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Church of the Visitation
of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Rectory Phone: 536-6110
E-Mail: visitationjtown@dioceseaj.org
Website: www.visitationbvmchurch.com
Fax: 536-3709

1127 McKinley Avenue
Johnstown, PA 15905

Rev. John J. Slovikovski, PhD, Pastor
Mrs. Maureen Clark, DRE
Mrs. Kathleen Bumernick, 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

31st Sunday in Ordinary Time,
November 3rd, 2024

MASS SCHEDULE

MONDAY - Weekday in Ordinary Time
Esperanza "Cha Cha" Bair - **Private Mass**
(Req. by husband John)

TUESDAY - Weekday in Ordinary Time
Francis Karmanocky - **Private Mass**
(Req. by Suzanne & James Yelenick)

WEDNESDAY - Weekday in Ordinary Time
Mary Alice Quinn - **Private Mass**
(Req. by Marie Mesaros)

THURSDAY - Weekday in Ordinary Time
Dominic Lecci - **Private Mass**
(Req. by Jen0 Lecci)

FRIDAY - Weekday in Ordinary Time
Donald Houghton - **Private Mass**
(Req. by Family)

SATURDAY - Vigil of 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
4:00 PM - Velma Harteis
(Req. by Children)

SUNDAY - 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
9:00 AM - Pro Populo

SANCTUARY CANDLE
For all Living and Deceased Members
of Visitation Parish

IN LOVING MEMORY: The Sanctuary Lamp is
available for your intentions by calling the
parish office. Please attempt to request your
intentions 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.

The daily readings; may be found
at either USCCB.ORG or under the
headings of daily readings listed in
back of the missalette.

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 27, 2024

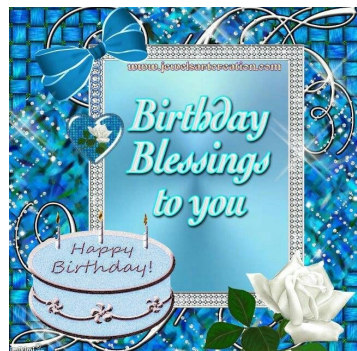
Loose Money.....	\$282.00
Sunday Collection.....	\$2175.00
All Souls Day.....	\$140.00
Votive Candles.....	\$150.00
St. Peregrine.....	\$40.00
Donation - Rastall/Kraft Wedding.....	\$150.00
Perquisites - Morris Funeral.....	\$150.00

TOTAL: \$3087.00

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 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 Slovickowski, Shirley Slovickovski, Megan Varnecky, Christi Vavrek, Carrie Young

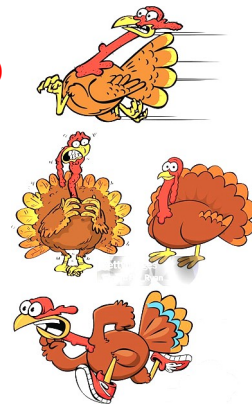
Please join us in remembering members of our parish family who celebrate their birthdays the week of November 4th to November 10th:



Brian Nagle	Dolores Barto
Patty Price	<i>Father John Slovikovski</i>
Mary Ann Wissinger	Charles George
Donna Golish	Allegra Slick
Jennifer Casker	Michael Christian
Loren Hauman	Maryann Korenoski

PLEASE READ THE INFO ABOUT THE TURKEY RAFFLE

TWO WEEKS TO GO UNTIL THE ANNUAL TURKEY RAFFLE AND OUR FEATHERED FRIENDS CONTINUE TO BE IN A BIT OF A FREEFALL. Yes, there are only 2 more weeks until the Annual Visitation Turkey Raffle to be held on **Saturday, November 16, 2024** at 7:00 PM in the School Gymnasium with doors opening at 6:00 PM. Please return your raffle tickets to the Church as soon as possible. **TO DATE, WE HAVE VERY FEW DONATIONS AND AS WE HAVE STATED EARLIER,** we are calling upon your generosity for various items that we need to make our event a success:



1. Readymade baskets or items that can be arranged into baskets ; 2. Door Prizes; 3. Lottery Tickets, 4. Gift Cards for the Neighborhood Gift Collage, and 5. Spirits for our Basket of Cheer (State Store Gift Cards are also welcome). RECEIPT OF THESE ITEMS WILL MAKE OR BREAK US.


We are also in need of volunteers for the Turkey Raffle. New faces are always welcome and appreciated. There is an expectation that those families who presume to benefit from the parish's generosity toward their children's Catholic education will come forward to volunteer.

Many amazing prizes include an Apple iPad, a Kindle Fire, \$300, Baskets of Cheer, small kitchen appliances and much, much more.!

Step up to the plate and be the bigger bird. Only you can keep your parish alive by helping out in some way with this important event.



Thank you to all who participated in the 2024 Steelers Ticket Giveaway. The lucky winner was Joe Martella, based on the PA daily number for October 18th, #550. Neither the number above nor the number below the winning ticket was sold. Our profit was \$3900.00. Again, a very special thanks to the donor of the tickets for their generosity and commitment to Visitation Parish.

The Pittsburgh Steelers logo, featuring a gray circle with a white border. Inside the circle, the word "Steelers" is written in black. To the right of the text are three four-pointed stars: a yellow one at the top, a red one at the bottom right, and a blue one at the bottom left.

Angel Tree 20204 - We are once again planning an Angel Tree. This is an opportunity to share our blessings with those who struggle to provide their children with gifts for Christmas. If there are any parishioners who would like to submit the name of a needy child on the tree, please call the rectory office as soon as possible. We will formally begin the project after the Turkey Raffle Fundraiser. If you have names of children whose families struggle financially o be blessed with a happy and merry Christmas, please submit them to the rectory. Details to follow.



From the Pastor's Desk:

MY PERSONAL REFLECTION FOR THE WEEK IS
CONTAINED IN A BULLETIN INSERT.

In his **Angelus** message this past week, Pope Francis reflected upon the Gospel that tells us about Jesus who cures a man from blindness. His name is Bartimaeus, but the crowd in the street ignore him since he is a poor beggar. Those people do not have eyes for the blind man; they ignore him and leave him to fend for himself. They collectively do not extend a caring gaze, nor any feeling of compassion. Bartimaeus does not see either, but he hears and he makes himself heard. He shouts crying loudly, "Son of David, have mercy on me. Jesus, however, hears and sees him. He places himself at his disposal and asks, "What do you want me to do for you?" "What do you want me to do for you?". This question, before a blind person, seems to be a provocation, and instead, it is a test. Jesus is asking Bartimaeus who he is truly looking for, and for what reason. Who is for you the "Son of David"? And thus, the Lord starts to open the blind man's eyes. Francis considers three aspects of this encounter, which becomes a dialogue: the cry, faith, the journey. First, the cry of Bartimaeus, which is not only a request for help; it is an affirmation of himself. The blind man is saying, "I exist, look at me. I do not see you, Jesus. Do you see me?". Yes, Jesus sees the beggar, and he listens to him, with the ears of the body and those of the heart. Think of ourselves, when we cross paths with a beggar on the street (literally or figuratively): how many times do we look away, how many times do we ignore him, as though he did not exist? And do we hear the cry of beggars? Second is the importance of faith. What does Jesus say? "Go your way; your faith has made you well." Bartimaeus sees because he believes; Christ is the light of his eyes. The Lord observes how Bartimaeus looks at him. How do we look at a beggar? Do we ignore him? Do we look at him like Jesus does? Are we capable of understanding his demands, his cry for help? When we give alms, do we look the beggar in the eye? Do we touch his hand to feel his flesh? Finally is the aspect of the journey. Bartimaeus, healed, "followed him on the way." But each one of us is Bartimaeus, blind within, who follows Jesus once he has approached Him. When we approach a poor person and make your proximity felt, it is Jesus who approaches us in the person of that poor man. Please, argues the pope, let us not be confused: alms are not the same as handouts. The person who receives the most grace from almsgiving is the one who gives, because he makes himself seen by the eyes of the Lord.

As Pope Francis continued his weekly catechesis on the Holy Spirit during his **Wednesday Audience**, he continues with a reflection on the presence and action of the Holy Spirit in the life of the Church through the Sacraments. The sanctifying action of the Holy Spirit reaches us primarily through two channels: the Word of God and the Sacraments. And among all the Sacraments, there is one that is quintessentially the Sacrament of the Holy Spirit. It is the Sacrament of Confirmation. In the New Testament, beyond baptism with water, another rite is mentioned, that of the imposition of hands, which has the purpose of communicating the Holy Spirit visibly and in a charismatic way, with effects analogous to those produced by the Apostles at Pentecost. The Acts of the Apostles proclaim that having heard that some in Samaria had received the word of God, they sent Peter and John there from Jerusalem. They “went down and prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Spirit, for it had not yet fallen upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid hands on them and they received the Holy Spirit” (8:14-17).

Paul writes in the Second Letter to the Corinthians: that God, in Christ, “has also put His seal upon us and given the Spirit in our hearts as a first installment (1:21 -22). The theme of the Holy Spirit as a “royal seal” with which Christ marks his sheep is the basis of the doctrine of the “indelible character” conferred by this rite. With the passing of time, the rite of anointing took shape as a Sacrament in itself, assuming diverse forms and content in the various ages and different rites of the Church. What the Sacrament of Confirmation is in the understanding of the Church seems to me to be described in a very simple and clear way by the Catechism of adults of the Italian Episcopal Conference. It says: “Confirmation is for all the faithful what Pentecost was for the entire Church. ... It reinforces the baptismal incorporation into Christ and the Church and the consecration to the prophetic, royal and priestly mission. It communicates the abundance of the gifts of the Spirit. Therefore, Baptism is the Sacrament of birth and, Confirmation is the Sacrament of growth. For this very reason it is also the Sacrament of witness, because this is closely linked to the maturity of Christian existence”. The problem is to ensure that the Sacrament of Confirmation is not reduced, in practice, to the Sacrament of “departure” from the Church, because once young people do it they go away and then return for marriage (maybe). We must ensure that it is rather the Sacrament of active participation in the life of the Church. It is a milestone that can seem impossible, but this does not mean that we should stop pursuing it. It will not be so for all Confirmands, children or adults, but it is important that it is at least for some who will then go on to be the animators of the community. The pope insists that it can be useful, for this purpose, to be helped in preparing for the Sacrament by lay faithful who have had a personal encounter with Christ and have had a true experience of the Spirit. This does not relate only to future Confirmands; it relates to all of us and at any time. Together with Confirmation and anointing, we have received, according to Paul “the first fruits of the Spirit” (Rm 8:23). We must “spend” this bond, savor these first fruits, not bury underground the charisms and talents received. Saint Paul called the disciple Timothy to “stir into flame the gift of God that you have through the imposition of my hands” (2 Tim 1:6), suggesting the image of one who breathes on the fire to revive the flame. **Here is a good goal for the Jubilee year! To remove the ashes of habit and disengagement, to become, like the torchbearers at the Olympics, bearers of the flame of the Spirit.**

A REMINDER TO ALL THE FAITHFUL: You may have forgotten that Tuesday, November 5th is election day.

☺ ☐ If you have not yet voted in person or by mail, please be certain to fulfill your patriotic and Catholic moral duty to VOTE. If you feel tired and disgusted by the current election climate and feel inclined not to vote, remember "we are our brothers' and sisters' keepers." We are responsible for the world that we leave to future generations who are by default often becoming the least of our brothers and sisters. Keep them ALL, the unprotected and under-protected of today and tomorrow, in mind on Tuesday and always.