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The Holy Family of Jesus,
Mary, & Joseph
December 29th, 2024

MASS SCHEDULE

MONDAY - 6th Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord
12:05 PM - Gary Witkosky
(Req. by Helene & Pat Balagusz)

TUESDAY - Vigil of the Solemnity of Mary Mother of God
4:00 PM - Helyne Faizi
(Req. by sister, Nicolett)

WEDNESDAY - The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
9:00 AM - John Slovikovski Sr.
(Req. by David & Alexis Kozak)
Rescheduled from 12-20-24

THURSDAY - Christmas Weekday
Private Mass
Barry Mills
(Req. by Alan Sidwar)

FRIDAY - Christmas Weekday
12:05 PM - Mary Hawthorne
(Req. by Cathy Fuska)

SATURDAY - Vigil of the Epiphany of the Lord
4:00 PM - Pro Populo

SUNDAY - The Epiphany of the Lord
9:00 AM - Carole Murphy
(Req. by Marian Cyburt)

SANCTUARY CANDLE

That a true spirit of hope will fill the members of
Visitation Parish during the Jubilee Year 2025

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 Bumbnick, 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: Confessions are 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 wedding. There are NO EXCEPTIONS.

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 - December 22, 2024

Will be published Next Week

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, 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

Please join us in remembering members of our parish family who celebrate their birthdays the week of December 30th to January 5th:



Andrew Hauman
 Rosemary Turner
 Peter Gallo
 James Mical
 Elizabeth Dugan
 Jane Janiga

BLESSED JUBILEE YEAR 2025



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 yearly fundraiser and IT IS ESSENTIAL TO DO WELL IN ORDER 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 LAST IMPORTANT FUNDRAISER FOR 2024).

Home Visits with the Eucharist - If you or someone you know cannot come to Church and would like to receive the Eucharist, please either fill out the form on the parish website or call the parish office and give your name to the secretary. We will be certain that you or your friend or loved one will receive the Lord regularly as you rightly deserve. Please call as soon as possible since we would like to have you included in the list for First Friday.

Polish Christmas Carols - All Saints Parish in Boswell will host their annual singing of Polish Christmas Carols on Sunday, January 5th, at 2:00 PM at the church (325 Quemahoning Street, Boswell). The hymns will be sung by their Polish choir. Following the singing of hymns by the parish Polish choir, there will be benediction of the Blessed Sacrament and refreshments. For more information, please call the parish office at 814-629-5551.

Unique Ethnic Bus Tour - Queen of Angels Parish in Central City will host a bus pilgrimage on Saturday, January 11th to visit the Nationality Rooms at the University of Pittsburgh as well as two historic ethnic parishes. The Nationality Rooms, uniquely adorned with accurate architecture and furnishings from thirty-one different nationalities, are a true treasure of Western Pennsylvania. Following the tour, Mass will be celebrated at the “Polish Cathedral of Pittsburgh,” Immaculate Heart of Mary Church after which there will be a tour of historic St. John Chrysostom Byzantine Catholic Church in Pittsburgh’s Greenfield neighborhood. The cost is \$70 per person and includes dinner. Bus pick-up locations are in Central City, Boswell and Latrobe. To register, please call the parish at (814) 754-5224.

We are continuing our “Come and See” inquiry period through the end of the Christmas season. If you or anyone you know is interested in either joining our Catholic family or completing their initiation into the faith by celebrating the Sacrament of Confirmation as an adult, please come and join us in the rectory meeting room, after the Saturday evening or Sunday morning Mass for light refreshments and to meet Fr., John and the Christian Initiation team. If you know someone and need some advice on how to approach them about coming to investigate our faith, please feel free to join us as well. All are welcome and there is absolutely no commitment. Just “Come and See.”

January, the first full month of the Jubilee Year, is dedicated to praying for the right to an Education. Let us pray for all people, especially migrants, refugees and those affected by war, that their right to an education, which is necessary to build a better world, might always be respected. Amen.

From the Pastor’s Desk:

Unfortunately as you know, I was unable to be with you at Christmas because of being sick with a serious case of COVID and pneumonia. I don’t know how these illnesses snuck up on me; however, I am doing my best to care for myself and I am certain that I will be fine. I celebrated the Nativity of the Lord in a simple way at home, having Mass with a very close friend (with precautions) both on Christmas Eve and on Christmas Day. It was not what I had expected for this year, but it allowed me to contemplate the unparalleled beauty of the Incarnation just the same! What I truly hope is that all of you enjoyed a blessed celebration on Christmas Day and will continue to celebrate the mystery of the Lord’s Nativity throughout the Christmas Season.

Below, following the summary of the Angelus Message, I will be providing a summary of the Pope’s Christmas Eve Homily in which he speaks about the theme of hope and the beginning of the Jubilee Year 2025 as necessarily connected to the Solemnity of the Lord’s Nativity. The Insert in today’s bulletin is the *Pope’s “Urbi et Orbi” Blessing*. **Urbi et Orbi** (lit. 'to the city [of Rome] and to the world') denotes the most solemn address and apostolic blessing given by the pope on certain solemn occasions including Christmas, Easter, and the proclamation of a newly elected pope concluding a conclave. **IT WOULD DO WELL FOR ALL OF US TO READ BOTH OF THEM, FOR THEY HELP US TO RECOGNIZE OUR MEMBERSHIP IN THE UNIVERSAL CHURCH MORE FULLY.**

From Pope Francis to the Pew:

Last week, in his *Sunday Angelus* message, Pope Francis reflected upon the Gospel of the Visitation where Mary visits Elizabeth, her elderly relative who is also expecting a child. Theirs is thus the meeting of two women rejoicing at the extraordinary gift of motherhood: Mary has just conceived Jesus, the Savior of the world, and Elizabeth, despite her advanced age, is carrying John, who will prepare the way before the Messiah. They both have much to rejoice about, and perhaps we might feel they are far away, the protagonists of such great miracles that do not normally figure in our experience. The message the Evangelist wanted to give us, a few days before Christmas, is this, it is different. Indeed, contemplating the miraculous signs of God’s salvific action must never make us feel far from Him, but rather help us to recognize His presence and His love close to you, for example in the gift of every life, of every child, of his or her mother. The gift of life. The Pope calls upon us to bless mothers and give praise to God for the miracle of life! He asks us to express feelings of joy every time we encounter a mother who is carrying a child in her arms or in her womb. He asks us sing, like Mary, “My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,” so that every motherhood may be blessed, and in every mother in the world may the name of God be thanked and exalted, who entrusts men and women with the power to give life to children! Preparing to bless the statuary of the child Jesus that the people have brought, he asks the people to ask themselves: do I thank the Lord because He made Himself a man like us, to share in all of our existence, apart from sin? Do I praise the Lord and bless Him for every child who is born? When I encounter an expectant mother, am I kind to her? Do I support and defend the sacred value of the life of the little ones ever since their conception in the maternal womb?

Summary of Pope Francis’ Homily on Christmas Eve at Midnight Mass with the Opening of the Holy Doors at Saint Peter’s Basilica and the Inauguration of the Jubilee Year 2025: This is our hope. God is Emmanuel, God-with-us. The child, in

a lowly manger We can truly say: Hope is not dead; hope is alive and it embraces our lives forever. Hope does not disappoint! Brothers and sisters, with the opening of the Holy Door we have inaugurated a new Jubilee, and each of us can enter into the mystery of this extraordinary event. Tonight, the door of hope has opened wide to the world. Tonight, God speaks to each of us and says: there is hope also for you! There is hope for each of us. And do not forget, sisters and brothers, that God forgives everything, God always forgives. Do not forget this, which is a way of understanding hope in the Lord. To receive this gift, we are called to set out with the marvel of the shepherds in the fields of Bethlehem. The Gospel tells us that, having heard the message of the angel, they “went with haste” (Lk 2:16). In this same way, “with haste”, we too are called to recover lost hope, to renew that hope in our hearts, and to sow seeds of hope amid the bleakness of our time and our world. For Christian hope is a promise, the Lord’s promise, to be welcomed here and now in our world of suffering and sighs. The hope born this night does not tolerate the indifference of the complacent or the lethargy of those content with their own comforts Christian hope, while inviting us to wait patiently for the Kingdom to grow and spread, also requires of us, even now, to be bold, responsible, and not only that but also compassionate, in our anticipation of the fulfilment of the Lord’s promise. And here perhaps it will do us good to ask ourselves about compassion: do I have compassion? As disciples of the Lord, we are called to find our greater hope in him, and then, without delay, carry that hope with us, as pilgrims of light amid the darkness of this world. This is the Jubilee. This is the season of hope in which we are invited to rediscover the joy of meeting the Lord. The Jubilee calls us to spiritual renewal and commits us to the transformation of our world, so that this year may truly become a time of jubilation. A jubilee for our mother Earth, disfigured by profiteering; a time of jubilee for the poorer countries burdened beneath unfair debts; a time of jubilee for all those who are in bondage to forms of slavery old and new. All of us have received the gift and task of bringing hope wherever hope has been lost, lives broken, promises unkept, dreams shattered and hearts overwhelmed by adversity. We are called to bring hope to the weary who have no strength to carry on, the lonely oppressed by the bitterness of failure, and all those who are broken-hearted. To bring hope to the interminable, dreary days of prisoners, to the cold and dismal lodgings of the poor, and to all those places desecrated by war and violence. To bring hope there, to sow hope there. The Jubilee has now opened so that all people may receive hope, the hope of the Gospel, the hope of love and hope of forgiveness. As we contemplate the manger, as we gaze upon it and see God’s tender love in the face of the Child Jesus, let us ask ourselves: “Are our hearts full of expectation? Does this hope find a place there? ... As we contemplate the loving kindness of God who overcomes our doubts and fears, let us also contemplate the grandeur of the hope that awaits us. ... May this vision of hope illumine our path each day” On this night the “holy door” of God’s heart lies open before you. Jesus, God-with-us, is born for you, for me, for us, for every man and woman. And remember that with him, joy flourishes; with him, life changes; with him, hope does not disappoint.