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| CITY | | | | ZIP | | |
| Check One: | New Registration | ☐ Change of Address | ☐ Moving Out of P | arish | | Want Envelopes |
| 1 | Please drop Membershi | ip Form into the offertory | basket or mail to Re- | ctorv. 8 | 14-53 | 6-6110 |

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Rectory Phone: 536-6110

E-Mail: visitationitown@dioceseai.org Website: www.visitationbymchurch.com

Fax: 536-3709

32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time, November 10th, 2024

MASS SCHEDULE

MONDAY - Weekday in Ordinary Time Sue Karmanocky - Private Mass

(Rea. by Steve & Cindy McAneny)

Weekday in Ordinary Time TUESDAY -

12:05 PM -Peter Janiga

(Rea. by Maxine Mikula)

WEDNESDAY - Weekday in Ordinary Time Vickie Schmidt - Private Mass (Reg. by Joe & Susan Varga)

THURSDAY -**Weekday in Ordinary Time** Spiritual & Temporal Welfare of Dave Kozak-Private Mass (Reg. by Cathy Fuska)

FRIDAY -**Weekday in Ordinary Time**

12:05 PM -James Rovan

(Rea. by Helene & Pat Balagusz)

Vigil of 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time SATURDAY -4:00 PM -**Richard Magro**

(Reg. by Debbie & Dave Magro)

SUNDAY -33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:00 AM -Pro Populo

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

SANCTUARY CANDLE

That the Visitation Parish Family may be drawn more deeply into the Heart of Christ.

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. Confession may ALWAYS be arranged with Fr. John personally by calling the rectory office. Please avail vourselves to this life-aiving 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.

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 4, 2024

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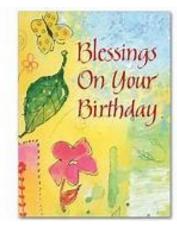
TOTAL: \$8770.00

Second Collection - Turkey Raffle -\$735.00

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 11th to November 17th:



Russell Grunza Roy Horner, Jr.

Charlie Tourney Kaitlan O'Donnell

PLEASE READ THE INFO ABOUT THE TURKEY RAFFLE



only I 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 BY FRIDAY, ONE WEEK TO GO... ONE WEEK AND WE STILL ARE IN GREAT NEED OF **DONATIONS!!!** We are calling upon your generosity

for various items that we need to make our event as 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,

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.

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 weekends 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 fam-Thanksgiving ilies most in need in our area. Please donate as your means allow. God bless you for your generosity.

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.

The Holy Father (in sum)

In his Sunday Angelus message, Pope Francis Pope Francis reflects upon the Gospel report of one of the many discussions Jesus had at the temple of Jerusalem. One of the scribes approaches Him and questions Him: "Which is the first of all the commandments?" Jesus responds by putting together two fundamental words of the Mosaic law: "You shall love the Lord your God" and "You shall love your neighbor." With his question, the scribe looks for "the first" of the commandments, that is, a principle at the basis of all the commandments; the Jews had many precepts and sought the basis of all of them, one that was fundamental; they tried to agree on a fundamental one. And this question is essential for us too, says Francis, for our journey of our faith. We too at times feel lost and ask ourselves: Where can we find the center of our lives, of our faith? Jesus gives us the answer, putting together two commandments that are the primary ones: the love of God and the love of neighbor. This is the heart of our faith.

We all need to return to the heart of life and faith, because the heart is "the radical source of their strengths, convictions" (Encyclical Dilexit nos, 9). And Jesus tells us that the source of everything is love, that we must never separate God from man. The Lord tells us that what counts are not the exterior practices, such as burnt offerings and sacrifices, but the readiness of heart with which we open ourselves to God and to brethren in love. The Lord will come, and He will ask us first about love: "How did you love?" The pope then insists that It is important, then, to fix in our hearts the most important commandment: Love the Lord your God, and love your neighbor as yourself. And to carry out every day an examination of conscience and ask ourselves: is love for God and neighbor the center of my life? Does my prayer to God impel me to go out to my brothers and sisters and love them gratuitously? Do I recognize the presence of the Lord in others?

In his Wednesday Audience, Pope Francis focused upon the Holy Spirit is both the subject and object of Christian prayer. That is, He is the One who gives prayer, and He is the One who is given by prayer. This prayer is always undertaken in freedom. First of all, we must pray to receive the Holy Spirit. In receiving the Holy Spirit, we are assured that he will not resist whether we pray individually or as a Eucharistic community. The Spirit gives us the true prayer, for as Paul says He searches our hearts and purifies our intentions to ask first for the Kingdom, and then all other things that we truly need will come. The Holy Spirit also allows us to call God our Father, thereby allowing us to place ourselves inside God, so that God enters into us. Therein we experience our need for mercy and the desire for it. This in turn makes us prayerful ambassadors of reconciliation if our prayer for forgiveness is done in purity of heart. Pope Francis also strongly asserts that guided by the Spirit, we truly pray as we ought, both personally and in the Church's celebration of the Liturgy which is the source and summit of our salvation, the Eucharist. As the "Paraclete", our Advocate and Comforter, the Holy Spirit not only intercedes for us, but also enables us, in the unity of Christ's mystical Body, to do the same for the needs of our brothers and sisters. These prayers of intercession for others are particularly pleasing to God because they are most gratuitous and altruistic. Francis's hope is that as we look forward to the coming Holy Year, we ask the Spirit in prayer to bestow upon us, and upon the whole human family, his gifts of holiness, unity, justice and peace. In all of this we must always remember the Spirit driven prayer comes from the heart and not from the lips.

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



Honoring National Native American Heritage Month: A Catholic Call to Environmental Justice: As we celebrate National Native American Heritage Month this November, we are invited to reflect on the deep spiritual and cultural wisdom of Native American communities and the profound relationship they share with the land, water, and all of creation. This month is an opportunity to not only honor the contributions of Native Americans to our society but also to recognize the ongoing struggles for environmental justice and reconciliation that many Native communities face. For Catholics, this month also invites us to connect the teachings of our faith with the experiences of Native Americans. The Church's commitment to environmental justice echoes the values long held by Native peoples: respect for the earth, care for the most vulnerable, and the recognition that all of creation is interconnected. As we celebrate National Native American Heritage Month, let us honor both the beauty of Native cultures and the ongoing struggles they face, particularly in the fight for environmental justice. They remind us of our shared responsibility to care for creation and stand in solidarity with those most affected by environmental harm. As Catholics, we are called to respond with compassion and action, supporting efforts to protect sacred lands, advocating for clean water and air, and addressing the historical injustices they continue to endure. Through prayer, education, and action, we can live out the principles of Catholic Social Teaching and Laudato Si', promoting environmental justice and healing for all of God's creation. ************************

<u>Jubilee 2025 – News and Notes:</u> (this article will reappear in preparation for and during the Jubilee year

-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. -Jubilee Art "Contest:" Please remember that if you wish to submit a piece of artwork, a poem or a photograph to the diocese that reflects your understanding of the virtue

of "Hope" it must be received, accompanied by the form

that was distributed in the bulletin, no later than Decem-

ber 8th. If you have misplaced you entry form, you may

call the rectory for an addition one.