program you wish to attend. You may also register by mailing your information to: Incarna-tion Center Retreats, 394 Bem Road, Gallitzin, PA 16641.