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NAME _____		PHONE _____	
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CITY _____		ZIP _____	
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

14th Sunday in Ordinary Time,
July 7th, 2024

MASS SCHEDULE

MONDAY - NO MASS

TUESDAY - Weekday in Ordinary Time
12:05 PM - The Oberle Family
(Req. by Helene & Pat Balagusz)

WEDNESDAY - Weekday in Ordinary Time
5:30 PM - Ann Lecci
(Req. by Mark Latch)
Adoration of Blessed Sacrament After Mass until 6:30 PM

THURSDAY - Weekday in Ordinary Time
12:05 PM - Joanne Thomas
(Req. by Stephanie Rovanseck)

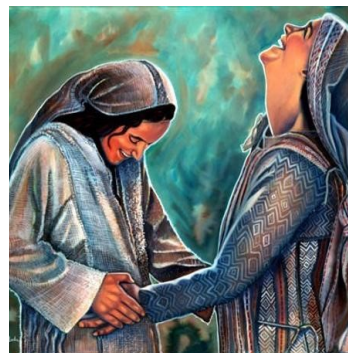
FRIDAY - NO MASS

SATURDAY - Vigil of 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time
4:00 PM - Mary Magro
(Req. by Marianne Smith)

SUNDAY - 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time
9:00 AM - Pro Populo

SANCTUARY CANDLE

Spiritual & Temporal Welfare
of Father John
Req. by Family



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.



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

\$\$\$ INCOME \$\$\$
 Collection - June 30, 2024

Loose Money.....	\$341.00
Sunday Collection.....	\$2361.00
Holy Father.....	\$45.00
Votive Candles.....	\$61.00
St. Peregrine.....	\$20.00
Parking Lot Rent.....	\$70.00

TOTAL: **\$2898.00**
 (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, Pauline Molchany, 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 Vavrek, Carrie Young

Please join us in remembering members of our parish family who celebrate their birthdays the week of July 8th to July 14th:



Ronald Fox
 Catherine Bennett
 Vicki Huston
 Mary Kay Litzinger
 Filippa Moore

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.

Bus Trip to the Basilica National Shrine - The St. Therese Knights of Columbus #10409 Council is planning a bus trip to the Basilica of the National 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, to be determined at a later date. If you would like to join us, please contact Dennis Pingatore at pingatore@gmail.com or Kevin Houghton at kth.57@verizon.net or call the St. Therese office Monday - Friday between the hours of 9 AM to 2 PM at (814) 539-7633.

Every Tuesday evening from 6:15 to 7:15 PM, from Mid- August through the end of September, Fr. John will have instructional sessions on the great Synod that is to be conveyed in October of this year. This is one of the greatest moments in modern Church and Fr. John feels that all of the members of Visitation Parish have a right to information that has not otherwise available to them. After addressing Synodal issues, the last 15 minutes of each gathering will be devoted to a question and answer period about any questions you have about our Catholic Faith. Please consider participating in one, some, or all of these sessions.

From the Pastor's Desk:
 This past week, several persons approached me to tell me that they could not access the “Go Fund Me” account **set up by Cathy Fuska to assist with my post transplant expenses. I am happy to say that it is now accessible by going to the “Go Fund Me” page on the web and typing my name in the search bar.** Please feel free to log on to see how I am doing and to gain further information about the costs that are associated with the first year of my recovery. I humbly ask that if you are able and or willing to share this page with any of your Facebook friends it would be most appreciated. Please know that I am most appreciative of all that has been done for me by *you my family*. I cannot even begin to thank you enough, especially for your extended prayerful support.

Before reflecting upon this week’s regular teachings from Pope Francis, I need to draw your attention to something extremely important regarding the future of the Church of Altoona-Johnstown. This past week, the transfers of priests were released by the diocese. You will notice that the new pastors are younger than ever, having little time to serve under the leadership of older priests such as me in order to gain experience to pastor a parish community of faith (in my day, one needed to serve as an assistant for no less than 7 years before being considered for a pastorate – although I was thrown fast and furious into an administrative role). In any case, **Good leadership is essential in any community, especially for the Church.** We must continue to pray that God will call forth men who are devoted to our live tradition, sacramental existence and genuine compassion to become holy and creatively faithful pastors of both parishes and dioceses. We must call upon the Holy Spirit to help us to choose leaders who care about their people as the Good Shepherd cares for us. **We are very much in need holy priests and compassionate bishops.** *(There will be more about bishops, their appointment, and their essential role as the foremost leaders of local churches (dioceses) as we move further with the discussions regarding the committees established by Pope Francis for difficult issues for discussion at the October Synod).*

In his **Sunday Angelus Message** this week, Pope Francis reflected upon the gospel where Jesus performed two healings through physical contact where the woman touches Jesus' cloak, and Jesus takes the girl by the hand. Why is this physical contact important? It is because these two women are considered impure and cannot, therefore, be physically touched – one because she suffers from blood loss and the other because she is dead. Yet, Jesus allows Himself to be touched and is not afraid to touch. Jesus challenges the false religious belief that God separates the pure, placing them on one side and the impure on the other. He does not keep us at a distance. God is not ashamed of us and does not judge us; He draws near to let Himself be touched and to touch us, and never discriminates against anyone because He loves everyone. Therefore, the pope insisted we must ask ourselves: Do we let ourselves be touched by the Lord, by His Word, by His love? Do we relate to our brothers and sisters by offering them a hand to lift them up, or do we keep our distance and label people based on our tastes and preferences? WE MUST ALWAYS look to the heart of God, so that the Church and society may neither exclude nor treat anyone as "impure," so that each person, with their own particular past, is welcomed and loved without labels, prejudices, or adjectives.

Pope Francis did not give his regular **Wednesday Audience** week due to a meeting that he had with the *Consistory for the Causes of Saints* regarding the beatification of 5 official *venerable* candidates for sainthood. The meeting began at 9:00 AM that

From the Pastor's Desk (Continued)
 morning; however, given the fact that beatification meetings review documentary evidence regarding reported miracles for these candidates, the meeting most likely went past 12:00 noon which is the regular time for the weekly papal audiences.

Environmental Ethics: Letters of Pope Francis for the World Days of Creation
 For the next series of columns, I will be summarizing Pope Francis’ letters for the celebration of the World Days beginning with 2016 through 2024. These letters are helpful to all of us as we consider the role creation plays in the fullness of life geared toward eternity. **Summary of Francis’ Letter for the World Day of Creation 2016:**
 This pope sets the tone for the current letter noting that this day offers “individual believers and communities a fitting opportunity to reaffirm their personal vocation to be stewards of creation, to thank God for the wonderful handiwork which he has entrusted to our care, and to implore his help for the protection of creation as well as his pardon for the sins committed against the world in which we live.” [LS,1]
 He notes that in the past, religious leaders and organizations called public attention to the dangers of an irresponsible exploitation of our planet. He notes that It is also encouraging that throughout the world similar initiatives promoting environmental justice, concern for the poor and responsible social commitment have been bringing together people, especially young people, from diverse religious backgrounds. Christians or not, as people of faith and goodwill, we should be united in showing mercy to the earth as our common home and cherishing the world in which we live as a place for sharing and communion. The Earth cries out... here the pope renews my “dialogue with “every person living on this planet” (Laudato Si’, 3) about the sufferings of the poor and the devastation of the environment. We must not be indifferent or resigned to the loss of biodiversity and the destruction of ecosystems, often caused by our irresponsible and selfish behavior. The world’s poor, though least responsible for climate change, are most vulnerable and already suffering its impact. As an integral ecology emphasizes, human beings are deeply connected with all of creation. When we mistreat nature, we also mistreat human beings. At the same time, each creature has its own intrinsic value that must be respected. Let us hear “both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor” (Laudato Si’, 49), and do our best to ensure an appropriate and timely response.

Stuver Sale Profit: Thank you to all those members of our parish who supported our annual sale of hanging baskets and potted plants from Stuver’s Nursery. Our profit from the sale was \$347.00.

SAINTS COSMAS AND DAMIEN, PATRON SAINTS OF ORGAN TRANSPLANTS, PRAY FOR US.

