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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

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

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time,
September 8th, 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 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time
4:00 PM - Thomas & Norma Fabina
(Req. by Marcie Price)

SUNDAY - 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time
9:00 AM - Pro Populo

SANCTUARY CANDLE

In Memory of Michael & Ethel Fuska
Req. by Cathy Fuska

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.

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

Collection - September 1, 2024

Loose Money.....	\$249.00
Sunday Collection.....	\$3190.00
Assumption.....	\$10.00
Votive Candles.....	\$156.00
St. Peregrine.....	\$60.00
Sanctuary Candle.....	\$40.00
Learning Lamp - Sept.....	\$3800.00
Parking Lot Rent.....	\$135.00
Community Foundation David Madigan Fund..	\$460.00
TOTAL:	\$8100.00

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 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 September 9th to September 15th:



- Constance Pupo

Gregory Leis

Marcie Nickels

Richard Dunkle
- Charlene Torchia

Renee Stephens

Anthony Penna

Alexis Kozak

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 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 9:00 AM to 10:00 AM on Sunday mornings. If you have any questions or concerns, please call Maureen Clark at (814) 255-4531.

From the Pastor’s Desk:

Dear friends, at the time of this writing, I am 57 days out from my liver transplant and I will say that it has not been an easy road; however, the challenges, thus far have not been insurmountable, and although the path to healing is long, we must remember that there is always an end in sight. Currently, my issues have to do with my kidneys that are far from functioning at optimal efficiency. The inability to diuresis (to pee) properly has caused stress on my kidneys. Now we need to remember that the body is like an orchestra and when one of the members is replaced it takes time for the group to adjust, so too with the body all of the organs have to adjust to the trauma of a liver transplant. We are keeping an eye on my kidneys very closely so as to avoid readmission to the hospital. Otherwise, I am progressing slowly but surely as I hope to re-join our family in prayer this November. In the meantime your prayerful support is greatly appreciated. A big shout out to all who have been able to help financially, for the bills continue to mount as added care is necessary. God bless you all for any and all help you have given to me, especially the pray-ers.

In his weekly **Sunday Angelus** reflection last week, Pope Francis spoke about Jesus’ teaching about the pure and the impure: a matter very dear to his contemporaries, which was linked principally to the observance of rites and rules of behavior, to avoid any contact with things or persons considered unclean and, if this happened, to erase the “stain” Purity and impurity were almost an obsession for some religious of those times. The Pharisees, obsessive, strict observers of such norms (with good historical foundations which we cannot discuss here for lack of space), accuse Jesus of allowing his disciples to eat without washing their hands. Jesus takes this opportunity to clarify the meaning of “purity”. Purity, Jesus says, isn’t linked to external rites, but is linked to interior dispositions. To be pure, one’s attitudes of the heart must match one’s actions. Jesus draws attention to the need to beware of ritualism, which does not make one grow in goodness; on the contrary, this ritualism can sometimes lead one to neglect, or even justify, in oneself and in others, choices and attitudes contrary to charity, which wound the soul and close the heart.

This is VERY important for us too: one cannot, for example, leave Holy Mass and, still in front of the church, stop and gossip wickedly and mercilessly about everything and everyone. That chatter ruins the heart, that ruins the soul. Or to show oneself to be pious in prayer, but then treat one’s own relatives at home with coldness and detachment, or neglect their elderly parents who are in need of help and company. That is a double life, and one cannot do this, external purity, with merciful attitudes towards others. One cannot be apparently very decent to everyone, and perhaps even do a bit of voluntary work and some philanthropic gestures, but then inwardly cultivate hatred towards others, despise the poor and the least, or behave dishonestly in one’s work.

In acting in this way, the relationship with God is reduced to external gestures, and within one remains impervious to the purifying action of His grace, indulging in thoughts, messages and behavior without love. We are made for something else. We are made for the purity of life, for tenderness, for love.

Therefore Pope Francis instructs us to ask ourselves, then: do I live my faith in a consistent manner, that is, what I do in



Church, do I try to do outside in the same spirit? By my sentiments, words and deeds, do I make what I say in prayer tangible in closeness and respect for my brothers and sisters? Let us think about this.

Pope Francis did not hold his normal **Wednesday Audience** in Rome this week due to his Apostolic Journey to Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, Timor Leste, and Singapore. On Wednesday, he did three things: 1.) he addresses the authorities, civil society, and the diplomatic core of the Vatican present there; 2.) He then met and addresses bishops, priests, deacons, consecrated persons, seminarians and catechists; and finally 3.) he met with the young people involved in the “Scholas Aides” Project of local importance. Pope Francis will continue this visitation through September 13th.

Catholic Environmental Ethics...a brief but important note: At the time of the writing of the article for the bulletin (Thursday afternoon), I came across an article in the Tribune Democrat which disturbed me very much (which isn’t surprising given the media). In all seriousness, one the back page one found an article that indicated that we humans create 57 million tons of plastic pollution each year that can be found all over the earth and its oceans, and surprisingly in people’s bodies. It is enough pollution to fill New York City’s Central park as high as the Empire State Building. These pollutants are both burned and dumped causing wide ranging problems for the environment. It is a humanistic and theological disgrace. This is the precise reason that it is important that Visitation Parish is a “GREEN” parish, that we recycle and use recyclable materials. We know that we are codependent upon creation and part of our duty of being born in God’s image and formed in God’s likeness is to be environmentally responsible by using materials that are recyclable and which preserve the integrity of the earth.

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 6 of the 9 preparatory commission's tasks by prayerfully hoping for their openness to the spirit in making these preparations: In September, we will be praying for number 7:

7. Some aspects of the person and ministry of the bishop (criteria for selecting candidates to episcopacy, judicial function of the bishops, nature and course of apostolic visits) from a missionary synodal perspective.

There will be an insert regarding number 7 in next week’s bulletin.