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**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**

# 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



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**

## 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time February 9th, 2025

### MASS SCHEDULE

**MONDAY - Weekday in Ordinary Time**  
**12:05 PM - John Slovikovski Sr.**  
(Req. by Stella Callahan)

**TUESDAY - Weekday in Ordinary Time**  
**12:05 PM - Helene Balagusz**  
(Req. by Irene Oberle)

**WEDNESDAY - NO MASS**

**THURSDAY - Weekday in Ordinary Time**  
**Private Mass**

**FRIDAY - NO MASS**

**SATURDAY - Vigil of 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
**4:00 PM - Anita Sukenik**  
(Req. by Lois Sewinsky)

**SUNDAY - 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
**9:00 AM - Pro Populo**

### 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](http://USCCB.ORG) or  
under the headings of daily  
readings listed in back of the  
missalette.

**IN LOVING MEMORY:** The Sanctuary Lamp is avail-  
able for your intentions by calling the  
parish office. Please attempt to request your inten-  
tions as early as possible. A \$10 donation is sug-  
gested.

**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 SATUR-  
DAY 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 Cath-  
olic candidates for Marriage must be registered,  
practicing members of a parish at least 6 months  
prior to scheduling the wedding. There are NO EX-  
CEPTIONS.**

**INFANT BAPTISM:** Baptisms are generally celebrat-  
ed 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.

**EUCHARISTIC ADORATION:** Every Wednesday and  
Friday following Mass.

**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.



<b>\$\$\$ INCOME \$\$\$</b>	
<b><u>Collection - February 2, 2025</u></b>	
Loose Money.....	\$375.25
Sunday Collection.....	\$3771.00
Initial Offering.....	\$5.00
Candles.....	\$225.00
Bulletin Ads.....	\$600.00
Learning Lamp Rent - Feb.....	\$3800.00
Parking Lot Rent.....	\$70.00
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$8846.25</b>

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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, Gianna Kniss, Karen Kohan, Betsy Konar, Marylee Konicky, Madeleine Krueger, Dick Krumenacker, 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 Petro-ro, Anna Marie Pfeil, Maria Petro-Sanders, Mia Bella Rastall, Stacy Roberts, Sean Rován, 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 February 10th to February 16th:**



Kelly Garanich	Julie Fontana
Jeffrey Palm	Brent Hancock
Margaret Wildner	Patricia Kozak
Madeleine Krueger	Ann Marie Lynch
Janice Martella	Matthew Oberhaus
Zoey Furman	Barbara Mulvehill
Raymond Riek	

The invitations to participate in all of the devotions associated with the spiritual life and vigor of our parish continue to be extended to all parishioners. We pray the rosary every Saturday evening at approximately 3:30 PM prior to mass as well as every Tuesday at 6:00 PM. On Wednesdays, Mass is celebrated at 5:30 PM followed by adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 6:30 PM. This will continue to be extended to all parishioners. We also pray the litany of St. Joseph since Wednesday is dedicated to him as the patron of the Universal Church. Remember the parish intention is for Fr. John’s health, however, personal intentions for the Rosary and adoration are your own.

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**Home Visits with the Eucharist** - If you or someone you know cannot come to Church and would like to receive the Eucharist, please 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 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.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown STRENGTH IN CHRIST Men’s Conference** —Sunday, March 30, 2025 from 11:00 AM until 5:30 PM at Mount Aloysius College, Cresson. Please join us for a day that includes lunch, Sunday Mass, talks from local priests, personal testimonies, and a panel discussion with local Catholic men. Visit [www.dioceseaj.org](http://www.dioceseaj.org) to register online. For those unable to register online, paper registration forms can be found at each parish to complete and return via email. Registration closes on March 21st. Online registration is encouraged due to limited seating.. Please note that the flyers in the main vestibule of the Church do not explain the theme of the conference. For more information regarding the theme of the day, you must contact Tony Degol at 814-695-5579 for any specific details. Parishes do not have any more information that that which is contained in promotional materials sent out by the diocese.

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**On Monday, February 10, 2025** there will be an organizational meeting to plan the **Basket Party** that will be scheduled during the month of May of this year. The meeting will occur in the Elizabethan Suite (formerly the rectory meeting room). All who are interested in planning and participating in this event are invited and encouraged attend. We will be discussing several possible alternative formats for the execution of this event.

\*\*\*\*\*

The month of February is dedicated For Vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life. Let us pray that the ecclesial community might welcome the desires and doubts of those young people who feel a call to serve Christ’s mission in the priesthood and religious life. This is a very important intention for the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown. At present, we have NO men studying for the priesthood (none in college seminary; none in major seminary). This means that we may not have native born individual ordained for the priesthood for at the very least 5 years. We are the ONLY diocese in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania who has no one studying for the priesthood at this time. These are desperate times. It is the responsibility of everyone to work to inspire vocations. It is everyone’s responsibility to pray for vocations. This is not only true for the priesthood, but also for the diaconate and for the consecrated life. Encourage anyone who may share with you in interest in a vocation. You are working for the future of the Church, a Church that cannot exist without priests, deacons, and vowed religious (sisters and brothers)!!! May God bless us with many who are willing to answer the call.

**From Pope Francis to the Pew:**

During his **Angelus** message last Sunday, Pope Francis Reflected upon the Gospel that presents Mary and Joseph who took the infant Jesus to the Temple of Jerusalem to “present” him in the dictate of the Law of the Lord. While this tradition is carried out from generation to generation, in every Jewish family, something happens that had never occurred before. Two elders, Simeon and Anna, prophesy about Jesus: they both praise God and talk about the child “to all who were awaiting the redemption of Jerusalem.” Their heartfelt voices resound among the ancient stones of the Temple, announcing the fulfilment of Israel’s expectations. Truly God is present in the midst of His people: not because He dwells within the four walls, but because He lives as a man among men. This is the novelty of Jesus. In Simeon and Anna’s old age, the novelty takes place that changes the history of the world. For their part, Mary and Joseph were amazed at what they heard. Indeed, when Simeon holds the child in his arms, he calls him in three beautiful ways, which are worthy of reflection. Three ways, three names that he gives Him. Jesus is salvation, Jesus is light; Jesus is a sign of contradiction. First, Jesus is salvation. Simeon says, praying to God, “my eyes have seen your salvation, which you prepared in sight of all the peoples.” This always leaves us astounded: universal salvation concentrated in just one! Yes, because in Jesus dwells the fullness of God, of His Love. Second, Jesus is “a light for revelation to the Gentiles.” Like the sun that rises over the world, this child will redeem it from the darkness of evil, pain and death. Finally, the child embraced by Simeon is a sign of contradiction, “so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed.” Jesus reveals the criterion for judging the whole of history and its drama, and also the life of each one of us. And what is this criterion? It is love: those who love, live; those who hate, die. Jesus is salvation, Jesus is light, and Jesus is the sign of contradiction. Enlightened by this encounter with Jesus, the Pope asks us to ask ourselves: what do I expect in my life? What is my great hope? Does my heart wish to see the face of the Lord? Do I await the manifestation of His plan of salvation for humanity?

The pope’s **Wednesday Audience**, which reflects upon the Visitation is presented in its entirety below:

Today we will contemplate the beauty of Jesus Christ our hope in the mystery of the Visitation. The Virgin Mary visits Saint Elizabeth; but it is above all Jesus, in His mother’s womb, who visits His people (cf. Lk 1:68), as Zechariah says in his hymn of praise. After the astonishment and wonder at what has been announced to her by the Angel, Mary gets up and sets out on a journey, like all those who are called to in the Bible, because “the only act with which man can respond to God who is revealed to him is that of unlimited readiness” (H.U. von Balthasar, Vocation, Rome 2002, 29). This young daughter of Israel does not choose to protect herself from the world; she does not fear dangers and the judgements of others, but goes out towards other people. When we feel loved, we experience a force that sets love in motion; as the apostle Paul says, “the love of Christ impels us” (2Cor 5:14), it drives us, it moves us. Mary feels the push of this love, and goes to help a woman who is her relative, but also an elderly woman who, after a long wait, is welcoming an un-hoped-for pregnancy, difficult to deal with at her age. But the Virgin also goes to Elizabeth to share her faith in the God of the impossible and her hope in the fulfilment of His promises. The encounter between the two women produces a surprising impact: the voice of Mary, “full of grace”, who greets Elizabeth provokes the prophecy in the child the older woman is carrying in her womb, and inspires in her a dual blessing: “Most blessed

are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb!” (Lk 1:42). And also a beatitude: “Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled” (v. 45). Faced with the recognition of the messianic identity of her Son and her mission as mother, Mary does not speak of herself but of God, and raises a praise full of faith, hope and joy, a song that resounds every day in the Church during the prayer of Vespers: the Magnificat (Lk 1:46-55). This praise to God the saviour, which gushed forth from the heart of his humble servant, is a solemn memorial that synthesizes and fulfils the prayer of Israel. It is interwoven with biblical resonances, a sign that Mary does not want to sing “out of the choir” but to tune in with the forefathers, exalting her compassion for the humble, those little ones whom Jesus in his preaching will declare “blessed” (cf. Mt 5:1-12). The prominent presence of the paschal motif also makes the Magnificat a hymn of redemption, which has as its backdrop the memory of the liberation of Israel from Egypt. The verbs are all in the past, imbued with a memory of the love that lights up the present with faith and illuminates the future with hope: Mary sings of the grace of the past, but she is the woman of the present who carries the future in her womb. The first part of this canticle praises God’s action in Mary, a microcosm of the people of God who adhere fully to the covenant (vv. 46-50); the second ranges from the work of the Father in the macrocosm of the history of His son (vv. 51-55), through three key words: memory, mercy, promise. The Lord, who bowed down to the humble Mary to fulfil “great things” in her and make her the mother of the Lord, began to save His people starting from the exodus, remembering the universal blessing promised to Abraham (cf. Gen 12:1-3). The Lord God who is the faithful for ever, showered an uninterrupted stream of merciful love “from age to age” (v. 50) upon the people loyal to the covenant, and now manifests the fullness of salvation in His Son, sent to save the people from their sins. From Abraham to Jesus Christ and the community of believers, the Passover thus appears as the hermeneutical category for understanding every subsequent liberation, up to that realized by the Messiah in the fullness of time. Dear brothers and sisters, let us ask the Lord today for the grace to be able to wait for the fulfilment of every one of His promises; and to help us to welcome Mary’s presence in our life. By following her example, may we all discover that every soul that believes and hopes “conceives and begets the Word of God” (Saint Ambrose, Exposition of the Gospel according to Luke 2, 26).

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**If you know anyone who is searching for a home to worship on Sundays, please invite them to join you here at Visitation Parish. If you know someone who has not come back to Church since COVID, please, invite them to rejoin us for Sunday Mass. If you know anyone who wants to know a bit more about the Church, invite them to Church next weekend. If you know someone who needs transportation, please be kind enough to offer them a ride. If you cannot offer them the ride, call the parish office and we will find transportation for them. WE ARE ALWAYS LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING PEOPLE RETURN...WE ARE ALWAYS LOOKING FOR NEW FACES...WE ARE ALSO WELCOMING ANYONE WHO NEEDS A PLACE TO FEEL LOVED AND TO FEEL SAFE WITH THE LORD!!!!**