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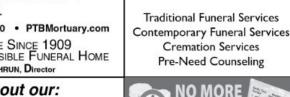
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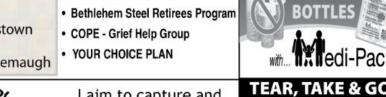
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34th Sunday in Ordinary Time, November 24th. 2024

MASS SCHEDULE

MONDAY - Weekday in Ordinary Time

TUESDAY - Weekday in Ordinary Time

WEDNESDAY - Weekday in Ordinary Time

5:30 PM **Kevin Cyburt**

(Req. by Marian & George)

THURSDAY -**Weekday in Ordinary Time** THANKSGIVING DAY

9:00 AM Peter Janiga

(Reg. by Maxine Mikula)

Weekday in Ordinary Time FRIDAY -

Private Mass

John & Emma Frieko (Reg. by Anonymous)

Vigil of 35th Sunday in Ordinary Time SATURDAY -4:00 PM -**Lissy Lovette**

(Reg. by Sharon Lovette & Sons)

SUNDAY -35th Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:00 AM -**Pro Populo**

> MASSES ON TUESDAY AND FRIDAY WILL BE CELE-**BRATED IN CHURCH!!!**

SANCTUARY CANDLE

In Memory of Basil Balagusz Rea. by Family

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 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. DURING THE JUBILEE YEAR, CONFESSIONS WILL BE HEARD FROM 3:00 PM until 3:40 PM THE FIRST SATURDAY OF EVERY MONTH. 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 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. ANOINT-**ING 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 17, 2024

Loose Money	\$392.00
Sunday Collection	\$2207.00
Catholic Charities	\$30.00
Parking Lot Rent	\$70.00

TOTAL: \$2699.00

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, Christi Vavrek, Carrie Young ***********************

Please join us in remembering members of our parish family who celebrate their birthdays the week of November 25th to December 1st:



Daelan Krise **Justin Horner** Everett Hancock

Nicolett Stofko George Mikesic Jeanne Skovensky Germaine Zemba

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

The 2025 Yearly Calendars of Prizes are now available! Beginning this weekend and through the end of December, we will be selling them in the main vestibule of the Church. This is our last vearly fundraiser and IT IS ESSENTIAL TO DO WELL IN OR-DER TO MAINTAIN OUR FINANCIAL STABILITY. Please



consider purchasing at least one for yourself, perhaps others as gifts (Christmas, birthday, etc.) It would also be helpful if you would consider taking an (some) additional calendar (s) to sell. THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP WITH THIS LAS T IMPORTANT FUNDRAISER FOR 2024).

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.

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 aways be blessed with a happy and merry Christmas, so please consider this fine project. More details to follow. *************************

Some Liturgical Notes: There are a few things that I would like to bring to the attention of the parish family since Advent begins in only two weeks and with it the beginning of a new liturgical year (and with it a time for resolutions). First, I want to remind everyone that if you are not joined with the assembly in the body of the Church for the celebration of the Mass you have not met your Sunday obligation. Standing in the vestibule does not count as full, active, conscious, communal participation in the celebration of the Eucharist. Second, some people are feeling the need to leave Mass early. A gentle reminder that Mass begins with the opening song and concludes with the final verse of the closing song. I think the Lord would want us to make the most of the 45-50 minutes that we spend with him as a community each week. I am sure it saddens the Lord's heart to think you want to rush off so quickly from the most sacred and nourishing time of the week. Third, and finally, it is important that EVERY-ONE engage in singing and responding to the prayers during Mass. This is especially true for the Communion Song which begins with the presider receiving communion and ends after everyone has received. This song is a theological symbol of our communion with one another and with Christ as we consume his body and blood. SILENT PRIVATE PRAYER is to be said after the song has been completed – time is allowed for that as I witness people joining in the communion hymn, And, on a practical note, almost \$1000 is spend on music for both the organist and for the assembly (the cost of hymnals). To not sing is to engage in a practice that wasteful of resources and is not only imprudent but sinful.

From Pope Francis to the Pew:

In his Sunday Angelus message, Pope Francis reflects upon last Sunday's gospel and Jesus' description of a great tribulation: "the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light." Faced with this suffering, many might think of the end of the world, but the Lord seizes the opportunity to offer a different interpretation, saying: "Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away." (Remember, this was the Little Apocalypse that I spoke of last weekend – and remember the apocalypses uses symbolic imagery to give hope to those who are oppressed and near despair). He then takes a closer look at the expression: what will pass and what will remain. First of all, what will pass. In some circumstances in our life, when we are going through a crisis or experience some failure, as well as when we see around us the pain caused by wars, violence, natural disasters, we have the feeling that everything is coming to an end, and we feel that even the most beautiful things pass away. Crises and failures, however, though painful, are important, because they teach us to accord everything its due weight, not to attach our hearts to the realities of this world, because they will pass: they are destined to fade away. At the same time, Jesus talks about what will remain. Everything passes away, but His words will not pass away: Jesus' words will remain for eternity. He thus invites us to trust in the Gospel, which contains a promise of salvation and eternity, and not to live under the anguish of death. For while everything passes away, Christ remains. In Him, in Christ, we shall one day find again the things and people who have passed away and who have accompanied us in our earthly existence. In the light of this promise of resurrection, every reality takes on a new meaning: everything dies, and we too will one day die, but we will lose nothing of what we have built and loved, because death will be the beginning of a new life.

Francis urges that even in tribulations, in crises, in failures, the Gospel invites us to look at life and history without fear of losing what ends, but with joy for what will remain. Let us not forget that God is preparing for us a future of life and joy. He asks us to ask ourselves: Are we attached to earthly things, which pass away, which pass quickly, or to the words of the Lord, which remain and guide us towards eternity? He assures us that it will help us.

In his Wednesday Audience, Continuing his catechesis on the Holy Spirit in the life of the Church turns from the Spirit's work of sanctifica-

tion through the sacraments and prayer to his building up the Body of Christ through the outpouring of charismatic gifts. Two elements contribute to defining what charism is. A somewhat difficult word, I will explain it. First, a charism is a gift given "for the common good" to be useful for the community. Secondly, the charism is the gift given an individual/(s) in particular, not to everyone in the same way, and this is what distinguishes it from sanctifying grace, from the theological virtues and from the sacraments, which instead are the same and common to all. Charisms are given; therefore, in all their rich variety, as special graces bestowed on individuals for the upbuilding of the Church in unity and holiness. Francis continues that we must rediscover the charisms, because this ensures that the promotion of the laity, and of women in particular, is understood not only as an institutional and sociological fact, but also in its biblical, theological and spiritual dimension. Indeed, the laity are not the least, no, they laity are not a form of external collaborator or auxiliary troops of the clergy, no! They have their own charisms and gifts

with which to contribute to the mission of the Church. Charisms ARE NOT spectacular or extraordinary gifts and capabilities; instead, they are ordinary gifts; rather, each one of us has his or her own charism that assumes extraordinary value if inspired by the Holy Spirit and embodied with love in situations of life. Saint Paul reminds us that these gifts, great and small, are at the service of charity, the love of Christ which is their source and to which they are directed .Pope Francis concludes by asking all of us to thank the Spirit for adorning the Church with these manifold gifts and ask him to continue to bestow them in abundance. We must do our best to identify the charism (s) that the Lord has given to all of us and use them to build up the expression of Church that is closes to us, that is, Visitation parish. It could be singing, or volunteering, or reading at Mass, or praying, or showing hospitality, or serving on committees, or giving to the needy, or cleaning, or decorating, or visiting the sick and homebound, or serving in leadership positions, or maintaining the parish space, or charitably giving, or organizing fundraising, or brainstorming ideas, or reaching out members who we haven't seen in a while, or cooking/baking, or serving at a liturgy, or helping with the use of technology, or inviting someone to become Catholic, or bringing someone to Church on Sunday, or ANYTHING you can think of to build up our parish. YOU HAVE A CHARISM!! YOU HAVE A GIFT!! PUT IT TO GOOD USE!!!

Advent Adult Education Series: During this Advent Season, Fr, John will be offering an adult education series on Monday afternoons from 2:00PM until 3:15 PM, December 2nd, 9th, 16th, and 23rd) entitled: The Birth of Jesus in the Gospels: Prayer and Study. In it, we will look at the infancy narratives: that is the stories surrounding the birth of Jesus in the gospels of Matthew and Luke (Mark and John don't speak about Jesus' birth). Also, the last 1/2 hour of each session will be dedicated to questions and answers about the Catholic Faith brought by the participants—absolutely nothing is off limits! Come to one session...come to all. All are invited and welcome to attend. A sign up sheet is located in the back of the Church to determine interest. No commitment is required. Bring your bible!

Jubilee 2025 – News and Notes: Ministers of Hospitality are being recruited currently. Remember, have been designated a HOLY SITE or the Jubilee YEAR and we need to make potential pilgrims feel welcome at our weekend liturgies. If you are interested, please contact Fr. John.

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 to attend this memorable liturgy, please contact Fr. John. This mass is very important to me personally, you won't be disappointed if you attend.

PLEASE SEE THE REVISED RECONCILIATION/ CONFESSION SCHEDULE LOCATED ON THE FRONT OF THE BULLETIN!!!