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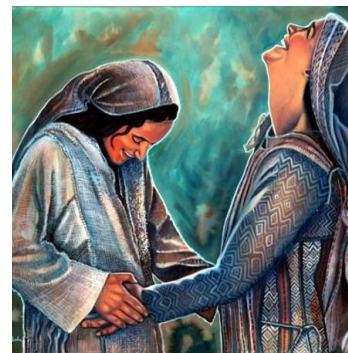
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Check One: <input type="checkbox"/> New Registration <input type="checkbox"/> Change of Address <input type="checkbox"/> Moving Out of Parish <input type="checkbox"/> Want Envelopes			
Please drop Membership Form into the offertory basket or mail to 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

Father's Day,
June 16th, 2024



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, Secretary
Mr. Joseph Martella, Vice-Chairperson, PC
Mr. Steve Myers, Chairperson, FC
Ms. Chris Houghton, Maintenance

Rectory Office Hours: Monday through Friday, 9:00AM - 3:00PM

MASS SCHEDULE

MONDAY - NO MASS

TUESDAY - Weekday in Ordinary Time
12:05 PM - Helene Balagusz
(Req. by Cathy Fuska)

WEDNESDAY - Weekday in Ordinary Time
5:30 PM - Spiritual & Temporal Welfare of Fr. John
(Req. by Polly Molchany)
Adoration of Blessed Sacrament After Mass until 6:30 PM

THURSDAY - Weekday in Ordinary Time
12:05 PM - Albert Reynolds Sr & Albert Reynolds Jr
(Req. by Family)
Rescheduled from 6-10-24

FRIDAY - Weekday in Ordinary Time
12:05 PM - Paul Schmidt
(Req. by Helen Boyle)

SATURDAY - Vigil of 12th Sunday in Ordinary Time
4:00 PM - Velma & Bernie Harteis
(Req. by Children)

5:30 PM - Loretta Meyers
(VPM) (Req. by Family and Friends)

SUNDAY - 12th Sunday in Ordinary Time
9:00 AM - Pro Populo

SANCTUARY CANDLE

To a Great Dad, Frank Mateljan
Req. by daughter Barbara Vedock

The daily readings; may be found at either
USCCB.ORG or under the headings of daily readings
listed in back of the missalette.

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 will not be heard regularly until Fr. John has recovered from his liver transplant. **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 - June 9, 2024

Loose Money.....	\$354.00
Sunday Collection.....	\$2831.00
Ascension Thursday.....	\$20.00
Holy Father.....	\$10.00
Catholic Home Missions.....	\$10.00
Father’s Day.....	\$345.00
Initial Offering.....	\$5.00
Perquisites - Schmidt Funeral.....	\$100.00
Apartment Rent - June.....	\$625.00
Parking Lot Rent.....	\$90.00
Ordinary Donations.....	\$25.00

TOTAL: **\$4415.00**
 (on average we make almost enough to meet our
 yearly budgetary needs due to inflationary costs that
 affect us as much as ordinary families).

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, Pat Balagusz, Ralph Blair, David
 Clark, Ronald Cleaver, Dolores Danner, Francis Dietz, Doro-
 thy Fisher, Barbara Fox, Paul Harnish, Catherine Heinlein,
 Mary Carol Hill and children, Donna Johnson, Baby Gianna
 Kniss, Karen Kohan, Betsy Konar, Marylee Konicky, Made-
 leine Krueger, Gaile Krumenacker, Victoria Leflie, Michael
 Letzo, Joanne Macri, Patricia Mainhart, Marianne Mangiafi-
 co, Pat Meagher, 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 Schellham-
 mer, Ernestine Schmidt, Rose Sigg, Allegra Slick, Father John
 Slovikovski, Shirley Slovikovski, Megan Varnecky, Coralie
 Williams, Christi Vaorek, Carrie Young

**Please join us in remembering members of our
 parish family who celebrate their birthdays the
 week of June 17th to June 23rd:**



Joseph Martella Jr	Mary Billotte
Paul Molchany	Teresa Flynn
Janet Lorditch	Angela Moore
Alice Stahr	William Williams
Rita Casker	John Valinsky
Margaret Mekis	Pauline Molchany
Nicholas Mical	

This October, the Church will continue her three year synodal
 process during which She has asked herself to study groups
 and will explore the theological, pastoral and canonical aspects
 of some of the thorniest questions raised during the synod lis-
 tening sessions and discussed at the first synod assembly last
 October in the hope that the Spirit will inspire openness on the
 part of the hierarchy, religious, and laity about the way that the
 Church lives out the mission of the Gospel in the Spirit of Vati-
 can II. There are 9 working committees for which I will be ask-
 ing you to pray during the next 5 months. This month we will
 pray for two of them. FIRST, in June we will pray for the fol-
 lowing:

1.) **Aspects of the Relationship between the Easter Catholic
 Churches and the (Latin) Roman Catholic Church.**

2.) **The Seriousness of our listening to the Cry of the Poor:**

The Church wide participation in the Synodal Process has the
 potential of opening her to much needed restoration and revi-
 sion. *Please see the insert on Synodality in today's bulletin.*

Full Kilt Meeting - There will be a meeting on Mon., June 17th,
 to help plan for An Irish Evening with FULL KILT. The meet-
 ing will be held in the Visitation school cafeteria at 6:00 PM. All
 who are interested in helping are welcome to attend.

We would like to acknowledge the generosity of everyone who
 helped to make this year’s Basket Party so successful. Special
 thanks to Gaile Krumenacker who spent countless hours or-
 ganizing the event and to her dedicated group of volunteers
 who worked every week making baskets. Thank you also to
 our faithful parishioners who supported the party by dona-
 tions of basket items, lottery tickets, gift cards, money, and to
 those who attended the Basket Party. We could not have been
 successful without your help.

Income	
Basket Party	\$4931.00
Second Collection	\$620.00
Total	\$5551.00
Expenses	
Conrad’s	\$177.68
Tribune Democrat	\$129.00
Misc.	\$126.47
Total	\$433.15
Profit	\$5117.85

Repose en Paix: This past week the Church helped to celebrate
 in hope the movement from time to eternity for **Hélène Balagusz**.
 Hélène was very much a friend and loyal member of Visitation
 Parish. A prayerful woman, she belonged to many organizations
 over the years and served the parish and Conemaugh Hospital
 as a Eucharistic Minister. She spoke with strength and authority
 about many things: all of which was born out of her love of
 Christ and his Church as revealed in the life of our parish. She
 suffered very much during the past months and joined Christ her
 Savior on the cross on June 6th in hope of resurrected glory. Vous
 avez laissé une marque sur notre paroisse, pour son bien durable.
 Now Hélène, may you *Rest in Peace*.

From the Pastor's Desk: A few weeks ago, I attended a meet-
 ing at Allegheny General Hospital regarding certain aspects
 of my upcoming (hopefully) liver transplant. One of the
 items discussed was the post transplant care program at
 AGH. There are various aspects to this plan; however, the
 one that caught my attentions was the information that was
 disseminated regarding the costs within the first year. At the
 end of the meeting, I was rather disturbed to learn about the
 thousands upon thousands of dollars involved in travel,
 lodging, materials, and temporary specialized medications.
 Needless to say I could be looking at an amount that ap-
 proaches the amount of money that I make in 2/3rds of a
 year. Needless to say, I cannot afford that amount of money.
 The coordinator of my care suggested some options that I
 need to review before I make any final decisions. **SO...** in
 light of these very real and difficult decisions that I have to
 make, in addition to praying for the true gift of a liver, I also
 ask you to prayer for me to enter into a true spirit of discern-
 ment with regard to the aforementioned situation. I trust that
 God will lead me in the right direction.

In his Sunday Angelus Message, Pope Francis, urged
 them to rid themselves of anything that held them back from
 approaching God. He drew inspiration the Gospel where the
 different reactions to Jesus, after He began His public minis-
 try showed his relatives fear that He had gone mad, while the
 religious authorities accused Him of acting under the influ-
 ence of an evil spirit. On the contrary, Jesus was preaching
 and healing the sick with the power of the Holy Spirit - the
 same Spirit that had "made Him divinely free," that is to say,
 "capable of loving and serving without measure and without
 conditions." How? First, Jesus was free in relation to wealth
 leaving the village of Nazareth to embrace a poor and uncer-
 tain life. The Lord freely healed anyone who needed His
 help, "without ever asking for anything in return.". Also, the
 Pope marveled, Christ was free in relation to power. "While
 calling many to follow Him," the Holy Father recalled, "He
 never forced anyone to do so, nor did He ever seek the sup-
 port of the powerful, but always sided with the least, teach-
 ing His disciples to do the same." Finally, Jesus was free in
 relation to the pursuit of fame and approval, and never hesi-
 tated to speak the truth, "even to the point of dying on the
 Cross." The Lord never allowed Himself to be "intimidated,
 bought, or corrupted by anything or anyone." All this shows
 us that Jesus was a free man and teaches us a valuable lesson:

"If we allow ourselves to be conditioned by the pursuit of
 pleasure, power, money, or approval, "we become slaves to
 these things." But if, "we allow God's gratuitous love to fill
 our hearts, and let it overflow spontaneously we grow in
 freedom and spread its goodness in all our communities."
 Therefore, the Pope invited us to ask ourselves, "Am I a free
 person? Or do I let myself be imprisoned by the myths of
 money, power, and succuss, sacrificing **my own serenity
 and peace and that of others? Do I spread, in the environ-
 ments in which I live and work, fresh air of freedom, sin-
 cerity, and spontaneity?"** (*I spent so much time on this matter
 since I believe that this should be in the back of our minds as we
 contemplate the upcoming elections*).

In his Wednesday Audience, Pope Francis
 continues his catechesis on the Holy Spirit and the
 Bride and reflects on the action of the Holy Spirit in
 Divine Revelation, specifically in Sacred Scripture and
 its authority. The Word of God is perennially living
 and active, constantly forming us in ways of virtue.
 God, who inspired Scripture which in turn inspires the
 Church, the Bride of Christ, through his holy Word.
 Therefore, we look upon the Church as its authorita-
 tive interpreter. While the Scriptures do inspire us
 through critical academic reflection, the Spirit also
 communicates with us personally within this ecclesial
 reality, whether through lectio divina, which is a medi-
 tative reading of a Scripture passage, or above all, in
 the Liturgy. In whatever the setting, be it a psalm, po-
 etry , or narrative, etc. there is always one word that is
 meant especially for us. Like a musical composition,
 Sacred Scripture carries throughout an underlying
 theme, which Saint Augustine and Saint Gregory the
 Great call God’s love. A well-crafted homily based up-
 on the Scriptures can also touch our hearts in ways
 particular to each one of us. Pope Francis ends with
 the thoughts” Keep reading the Bible! But do not for-
 get the pocket Gospel: carry it in your bag, in your
 pocket, and at some moment during the day, read a
 passage. And this will make you very close to the Holy
 Spirit, who is in the Word of God. May the Holy Spirit,
 who inspired the Scriptures and now breathes from
 them, help us to grasp this love of God in the concrete
 situations of life.”

Catholic Environmental Ethics: Also, there are
 ways in which a theistic approach to environmental
 virtue ethics is on a firmer footing than its purely secu-
 lar counterpart – for example, in the way it deals with
 the perceived anthropocentric bias of virtue philosophy.
 Some environmental philosophers argue that virtue eth-
 ics actually works against environmental protection
 because it is inescapably human-centered. One such
 argument holds that in ethical terms, the goodness of
 (for instance) preserving a rare species does not derive
 from its benefit to humans in making them a better per-
 son. Rather it is a good because it benefits a peripheral
 value, completely external to human beings. Whereas
 secular virtue philosophers might struggle to articulate
 how a value might exist independently of humans, the-
 ists have less of a problem because in their worldview,
 there is no dichotomy between a human value and a
 value ‘out there’ since all of divine creation is intercon-
 nected. As LS puts it so beautifully: *“Everything is relat-
 ed, and we human beings are united as brothers and sisters
 on a wonderful pilgrimage, woven together by the love God
 has for each of his creatures and which unites us in fond affec-
 tion with brother sun, sister moon, brother river and mother
 earth.”* (LS, §92)This convergence of secular environ-
 mental approaches with the notion of ecological conver-
 sion now enshrined into Catholic Social Teaching by
Laudato si’, is an interesting development. Might it con-
 tain the potential for greater dialogue between the
 Church and ‘philosophers of good will’ in their com-
 mon quest to understand what it means to be ecologi-
 cally virtuous? Time alone will tell.