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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

Church of the Visitation  
of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Rectory Phone: 536-6110  
E-Mail: [visitationjtown@dioceseaj.org](mailto:visitationjtown@dioceseaj.org)  
Website: [www.visitationbvmchurch.com](http://www.visitationbvmchurch.com)  
Fax: 536-3709

33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time,  
November 17th, 2024

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

MASS SCHEDULE

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

**TUESDAY** - Weekday in Ordinary Time  
12:05 PM - Kevin Cyburt  
(Req. by Marian & George)

**WEDNESDAY** - Weekday in Ordinary Time  
Charlene Tarnowsky - Private Mass  
(Req. by father John Bair)  
**\*Rescheduled from 7-24-24\***

**THURSDAY** - Weekday in Ordinary Time  
Dr. James Furnary - Private Mass  
(Req. by Cathy Fuska)

**FRIDAY** - Weekday in Ordinary Time  
12:05 PM - Patricia Czynnik  
(Req. by Joe Czynnik)

**SATURDAY** - Vigil of 34th Sunday in Ordinary Time  
4:00 PM - Basil Balagusz  
(Req. by Family)

**SUNDAY** - 34th Sunday in Ordinary Time  
9:00 AM - Pro Populo

**MASSES ON TUESDAY AND FRIDAY WILL BE CELEBRATED IN CHURCH!!!**

SANCTUARY CANDLE

In Birthday Remembrance of Elizabeth Mateljan  
Req. by Barbara Vedock, daughter

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

**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:** Beginning in Advent, Confessions will be heard from 6:30 until 7:00 PM on Wednesday Evenings. 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.



\$\$\$ INCOME \$\$\$  
Collection - November 10, 2024

Loose Money.....	\$333.00
Sunday Collection.....	\$2461.00
All Saints Day.....	\$30.00
All Souls Day.....	\$100.00
Catholic Charities.....	\$20.00
Votive Candles.....	\$261.00
St. Peregrine.....	\$110.00
Apartment Rent - Nov.....	\$625.00
Parking Lot Rent.....	\$245.00

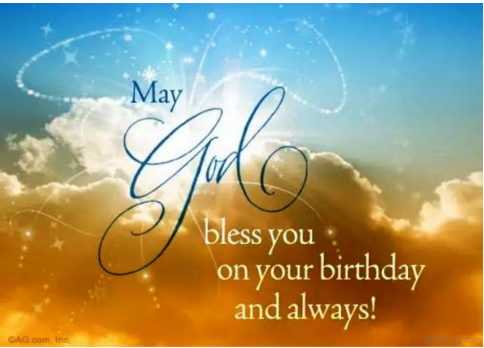
TOTAL: \$4185.00

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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 Rován, Leonard Russell, Stephen Sanders, Jennifer Schellhammer, Rose Sigg, Allegra Slick, Father John Slovickovski, Shirley Slovickovski, Megan Varnecky, 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 November 18th to November 24th:**



Larry Golish	Terrence Werner
Katrin O'Donnell	Francesca Cascino
Sidney Horner	Marian Cyburt

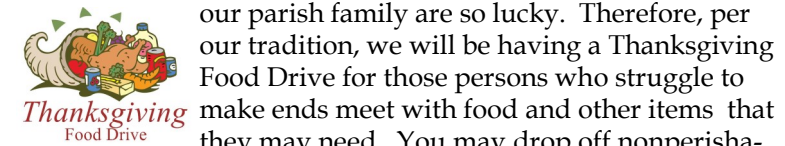
For the Good of the Vineyard and Our Particular Part of It  
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**Advent Decorating** - On Saturday, November 30th, 2024 at 9:00 AM, we will be decorating for the Advent season and put new missalettes in the pews. We will be boxing up the old missalettes as well. If there is anyone who would like to help out, we would really appreciate it.



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**Thanksgiving Food Drive:** As we all know, the state of the economy has left all of us tightening our belts when it comes to household costs, especially in terms of food. I know that I have been very blessed; however, for I know that I have never had to go hungry or struggle to provide for food for those that I love. Not all of our brothers and sisters in the human family, and even



our parish family are so lucky. Therefore, per our tradition, we will be having a Thanksgiving Food Drive for those persons who struggle to make ends meet with food and other items that they may need. You may drop off nonperishable food items in the main vestibule of the Church on the week-ends of November 17th and 24th. Some have asked if we will accept grocery gift cards. YES! Please bring those to either the sacristy or to the Church rectory. All of food items that are not offered to our own families in need will go to the food pantry located at Saint Andrews Church and will be distributed to those families most in need in our area. Please donate as your means allow. God bless you for your generosity.

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**COMBINED COUNCIL MEETING:** There will be a combined meeting of the Parish Pastoral Council and Finance Council on **Thursday, November 21, 2024 at 6:00 PM** in the rectory meeting room. Please make every effort to attend. We will be discussing important issues that must be addressed before the year's end including finances, ethics, membership, and parish security.

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**Angel Tree 2024** - 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. Any parishioners who would like to submit the name of a needy child on the tree, should call the rectory office as soon as possible. We will begin the project after the Turkey Raffle Fundraiser. Young children should always be blessed with a happy and merry Christmas, so please consider this fine project. More details to follow.



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**THE COMMUNION SONG:** In their document, *Sing to the Lord: Music in Divine Worship*, The US Bishops, quoting the *General Instruction on the Roman Missal* note: "While the priest is receiving the Sacrament, the Communion song is begun. Its purpose is to express the communicants' union in spirit by means of the unity of their voices, to show joy of heart, and to highlight more clearly the 'communitarian' nature of the procession to receive Communion." The singing begins immediately and continues "for as long as the Sacrament is being administered to the faithful." The Communion chant or song may be sung by the people with choir or cantor, or by the choir alone. Because the Communion chant expresses the unity of those processing and receiving the Holy Sacrament, communal singing is commendable. *The singing of the people should be preeminent.* **The time for PRIVATE PRAYER follows the Communion Song. Please join us in this important act of communal worship!!!**

From Pope Francis to the Pew:

In his *Sunday Angelus* message, Pope Francis reflects upon the Gospel report of one of the many discussions Jesus had at the temple of Jerusalem, specifically one where he denounces before the people the hypocritical attitude of some scribes. They had an important role in the community of Israel: they read, transcribed and interpreted the Scriptures. They were held in high esteem and people revered them. Unfortunately, their behavior often did not correspond to what they taught. They were not consistent. Some, looked down on others "from above" – this is very ugly, looking down on another person from above – they put on airs and, hiding behind a façade of feigned respectability and legalism, arrogated privileges to themselves and even went so far as to commit outright theft to the detriment of the weakest, such as widows. Instead of using their "authority" to serve others, they made it an instrument of manipulation. Sometimes for them, even prayer was in danger of no longer being a moment of encounter with the Lord, but an occasion to flaunt feigned piety, useful for attracting people's attention. Remember what Jesus says about the prayer of the publican and the pharisee. They – not all of them – behaved like corrupt people, feeding a social and religious system in which it was normal to take advantage of others, especially the most defenseless, committing injustices and ensuring impunity for themselves. Jesus warned to stay away from these people and not to imitate them. Indeed, with His words and His example, as we know, He taught very different things about authority. He spoke about it in terms of self-sacrifice and humble service, of maternal and paternal tenderness towards people, especially those most in need. He invites those invested with positions of power, not to humiliate the weakest but to lift them up, giving them hope and assistance. Therefore, Francis asks: us to ask ourselves: How do I behave in my fields of responsibility? Do I act with humility, or do I vaunt my position? Am I generous and respectful with people, or do I treat them in a rude and authoritarian way? And with my most fragile brothers and sisters, am I close to them, do I know how to bow to help lift them up?

In his *Wednesday Audience*, Pope Francis focused upon the Holy Spirit and Marian Piety. Among the various means by which the Holy Spirit implements His work of sanctification in the Church – the Word of God, the Sacraments, prayer – there is one in entirely particular, and it is Marian piety. In the Catholic tradition there is this motto: "to Jesus by means of Mary". Our Lady never points to herself, Our Lady points to Jesus. And this is Marian piety: to Jesus by the hands of Our Lady. The true and only mediator between us and Christ, indicated as such by Jesus Himself, is the Holy Spirit. Mary is one of the means the Holy Spirit uses to bring us to Jesus. Francis reminds us that Saint Paul defines the Christian community as "a letter of Christ administered by us, written not in ink but by the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets that are hearts of flesh." Mary, as the first disciple and figure of the Church, is also a letter written with the Spirit of the living God.. Her Magnificat, that is her yes to the angel Gabriel, when she accepts to be Jesus' mother, proclaims "Here I am, I am a tablet to be written on: let the Writer write what he wants, make of me what the Lord of all wishes.". Mary offers herself like a blank page on which the Lord can write whatever He wants. Mary's "Yes" to the Angel represents "the summit of all religious behavior before God, since she expresses, in the highest manner, anticipatory availability combined with active willingness, the greatest openness with

greatest desire to be filled. This is how the pope sees the Mother of God is an instrument of the Holy Spirit in His work of sanctification. Beyond all that has been written God, the Church and holiness, she suggests a few words that everyone, even the simplest, can say on any occasion: "behold" and "let it be done". Mary is the one who said "Yes" to the Lord, and with her example and by her intercession urges us to say our "Yes" to Him too, whenever we are faced with an act of obedience to perform or a trial to overcome.

In every age of our history, but in particular at this time, the Church finds herself in the same situation as the Christian community in the aftermath of Jesus' Ascension to heaven. It had to preach the Gospel to all nations but was awaiting the "power from on high" in order to be able to do it. And let us not forget that, at that time, as we read in the Acts of the Apostles, the disciples were gathered around "Mary the mother of Jesus" (Acts 1:14). It is true that there were also other women together with her in the Upper Room, but her presence is unique among them all. Between her and the Holy Spirit there is a unique and eternally indestructible bond that is the very person of Christ Himself, "who was conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary", as we recite in the Creed. The evangelist Luke deliberately highlights the correlation between the coming of the Holy Spirit upon Mary in the Annunciation and His coming to the disciples at Pentecost, using some identical expressions in both.

The Pope, turning to his patron notes that Saint Francis of Assisi, in one of his prayers, greets Our Lady as "daughter and handmaid of the heavenly Father, the almighty King, Mother of our most high Lord Jesus Christ, and Spouse of the Holy Spirit" [4]. Daughter of the Father, Spouse of the Holy Spirit! The unique relationship between Mary and the Trinity could not be illustrated in simpler words. Like all images, this one of the "Spouse of the Holy Spirit" must not be rendered absolute, but taken for that amount of truth it contains, and it is a very beautiful truth. She is the bride, but before that, she is the disciple of the Holy Spirit. Bride and disciple. Let us learn from her to be docile to the inspirations of the Spirit, especially when He suggests to us to "arise in haste" and go to help someone who needs us, as she did straight after the angel left her.

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**Jubilee 2025 – News and Notes:** Ministers of Hospitality are being recruited currently. If you are interested, please contact the rectory.

**Opening Liturgy for the Jubilee Year:** The opening liturgy for the Jubilee Year will be held at 2:00 PM on Sunday, Dec. 29, 2024 at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament in Altoona. All parishes in the diocese have been asked to send representatives to this Mass. **If you are interested in being part of the car pool, please contact Fr. John.**

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**The 2025 Yearly Calendars of Prizes are now available!** Beginning this weekend we will be selling them in the main vestibule of the Church. This is our last yearly fundraiser and **IT IS VERY IMPORTANT FOR US TO DO WELL.** Please consider purchasing at least one and helping us to sell additional calendars ( as gifts, etc.)

