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Church of the Visitation  
of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Rectory Phone: 536-6110  
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Website: [www.visitationbvmchurch.com](http://www.visitationbvmchurch.com)  
Fax: 536-3709

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time,  
October 6th, 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 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time  
4:00 PM - Irene Kordell  
(Req. by Family)

**SUNDAY** - 28th 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](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. Slovickovski, 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 \_\_\_\_\_

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 29, 2024

Loose Money.....	\$218.00
Sunday Collection.....	\$2878.00
Retired Priests Medical.....	\$25.00
Learning Lamp Rent - Oct.....	\$3800.00
Parking Lot Rent.....	\$245.00
Ordinary Donations.....	\$60.00

TOTAL: \$7226.00

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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 Petraro, 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 Slovickovski, Shirley Slovickovski, 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 October 7th to October 13th:**

Shirley Machowski

Kathleen Vuckovich

Shirley Slovickovski

Merikay Moore

Carter Smitley

Kylee Arms

Kathleen Mikesic

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

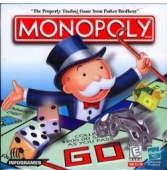
**STEELER TICKET LOTTERY** - we continue to offer chances to a Steelers game: Steelers vs. the New York Giants at 8:15 PM on Monday October 28th, 2024 at Acrisure Stadium. The winners are determined by the PA Lottery 7:00 PM drawing of the Pick 3 on October 18th. The number below or the number above 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.

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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](http://dioceseaj.org/giving) or pick up hard copy registration form at the rectory office.

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**MORE INFORMATION: 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. There will be two seatings, one at 4:00 PM and the other at 5:30 PM to allow individuals 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 will be more than 25 possible games to choose from and **a full list of games available for review (and their descriptions) is located in the main vestibule of the Church.** Games may be reserved for play on the sign up sheets found 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.** For Further information you may contact either Kristyn Amendola at (814) 248-2942 ; [kamendola528@gmail.com](mailto:kamendola528@gmail.com), or Debbie Magro at 814-243-9028; [ddmagro1958@gmail.com](mailto:ddmagro1958@gmail.com). **THANK YOU!**



**From the Pastor’s Desk:**

I needed to go to Forbes Hospital in Monroeville, to have a right heart catheterization to check the pressures in the right side of my heart to keep my pulmonary hypertension in check as part of my overall health and to see if any heart issues are contributing to the fact that my kidneys are still far from operating at an optimal level. While my kidney function needs to continue to improve, I am happy to report that my heart is just fine. Please continue to remember my kidney issue primarily in your prayer. The sooner that this issue is resolved, the sooner that I will be able to be with you again, praying together on Sundays. Also, if you have not had time to consider participating in the game night fund raiser I ask that you do so in the coming days. Remember, our fundraising is taking place primarily through larger donations. The afternoon itself, is to raise awareness and generally for individuals to enjoy one another while playing games merely for fun. Thank you for all of the prayerful and material support that you have offered to me during the past several months, I am certain that our Lord and his Blessed Mother will look kindly upon all of you.

Pope Francis during his Apostolic Visit to Belgium and to Luxembourg this past week and as part of the response to the welcome of the Archbishop of Brussels, he invited those assembled to sharing in the praying of the **Angelus**. He noted that in praying through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, they were reciting a “very popular prayer in past generations. It should be revived,” he said “for it is a synthesis of the Christian mystery, and the Church teaches us to incorporate it into our daily activities. I commend it especially to you young people, and I entrust all of you to our Blessed Mother, who is depicted here, beside the altar, as the Seat of Wisdom. Indeed, how much we need the wisdom of the Gospel! Let us ask the Holy Spirit for it often.”

The pope finished by praying through Mary’s intercession, “let us ask God for the gift of peace, for war-torn Ukraine; for Palestine and Israel; for Sudan; for Myanmar and all the lands scarred by war.”

On Wednesday of this past week, Pope Francis returned to Rome to preside over the *Second Session of the XVI General Ordinary Assembly of the Synod of Bishops (2-27 October 2024) First General Congregation*. I have been speaking about this SYNOD for months with great expectations and wanted to share a few thoughts from his address (none of which will do it justice). Pope Francis wanted to begin by acknowledging the clear presence of the Holy Spirit during the convocation of the entire synod and the Spirits call to humility and mercy on the part of all who are participating in it, bishops, priests, religious, laity, women and men. He emphasized that synodality is rooted in the reality of journey, a journey filled with surprises and rooted in truth. He also noted that the synodal process is a learning process “in the course of which the Church comes to know herself better and to identify the forms of pastoral activity best suited to the mission entrusted to her by her Lord.” This process cannot ignore the fruitfulness of differing relationships and the value of each individual not can it pit the hierarchy against the lay faithful. It is not a matter of replacing on with another but rather an opportunity to work together “symphonically” to create a composition which is a Church in service of God’s mercy that acknowledges and promotes the different ministries and charisms within the Body of Christ. This will require openness and responsiveness to the “signs of the times,” an updating that always respects the Deposit of Faith and the living Tradition (as evidenced by the questions

shared with you throughout the last several months.) He concluded with the charge to the synod that they must answer the question: How are we to be a synodal Church in mission that is merciful? With hearts filled with hope and gratitude..

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**Thank You** –I would like to thank everyone for the cards, phone calls, and prayers for my recovery during the time I fell and broke my hip. I assure you that it helped the healing process and it truly brightened my spirits to hear from all of you. Thank you all from the bottom of my heart. May God bless you all.

Sincerely, Polly Molchany

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**Pancake Breakfast** - St. Clement Church will be having an all you can eat pancake breakfast and bake sale on Saturday, November 2nd from 7:00 AM - 12:00 PM. Adults are \$7 and children 12 and under are \$5.

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**NEWS OF GREAT JOY FOR VISITATION PARISH FOR JUBILEE 2025:** The Papal Bull for Jubilee 2025, *Pilgrims of Hope*, released on May 9, 2024, followed by the Degree on the Granting of Indulgences on May 13, 2024 gave several directions for the celebration of Jubilee wherein Pope Francis declared that bishops could name a limited number of holy sites a sacred Pilgrimage destinations seeing that pilgrimage is central to the Jubilee Year. It is with great joy that I announce to you that Bishop Barchak has named *Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish* as one of only one dozen Churches in the diocese to receive this honor. As a result, during the Jubilee year, once all of other requirements for a Jubilee Indulgence are completed (which will be reviewed closer to the beginning of the Jubilee year), anyone who visits our Church (including you its regular membership) will receive this once in a lifetime indulgence. ***It would do well for all to note that this honor was bestowed only on Marian faith communities, and that we were the only Church in the Greater Johnstown area to receive it.***

**With this in mind...We will be reinstituting our Ministry of Hospitality** on the Weekend of Sunday, December 1, 2024, the first Sunday of Advent. The Ministry will be comprised of welcoming parishioners and non-parishioners (especially) to weekend liturgies through opening doors, making them feel welcome, and distributing 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. Please consider availing yourself to this important ministry in light of the honor bestowed upon our parish family.

