

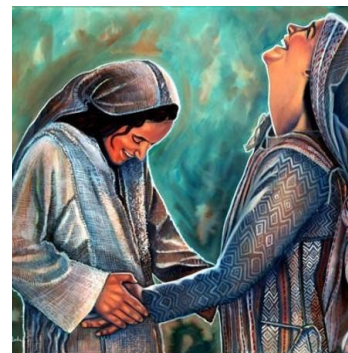
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NAME _____		PHONE _____	
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CITY _____		ZIP _____	
Check One: <input type="checkbox"/> New Registration <input type="checkbox"/> Change of Address <input type="checkbox"/> Moving Out of Parish <input 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



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**

19th Sunday in Ordinary Time,
August 11th, 2024

MASS SCHEDULE

PLEASE NOTE: There will be
NO DAILY MASSES scheduled
indefinitely. Please call Cath-
erine at the Rectory office for
any questions or concerns
and she'll do her best to
address your issues.

WEDNESDAY - Vigil of Assumption
5:30 PM - Helene Balagusz
(Req. by Vince and Donna Rzasz)
Rescheduled from 7-15-24

THURSDAY - The Feast of the Assumption
12:05 PM - Barry Mills
(Req. by Helen Boyle)

SATURDAY - Vigil of 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time
4:00 PM - Pro Populo

SUNDAY - 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time
9:00 AM - Cecelia Wilson
(Req. by The Garanich Family)

SANCTUARY CANDLE

For the 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.

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 AL-
WAYS be arranged with Fr. John personally by
calling the rectory office. Please avail your-
selves 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 - August 4, 2024

Loose Money.....	\$299.00
Sunday Collection.....	\$2716.00
Assumption.....	\$57.00
Votive Candles.....	\$185.00
St. Peregrine.....	\$98.00
Perquisites - Barry Mills Funeral.....	\$200.00
Apartment Rent - August.....	\$625.00
Parking Lot Rent.....	\$380.00
In Memory of Jane Jones.....	\$50.00

TOTAL: **\$4610.00**

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 Slovickovski, Shirley Slovickovski, Megan Var-mecky, Coralie Williams, Christi Vavrek, Carrie Young

Please join us in remembering members of our parish family who celebrate their birthdays the week of August 12th to August 18th:



Leona Cowan	Keegan Leis
Savannah Marano	Mary Reynolds
Mary Werzyn	Bradley Rastall
Deborah Walter	Barbara Fox
Catherine Fuska	

Ethnic Fest - The Ethnic Fest is right around the corner. 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. We are still in need of cherry, strawberry, peach, raspberry, and pineapple Jello. Our supply of spirits 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. There will be a sign up sheet in the back of the church for volunteers.

STEELER TICKET LOTTERY - Once again our Church has been blessed, through the generosity of a parishioner, to offer chances to a Steelers game: Steelers vs. the New York Giants at 8:15 PM on Monday October 28th, 2024 at Acrisure Stadium. Chances cost \$10 each and include seating for 4 persons at the game. Seats are located on the 40-yard line, ten rows up from the field. Package includes transportation to the game by way of the Steeler bus, and \$200 of mad money. The winners are determined by the PA Lottery 7:00 PM drawing of the Pick 3 on October 18th. Those who have either the number below or the number above the winning number will receive \$100 each. **What an amazing deal!**

Tickets can be purchased in the vestibule of the Church, beginning next weekend, before or after weekend Masses or by calling the rectory office. **We would also appreciate anyone who is willing to take tickets to sell.** Thank you for your support of this fundraiser that has the potential to make more than a \$9500 profit with minimal work on the part of the parish. Also, we want to formally thank the donor of our tickets who wishes to remain anonymous. They have been most generous to us over the last few years. May God bless them for their commitment to the financial well being of our parish.

From the Pastor's Desk:

Dear friends and family of Visitation Parish, I was removed from ICU at the beginning of this past week, but things are far from out of the woods. There have been many twists and turns in my condition, that have resulted in me having to make two very difficult decisions. First, I will no longer be able to handle teaching classes at Mount Aloysius this fall semester. This brings me true sadness because teaching bring me great joy. Secondly, due to changes in medication, treatment, and needs for my support team, I am going to need to change my go fund me goal to \$40000.00. Most of all, I require your prayerful hope during this most difficult time. I trust you will continue to pray for me and a complete recovery. I know that God our Father, Jesus and His Spirit, His most Blessed Mother, and the Communion of Saints are all on my side. I hope that the Wednesday audience of Pope Francis will shed some light on this important role of your support.



From the Pastor's Desk (continued):

In last Sunday's reflection, during the Angelus, Pope Francis reflected upon Jesus who, after the miracle of the loaves and fishes, invites the crowds who are looking for him to reflect on what took place to understand the meaning of it (cf. Jn 6:24-35). They had eaten the food that was shared and seen how even with few resources all had been fed and had their fill through the generosity and courage of a young man who made available what he had with others. (cf. Jn 6:1-13). The sign was clear: if everyone gives to others what they have, with God's help, even with little everyone can have something. Let us not forget this: if one gives to others what one has, with God's help, even with little everyone can have something. The crowds did not understand: they mistook Jesus for some kind of magician and went back to look for him, hoping he would repeat the miracle as if it were magic (cf. v. 26). They were the protagonists of an experience in their journey, but they did not grasp its significance: their attention focused only on the loaves and fishes, the actual food that finished immediately. They did not realize that this was only an instrument through which the Father, while satisfying their hunger, revealed something far more important to them. And what did the Father reveal to them? The path of life that lasts forever and the taste of bread that satisfies beyond any measure. The true bread, in short, was and is Jesus, his beloved Son made man (cf. v. 35), who came to share our poverty in order to lead us through it to the joy of full communion with God and with our brothers and sisters (cf. Jn 3:16). Material things do not give fullness to life. They help us go forward and are important, but they do not fulfill our lives. Only love can do that (cf. Jn 6:35). And for this to happen, the path to take is that of charity which keeps nothing for itself, but shares everything. Love shares everything. And does this not happen also in our own families? We can see it. Let us think of parents who struggle all their lives to raise their children well and leave them something for the future. How beautiful when this message is understood, and the children are grateful and in turn become supportive of each other like brothers and sisters! How sad, on the other hand, when they fight over inheritance – I have seen so many cases and it is sad - and they are fighting each other and perhaps they do not speak to each other again for years! The message of a father and a mother, their most precious legacy, is not money. It is the love with which they give their children everything they have, just as God does with us, and in this way, they teach us to love.

With today's catechesis, the pope entered into the second phase of salvation history. After contemplating the Holy Spirit in the work of Creation, we will contemplate it for a few weeks in the work of Redemption, namely of Jesus Christ. So, let us move on to the New Testament, and see the Holy Spirit in the New Testament. Today's theme is the Holy Spirit in the Incarnation of the Word. In the Gospel of Luke, we read: “The Holy Spirit will come upon you” – to Mary – “and the power of the Most High will overshadow you” (1:35). The evangelist Matthew confirms this fundamental fact that regards Mary and the Holy Spirit, saying that Mary “was found to be with child of the Holy Spirit” (1:18). The Church took up this revealed fact and very soon positioned it at the heart of her Symbol of faith. In the Ecumenical Council of Constantinople, in 381 – which defined the divinity of the Holy

Spirit – this article enters into the formula of the “Creed”. It is therefore an ecumenical fact of faith, because all Christians profess together that same Symbol of faith. Catholic piety, since time immemorial, has drawn from it one of its daily prayers, the Angelus. This article of faith is the foundation that enables us to speak of Mary as the quintessential Bride, who is a figure of the Church. Indeed, Jesus, as Saint Leo the Great writes, “just as He was born by the Holy Spirit from a virgin mother, so He makes the Church, His unblemished Bride, fruitful with the life-giving breath of the same Spirit”. [1] This parallelism is taken up in the Dogmatic Constitution Lumen Gentium, which says: “By her belief and obedience, [Mary] brought forth on earth the very Son of the Father, showing an undefiled faith, not in the word of the ancient serpent, but in that of God's messenger... The Church indeed, contemplating her hidden sanctity, imitating her charity and faithfully fulfilling the Father's will, by receiving the Word in faith becomes herself a mother. By her preaching she brings forth to a new and immortal life the sons who are born to her in baptism, conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of God” (nos. 63-64). Let us conclude with a practical reflection for our life, suggested by the insistence of the Scripture on the verbs “to conceive” and “to bear”. In the prophecy of Isaiah we hear: “Behold a young woman shall conceive and bear a son” (7:14), and the Angel says to Mary, “And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son” (Lk 1:31). Mary first conceived, then bore Jesus: first she welcomed Him into herself, in her heart and her flesh, then she gave birth to Him. This happens for the Church: first she welcomes the Word of God, letting it “speak tenderly to her” (cf. Hos 2:14), and “fill [her] stomach” (cf. Ez 3:3), in accordance with two biblical expressions, and then she gives birth to it with her life and preaching. The second operation is sterile without the first. The Church too, when faced with tasks beyond her strength, spontaneously asks the same question: “How is this possible?”. How is it possible to proclaim Jesus Christ and His salvation to a world that seems to seek only well-being? The answer is also the same as then: “You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you” (Acts 1:8). Without the Holy Spirit the Church cannot move forward, the Church does not grow, the Church cannot preach. What is said about the Church in general also applies to us, to every baptized person. All of us sometimes find ourselves, in life, in situations beyond our strength and ask ourselves: “How can I cope with this situation?”. It helps, in such cases, to repeat to ourselves what the angel said to the Virgin: “With God nothing will be impossible” (Lk 1:37).

Brothers and sisters, let us too, every time, resume our journey with this comforting certainty in our hearts: “With God nothing will be impossible”. And if we believe this, we will perform miracles. With God nothing will be impossible.