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26th Sunday in Ordinary Time, September 29th, 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 - Viail of 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time 4:00 PM -Anita Sukenik

(Req. by Cathy Fuska)

SUNDAY -27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:00 AM -**Pro Populo**

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 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 weddina.

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.

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.

\$\$ INCOME \$\$\$ Collection - September 22, 2024

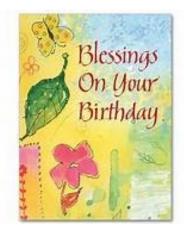
Loose Money	\$356.00
Sunday Collection	\$2415.00
Retired Priests Medical	\$27.00
Votive Candles	\$56.00
St. Peregrine	\$30.00
Sanctuary Candle	\$20.00
Parking Lot Rent	\$540.00

TOTAL: \$3444.00

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, Rose Sigg, Allegra Slick, Father John Slovikovski, Shirley Slovikovski, Megan Varmecky, Coralie Williams, Christi Vavrek, Carrie Young

Please join us in remembering members of our parish family who celebrate their birthdays the week of September 30th to October 6th:



Judy Horner **Brett Huston** Roseanne Wenderoth Rosemarie Nagle

Robert Slivinsky Melissa Davidson Pamela Hauman Richard Skovensky

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

STEELER TICKET LOTTERY - we continue 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. The winners are determined by the PA Lottery 7:00 PM drawing of the Pick 3 on October 18th. 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.

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, awardwinning 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 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 of-

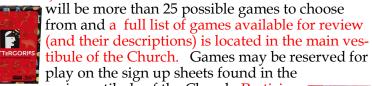
MORE INFORMATION: VISITATION PARISH WILL BE HOLDING A GAME NIGHT FUNDRAISER ON SUNDAY, OC-TOBER, 20, 2024 FROM 4:00 PM UNTIL 7:00 PM to assist Fr. John with his post surgi-



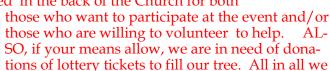
cal care. The cost will be \$5.00 per person and will include par-

ticipation in the games, pizza, popcorn, soda, and beer. There will be two seatings, one at 4:00 PM and the other at 5:30 PM to allow indi-

viduals to participate in more than one game at the same \$5.00 cost. Participants are invited either to come as individuals to join teams or to form teams of their own. There



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



would love to see you there. For Further information you may contact either Kristyn Amendola at (814) 248-2942; kamendola528@gmail.com, or Debbie Magro at 814-243-9028; ddmagro1958@gmail.com. THANK YOU!

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, who announced what will happen at the culmination of His life: "The Son of man", says Jesus, "will be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill Him; and when He is killed, after three days He will rise" (v. 31). The disciples, however, have other things in their mind and also on their lips. When Jesus asks them what they were talking about, they do not answer. Why are they silent... because they were discussing who was the greatest and they are ashamed. What a contrast! While Jesus confided in them the meaning of His very life, they were talking about power. Jesus is very candid and responds to the conversations whispered along the way: "If any one would be first, he must be last of all and servant of all" (cf. v. 35). Do you want to be great? Make yourself small, put yourself at the service of all. With a notion simple as it is decisive, Jesus renews our way of living teaching us that true power does not lie in the dominion of the strongest, but in care for the weakest. This is why the Master calls a child, puts him in the midst of the disciples and embraces him, saying: "Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me" (v. 37). The child has no power; the child has needs. Francis boldly reminds us that we can never forget that all of us have life have been welcomed, but power makes us forget this truth. If we forget he notes that, we become dominators, not servants, and the first to suffer as a result are the last: the little ones, the weak, the poor. How many people, how many, suffer and die for power struggles! Theirs are lives that the world denies, as it denied Jesus, those who are excluded and die... When He is delivered into the hands of men, He finds not an embrace, but a cross. However, the Gospel remains living and filled with hope: He who has denied, is risen, He is the Lord! As result, we need to ask ourselves: do I know how to recognize the face of Jesus in the smallest? Do I take care of my neighbor, serving generously? And do I thank those who take care of me? Another small but worthy criteria to rest in our hearts as our NOT SO SIMPLE election day choices lie less than 6 weeks

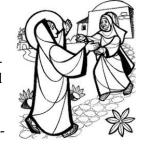
In Pope Francis' Wednesday Audience of this past week, he reflects upon the Gospel account of Jesus' temptations in the desert, which speaks to us of the reality of Satan, the tempter, but also the Lord's sovereign power to set us free from his snares. Nowadays we are witnessing a strange phenomenon regarding the devil. At a certain cultural level, it is held that he simply does not exist, and in this way he dominates everything. He is cunning. And yet our technological and secularized world is teeming with magicians, occultism, spiritualism, astrologers, sellers of spells and amulets, and unfortunately with real satanic sects. Driven out the door, the devil has reentered, one might say, through the window. Driven out of

faith, he re-enters with superstition. And if you are superstitious, you are unconsciously conversing with the devil. One does not converse with the devil. Yet, the pope argues, the strongest proof of the existence of Satan is found not in sinners or the possessed, but in the saints. They recognize that the battle against the spirit of evil is won as Jesus won it in the wilderness: by striking with the word of God. You see that Jesus does not converse with the devil, He never conversed with the devil. Either he casts him out, or condemns him, but He never converses. And in the wilderness, he replies not with His word, but with the Word of God. We too must never engage our temptations. After Christ, Francis reminds us that on the cross, defeated forever the power of the devil by banishing him. God creates a great distance that we must maintain when faced with temptation. Modern technology, for example, besides the many positive resources that are to be appreciated, offers also countless means to "give an opportunity to the devil", and many fall in the trap. Think of online pornography, behind which there is a flourishing market: we all know this. It is the devil at work, there. And this is a very widespread phenomenon, which Christians should beware of and strongly reject. Because any smartphone has access to this brutality, to this language of the devil: online pornography.

Awareness of the action of the devil in history should not discourage us Pope Francis concludes. The final thought must be, also in this case, of trust and security: "I am with the Lord, be gone". Christ overcame the devil and gave us the Holy Spirit to make His victory ours. The very action of the enemy can turn to our advantage, if with God's help we make it serve our purification. Let us therefore ask the Holy Spirit, To aid us for with God's grace, are more astute than him. Thank you. ************************************

Ministry of Hospitality: We will be reinstituting our Ministry of Hospitality on the Weekend of Sunday, December 1, 2024, the first Sunday of Advent. This is the result of a special honor given to Visitation Parish from Pope Francis through Bishop Bartchak. The Ministry will be comprised of welcoming parishioners and nonparishioners (especially) to weekend liturgies through opening doors, making them feel welcome, and distrib-

uting bulletins. This will be a transitional ministry for some (i.e., we already have some individuals who do engage in it already); however, we are looking for additional ministers and we want to broaden the experience for the parish. Additionally, we will be looking for individuals who can share some



history regarding our parish. More detail will follow next week when I announce the honor that has been bestowed upon our parish. *************************