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1127 McKinley Avenue  
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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

The Baptism of the Lord  
January 12th, 2025

MASS SCHEDULE

**MONDAY** - Weekday in Ordinary Time  
**12:05 PM** - James Rován  
(Req. by Rick & Jeanne Skovensky)

**TUESDAY** - Weekday in Ordinary Time  
**12:05 PM** - Basil Balagusz  
(Req. by Family)

**WEDNESDAY** - NO MASS

**THURSDAY** - Weekday in Ordinary Time  
**Private Mass**  
Esperanza "Cha Cha" Bair  
(Req. by Colleen Brady)  
**\*Rescheduled from 1-7-25\***

**FRIDAY** - Weekday in Ordinary Time  
**12:05 PM** - Edward Stofko  
(Req. by Joan Stofko)

**SATURDAY** - Vigil of 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time  
4:00 PM - Pro Populo

**SUNDAY** - 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time  
9:00 AM - Patricia Czynnik  
(Req. by Joseph Czynnik)

**SANCTUARY CANDLE**  
For Fr. John's Personal (Special) Intention  
**\*\*Parishioners are asked to join  
Fr John in this intention this week if you have  
some "free: prayer time\*\*"**

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:** 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.

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 - January 5 2025

Loose Money.....	\$306.00
Sunday Collection.....	\$2570.00
Immaculate Conception.....	\$3.00
Solemnity of Mary.....	\$1313.00
Christmas Offering.....	\$130.00
Votive Candles.....	\$84.00
St. Peregrine.....	\$34.00
Learning Lamp Rent - Jan.....	\$3800.00
Parking Lot Rent.....	\$500.00

TOTAL:        \$8740.00

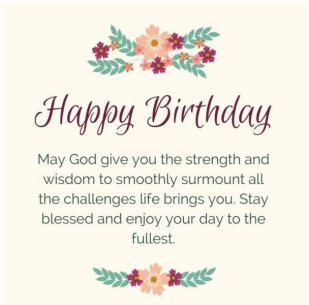
\*\*\*\*\*

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, 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 Rován, Leonard Russell, Stephen Sanders, Jennifer Schellhammer, Rose Sigg, Allegra Slick, Father John Slovikovski, Shirley Slovikovski, Megan Varnecky, Christi Vavrek, Carrie Young

\*\*\*\*\*

Please join us in remembering members of our parish family who celebrate their birthdays the week of January 13th to January 19th:



Chuck Arnone  
 Mark Schiffhauer  
 Colleen Brady  
 Joanne Boyle  
 Louis Crocco  
 Paul Schmidt

Nicholas Gjurich  
 Rebecca Bumbernick  
 Asher Hauman  
 Stella Callahan  
 Leonard Russell

The 2025 Yearly Calendars of Prizes will now be available in the rectory office. 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 (birthday, etc.) It would also be helpful if you would consider taking an (some) additional calendar (s) to sell. THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED HELP WITH THIS LAST IMPORTANT FUNDRAISER FOR 2024 calendar year).

\*\*\*\*\*

TURKEY RAFFLE – 2024	
Expenses:	
Randy’s BiLo	\$1348.00
Habits	\$220.05
Advertising	\$160.00
Misc. Expenses	\$36.42
TOTAL:	\$1764.47
Profit:	
Turkey Raffle	\$5727.90
Parish Tickets	\$2220.00
Donations	\$465.00
2nd Collection	\$735.00
TOTAL:	\$9147.90
TOTAL PROFIT:	\$7383.43

Thank you for your support to Visitation Parish.

\*\*\*\*\*

Angel Tree 2024 - On behalf of Birthright and the children of the 7 families who we sponsored this year, I’d like to thank all the generous parishioners who gave their time and treasure to provide a Blessed and Merry Christmas to the families who struggle in our area. As usual, the support was outstanding.

A very special thank you to our extremely generous “Secret Santa” parishioners whose generous donations enabled us to provide gifts for all the angels on our tree, as well as gift cards for food for all the families. May God bless you richly for your kindness.

Lastly, thank you to all the parishioners who gladly took the time to shop for the children whose gift tags were unable to be taken from the tree. You exhibit the true spirit of Visitation Parish.

- Cathy Fuska

\*\*\*\*\*

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 visits.

\*\*\*\*\*

The celebration of Mass on the Solemnity of The Baptism of the Lord on Sunday effectively marked the transition for the Christmas Season to Ordinary Time, **THEREFORE, we will be removing the Christmas decorations on Sunday (Jan 12th) at 2:00 PM. We are in need of volunteers to help with this project.** Thank you in advance.

From Pope Francis to the Pew:

In his Sunday Angelus message, Pope Francis reflected upon the Gospel for the second Sunday of Christmas, rather than the one for the feast of the Epiphany (Joh 1: 1-18), which speaks of Jesus, the Word incarnate and tells us that “the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it” (Jn 1:5). It reminds us, then, how powerful is God’s love, which is not overcome by anything and which, despite obstacles and rejections, continues to shine and illuminate our path. We see it at Christmas, when the Son of God, made man, overcomes so many walls and so many divisions. He confronts the closed minds and hearts of the “great” of His time, who are concerned more with defending power than seeking the Lord (cf. Mt 2:3-18). Then, he shares the humble life of Mary and Joseph, who welcome Him and raise Him with love, but with the limited possibilities and the hardships of those without means: they were poor. He offers Himself, fragile and defenseless, to the encounter with the shepherds (cf. Lk 2:8-18), men whose hearts are marked by the harshness of life and the disdain of society; and then with the Magi (cf. Mt 2:1) who, driven by the desire to know Him, face a long journey and find Him in a home of ordinary people, in great poverty. Faced with these and many other challenges, which seem contradictions, God never stops – let us listen to this clearly, the Pope assures us, God never stops. He finds a thousand ways to reach everyone, without calculation and without conditions, opening even in the darkest nights of humanity windows of light that the darkness cannot obscure (cf. Is 9:1-6). It is a reality that consoles us and encourages us, especially in a time such as ours, a time that is not easy, where there is a great need for light, for hope, and a need for peace, a world where men at times create situations so complicated that it seems impossible to get out of them. But today the Word of God tells us that it is not so! Rather, it calls us to imitate the God of love, opening up glimmers of light wherever we can, with whomever we meet, in any context: family, social, international. It invites us not to fear taking the first step – this is the Lord’s invitation today – not to fear taking the first step. It takes courage to do it but let us not be afraid to throw open bright windows of closeness to those who are suffering, of forgiveness, of compassion and reconciliation: these are the many first steps we must take to make the journey clearer, safer and possible for all. And this invitation resounds in a particular way in the Jubilee Year that has just begun, urging us to be messengers of hope with a simple but concrete “yes” to life, with choices that bring life. Let us do this, all of us, this: this is the way of salvation! Pope Francis invites us at the beginning of a new year, can we ask ourselves: how can I open a window of light in my environment and in my relationships? Where can I be a glimmer of light that lets God’s love pass through? What is the first step I should take today?

In his **Weekly Audience**, Pope Francis dedicated his catechesis to children, and to reflect in particular on children, and an affront to their dignity and welfare, namely, the scourge of child labor. To begin, he noted that in modern times we struggle to look in the eyes of a child who has been left at the margins and who is exploited or abused, we struggle to reckon with the scourge of humiliated, exploited, mortally wounded childhood. He observes that word that occurs second most frequently in the Old Testament, is the word ben, that is, “son”: almost five thousand times. Children are a gift from God that is not always treated with respect. The Bible itself leads us through the streets of history where songs of joy resound, but also the cries of victims are raised. For example, in the book of Lamentations we

read: “The tongue of the infant cleaves to the roof of its mouth in thirst; children beg for bread, but no one gives them a piece. Think of how many children, today, are dying of hunger and destitution, or torn apart by bombs. The storm of the violence of Herod, who slaughters the infants of Bethlehem, erupts immediately even on the newborn Jesus. Here, for Jesus and His parents, is the nightmare of becoming refugees in a foreign country, as still happens today to many people, to many children. After this, Jesus grows up in a village never named in the Old Testament, Nazareth; He learns the carpenter’s trade from his legal father, Joseph. In this way, “the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon Him.” In His public life, one day, some mothers approached Him and presented Him their children to bless; but the disciples rebuked Him. So Jesus, breaking with the tradition where children were considered simply as passive objects, calls the disciples to Him and says: “Let the children come to me and do not prevent them; for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these”. And He thus indicates the little ones as a model for adults. He then adds: “Amen, I say to you, whoever does not accept the kingdom of God like a child will not enter it.” The Christ’s disciples must never allow children to be neglected or mistreated, to be deprived of their rights, not to be loved or protected. Christians have the duty to earnestly prevent and firmly condemn violence or abuse against children. In today’s world, the pope observes, there are too many children forced to work. But a child who does not smile, a child who does not dream cannot know or nurture his or her talents. In every part of the globe there are children who are exploited by an economy that does not respect life; an economy that, in so doing, consumes our greatest store of hope and love. But children occupy a special place in God’s heart, and whoever harms a child will have to account to Him. It is clear that those who recognize themselves as children of God, and especially those who are sent to bring the glad tidings of the Gospel to others, cannot remain indifferent; they cannot accept that our little sisters and brothers, instead of being loved and protected, are robbed of their childhood, of their dreams, victims of exploitation and marginalization.

JUBILEE NEWS

**-The Pilgrim’s Passport:** To be on pilgrimage during a Jubilee Year is a special time to gain special graces called plenary indulgences. As many people cannot travel to Rome, the Pope has named Holy Door Churches (In the US—the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in DC has been named) Every bishop has been given permission to name holy sites in his diocese as travel sites. **The Pilgrims Passport** booklet available in the main vestibule of the Church includes the 13 Holy Site Churches named by Bishop Mark. All special prayers are included. A special incentive for individuals and families to win two overnight gift packages and special gift cards are part of the “Pilgrims Passport.” QR codes are printed in the booklet for easy access to directions, Mass and Confession schedules. All of the information is in the inside cover. The booklets will be stamped at the Holy Site Churches as part of the gift opportunity. Pilgrims Passports will be available in the vestibule all year Visitation is a Holy Site. The Passport may be used until 9/8/2025 .