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Fax: 536-3709

28th Sunday in Ordinary Time,  
October 13th, 2024

MASS SCHEDULE

**MONDAY** - Weekday in Ordinary Time  
Paul Schmidt - **Private Mass**  
(Req. by Don & Laurie Blasko)

**TUESDAY** - Weekday in Ordinary Time  
Helene Balagusz - **Private Mass**  
(Req. by Ron Cleaver)

**WEDNESDAY** - Weekday in Ordinary Time  
Dr. Larry Rutledge - **Private Mass**  
(Req. by wife Barbara)

**THURSDAY** - Weekday in Ordinary Time  
James Rován - **Private Mass**  
(Req. by Chuck & Pat Sura)

**FRIDAY** - Weekday in Ordinary Time  
John Slovickovski Sr. - **Private Mass**  
(Req. by Dan & Vanessa Hummel)

**SATURDAY** - Vigil of 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time  
4:00 PM - Pro Populo

**SUNDAY** - 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time  
9:00 AM - Anthony & Julia Alekna  
(Req. by grandson Ron Cleaver)

\*\*\*NB: Fr. John will be beginning to have private masses in the Rectory.\*\*\*

SANCTUARY CANDLE

In Memory of Anna Marie & Margaret Mateljan  
Req. by niece Barbara Vedock

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. 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 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 - October 6, 2024

Loose Money.....	\$258.00
Sunday Collection.....	\$2930.00
World Mission Sunday.....	\$10.00
Retired Priests Medical.....	\$40.00
Votive Candles.....	\$96.00
St. Peregrine.....	\$30.00
Parking Lot Rent.....	\$35.00
TOTAL:	\$3399.00


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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 Slovickovski, Shirley Slovickovski, Megan Varmecky, 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 14th to October 20th:**



Anita Albert

Evelyn Haggerty

Rosemarie Sigg

Scarlett Bolinger

Tara Kralik


Jane Stanko

For the Good of the Vineyard and Our Particular Part


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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 ; kamendo-la528@gmail.com, or Debbie Magro at 814-243-9028; ddmagro1958@gmail.com. **THANK YOU!**



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**A Challenge for All of Us:** Many may wonder what I do with myself, especially during these recent days during my ongoing recovery from my liver transplant, especially since Saturday marked its three month anniversary. Well, I can tell you that the road has been anything but easy on a number of fronts. First, since day one I have seen a number of complications, all of which I have apprised you of on a weekly basis. What I often fail to mention are some of the lingering side effects, two of which are the tremendous amounts of pain which I endure as a result of my issues with my kidneys and my battle with gout. My swollen joints hinder my movement which impedes my therapy with regard to walking, and other movement especially in my hands and wrists. Days pass slowly as I work on parish matters including regular day to day administration, the bulletin, pastoral and financial matters. With these burdens, I will never deny that prayer and sound medical treatment have been blessings from God, but discomfort rears its face frequently along the way. Needless to say, I LIVE IN HOPE.

Another aspect of my recovery has been the prayerful contemplation of the financial wellbeing of Visitation Parish. As much as I hate to speak of financial matters, and you know how honest I am when I make this statement, SIGNS OF THE TIMES require me to make some sobering reflections. The fact of the matter is that we suffer from the state of the economy and from inflation much the same as you do. To be honest, our Sunday collections are not what they need to be. Some of our more recent fundraisers have not met our expectations from any of a number of reasons

ranging from the inclemency of the weather, genuine misfortune, or either a vincible or invincible ignorance of the importance of these fundraisers for the financial viability of our parish. Unfortunately, we have reached a precipice with regard to our financial stability. What this means is that we can choose to continue to struggle or we can make some sacrifices to firm up our foundations.

Here, I want to be clear, I am not asking at this point for any extraordinary donations. Also, I have never been one to live by the dodgeful art of regular second collections, nor will I begin to do so now. **What I am asking for is greater participation, AS YOU PRAYERFULLY DISCERN, AND AS YOUR MEANS TRULY ALLOW, in our remaining fundraisers for the year, namely the Turkey Raffle and the Yearly Calendar of Prizes.** For the former that means, purchasing the annual chances, assisting with the donations of requested items, and actual participation in the event itself. As to the latter, it means the purchase of a calendar or two and attempting to sell a few for our benefit. It is really nothing out of the ordinary, but due to the fact that that the state of affairs of society is reflected in miniature in our parish, we need to become extraordinary. I will ask this once this year, and I will not repeat it other than regular calls to support these fundraisers year after year. I thank you for taking this request with the utmost seriousness before God for the good of YOUR PARISH.

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**From the Pastor's Desk:**

This week, I have been working on my items of parish business while continuing to deal with the issue with my kidneys, although my creatine levels have improved significantly. Unfortunately, as a side effect of my anti-rejection medications, I am currently dealing with a serious flare up of gout which is affecting my ankles, hands, and wrists as I mentioned earlier. I am on steroid therapy to help me, and I think (as of Thursday evening) I am beginning to improve. THANKS BE TO GOD!. Prayer is always my foundation and hope – all planted by you my beloved friends. As always, it is my prayer to be with you soon. As you can see from the front of the bulletin, I am beginning to rejoin you in spirit through liturgical prayer (my private mass intentions for the week). This brings me great joy.

In his weekly **Angelus** message, Pope Francis reflects on Jesus profound teaching on marital love. Jesus, rather than focusing upon the provocative question about the Pharisees' controversial issue of a husband's divorce from his wife, he welcomes the opportunity to draw their attention to a more important discussion: the value of love between a man and a woman. He reminds them that woman and man were willed by the Creator as equal in dignity and complementary in diversity. In this way they would be each the other's helper, companion, but they would also be mutually stimulating and a challenge to grow. And for this to happen, he emphasizes the need for their mutual gift to be full, to be engaging, to be without "half measures" - this is love - that it be the beginning of a new life destined to last forever, accepting each other and living united as "one flesh." Of course, this is not easy, this requires fidelity, even in difficulties, it requires respect, honesty, simplicity. It requires being open to confrontation, sometimes even to discussion, when it is necessary, but also to be always ready to forgive and to be reconciled to the other. And I tell you, says the pope, husband and wife, fight as much as you like, provided you always make peace, before the day is over! Do you know why? Because the cold war that comes the next day is dangerous. Never end your day without making peace. Let us not forget, also,

that for spouses it is essential to be open to the gift of life, to the gift of children, that are the most beautiful fruit of love, the greatest blessing from God, a source of joy and hope for every home and all of society.

Love is demanding, yes, but it is beautiful, and the more we allow ourselves to be involved by it, the more we discover true happiness in it. And now, let each one of us ask themselves: How is my love? Is it faithful? Is it generous? Is it creative? Is it open to the value of life at every stage, seeing it as one seamless garment (beginning, middle and end)? Does it build up others and not tear them down? These are election questions that cannot be ignored and upon which we shall be judged!!!

In his **Wednesday Audience**, Pope Francis continues his catechesis on the Holy Spirit and the Church, today we will refer to the Book of the Acts of the Apostles, with the account of the descent of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. Here, Luke wished to highlight the universal mission of the Church, as a sign of a new unity between all peoples. We see the Spirit work for unity in two ways. On the one hand, He drives the Church outwards, so that she can welcome an ever-greater number of people and peoples; on the other hand, she gathers them within to consolidate the unity achieved. He teaches her to expand in universality, and consolidate in unity. Universal and one: this is the mystery of the Church. The first movement, universality is shown through the evangelization efforts of Saint Paul. The second movement of the Holy Spirit – that which creates unity – is seen in action in Chapter 15 of the Acts, in the proceedings of the so-called Council of Jerusalem. Specifically, regarding the matter of the obligations of the Mosaic Law to be imposed on those who converted from paganism. The solution was announced to the entire Church, with the well-known words: “For it has seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us...” (Acts 15:28). Thus, converts do not have those grave expectations placed upon them. It is The Holy Spirit who creates the unity of the Church. We would do well to remember this, notes the pope, because The unity of the Church is the unity between people and is achieved and implemented in life. We all want unity, we all desire it from the depths of our heart; and yet it is so difficult to attain that, even within marriage and the family, union and concord are among the most difficult things to achieve and even harder to maintain. The reason unity among us is difficult is that everyone wants unity, but based on one's own point of view, without considering that the other person in front of him thinks exactly the same thing about his “own” point of view. This way, unity becomes even more elusive. The unity of life, the unity of Pentecost, according to the Spirit, is achieved when we make the effort to put God, not us, at the center. Christian unity is built not waiting for others to reach us where we are but moving together toward Christ.

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**DON'T FORGET:** There will be a final meeting in preparation for the **Game Night Fundraiser** on Monday, October 14th at 6:00 PM in the Rectory Meeting Room. Please join us then.