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Church of the Visitation
of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Rectory Phone: 536-6110
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20th Sunday in Ordinary Time,
August 18th, 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.

SATURDAY - Vigil of 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time
4:00 PM - Anita Sukenik
(Req. by Family)

SUNDAY - 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time
9:00 AM - Pro Populo

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.

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 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.

VISITATION PARISH MEMBERSHIP FORM

NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ ZIP _____

Check One: ☐ New Registration ☐ Change of Address ☐ Moving Out of Parish ☐ Want Envelopes

Please drop Membership Form into the offertory basket or mail to Rectory. 814-536-6110

\$\$\$ INCOME \$\$\$

Collection - August 11, 2024

| | |
|------------------------|-----------|
| Loose Money..... | \$252.00 |
| Sunday Collection..... | \$2250.00 |
| Assumption..... | \$95.00 |

TOTAL: \$2597.00

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

Please join us in remembering members of our parish family who celebrate their birthdays the week of August 19th to August 25th:



- Izaak Nagle

Kimberly George

Linda Petak
- Peggy Stahr

Ashley Strack

Barbara Harshberger
- Mia Rastall

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.

Annual Wedding Anniversary Liturgy - Bishop Mark Bartchak and the Family Life Office cordially invite all couples celebrating 1, 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60+ years of marriage in 2024 (and their families) to attend the Annual Wedding Anniversary Liturgy. Couples may attend Sunday, September 8 in ALTOONA at Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament or Sunday, September 15 in JOHNSTOWN at St. John Gualbert Cathedral. Both locations are handicap accessible. Liturgies in each location begin at 2:00 p.m. Most Rev. Bishop Mark will be the celebrant and homilist at each celebration. Refreshments/snacks will be available after the mass for anniversary couples and their families. Reservations must be made through your parish for either celebration by Tuesday, August 27th.

From the Pastor's Desk:

Dear Brothers and Sisters of my Family and Faith Community of the Church of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, grace and Peace to all of you through God our Faither, his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, and in the their mutually indwelling Holy Spirit be with you all. I am continuing to write to you to from West Penn Hospital in Pittsburgh as I have entered the 6th week of recovery following my liver transplant. This has been a turn in events that would seem to be insurmountable given the initial prognosis of 5-6 days in the hospital following the transplant (and all of the horrific complications that followed); however, it is as a pilgrim of hope anticipating the great gift of Jubilee 2025 that I anticipate God's mercy and a recovery to the degree that God can continue to use me for ministry in our Church and our World. Please continue to pray for me. I can't anticipate a stay for too much longer, but God will be with me regardless. As I am able, I keep you close to God's heart so that God can transform your hearts from within and continue on the true path to conversion and grace as we await out participation in a synodal Church marked by creatively faithful conversations about our Catholic life, faith, liturgy, and morality. I look forward to the days when we can make these discussions physically proximate to one another again. Saints Cosmos and Damian, Saint John, Saint Peter and Saint Paul, Saint Francis, and most Holy Mother Mary, pray for us all....whatever we truly need.

In his weekly Sunday Angelus reflection last week, Pope Francis speaks of the reaction of the Judeans to the statement of Jesus, who says: "I have come down from heaven" (Jn 6:38). They are scandalized. You may remember that they murmured among themselves: "Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How does he now say, 'I have come down from heaven'?" (Jn 6:42). We must pay close attention to what is said here. They are convinced that Jesus cannot have come from heaven, because he is the son of a carpenter and because his mother and his relatives are common people, familiar, normal people, like so many others. "How could God manifest Himself in such an ordinary way?", they say. They are obstructed in their faith by their preconception of his humble origins and they are obstructed by the presumption, therefore, that they have nothing to learn from him. Preconceptions and presumptions, how much harm they do! They prevent sincere dialogue, a coming together of brothers and sisters: beware of preconceptions and presumptions. They have their rigid mindsets, and there is no space in their heart for what does not fit into them, for what they are unable to catalogue and file away in the dusty shelves of their security. And this is true: very often our securities are closed up, dusty, like old books. And yet they are people who observe the law, who give alms, who respect fasts and times of prayer. Indeed, Christ has already performed various miracles. How is it that all this doesn't help them to recognize in Him the Messiah? Because they carry out their religious practices not so much in order to listen to the Lord, but rather to find in them the confirmation of what they think. They are closed up to the Word of the Lord, and look for confirmation of their own thoughts. This is demonstrated by the fact that they don't take the trouble to ask Jesus for an explanation; they limit themselves to murmuring among themselves against Him, as

though to reassure each other of what they are convinced, and they shut themselves in, they are closed up in an impenetrable fortress, and so, they are unable to believe. The closure of the heart; how much harm it does, how much harm! We must attend to all of this, because at times the same thing can happen to us too, in our life and in our prayer. It can happen to us, that is, that instead of truly listening to what the Lord has to say to us, we look to Him and others only for a confirmation of what we think: a confirmation of our convictions, our judgements, which are prejudices. But this way of addressing God does not help us to encounter God, to truly encounter Him, nor to open ourselves up to the gift of His light and His grace, in order to grow in goodness, to do His will and to overcome failings and difficulties. Brothers and sisters, faith and prayer, when they are true, open the mind and the heart; they do not close them. When you find a person who is closed in their mind and in prayer, that faith and that prayer are not true.

October Synod Gathering 2024: As you know.... we have been praying in preparation of the meetings that will be held during October 2024 as part of the synodal process that will affect the entire Church and its mission in the World as something of a natural ongoing consequence to the teaching of Vatican II and its clarifying visions for the Church in the modern world as a dynamic and creatively faithful community of disciples of Christ Jesus. For the last several months we have focused upon 2 of the 9 preparatory commission's tasks by prayerfully hoping for their openness to the spirit in making these preparations: In August, we will be praying for numbers 5 and 6 respectively:

5. Some theological and canonical matters regarding specific ministerial forms (SR 8 and 9).
6. The revision, in a synodal and missionary perspective, of the documents governing the relations between Bishops, Religious and Groupings of Churches (SR 10).

Please look at the insert in today's bulletin to understand the purpose of these preparatory groups more fully.

Father John's Environmental letter summaries will return after he returns back to the rectory after a few more weeks of therapy.