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NAME _____		PHONE _____	
ADDRESS _____			
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			
<b>Please drop Membership Form into the offertory basket or mail to Rectory. 814-536-6110</b>			

## Church of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Rectory Phone: 536-6110  
E-Mail: [visitationjtown@dioceseaj.org](mailto:visitationjtown@dioceseaj.org)  
Website: [www.visitationbvmchurch.com](http://www.visitationbvmchurch.com)  
Fax: 536-3709

15th Sunday in Ordinary Time,  
July 14th, 2024

### MASS SCHEDULE

**MONDAY** - Weekday in Ordinary Time  
12:05 PM - Helene Balagusz  
(Req. by Vince & Donna Rzasa)

**TUESDAY** - Weekday in Ordinary Time  
12:05 PM - Edward Stofko  
(Req. by Joan Stofko)

**WEDNESDAY** - Weekday in Ordinary Time  
5:30 PM - Vickie Schmidt  
(Req. by Charlie & Chris Schmidt)  
**\*Adoration of Blessed Sacrament After Mass until 6:30 PM\***

**THURSDAY** - Weekday in Ordinary Time  
12:05 PM - James Rován  
(Req. by John Berezansky & Judi Frampton)

**FRIDAY** - **NO MASS**

**SATURDAY** - Vigil of 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time  
4:00 PM - Anita Sukenik  
(Req. by Family)

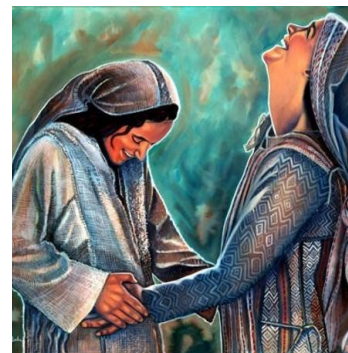
5:30 PM - Spiritual & Temporal Welfare of Jean Petraro  
(Req. by Shirley Machowski)

**SUNDAY** - 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time  
9:00 AM - Pro Populo

### SANCTUARY CANDLE

In Memory of Tootsie Costlow  
Req. by Cathy Fuska

The daily readings; may be found at either  
[USCCB.ORG](http://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 - July 7, 2024

Loose Money.....	\$418.00
Sunday Collection.....	\$2992.00
Votive Candles.....	\$72.00
St. Peregrine.....	\$20.00
Sanctuary Candle.....	\$20.00
Apartment Rent - July.....	\$625.00
Learning Lamp Rent - July.....	\$3800.00
Parking Lot Rent.....	\$315.00

TOTAL: \$8262.00

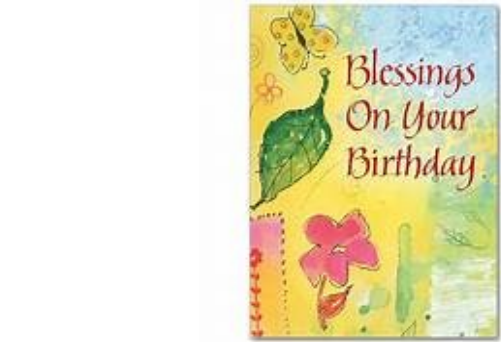
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Let us continue to pray for the members of our parish community who serve in the military, as well as for the sick, elderly and homebound members of our parish especially:

*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, Jean Petroro, Anna Marie Pfeil, Maria Petro-Sanders, Mia Bella Rastall, Stacy Roberts, Sean Rován, Leonard Russell, Stephen Sanders, Jennifer Schellhammer, Ernestine Schmidt, Rose Sigg, Allegra Slick, Father John Slovikovski, Shirley Slovikovski, Megan Var-mecky, Coralie Williams, Christi Vavrek, Carrie Young*

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**Please join us in remembering members of our parish family who celebrate their birthdays the week of July 15th to July 21st:**



Barbara Rutledge	Joseph Podrebarac
Joseph Young	Renee Daly
John Dugan	Andrew Bezek
Douglas Crum	Joseph Furman
Jessica Sabella	James Stephens
Ian Skovensky	

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.



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This October, the Church will continue her three year synodal process during which She has asked herself to 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 so 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 groups for we will be praying for during the next 5 months. This month we will pray for 2 of them. They are :

- 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.

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

**THIS WEEK, THE INSERT WILL EXPLAIN THESE INTENTIONS TO ASSIST IN FACILITATING OUR PRAYER.**

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**Some Liturgical Notes:** I though it important to bring these matters to your attention at this time so that you can have a clear understanding of some things. First, persons have questioned why I do not shake hands after Mass. Simply put, I need to be certain to avoid anything (such as close contact) that could make me ill and delay my opportunity for transplant. I kindly ask that all respect this request for space. Second, I want to be extremely clear that **if one is present for the Mass and remains in the vestibule, one has not met their obligation to participate in Sunday Mass.** Third, and finally, please remember that Mass ends with the final verse of the closing song. Please do not leave early with the exception of an emergency.



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**Ethnic Fest** - Now that **July 4th** has passed, **Labor Day** weekend will be fast upon us and with it our participation in the **Annual Johnstown Ethnic Fest**. As you know, this is one of our major fundraisers throughout the year, and our success allows us to meet our annual budgetary needs. Although it is early, we are beginning to request some essential items for this activity; in particular we are in need of Jello and Spirits for our main source of income, our Jello shots. Our supply of sprits is **VERY LOW** and we are in desperate need of donations. While items such as vodka (both regular and flavored), rum and tequila are **ALWAYS A GREAT NEED FOR US**, other forms of spirits are always appreciated. More information will be provided in the coming weeks.

**From the Pastor's Desk:** As I continue to wait patiently in hope for a liver for transplant, I ask that you continue to storm heaven that one will be available in a reasonable amount of time. I also want to take this opportunity to thank all who have most generously contributed to assist with the costs associated with after care following my liver transplant. I will never be able to show my gratitude to you appropriately.

**IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT I REMIND ALL MEMBERS OF THE PARISH ON OUR PRACTICE REGARDING MASS INTENTIONS.**

- \*Parishioners may only schedule 6 Masses per year on specific dates unless otherwise approved by the pastor.
- \*Only 3 of these Masses may be scheduled on Sunday (unless otherwise approved by the pastor for a good reason.)
- \*Masses may be scheduled up to one year in advance.
- \*Masses will be scheduled on a first come first serve basis. Exceptions are permitted for a month’s mind Masses.

This week, **Pope Francis** did not deliver his **Angelus Message** seeing that he visited Trieste on July 7 to take part in the Catholic Social Week, where he will meet with migrants & people on the margins of society.

**Pope Francis** did not deliver his regular **Wednesday Audience** this week. Rather, he addressed a message to the participants in the “AI Ethics of Peace” Gathering in Hiroshima. In it he stressed that “it is urgent to reconsider the development and use of devices like the so-called ‘lethal autonomous weapons’ and ultimately ban their use. This starts from an effective and concrete commitment to introduce ever greater and proper human control. No machine should ever choose to take the life of a human being” (as message that he stressed in his address to the **G7 Summit** in June 2024.)

*In my personal estimation*, one could consider AI as one of the contemporary “signs of the times” mentioned in the Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World, i.e., Gaudium et Spes. It offers benefits and problems for humanity, which all require ethical considerations.

Accordingly, the Church, has demonstrated an open but cautious attitude towards AI. Artificial Intelligence and the Catholic Church represent a necessary counterbalance for a rapidly digitizing world. Aware of the science involved, the Church seeks to initiate and engage in conversations on the topic. These conversations are with various secular institutions and experts from different fields, not all of whom subscribe to the Church’s beliefs. Without ethical parameters, only the privileged would be secure from the problems of AI and the poor would bear the brunt of them. The Church has been active in developing AI ethics, but it must include Jesus, with his preferential option toward the poor and vulnerable, in future discussions. By doing so, AI can be better imbued with a pastoral dimension that keeps it at the service of all people. There is reason to think that AI and the Church can enrich each other for the benefit of humanity. In all circumstances the Church indicates that six ethical principles that should guide the development of artificial intelligence. They are: 1) Transparency: AI systems must be understandable to all; 2) Inclusion: These systems must not discriminate against anyone because every human being has equal dignity; 3) Accountability: There must always be someone who takes responsibility for what a machine does; 4) Impartiality: AI systems must not follow or create biases; 5) Reliability: AI must be dependable; and 6). Security and Privacy: These systems must be secure and respect the privacy of users. (*Pontifical Academy for Life, 2020*). I will develop these principles in future bulletins.

**Environmental Ethics: Summary of Francis’ Letter, World Day of Creation, 2016 (continued)**

**2. For we have sinned...**God gave us the earth “to till and to keep” (Gen 2:15). The Pope through many examples, notes that to commit a crime against the natural world is a sin against ourselves and a sin against God.” In the light of what is happening to our common home, he presents Jubilee of Mercy as a summon the Christian faithful “to profound interior conversion” (Laudato Si’, 217). He calls us during this Jubilee Year, let us learn to implore God’s mercy for those sins against creation that we have not hitherto acknowledged and confessed. Let us likewise commit ourselves to taking concrete steps towards ecological conversion, which requires a clear recognition of our responsibility to ourselves, our neighbors, creation and the Creator.

**3. An examination of conscience and repentance...**The first step in this process is always an examination of conscience, which involves “gratitude and gratuitousness, a recognition that the world is God’s loving gift, and



that we are called quietly to imitate his generosity in self-sacrifice and good works... It also entails a loving awareness that we are not disconnected from the rest of creatures but joined in a splendid universal communion. Turning to this bountiful and merciful Father who awaits the return of each of his children, we can acknowledge our sins against creation, the poor and future generations. “Inasmuch as we all generate small ecological damage,” and we are called to acknowledge “This is the first step on the path of conversion. He asked Catholics to make amends for past and present religious intolerance, and the suffering of the vulnerable, in this Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy. He states that our comfort with certain lifestyles shaped by a distorted culture of prosperity and a “disordered desire to consume more than what is really necessary” (LS, 123). Only after a serious examination of conscience and moved by sincere repentance, we can confess our sins against the Creator, against creation, and against our brothers and sisters. We confess them because we are penitent and desire to change. The merciful grace of God received in the sacrament will help us to do so.

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**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.