

Please support the sponsors on this page. It is through their support that this bulletin is made possible.

255-3822(DUCA)

Frank **Duca Funeral Home**, Inc.

ducafuneralhome.com

Westmont Chapel
1622 Menoher Blvd. 15905
Frank Duca, Supv., Funeral Director

3 Generations of Trusted
Duca Family Care
Alexis Peifer, Funeral Director

East Hills Chapel & Crematory
404 Walters Avenue, 15904
Bradley Duca, Supv., Funeral Director



Dr. John P.
Walker

Family Dental
Center

"Experience the Art of Dentistry"

Cosmetic Dentistry • Crowns
Bridges • Dentures
ZOOM! Professional Whitening System
Root Canals & Extractions

New Patients Welcome
Most Insurance Accepted

(814) 255-7181
www.DrJohnWalker.com
307 State Street • Johnstown, PA 15905

Typesetting & Design: Newspaper Ads, Brochures, Newsletters, Program Books, Websites
Full Color Printing On: T-Shirts, Hats, Ceramic Plates and Coffee Mugs, Water Bottles, Mouse Pads,
Key Chains. Plus High Resolution Photos printed on Glass and Metal
Computerized Embroidery & Monograms: Shirts, Jackets, Hats, Aprons, Towels and More

"Best Auto Rates For Drivers Over 50"



BRETT INSURANCE
AGENCY, INC.

Jim Brett
Phone: 814-535-8649
E-mail: jbrett@brettinsurance.com



Country Delights
Est. 1987

Specializing in Wedding Packages
& Cookies for All Occasions.
Homestyle Cooking and Baking
Please visit us at
www.country-delights.com
814-288-5372
129 Dickey Hill Road, Davidsville, PA



Randy's
BiLo
"Your Friendly Neighborhood Market"

81 Osborne Street
Johnstown • 535-7704
1514 Jefferson Ave.
Windber • 467-6624

PICKING - TREECE - BENNETT
MORTUARY, INC.

West Hills • 921 Menoher Blvd. - 814-255-4040 • PTBMortuary.com
CARING, COMPASSIONATE SERVICE SINCE 1909
THE AREA'S MOST SPACIOUS AND ACCESSIBLE FUNERAL HOME
THOMAS L. DIXON, Supervisor • CHRISTINE HOHRUN, Director



Francis G. Ozog
Funeral Home, Inc.

710 Broad Street
Johnstown, PA 15906
814.539.5127
Frank G. Ozog
Funeral Director

"Our family serving your family
with compassion, dignity and
respect for over 90 years."

With Over 90 Years Serving
The Greater Johnstown Area

We Offer Services That
Fit Every Family's Needs

Traditional Funeral Services
Contemporary Funeral Services
Cremation Services
Pre-Need Counseling



Henderson
Funeral Homes

Johnstown
Geistown
Conemaugh

Ask about our:
• Bethlehem Steel Retirees Program
• COPE - Grief Help Group
• YOUR CHOICE PLAN



Terri & Chuck
Owners

Since 1987

A Dynamite Place To Be!

640 Bedford Street • Johnstown, PA 15902
814*539*4340
Visit our Website for Our Full Online Menu:
TNCLOUNGE.COM



Michelle Walters Photography
Specializing in Lifestyle Photography

I aim to capture and
document real-life
events, situations or
milestones.
Let me capture your
most precious moments.
Book Today!
814-244-1647
MWALTERS912@YAHOO.COM



TEAR, TAKE & GO!
"Caring For You &
About You Since 1964"

Martella's
Pharmacies

Franklin St. | Park Hill | Ligonier
Windber | Central City | Boswell

www.martellaspharmacy.com
CALL US TODAY 814-535-1833

Church of the Visitation
of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Rectory Phone: 536-6110
E-Mail: visitationjtown@dioceseaj.org
Website: www.visitationbvmchurch.com
Fax: 536-3709

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

8th Sunday in Ordinary Time
March 2nd, 2025

MASS SCHEDULE

MONDAY - Weekday in Ordinary Time
12:05 PM - Albert Reynolds Sr.
(Req. by Family)

TUESDAY - Weekday in Ordinary Time
12:05 PM - Sandra Morris
(Req. by Helen Boyle)

WEDNESDAY - Ash Wednesday
12:05 PM - Esperanza "Cha Cha" Bair
(Req. by Ron Cleaver)
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament following Mass
5:30 PM - Barry Mills
(Req. by Sharon Orner)
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament following Mass

THURSDAY - Thursday after Ash Wednesday
Loretta Meyers
(Req. by family and friends)

FRIDAY - Friday after Ash Wednesday
12:05 PM - Dr. Larry Rutledge
(Req. by Wife, Barbara)
Adoration of Blessed Sacrament following Mass

3:00 PM - Stations of the Cross

SATURDAY - Saturday after Ash Wednesday
4:00 PM - Pro Populo

5:50 PM - James Kerrigan
(Req. by Shirley Machowski)

SUNDAY - 1st Sunday of Lent
9:00 AM - Dr. John DiFazio
(Req. by Ron Cleaver)

SANCTUARY CANDLE
In Memory of Francis John Beaujon
(Req. by Francis & Charlotte Beaujon)

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.

\$\$\$ INCOME \$\$\$

Collection - February 23, 2025

Loose Money.....	\$379.00
Sunday Collection.....	\$2600.00
Solemnity of Mary.....	\$10.00
Ash Wednesday.....	\$2.00
Votive Candles.....	\$119.00
St. Peregrine.....	\$56.00
Parking Lot Rent.....	\$140.00
TOTAL:	\$3306.00

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, 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 Roan, Stephen Sanders, Jennifer Schellhammer, Rose Sigg, Allegra Slick, Father John Slovikovski, 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 March 3rd to March 9th:



Liam Daly

Mary Figura

Emma Smitley

Steve Myers

Roberta Oberhaus


Vicki Rosa

Charlotte Beaujon

Kevin McMonagle

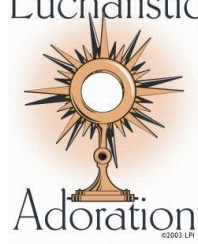
Barbara Poole

For the Good of the Vineyard and Our Particular Part



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. BOTH OF THESE DEVOTIONS WOULD MAKE AN EXCELLENT ADDITION TO ANY LENTEN REGIMINE THAT ONE MIGHT CHOOSE TO ENTER MORE DEEPLY INTO THE PROCESS OF CONVERSION DURING THE LENTEN SEASON.

Eucharistic



Adoration

Although Ash Wednesday is not a HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION (which I personally think it should be); it is a universal day of fast and abstinence that obliges all Catholics. For members of the Latin Catholic Church, the norms on fasting are obligatory from age 18 until age 59. When fasting, a person is permitted to eat one full meal, as well as two smaller meals that together are not equal to a full meal. The norms concerning abstinence from meat are binding upon members of the Latin Catholic Church from age 14 onwards. The norms for abstinence are also obligatory every Friday during the Lenten Season (While all Friday’s throughout the year were traditionally days of abstinence, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) did issue a statement on November 27, 1966 revising this obligation. Given the many questions that I receive each Lent, regarding fast and abstinence, all would do well to read this statement in its entirety. It may be found at: <https://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/liturgical-year-and-calendar/lent/us-bishops-pastoral-statement-on-penance-and-abstinence>).

St. Andrew Novena to the Infant of Prague - From March 16th to March 24th, 2025, St. Andrew Church will be having their Novena to the Infant of Prague Monday through Friday at 6:30 PM and Saturday and Sunday at 4:00 PM. Adoration before the Blessed Sacrament will be one hour prior each night.

Liturgical Notes for a Richer Experience of Eucharist: A Note on Singing: Music in Catholic worship is not merely an add-on; it is an essential aspect of the liturgy that enables the faithful to participate more deeply in the celebration of the sacred mysteries. Rooted in both Scripture and Tradition, music serves to unite the congregation and elevate the soul, guiding all towards a deeper encounter with God. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* speaks to this reality (cf. nos. 1156-58). **To refuse to attempt to sing (all within reason) is insulting to God and to the rest of the assembly. It will always be encouraged as an important aspect of regular Sunday Eucharist.**

From Pope Francis to the Pew:

While Pope Francis was again unable to lead the **Sunday Angelus** due to his continuing bout with a severe case of bronchitis coupled with a microbial infection, he did offer well wishes to group of men ordained to the diaconate and urged them to carry out their ministry in the Church with words and deeds, bringing God’s love and mercy to everyone. I encouraged them that they must continue their apostolate with joy and – as Sunday’s Gospel suggested – to be a sign of a love that embraces everyone, that transforms evil into goodness and engenders a fraternal world. He implored all to never be afraid to risk love! He also asked the entire Church to pray for the victims of violence and the establishment of peace in all of the war torn areas of the world. Finally, he expressed his gratitude to all of the health care workers who are caring for him during his illness and to all those sent him well wishes and prayers acknowledging especially the letters and pictures sent by children. **WE MUST CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR THE HEALTH AND WELL BEING OF THE HOLY FATHER!!!**

In a prepared catechesis, Pope Francis reflected upon the beauty of “Jesus Christ, our hope,” in the mystery of His presentation at the Temple. In the narratives of Jesus’ infancy, the evangelist Luke shows us Mary and Joseph’s obedience to the Law of the Lord and to all its prescriptions. In reality, in Israel there was no obligation to present the child at the Temple, but those who lived listening to the Word of the Law and wished to conform to it, considered it a valuable practice. Luke therefore recounts Jesus’ first act of worship, celebrated in the holy city, Jerusalem, which will be the destination of His entire itinerant ministry from the moment. In the Temple, which is the Holy Spirit speaks to the heart of an elderly man: Simeon, a member of the holy people of God schooled in expectation and hope, who nurtures the desire for the fulfilment of God’s promises to Israel by through the prophets. Simeon perceives in the Temple the presence of the Lord’s Anointed One. Simeon embraces that child who, small and helpless, rests in his arms; but it is he, in fact, who finds consolation and the fullness of his existence by holding Him to himself. He expresses this in a canticle of gratitude, part of the Church’s prayer at the end of the day. Simeon sings the joy of those who have seen Him, who have recognized Him and are able to transmit to others the encounter with the Savior of Israel and of the peoples. He is a witness of faith received as a gift and communicated to others; he is a witness of the hope that does not disappoint; he is a witness of God’s love, which fills the heart of man with joy and peace. Filled with this spiritual consolation, the elderly Simeon sees death not as the end, but as fulfilment, fullness; he awaits it like a “sister” that does not annihilate but introduces to the true life that he has already foretasted and in which he believes. Simeon is not the only one to see salvation made flesh in the child Jesus. This also happens to Anna, a woman more than eighty years old, a widow, entirely devoted to service to the Temple and consecrated to prayer. Indeed,

upon seeing the child, Anne celebrates the God of Israel, who has redeemed His people in that very child, and tells others about Him, generously spreading the prophetic word. The song of redemption of two elders thus emits the proclamation of the Jubilee for all the people and for the world. Hope is rekindled in hearts in the Temple of Jerusalem because Christ our hope has entered it. Dear brothers and sisters, let us too imitate Simeon and Anna, these “pilgrims of hope” who have clear eyes capable of seeing beyond appearances, who are able to detect the presence of God in smallness, who know how to welcome God’s visit with joy and rekindle hope in the heart of brothers and sisters.

Last weekend, very few questionnaires were returned to the parish; therefore, the form has been included once again as part of the bulletin insert. I ask that you please return them with honest reflections that will be **helpful** for the parish. **The purpose of the questionnaire is to assist in reviving the life of our parish, not to tear it down.** While I TRULY appreciated many of the helpful insights regarding areas for growth for our parish, and there are several that I have taken to heart, I am deeply disappointed that at one lone response reflected very negatively on our parish with perceptions that were expressly angry, excessively judgmental and decidedly incorrect. While not only being slanderous, it suggested an existing pool of vitriolic and corrosive gossip lifeguarded by an individual whose cowardice was only upstaged by vincible ignorance. Without question, this response demonstrated a **complete lack of vision** for our parish, a community which I can assure everyone benefits from the generosity of faithful volunteers who recognize the life that does indeed exist within our parish. I feel that I need to reiterate that the goal of this survey is **to improve** the life of our parish (*within reasonable expectations*). I am always open to speak with **anyone** who has anything constructive to bring to the table and I invite anyone to make an appointment with me to discuss any matters that concern them greatly. It is always more helpful to bring issues to the person in authority rather than to banter them about in practice of calumniation. I must also emphasize, as I always have, **WE ARE ALL RESPONSIBLE FOR OUR FUTURE AS A PARISH FAMILY**. If we atrophy, we will not remain connected to Christ the Vine and grow as God intends us to. So once again, I ask for your cooperation if you have not yet completed the questionnaire. Please return them by way of the collection next weekend. Remember that honesty must be coupled with charity. Please note that once I have received a sufficient response, I will share them with the parish council and our discussion of your insights will assist me, your pastor, in our strategic planning for the future. Know that I appreciate greatly your participation in this matter as well as your informed participation in the pastoral, liturgical, and social life of our parish. -Fr. John

Walk away from people who always seem angry; the battle is not with you, it is within themselves. –Anonymous