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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

12th Sunday in Ordinary Time,
June 23rd, 2024

MASS SCHEDULE

MONDAY - Weekday in Ordinary Time
12:05 PM - Francis J. Beaujon
(Req. by Ed Torchia)

TUESDAY - Weekday in Ordinary Time
12:05 PM - James Vizzini
(Req. by Anonymous)

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

THURSDAY - NO MASS

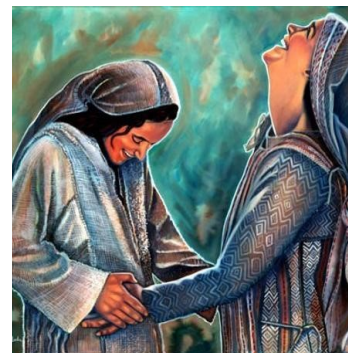
FRIDAY - Weekday in Ordinary Time
12:05 PM - Michael Kozak
(Req. by Helene & Pat Balagusz)

SATURDAY - Vigil of 13th Sunday in Ordinary Time
4:00 PM - Phyllis Urban
(Req. by Tom Urban)

SUNDAY - 13th Sunday in Ordinary Time
9:00 AM - Pro Populo

SANCTUARY CANDLE
Spiritual & Temporal Welfare of Father John
Req. by Ron Cleaver

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 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

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 16, 2024

Loose Money.....	\$274.00
Sunday Collection.....	\$2697.00
Father’s Day.....	\$35.00
Votive Candles.....	\$108.00
St. Peregrine.....	\$49.00
Sanctuary Candle.....	\$10.00
Perquisites - Balagusz Funeral.....	\$100.00
Parking Lot Rent.....	\$35.00

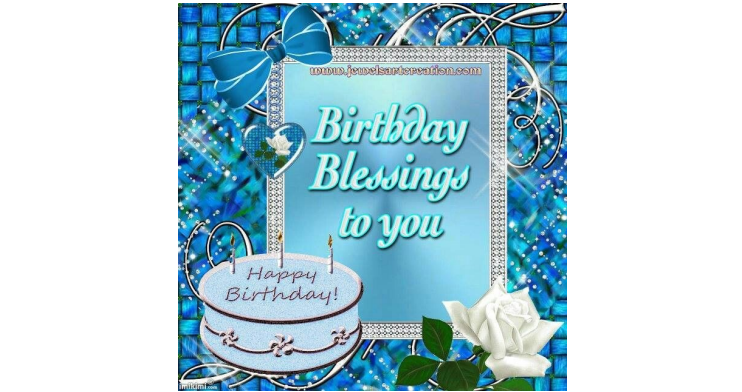
TOTAL: \$3308.00

(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, Dorothy Fisher, Barbara Fox, Paul Harnish, Catherine Heinlein, Mary Carol Hill and children, Donna Johnson, Baby Gianna Kniss, Karen Kohan, Betsy Konar, Marylee Konicky, Madeleine Krueger, Gaile Krumenacker, Victoria Leflie, Michael Letzo, Joanne Macri, Patricia Mainhart, Marianne Mangiafico, Pat Meagher, Myla Minner, Larry Oravetz, Anna Petro, Francis Petro, Anna Marie Pfeil, Maria Petro-Sanders, Mia Bella Rastall, Stacy Roberts, Sean Rovon, 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 Vavrek, Carrie Young

Please join us in remembering members of our parish family who celebrate their birthdays the week of June 24th to June 30th:



Nancy Conahan

Michael Slick

Louise Crum

Michael Letzo

Andrew Turner

Charles George

The invitations to the rosary every Tuesday at 6:00 PM and on Wednesdays to attend the 5:30 Mass followed by adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 6:30 PM. continue to be extended 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, however, personal intentions for the Rosary and adoration are your own.

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 listening 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 Vatican II. There are 9 working committees for which I will be asking you to pray during the next 5 months. This month we will pray for two of them. In July, we will pray for the following:

3. The mission in the digital environment.
4. The revision of the *Ratio Fundamentalis Institutionis Sacerdotalis* in a missionary synodal perspective. This is the document that regulates the process of the formation of seminarians for the priesthood.

The Church wide participation in the Synodal Process has the potential of opening her to much needed restoration and revision.

St. Therese Summer Basket & Burger Bash 2024 — On July 20th and 21st, St. Therese of the Child Jesus is having their summer basket and burger bash at the St. Therese church social hall at 531 Decker Avenue from 4-8 PM on July 20th and from 11 AM - 4PM on July 21st. There will be live entertainment on both days as well as a themed basket drawing on Sunday at 4 PM. Basket tickets will be sold at the door. There will be craft/bistro styled burgers, pulled pork sandwiches, pizza, fresh cut fries and funnel cake. There will be water, soda and beer to drink.

Bus Trip to the Basilica National Shrine - The St. Therese Knights of Columbus #10409 Council is planning a bus trip to the National Basilica Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. It is the largest Roman Catholic church in North America and is home to more than 80 chapels and oratories that honor the Mother of God. The trip is being planned for either Saturday September 21st or 28th, 2024. The bus will leave St. Therese parking lot at 8:00 AM and return approximately at 8:00 PM. The approximate cost of the trip is \$49 per person. (The final price is to be determined by the amount of participants) Payment will be required upon finalization of the trip, which will be determined at a later date. If you would like to join us, please reply by calling either Dennis Pingatore at kspingatore@gmail.com or Kevin Houghton at kth.57@verizon.net or the St. Therese office between Monday - Friday at 9 AM to 2 PM at (814) 539-7633.

From the Pastor’s Desk: This week was a very busy time for me, the highlight of it being the gathering that I held here at the parish for the clergy of the diocese. This was a simple summer picnic with no agenda other than getting together to catch up and to see other priests from different parts of the diocese that we only see when we are gathered for our seasonal conferences or other meetings. It is good for we priests to gather, since 95% of us live alone and have no reason (or time) to connect in friendship and renew our presbyteral bond. I received many thanks from the fellows who attended, so a good time was had by all. I would like to thank **Gaile K, Charlie T, Chris H. and Cathy F.** for all of their help and hard work that day. The event would not have been a success without their help.

I thank you for your continuing support with regard to all things related to my liver. I has been a bit of a dry spell; however, I know that God is going to send a liver my way soon. Thank you also for your prayers as I continue to discern the funding for my post-care that I mentioned in last week’s bulletin. Hope in God’s great love for me is the word for me...today, tomorrow, and always.

In his **Sunday Angelus Message** this part week, Pope Francis reflected upon an important attitude connected to the image of the seed: it is the attitude of confident expectation. He emphasizes that sowing seeds takes time and patience, allowing us to wait confidently for seeds to open at the right time so that that they will guarantee an abundant harvest. He reminds us that the growth of the seed requires constant attention to the soil, even before we see any results. This is a clear image of the kingdom of God. The Lord places his word and his grace upon us waiting patiently for us to grow and bear the fruit of good works. And in God’s Garden, He wants nothing to be lost. This image is also an example for us in our evangelization efforts for it inspires us even if results are not immediate and we have to wait patiently for our words and actions to bear abundant fruit. Therefor in the growth of the Kingdom in us and on another, patience is a virtue that all persons must attend to.

In his Wednesday Audience, Pope Francis continues his catechesis on the Holy Spirit and the Bride who teaches the Church, as the Bride of Christ, to move toward Christ our hope, thereby teaching us how to pray. For our symphony of prayer in preparation for the upcoming Jubilee, we turn to the poetry of the Psalms, just as that great “orchestra”, the communion of saints, has done since the Church’s earliest days. The Psalms express all their movements, that is, various genres of prayer: praise, thanksgiving, supplication, lamentation, narration, sapiential reflection, and others and in their symphonic beauty, every sentiment of our hearts, portraying in words that often convey wonder, grief, and hope. The psalms have an important place in the New Testament, since the old way of prayer are not abandoned but rather renewed as they were prayed by figures such a Jesus, Mary and Paul. The more frequently we repeat these inspired prayers, the stronger and more effective they become. They help us to prayerfully invoke powerful human emotions such as guilt, remorse, love fear and anguish to focus less on ourselves and more upon others (like neighbors which include both humans and the non-human world). May the Holy Spirit enrich our prayer with this gift, and in so doing, empower us to give voice to all creation, involving it in our praise.



Fr. John, Meggie, and Environmental Ethics: This week we begin to examine how caring for the environment has a long Catholic lineage, hundreds of years before Pope Francis (seeing that many persons still view environmental theologians and ethicists to be “glorified tree huggers.” The current pontiff has voiced support for green policies many times before, including his 2015 encyclical letter to the entire Catholic Church “On Care for Our Common Home.” But Francis is not the first Catholic leader to emphasize care for the planet. In fact, every pope for the past half-century – except John Paul I, who died after just one month in office – has addressed environmental issues in their official publications. The Early Tradition: One of the basic beliefs of Christianity is that the material world was created directly by God, and thus fundamentally connected with God’s goodness. This is clearly expressed in the creation narrative in the book of Genesis, part of the sacred scripture shared by Christians and Jews. As God completes each element of the world – day, night, land, sea, etc. – he sees that “it was good.” On the sixth day, when God creates human beings in God’s own image, they are given “dominion” or “rule” over everything that lives on the Earth. Early Christians insisted that the beauty of creation reflected God’s glory. But as Christianity spread throughout the Roman Empire, they had to defend this view of the basic goodness of creation when challenged by another religious viewpoint. This movement – called Gnosticism, from the Greek word meaning “knowledge” – taught that the physical world was created not directly by God, but by a lesser spiritual being, out of malice or ignorance. At best, the material world was a worthless distraction; at worst, an evil snare for human souls. Gnostic teachers offered to teach their followers how to free their spirits from attachment to their physical bodies and the material world. In this way, after death they could return to the realm of spiritual reality and reunite with the divine. Many theologians and bishops criticized this interpretation of their faith. Several wrote lengthy, detailed critiques of Gnostic teaching; at stake, they believed, was the salvation of souls. The most prominent of these was St. Irenaeus of Lyons, who lived in the second century A.D. On Oct. 7, 2021, Francis announced that he would declare Irenaeus a “Doctor of the Church,” a title reserved for saints whose writings have had a profound impact on the life of the Church. In Irenaeus’ treatise Against the Heresies, a passionate defense of the teaching of the scriptures and apostles, he states that creation itself reveals God and God’s glory; the only higher revelation is Jesus Christ himself.. At the beginning of the Middle Ages, however, Western Christianity was left with a lingering suspicion of “worldly things,” despite this early stress on the basic goodness of material creation.

Every other Tuesday evening from 6:15 until 7:15 PM, from Mid- August until September, Fr. John will have instructional sessions on the great Synod that is to be conveyed in October of this year. They will last 15 minutes of every gathering will be devoted to a question and answer period about any questions you have regarding our Catholic Faith. More info to follow.

