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

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time,  
September 22nd, 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 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time  
4:00 PM - Pro Populo

**SUNDAY** - 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time  
9:00 AM - Mike, Pauline & Carol Ann Cleaver  
(Req. by Ron Cleaver)

SANCTUARY CANDLE

For the Spiritual and Temporal Welfare  
of Father John

The daily readings; may be found at either  
[USCCB.ORG](http://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 15, 2024

Loose Money.....	\$413.00
Sunday Collection.....	\$2112.00
Catholic University.....	\$10.00
Missionary.....	\$10.00
Votive Candles.....	\$25.00

TOTAL:     **\$2570.00**

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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, Rose Sigg, Allegra Slick, Father John Slovikovski, Shirley Slovikovski, Megan Varnecky, 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 September 23rd to September 29th:



Diane Griffin	Rebecca Leap
Betty Petro	Judith Raco
Francis Dietz	Francis Petro
Courtney Podrebarac	James Pupo
Edward Torchia	Dave Magro
Elizabeth Witkosky	Keith Leap
Hannah Oberhaus	Nada Prohaska

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 anyone who is willing to take tickets to sell. Thank you for your support of this important fundraiser.

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.

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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. In September, we will be praying for number 7: PLEASE SEE BULLETIN INSERT.

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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 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.



From the Pastor’s Desk:

Dear friends, I am writing to you on Wed. evening following my clinical at AGH. My situation with my kidneys has become a bit worse; however, after significant discussion among the transplant team, specialists and my own support group and I, there is a hope that some changes in medication related to my anti-rejection medication may help with the creatine levels and the water retention. This would truly be a blessing. Please pray that this solution is viable so that I do not need to be hospitalized. I do want to note positivity that my liver numbers are 100% positive—PRAISE GOD for that.. Also, please take note of the fundraising message in the latter part of the bulletin this week. God bless you all as I remember you in prayer. I love you very much and I miss you greatly.

In the Angelus message this past week, Pope Francis reflected upon Jesus, after asking the disciples what the people thought of Him, directly asks them: “But who do you say that I am?” Peter answers on behalf of all the group, saying. “You are the Christ”, that is, you are the Messiah. However, when Jesus starts to talk about the suffering and death that await Him, the same Peter objects, and Jesus harshly rebukes him: “Get behind me, Satan!” – He says Satan – “For you are not on the side of God, but of men.” So....what does it mean to know Jesus? On the one hand Peter answers perfectly, saying to Jesus that He is the Christ. However, behind these correct words there is still a way of thinking that is “of men”, a mentality that imagines a strong Messiah, a victorious Messiah, who cannot suffer or die. So, the words with which Peter responds are “right”, but his way of thinking has not changed. He still has to change his mindset; he still has to convert. This is a message, an important message for us too. Indeed, we too have learned something about God, we know the doctrine, we recite the prayers correctly and, perhaps, we respond well to the question “Who is Jesus for you?”, with some formula we learned at catechism. But are we sure that this means really knowing Jesus? In reality, to know the Lord, it is not enough to know something about Him, but rather to follow Him, to let ourselves be touched and changed by His Gospel. It is a matter of having a relationship with Him, an encounter. We can know many things about Jesus, but if we have not encountered Him, we still do not know who Jesus is. It takes this encounter that changes life: it changes the way of being, the way of thinking, the relationships we have with our brothers and sisters, the willingness to accept and forgive... it changes the choices you make in life. Everything changes if you have truly come to know Jesus! Everything changes.

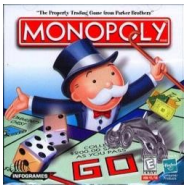
Does the fact that we do not know who Christ is truly for us unsettle us at all? Unfortunately, many people no longer pose themselves this question and remain “unbothered”, slumbering, even far from God. Instead, it is important to ask ourselves: do I let myself be bothered, do I ask who Jesus is for me. What place He occupies in my life? Do I follow Jesus only in word, having only a worldly mentality? Do I set out to follow Him, allowing Him to transform my life?

In his Wednesday Audience, Pope Francis spoke about the abundant growth that the Church has experienced in the countries he recently visited noting that it comes from a living and joyful faith marked by compassion and respect for all God’s children, regardless of their religion or culture. Francis focused upon the three characteristics of the Lord: closeness, mercy and compassion. God is close, God is merciful and God is compassionate, noting, if a Christian does not have

compassion, he is of no use. “Faith, fraternity, compassion” was the motto of the visit to Indonesia: on the basis of these words, the Gospel enters every day into the life of the people in a concrete way, welcoming it and giving it the grace of Jesus who died and rose again. He remarked on the beauty of an outbound missionary Church in Papua New Guinea, with its diverse ethnic groups that speak over eight hundred languages providing an ideal environment for the Holy Spirit, who loves to make the message of love resonate in the symphony of languages. In Papua New Guinea, he noted the beauty of the environment that screams for our interdependence with it. The Pope also remarked on the importance of Faith that must be enculturated and cultures must be evangelized. Faith and culture. {This is a s true as it is for these southeastern/ Asian cultures as is for us. The is how we enliven the diversity of culture s and include men and women of every age and walk of life.} In Singapore, his last stop, even in wealthy Singapore, he experienced “little ones”, within a dramatic Christian minority who follow the Gospel and become salt and light, witnesses to a hope greater than what economic gains can guarantee.

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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) is located in the main vestibule of the Church. Participants are also welcome to bring their own games if they are not available on the list. There will also be a lottery tree and a 50/50. Sign-up sheets are located in the back of the Church for both those who want to participate at the event and/or those who are willing to volunteer to help. ALSO, if your means allow, we are in need of donations of lottery tickets to fill our tree. All in all we would love to see you there and please note that we have carefully planned around the Steeler Game that day.



We all say that we can do nothing about the climate crisis. Well, we all can increase CLIMATE HOPE by simple things like: REDUCING FOOD WASTE, USING LESS WATER, and REDUCING, REUSING, REPAIRING, and RECYCLING. God calls all of us to make a difference AND WE CAN!!!

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