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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

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Rectory Phone: 536-6110  
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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

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time  
February 16th, 2025

MASS SCHEDULE

**MONDAY** - Weekday in Ordinary Time  
12:05 PM - Spiritual and Temporal Welfare of  
Dick Krumenacker  
(Req. by Pat Balagusz)

**TUESDAY** - NO MASS

**WEDNESDAY** - Weekday in Ordinary Time  
5:30 PM - Vickie Schmidt  
(Req. by Suzanne & James Yelenick)  
\*Adoration of Blessed Sacrament  
after Mass until 6:30 PM\*

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

**FRIDAY** - Weekday in Ordinary Time  
12:05 PM - Barry Mills  
(Req. by Amy Schmidt)  
\*Adoration of Blessed Sacrament after Mass\*

**SATURDAY** - The Chair of St. Peter the Apostle  
4:00 PM - Birthday Remembrance  
Basil Balagusz  
(Req. by Family)

5:30 PM - Carol Bassett  
(Req. by Cathy Fuska)

**SUNDAY** - 7th Sunday in Ordinary Time  
9:00 AM - Pro Populo

SANCTUARY CANDLE

In Memory of Basil Balagusz  
Req. 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.

**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.

**ANOIDING OF THE SICK:** Celebrated after any  
Sunday Mass as requested and as a parish during  
the Easter Season.

**EUCCHARISTIC 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.



\$\$ INCOME \$\$\$  
 Collection - February 9, 2025

Loose Money.....	\$278.00
Sunday Collection.....	\$2196.00
Solemnity of Mary.....	\$3.00
Initial Offering.....	\$3.00
Votive Candles.....	\$162.00
St. Peregrine.....	\$60.00
Sanctuary Candle.....	\$60.00
Apartment Rental - Feb.....	\$625.00
Parking Lot Rent.....	\$140.00

TOTAL:       **\$3527.00**

\*\*\*\*\*  
 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, Dick Krumenacker, Gaile Krumenacker, Victoria Leflie, Michael Letzo, Joanne Macri, Patricia Mainhart, Mari-  
 anne 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 Slovikov-  
 ski, Shirley Slovikovski, Ken Turner, Megan Varnecky, Christi Vavrek, Carrie Young

\*\*\*\*\*

**Please join us in remembering members of our parish family who celebrate their birthdays the week of February 17th to February 23rd:**



Casey Cumberledge                      Donald Denk  
 Agnes Hornick                            Judith Lansberry  
    Dr. Russell Moore

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.
 \*\*\*\*\*

**Home Visits with the Eucharist** - We are trying to reach out to all members of our parish who for any reason have ben unable to join us for mass due to illness or any other reason that might leave them homebound. 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.
 \*\*\*\*\*

**Bishop Barron and Bishop O’Connell of the USCCB offered the following statement in response to the Executive Order signed by President Trump, “Keeping Men out of Women’s Sports,** “We welcome the President’s Executive Order that protects opportunities for women and girls to compete in sports safely and fairly, “Consistent with the Catholic Church’s clear teaching on the equality of men and women, we reaffirm that, in education and in sports as elsewhere, policies must uphold human dignity. This includes equal treatment between women and men and affirmation of the goodness of a person’s body, which is genetically and biologically female or male.” “The Catholic Church teaches, and the Catechism of the Catholic Church affirms: ‘Man and woman have been created, which is to say, willed by God: on the one hand, in perfect equality as human persons; on the other, in their respective beings as man and woman. “Being man” or “being woman” is a reality which is good and willed by God.’ Athletics not only provide valuable educational opportunities, fostering discipline, teamwork, and personal growth, but they also serve as a celebration of the human body as a gift from God.”

“In further recognition of the inherent dignity of the human person, the Church stands firmly against all unjust discrimination, including against those who experience gender discordance, who are equally loved by God. Students who experience gender dysphoria bear the full measure of human dignity, and they therefore must be treated with kindness and respect. Similar to their peers, those students must be assured the right to participate in or try out for co-educational activities in accord with their biological sex.”
 \*\*\*\*\*

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 vocations.**
 \*\*\*\*\*

**The parish office will be closed on Monday, February 17th, 2025 in observance of President’s Day. The office will be open at 9:00 AM the next day, Tuesday, February 18th, 2025.**

**From Pope Francis to the Pew:**

During his Angelus message last Sunday, Pope Francis did not reflect upon the Gospel for the day or any of the readings for that matter. Rather, he extended greetings and blessings to members of the military with the following words: Before concluding the celebration, I wish to greet you all, who have brought to life this Jubilee pilgrimage of the Armed Forces, Police and Security Forces. I thank the distinguished civil authorities for their presence, and the military Ordinaries and Chaplains for their pastoral service. I extend my greeting to all military personnel throughout the world, and I would like to recall the teaching of the Church in this regard. The Second Vatican Council says: “Those too who devote themselves to the military service of their country should regard themselves as the agents of security and freedom of peoples” (Pastoral Constitution Gaudium et spes, 79). This armed service is to be exercised only for legitimate defense, never to impose dominion over other nations, always observing the international conventions on matters of conflict (cf. ibid.), and before that, in sacred respect for life and creation.

The pope’s **Wednesday Audience**, which reflects upon event of Jesus’ birth in Bethlehem. The Son of God enters history as our travelling companion, and begins to travel while still in His mother's womb. The evangelist Luke tells us that as soon as He was conceived, He went from Nazareth to the house of Zechariah and Elizabeth; and then, at the end of the pregnancy, from Nazareth to Bethlehem for the census. Mary and Joseph were forced to go to the city of King David, where Joseph had also been born. The long-awaited Messiah, the Son of the God Most High, allows Himself to be counted, that is, counted and registered, like any other citizen. He submits to the decree of an emperor, Caesar Augustus, who thinks he is the master of all the earth.

Luke places Jesus' birth in “an exactly datable time” and in “an exactly indicated geographical setting”, so that “the universal and the concrete touch each other” (BENEDICT XVI, The Infancy Narratives, 2012, 77). God, who comes into history, does not dismantle the structures of the world, but wants to illuminate them and recreate them from within. Bethlehem means “house of bread”. There, the days of childbirth were fulfilled for Mary and there Jesus was born, bread descended from heaven to satisfy the hunger of the world (cf. Jn 6:51). The angel Gabriel had announced the birth of the Messianic King in the sign of greatness: “Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father, and he will rule of the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end” (Lk 1:32-33).

However, Jesus is born a way entirely unprecedented for a king. Indeed, “while they were there, the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn” (Lk 2:6-7). The Son of God is not born in a royal palace, but at the back of a house, in the space where the animals are kept. Luke thus shows us that God does not come into the world with resounding proclamations; he does not manifest himself with noise, but begins his journey in humility. And who are the first witnesses of this event? They are shepherds: men of little culture, malodorous from constant contact with the animals, they live on the margins of society. And yet they practice the occupation by which God himself makes himself known to his people (cf. Gen 48:15; 49:24; Ps 23:1; 80:2; Is 40:11).

God chooses them as the recipients of the most beautiful news that has ever resounded in history: “Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all people. For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Messiah and Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger”. The place to meet the Messiah is a manger. Indeed, it happens that, after such expectation, “for the Savior of the world, for He for whom all things were created (cf. Col 1:16), there is no room” (Benedict XVI, The Infancy Narratives, 2012, 80). The shepherds thus learn that in a very humble place, reserved to the animals, the long-awaited Messiah is born, and he is born for them, to be their Savior, their shepherd. This news opens their hearts to wonder, praise and joyful proclamation. ‘Unlike so many other people, busy about many things, the shepherds become the first to see the most essential thing of all: the gift of salvation. It is the humble and the poor who greet the event of the Incarnation” (Apostolic Letter Admirabile signum, 5).

Brothers and sisters, let us, too, ask for the grace of being, like the shepherds, capable of wonder and praise before God, and capable of cherishing what He has entrusted to us: the talents, charisms, our vocation and the people he places beside us. Let us ask the Lord to be able to discern in weakness the extraordinary strength of the Child God, who comes to renew the world and transform our lives with his plan full of hope for all humanity.
 \*\*\*\*\*

**We need to seriously address our regular Sunday Mass attendance. Last weekend there were a total of 162 persons between two Masses. Prior to the Pandemic, we had more than 325 persons at Masses every Sunday 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!!!!**
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**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 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. For more information regarding the theme of the day, you must contact Tony Degol at 814-695-5579 for any specific details.