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22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time, September 1st, 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.

<u>SATURDAY</u> - Vigil of 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time 4:00 PM - Pro Populo

SUNDAY - 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time 9:00 AM - Donald Houghton

(Req. by 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.



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.

<u>SACRAMENT OF PENANCE</u>: Confessions will not be heard regularly until Fr. John has recovered from his liver transplant. <u>Confession may AL-WAYS be arranged with Fr. John personally by calling the rectory office. Please avail yourselves to this life-giving sacrament!</u>

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. Prebaptismal 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.

<u>MEMBERSHIP</u>: 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 - August 25, 2024

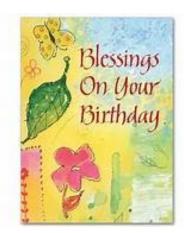
Loose Money	\$344.00
Sunday Collection	\$1963.00
Assumption	\$10.00

TOTAL: \$2317.00

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 Rovan, 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

<u>Please join us in remembering members of our parish family who celebrate their birthdays the week of September 2nd to September 8th:</u>



Marianne Meyer

Isabella Marano

Oliver George

For the Good of the Vineyard and Our Particular Part of It:

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

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.

SAVE THE DATE! A Women's Day of Reflection - St. Benedict Parish, Johnstown will be hosting Award Winning Author and Speaker, Liz Kelly for A Women's Day of Reflection, "Jesus Approaches: What Contemporary Women Can Learn about Healing, Freedom & Joy from the Women of the New Testament" This one-day event will be held from 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM September 28, 2024. The day will start off with taking a fresh look at the encounters that women had with Jesus while you grow in confidence and skill praying with Scripture and making the Gospel your own. The day will include Mass, Adoration, opportunities for confession and fellowship and the opportunity to strengthen the tether between your heart and the Sacred Heart of Jesus. This event is Free and open to all, A Lunch and Refreshments will be served so an RSVP is required. A love offering will be taken. For more information contact St. Benedict Rectory at (814) 266-9178 or Deacon Michael Russo at 814-288-3036 or email at michael.russo@atlanticbb.net.

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.

Annual Novena - St Therese Church Johnstown will be holding their Annual Novena in honor of St. Therese of the Little Flower of Jesus starting Monday, September 23rd and will continue for nine (9) days. Masses will be held at 9AM and 7PM except on Saturday and Sunday, which will be Saturday at 9AM, 4PM, & 7PM and Sunday at 7:30AM, 10:30AM and 7PM. The closing of the Novena will be Tuesday, Oct. 1st.

Women's Conference 2024 - The Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown is having their annual STRENGTH IN CHRIST women's conference on October 12th, 2024 at Mount Aloysius College in Cresson. They are excited to have keynote speaker Katie Prejean McGrady from Lake Charles, LA. She is a wife, mom, award-winning author, international speaker, podcaster and daily radio show host. She is also a breakout speaker at the National Eucharistic Revival Congress this summer (2024). Katie regularly writes for Blessed is She, Our Sunday Visitor, Aleteia, and the Grotto Network. She

appears as a Catholic commentator on <u>CNN</u> and is a consultant for the <u>USCCB</u> working group on youth and young adult ministry. Katie is an op-ed columnist with <u>La Croix In-</u>



ternational, a French Catholic newspaper distributed daily in print and online. The conference will include mass with Bishop Mark, confessions, and lunch. The conference runs from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM with checkin beginning at 7:00 -7:30 AM. The cost is \$20 for adults; \$10 for high school and college students. Register by October 1st online at dioceseaj.org/giving or pick up hard copy registration form at the rectory office.

Fatima Devotions - Please join us for Fatima Devotions along with the dedication and blessing of the new Stations of the Cross and Garden Benches on Friday September 13, 2024, at 6:30pm in the Sunken Gardens, Loretto PA. (In case of inclement weather everything will be at the Immaculate Conception Chapel at Saint Francis University.) The Homilist will be Fr. Joseph, Lehman, T.O.R., Minister Provincial.

In his weekly **Sunday Angelus** reflection last week, Pope Francis speaks of relates to us the famous response of Saint Peter, who says to Jesus: "Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life." (Jn 6:68). It is a very beautiful expression that gives witness to the friendship and manifests the trust that bind him to Christ, along with the other disciples. "Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life." Beautiful. Peter speaks these words at a critical moment. Jesus has just finished a discourse in which he said he was the "bread come down from heaven" (cf. Jn 6:41). It is a difficult language for people to understand and many, even disciples who were following Him, abandon Him because they did not understand.

The Twelve, however, remained with Him. They stayed because in Him they found "words of eternal life." They heard Him preach, they saw the miracles He performed, and they continue to share with Him public moments and the intimacy of daily life (cf. Mk 3:7-19). The disciples do not always understand what the Master says and does. At times they struggle to accept the paradoxes of His love (cf. Mt 5:38-48), the extreme demands of His mercy (cf. Mt 18:21-22), the radical nature of His way of giving Himself to all. It is not easy for them to understand, but they are faithful. Jesus' choices often go beyond common thinking, beyond the very canons of institutional religion and traditions to the point of creating provocative and embarrassing situations (cf. Mt 15:12). It is not easy to follow Him. Yet, among the many teachers of that time, Peter and the other apostles found only in Him the answer to the thirst for life, for joy, for love that animates them. Only thanks to Him did they experience the fullness of life they seek, beyond the limits of sin and even death. Therefore, they do not leave. Indeed, all but one, even amidst many falls and times of repentance will remain with Him to the end (cf. Jn 17:12). And, brothers and sisters, this also concerns us. Even for us it is not easy to follow the Lord, to understand His way of acting, to make His criteria and His example our own. It is not easy for us. However, the closer we are to Him the more we adhere to His Gospel, receive His grace in the Sacraments, stay in His company in prayer, imitate Him in humility and charity - the more we experience the beauty of having Him as our Friend and realize that He alone has the "words of eternal life." Then we can ask ourselves: how much is Jesus present in my life? How much do I let myself be touched and moved by His words? Can I say that they are also "words of eternal life" for me? To you, my brother, my sister, I ask: Are the words of Jesus, for you - also for me - words of eternal life? *****************

In his **Wednesday Audience**, the Pope postponed his usual catechesis and to think of and pray for our brothers and sisters who even now seek to escape war, violence, persecution and disasters and set out in



search of a land where they can live in peace and security. Many of these migrants, including young children, suffer greatly and die along the way. Most of these tragedies could be prevented. The teaching of Scripture is clear: God especially loves his children who are poor and in need, and we are called to help and defend them. Rather than more restrictive laws and the militarization of borders, what is needed is an expansion of secure and regular means of access, and a global governance of migrations based on justice, fraternity and solidarity. May we not turn a blind eye to these brothers and sisters, support those who seek to assist them and, above all, pray fervently for just solutions to this grave humanitarian crisis.