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of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Rectory Phone: 536-6110
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24th Sunday in Ordinary Time,
September 15th, 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 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time
4:00 PM - Pro Populo

SUNDAY - 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time
9:00 AM - Peter Janiga
(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 Bumbnick, 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 - September 8, 2024

Loose Money.....	\$269.00
Sunday Collection.....	\$2569.00
Retired Priests Medical.....	\$20.00
Catholic University.....	\$41.00
Missionary.....	\$61.00
Votive Candles.....	\$144.00
St. Peregrine.....	\$19.00
Community Foundation- David Madigan Trust	\$900.00
Apartment Rent - September.....	\$625.00
Parking Lot Rent.....	\$400.00
Ordinary Donations.....	\$25.00

TOTAL: **\$5073.00**

 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 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

Please join us in remembering members of our parish family who celebrate their birthdays the week of September 16th to September 22nd:



Anthony Marano	Susan Pappas
Terrie Rovon	Matthew J. Turner
Paul Schmidt, Jr.	Amelda Bubalo
Reggie Kohan	Gianna McCombie
Eileen Winski	Debbie Magro
Partick O'Donnell	

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. 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. Tickets can be purchased in the vestibule of the Church before or after weekend Masses or by calling the rectory office. We would also appreciate any one who is willing to take tickets to sell. Thank you for your support of this important fundraiser.



Ethnic Fest 2024 - A heartfelt thank you to our wonderful group of volunteers who gave so much of their time towards this year's Ethnic Fest, from making Jello shots, to set-up and tear down of our booth, to the small but dedicated group of people who helped throughout the weekend with our booth. A dismal and rainy Saturday affected our final profit - but never dampened our spirits. Thank you for your dedication towards Visitation Parish.

ETHNIC FEST 2024

Income:

Second Collection	\$926.00
Ethnic Fest Weekend	\$6082.00
Total:	\$7008.00

Expenses:

Sunseri's	\$184.40
BiLo	\$55.55
Tequila - 2 cases	\$234.04
Temporary Liquor License	\$90.00
Msgr Balta	\$250.00
Jello, "spirits"	Donated
Transport van	Donated
Ice Wagon	Donated
Coke for Mixed Drinks	Donated
Total:	\$813.99

Total Profit: **\$6194.01**

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.



From the Pastor's Desk:

Dear Friends, this week I continue to battle with issues with my kidneys. Pure and simple, while the swelling in my legs and feet has reduced by approximately 12 pounds, my creatine level as of Thursday was above 3.2 which remains dangerously high. I am taking the steps recommended to try to decrease the number; however, I would be deeply grateful for prayer with the specific intention of the reduction of this important number. As always, all prayers are appreciated. Also, I want to reinforce my gratitude to all of you who give from your means to help with the overwhelming costs of my post surgical care. Although I am not in any means capable to addressing personal thank you notes at this time, know that I receive every card, sentiment, and gift with tremendous and humble appreciation. Know also that I am certain that your charity does not go unnoticed by God and that you are receiving many graces for your kindness. Again, keep up the prayers as they sustain my hope for a full recovery in God's time.

This Sunday, Pope Francis continued his Apostolic Visitation of Indonesia (and several additional surrounding states). In lieu of his **Sunday Angelus** message, he recorded a video message to the participants in the 53rd International Eucharistic Congress. The text from his video message can be found below:

Dear brothers and sisters,

I am pleased to be able to participate, albeit from a distance, in this International Eucharistic Congress, celebrated in the city of San Francisco de Quito, with the beautiful motto: "Fraternity to heal the world". The lessons we can draw from the Blessed Eucharist always surprise us. We might say, with the Psalm, "If I would count them, they are more than the sand. When I awake, I am still with thee", silently present in the Tabernacle (cf. Ps 139:18). Among these teachings, you chose that of fraternity, as an essential condition for a new world, a more just world, a more humane world. The first Fathers of the Church already told us that the sign of bread kindles in the People of God the desire for brotherhood, since, just as bread cannot be made with just a single grain, so we too must walk together, because "one loaf, one body, is what we all are, many though we be" (cf. Saint Augustine, Sermon 227). This is how we grow as brethren, this is how we grow as a Church, joined in the water of baptism and purified by the fire of the Holy Spirit (cf. ibid.). A profound brotherhood, that is born of the union with God, that is born from letting ourselves be ground, like grain, in order to become bread, the body of Christ, thus participating fully in the Eucharist and in the assembly of saints (cf. Saint Ignatius of Antioch, Letter to the Romans, 4:1). This brotherhood must also be proactive. An example of this, which comes to my mind now, is the thought of a German religious sister who died in the Auschwitz concentration camp, Angela Autsh. Even before being arrested, when the evil looming over the world was already evident, she invited her nephews, who were approaching Holy Communion for the first time, she invited her relatives who had strayed a little, and she invited also those who had remained devout, to rebel against that evil with simple and, in some places dangerous gestures, to come as close as possible to the Sacrament of the altar, to rebel through Communion. For her, to urge frequent communion, especially in prayer for the Pope and the Church, which was persecuted at that time, meant finding in the Eucharist a bond that strengthens the vigor of the Church herself, a bond that strengthens this vigor between her members and with God,

and for her it meant to "organize" the fabric of a resistance that the enemy cannot unravel, because it does not respond to a human plan. These simple gestures make us more aware of the fact that, if one member suffers, all the body suffers with him; they help us become Cyrenians of Christ, who took upon Himself the weight of the world's suffering to heal the world. Sisters, brothers, let us learn this lesson, let us recuperate this radical fraternity with God.

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 ad limina apostolorum visits) from a missionary synodal perspective.

PLEASE SEE THE INSERT IN THIS WEEK'S BULLETIN FOR FURTHER **IMPORTANT** EXPLANATION OF THIS TOPIC.

VISITATION PARISH WILL BE HOLDING A GAME NIGHT FUNDRAISER ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER, 20, 2024 FROM 4:00 PM UNTIL 7:00 PM to assist Fr. John with his post surgical care. The cost will be \$5.00 per person and will include participation in

the games, pizza, popcorn, soda, and beer. Participants are invited either to come as individuals to join teams or to form teams of their own. A full list of games available for reservation (and their descriptions) as well as sign up sheets will be provided next week in the main vestibule of the Church. Participants are also welcome to bring their own games if they are not available on the list. MORE DETAILS WILL BE AVAILABLE IN NEXT WEEK'S BULLETIN. THERE WILL BE A PLANNING MEETING FOR THIS EVENT ON MON-

DAY, SEPTEMBER 16th in THE RECTORY MEETING ROOM at 7:30 PM. If you are interested in helping or have any ideas please attempt to attend this meeting. THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT AS WE STRIVE TO AID OUR PASTOR DURING THIS VERY DIFFICULT TIME.

