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of the Blessed Virgin Mary

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Website: www.visitationbvmchurch.com
Fax: 536-3709

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

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

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

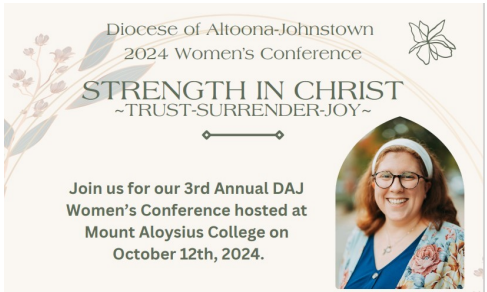
Anonymous Petitioners, Pat Balagusz, Ralph Blair, David Clark, Ronald Cleaver, Dolores Danner, Francis Dietz, Dorothy Fisher, Barbara Fox, Paul Harnish, Catherine Heinlein, Mary Carol Hill and children, Donna Johnson, Baby Gianna Kniss, Karen Kohan, Betsy Konar, Marylee Konicky, Madeleine Krueger, Gaile Krumenacker, Victoria Leflie, Michael Letzo, Joanne Macri, Patricia Mainhart, Marianne Mangiafico, Pat Meagher, Myla Minner, Pauline Molchany, Larry Oravetz, Anna Petro, Francis Petro, Jean Petraro, 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 Slovickovski, Shirley Slovickovski, Megan Var-mecky, Coralie Williams, Christi Vaorek, Carrie Young

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



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 CNN and is a consultant for the USCCB working group on youth and young adult ministry. Katie is an op-ed columnist with La Croix In-



International, 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 check-in 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.

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.

