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Website: [www.visitationbvmchurch.com](http://www.visitationbvmchurch.com)  
Fax: 536-3709

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time,  
August 25th, 2024

MASS SCHEDULE

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

**SATURDAY** - Vigil of 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time  
4:00 PM - Pro Populo

**SUNDAY** - 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time  
9:00 AM - Kevin Cyburt  
(Req. by Marian & George)

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. Slovickovski, 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.

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 18, 2024

Loose Money.....	\$601.00
Sunday Collection.....	\$2629.00
Assumption.....	\$813.00
Reimbursement - St. Clare's.....	\$220.54
Parking Lot Rent.....	\$335.00

TOTAL:     **\$4598.54**

2nd Collection - Ethnic Fest                     **\$926.00**

Full Kilt Profit                                     **\$652.36**

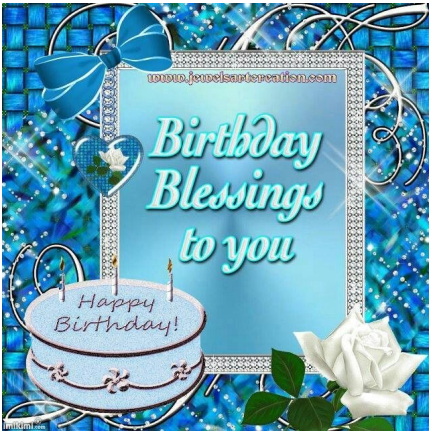
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Let us continue to pray for the members of our parish community who serve in the military, as well as for the sick, elderly and homebound members of our parish especially:

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 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 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 August 26th to September 1st:



Madison Podrebarac  
 Jen0 Lecci

Charlotte Cooney  
 Tiffany Leis

**Ethnic Fest** - A shout out and tremendous thank you to all of our parishioners for your outstanding generosity toward this years’ **Ethnic Fest Activities**. As usual, you have been so giving in terms of your donations of Jello, “spirits” and gifts of money via the second collection and private donations. Know that our appreciation is beyond words. **Know also that volunteers are desperately needed for our booth, this year in particular due to illness and overlapping vacations. To be honest and frank, we will not be successful without the manpower to back up our efforts.** If you are not able to volunteers, please stop by our booth and say hello. —**Fr. John**

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**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.

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**Parish Religious Education** - Our parish program for the 2024-2025 year begins on Sunday, September 15, 2024. The location is at St. Andrew Parish School at 1621 Ferndale Avenue. The time is 9:15 AM to 10:15 AM on Sunday mornings. If you have any questions or concerns, please call Maureen Clark at (814) 255-4531. Thank you!

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This weekend we were supposed to have the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth from Kentucky come and share some information about their mission appeal. Unfortunately, they were unable to come. We received information about their mission appeal in an email and wanted to share this with you all. Please read the provided information in the insert included in this weekend’s bulletin. If you are able to help out, please feel free to provide any assistance with the envelope included. You can drop it off the next time you attend mass or at the rectory. Thank you very much.



**From the Pastor’s Desk:** *Loving family, this week I returned from therapy at West Penn Hospital to retake my permanent residence at Visitation Rectory as your pastor (the later of which never ended). Hooray !!!!!!!!!!!!! It is so good to be home, for it is truly the locus of my heart and my soul. I am at about thirty percent (30%) they say and the road will be long and slow. The doctor who is the head of the transplant team told me that it will be three very long months and then BANG/BOOM!, after the third month (since I am one month in) I will make strides in getting to 100%. I am so grateful to God and to you, to all the angels and saints for your dedication to prayer. I wouldn’t be here, as modest as an improvement as it my seem, without YOU! I LOVE YOU ALL SO MUCH. Speaking of prayer, I need for you to remember my Go Fund Me page in a special way. As you have seen, I had to raise the amount due to increases in some medications and their costs, as well as costs related to my support team – housing and food when at clinic, and other necessary medical supplies). Please note how grateful I am for all of your donations, many of which have come to the rectory and through the collection.*

Pope Francis, in last Sunday’s reflection on the Angelus focuses strongly upon Jesus statement:: "I am the living bread that came down from heaven" (Jn 6:51). Before the crowd, the Son of God identifies himself with the most ordinary food-bread: “I am the bread”. Among those who are listening to Him, some argue among themselves (cf. v. 52): how can Jesus give us His own flesh to eat? Today, we ask this question, but with wonder and gratitude. Here are two attitudes to reflect on: wonder and gratitude before the miracle of the Eucharist. Firstly: wonder, because Jesus' words surprise us. Also today, in the lives of each one of us, Jesus keeps surprising us. The Bread from heaven is a gift that exceeds all expectations. Those who do not grasp Jesus' way remain suspicious: it seems impossible, even inhuman, to eat the flesh of another (cf. v. 54). Flesh and blood, however, are the humanity of the Savior, His very life offered as a nourishment for our own. And this brings us to the second attitude: gratitude. First: wonder. Now, gratitude, because we recognize Jesus where He makes present for us and with us. He makes Himself bread for us. “Whoever eats my flesh remains in me and I in him” (cf. v. 56). Christ, the true man, knows well that one must eat to live. But He also knows that this is not enough. After multiplying the earthly bread (cf. Jn 6:1-14), He prepares an even greater gift: He Himself becomes true food and true drink (cf. v. 55). Thank you, Lord Jesus, all our heart. The heavenly bread, which comes from the Father, is the Son made flesh for us. This food is more than necessary because it satisfies the hunger for hope, the hunger for truth, and the hunger for salvation that we all feel not in our stomachs, but in our hearts. Everyone needs the Eucharist! Jesus takes care of the greatest need: He saves us, nourishing our lives with His own, and He will do this forever. And it is thanks to Him that we can live in communion with God and with each other. Pope Francis stresses that the living and true bread is not, therefore, something magical, no. It is not something that will immediately solve all problems, but it is the very Body of Christ, that gives hope to the poor and overcomes the arrogance of those who gorge themselves at their expense. Let us ask ourselves, then, brothers and sisters: Do I hunger and thirst for salvation, not just for myself, but for all my brothers and sisters? When I receive the Eucharist, which is the miracle of mercy, do I stand in awe before the Body of the Lord, who died and rose again for us?

In his weekly Audience and ongoing catechesis on Spirit, Pope Francis reflects upon the Holy Spirit who comes upon Jesus in the baptism in the Jordan, and spreads from Him into

His body, which is the Church.

In the Gospel of Mark, the scene of Jesus’ baptism is described thus: “In those days Jesus came up from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And when He came up out of the water, immediately He saw the heavens opened and the Spirit descending upon Him like a dove; and a voice came from heaven, ‘Thou art my beloved Son; with thee I am well pleased.’” The entire Trinity met at that moment, on the banks of the Jordan! There is the Father, who is present with His voice; there is the Holy Spirit, who descends upon Jesus in the form of a dove, and there is He Whom the Father proclaims to be His beloved Son, Jesus. It’s a very important moment of Revelation, of salvation history. What happened that was so important in the baptism of Jesus that led all the Evangelists to recount it? We find the answer in the words Jesus utters in Luke, shortly afterwards, in the synagogue of Nazareth, clearly referring to the event in the Jordan: “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because He has anointed me” In the Jordan, God the Father “anointed with the Holy Spirit”; that is, He consecrated Jesus as King, Prophet and Priest. In the Old Testament, kings, prophets and priests were anointed with perfumed oil. In the case of Christ, of physical oil, there’s the spiritual oil that is the Holy Spirit; instead of the symbol there is the reality: there is the very Spirit who descends upon Jesus. Jesus is filled with the Holy Spirit ever since the first moment of His incarnation. He receives the fullness of the gift of the Spirit, for His mission which, as the head, He will communicate to His body, which is the Church, and to every one of us. The Hebrew term “Messiah” Jesus, means “anointed”. He was anointed with the Holy Spirit. Our very name of “Christians, “Christians, anointed in imitation of Christ. Christ is the head, our High Priest, the Holy Spirit is the perfumed oil, and the Church is the body of Christ in which it spreads. Why it is symbolized by oil, and what practical lesson we can draw from this symbol are important. Anointment perfumes us, and a person who lives his anointment with joy makes the Church fragrant, makes the community fragrant, makes the family fragrant with this spiritual scent. We know that, unfortunately, sometimes Christians do not spread the fragrance of Christ, but the bad odor of their own sin. And let us never forget sin distances us from Jesus, sin makes us become bad oil. And the devil – let us not forget this – the devil usually enters via the pocket. Beware; however, this must not distract us from the commitment of realizing, as far as we are able and each in their own environment, this sublime vocation of being the good fragrance of Christ in the world. The fragrance of Christ emanates from the “fruits of the Spirit”, which are “love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.”. Paul said this, and how good it is to find a person who has these virtues, and someone will feel some of the fragrance of the Spirit of Christ around us, when we find these people. Let us ask the Holy Spirit to make us more aware that we are anointed, anointed by Him.

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**The parish office will be closed on Monday, September 2nd in observance of Labor Day.**