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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)  
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1127 McKinley Avenue  
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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

**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.

**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.

5th Sunday of Lent  
April 6th, 2025

MASS SCHEDULE

**MONDAY - Lenten Weekday**  
12:05 PM - Victoria Kelly  
(Req. by Debbie Rolish)  
**\*Rescheduled from 3-31-25\***

**TUESDAY - Lenten Weekday**  
12:05 PM - John Slovikovski Sr.  
(Req. by Christine & Rebecca Bumbernick)  
**\*Rescheduled from 4-1-25\***

**WEDNESDAY - Lenten Weekday**  
5:30 PM - Vickie Schmidt  
(Req. by Sharon Orner)  
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament following Mass

**THURSDAY - Lenten Weekday**  
12:05 PM - Spiritual & Temporal Welfare  
of Carol Evenson  
(Req. by Cathy Fuska)

**FRIDAY - Lenten Weekday**  
12:05 PM - Dominic Lecci  
(Req. by Jeno Lecci)  
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament following Mass  
3:00 PM - Stations of the Cross

**SATURDAY - Vigil of 6th Sunday of Lent**  
4:00 PM - Pro Populo

5:30 PM - Sandra Morris  
(Req. by Helen Boyle)

**SUNDAY - 6th Sunday of Lent**  
9:00 AM - Francis John Beaujon  
(Req. by Family)

SANCTUARY CANDLE

Special Intention  
Req. by Rose and Bob Barger



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

Collection - March 30, 2025

Loose Money.....	\$288.00
Sunday Collection.....	\$2375.00
Easter Flowers.....	\$15.00
Ash Wednesday.....	\$8.00
Catholic Relief Services.....	\$52.00
Learning Lamp Rent - April.....	\$3800.00
Parking Lot Rent.....	\$210.00
Ordinary Donations.....	\$200.00
TOTAL:	\$6948.00

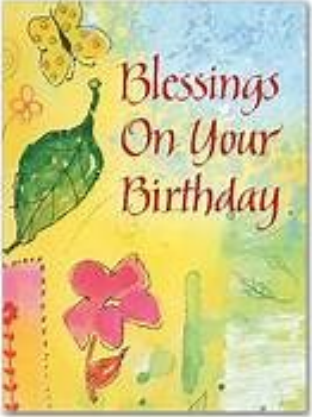
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Let us continue to pray for the members of our parish community who serve in the military, as well as for the sick, elderly and homebound members of our parish especially:

*Anonymous Petitioners, Pat Balagusz, John Bair, 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 Petroro, Anna Marie Pfeil, Maria Petro-Sanders, Mia Bella Rastall, Stacy Roberts, Sean Rovon, Stephen Sanders, Jennifer Schellhammer, Rose Sigg, Allegra Slick, Father John Slovikovski, Shirley Slovikovski, Ken Turner, Megan Var-mecky, Christi Vaorek, Carrie Young*

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**Please join us in remembering members of our parish family who celebrate their birthdays the week of April 7th to April 13th:**



Deborah Cowan

Joann Daly

Donna Rzasa


Walter Marano

John George


Sydney Podrebarac

**For the Good of the Vineyard and Our Particular Part**

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**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. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament also occurs following the 12:05 PM Mass until 1:30 PM. 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 for the rosary 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.**



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**Visitation Walk Through Basket Party Update** - As previously requested, we are in of already made baskets, new or never used items, gift cards , lottery tickets and spirits for our basket of cheer.

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**VISITATION PARISH PILGRIMAGE:** We are currently planning a jubilee year pilgrimage to The National Shrine of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton in Emmitsburg Maryland for Friday, May 16, 2025. The Pilgrimage will include luxury bus transportation to and from the Shrine, a tour of the basilica and the grounds, Mass and dinner. The cost of the trip is \$65 per person. If you are interested, please sign up in the main vestibule of the Church by April 15th. There are 17 seats left for this pilgrimage! We look forward to sharing the day with you.

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**Purses & Prizes: A Bingo Extravaganza with Birthright of Johnstown** - Join Birthright for a night of fun and a little luck at the Purses and Prizes Bingo Night. 15 rounds of the classic game, high end raffle prizes, new special games and a Plinko board. There are plenty of opportunities to win! It will be held on May 8th, 2025 at the Willow. Doors will open qat 4:30 PM and dinner will be at 6:00 PM. Games start at 6:30 PM and the ticket price is \$50.00. You can call Birthright at 814-535-8231 or go online at <https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/purses-and-prizes-a-bingo-extravaganza-with-birthright-of-johnstown> to purchase your tickets. Space is limited, so please call or go online to reserve your seat today!



**From Pope Francis to the Pew:**

In his **Sunday Angelus** message, Pope Francis reflected upon the Gospel where Jesus notices that the Pharisees are scandalized and murmur behind His back, instead of being happy because sinners come to Him. So Jesus tells them about a father who has two sons: one leaves home, but then, having been reduced to poverty, he returns and is welcomed with joy. The other, the ‘obedient’ son, is indignant at his father and does not want to enter the feast. This is how Jesus reveals the heart of God: He is always merciful towards all; he heals our wounds so that we can love each other as brothers. The pope also encourages us all to live this Lent as a time of healing, all the more as it is the Jubilee. He said that he too also experienced it this way, in my soul and in my body. That is why he gave heartfelt thanks to all those who, in the image of the Savior, are instruments of healing for their neighbor with their word and their knowledge, with kindness and with prayer. Frailty and illness are experiences we all have in common; all the more, however, we are brothers in the salvation Christ has given us. Francis also prayed for peace in martyred Ukraine, in Palestine, Israel, Lebanon, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Myanmar, which is also suffering so much because of the earthquake. He also encouraged thanks to God, there are also positive events: for example, the ratification of the Agreement on the demarcation of the border between Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan, which is an excellent diplomatic achievement.

As he continued to contemplate Jesus’ encounters with some figures from the Gospel, this week Pope Francis focused on Zacchaeus in his prepared **Wednesday Audience**. The Gospel of Luke presents Zacchaeus as one who seems irredeemably lost. Perhaps we too feel this way at times: without hope. Instead, Zacchaeus discovered that the Lord was already looking for him. In fact, Jesus came to Jericho, where He wants to go in search of those who feel they are lost. Today, the Risen Lord continues to seek the lost; in places of war, in the suffering of the innocent, in the heart of mothers who see their children die, in the hunger of the poor. Zacchaeus, in a certain sense, is lost; perhaps he has made the wrong decisions or perhaps his life has put him in situations from which he struggles to get out. Indeed, Luke insists on describing the characteristics of this man: not only is he a publican, a person who collects taxes from his fellow citizens for the Roman invaders, but he is the chief of publicans, no less, as if to say that his sin is multiplied. Luke then adds that Zacchaeus is rich, suggesting that he has grown rich on the back of others, abusing his position. But all this has consequences: Zacchaeus probably feels excluded, despised by everyone.

When he comes to know that Jesus is passing through the city, Zacchaeus feels the desire to see Him; it would be enough to watch him from a distance. However, our desires encounter obstacles and are not automatically fulfilled: Zacchaeus is short! It is our reality: we have limitations that we have to deal with. And then there are others, who sometimes do not help us: the crowd prevents Zacchaeus from seeing Jesus. Perhaps it is something of revenge on their part. But when you have a strong desire, you do not lose heart. You find a solution. However, you need to be courageous and unashamed; you need a little of the simplicity of children and not to worry about your own image. Zacchaeus, just like a child, climbs a tree. It should be a good vantage point, especially to watch without being seen, hiding behind the branches. But with the Lord, the unexpected always

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happens. Jesus, when He comes close, raises His eyes. Zacchaeus feels he has been discovered and probably expects a public rebuke. The people may have hoped for it, but they are disappointed: Jesus asks Zacchaeus to come down immediately, almost surprised to see him in the tree, and says to him, “Today I must stay at your house!” (Lk 19:5). God does not pass by without looking for those who are lost. Luke highlights the joy in Zacchaeus’ heart. It is the joy of one who feels that he has been seen, acknowledged, and above all forgiven. Jesus’ gaze is not one of reproach, but of mercy. It is that mercy we sometimes struggle to accept, especially when God forgives those who, in our opinion, do not deserve it. We grumble because we would like to impose limits on God’s love. In the scene at home, Zacchaeus, after listening to Jesus’ words of forgiveness, stands up, as if he were arising from a condition of death. And he gets up to make a commitment: to return four times what he has stolen. It is not a price to be paid, because God’s forgiveness is free, but rather the desire to imitate the One by whom he felt loved. Zacchaeus makes a commitment to which he was not bound, but he does so because he understands that this is his way of loving. And he does so by combining the Roman legislation regarding theft and the Rabbinic law on penance. Zacchaeus, then, is not only the man of desire; he is also one who knows how to take practical steps. His purpose is not generic or abstract but stems precisely from his history: he looked at his life and identified the point from which to begin his transformation.

Dear brothers and sisters, let us learn from Zacchaeus not to lose hope, even when we feel we have been cast aside or are incapable of change. Let us nurture our desire to see Jesus, and above all let us allow ourselves to be found by the mercy of God, who always comes in search of us, in whatever way we may be lost, in places of war, in the suffering of the innocent, in the heart of mothers who see their children die, in the hunger of the poor.

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**CATHOLIC MINISTRIES DRIVE**

Two weekends ago marked the beginning of the Annual *Catholic Ministries Drive* for the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown. You should have received materials in the mail during this past week. Your gift to the diocesan Church directly effects the work of spreading the gospel throughout our eight county region by supporting parish and family life, Campus ministries, the formation of seminarians, deacons, and priests, Catholic Charities, televised Sunday Mass and Proclaim) and many other diocesan sponsored ministries. Please consider a gift to support this work in our portion of the Lord’s vineyard. I have made my gift to the annual appeal as I always attempt to engage in responsible stewardship in our parish and in our diocese. May God bless you for your kindness.

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*May Mary, our guide on the Lenten journey, lead us to ever deeper knowledge of the dead and Risen Christ, help us in the spiritual combat against sin, and sustain us as we pray with conviction: Covert us to you, O God, our salvation. Amen. - Pope Benedict XVI*