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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

Rev. John J. Slovickovski, 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

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.

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.

The daily readings may be found at either USCCB.ORG or with the daily readings listed in the back of the missalette.

\$\$\$ INCOME \$\$\$
 Collection - April 6, 2025

Loose Money.....	\$210.00
Sunday Collection.....	\$3820.00
Easter Flowers.....	\$145.00
Ash Wednesday.....	\$5.00
Catholic Relief Services.....	\$50.00
Votive Candles.....	\$120.00
St. Peregrine.....	\$20.00
Sanctuary Candle.....	\$30.00
In Memory of Bernard Connelly.....	\$50.00

TOTAL: \$4450.00

 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, 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 Rován, Stephen Sanders, Jennifer Schellhammer, Rose Sigg, Allegra Slick, Father John Slovikovski, Shirley Slovikovski, Ken Turner, Megan Var-mecky, Christi Vavrek, Carrie Young

Please join us in remembering members of our parish family who celebrate their birthdays the week of April 14th to April 20th:



Melanie Mihelic Patrick Costlow
 Brody Nagle

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. 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.



JUBILEE YEAR 2025: LENTEN CORPORAL WORKS OF MERCY - As part of our Jubilee Year Works of Mercy, Visitation Parish is committed to working to assist those individuals who are in need in a tangible way. **Until Easter Sunday Morning**, we will be collecting items for the Emergency Shelter Services of the Women’s Help Center, Inc. of Cambria County. The services of this agency provide a safe haven for survivors fleeing violence in their homes and individuals experiencing a housing crisis. Emergency shelter services are temporary and free of charge. Beginning next weekend and every weekend until and including Palm Sunday, we will be collecting the following (new) items: Bath, Hand, and Face Towels, Pillows & Sheet Sets (Full and Queen), Cleaning Supplies, Laundry Supplies, Personal Hygiene Supplies (adult and children), Paper Products, Food Wrap and Food Storage Bags. We are confident in your generosity in this Jubilee Project that promotes hope for those in our community who are in need. Please give as your means allow. Items will be collected in the main vestibule of the Church. Thank you for reaching out to your neighbors in need.

April Showers Bring May Flowers! - Starting on Saturday, April 26th, we will begin selling coupons for hanging baskets and flats of flowers and vegetable plants from Stuver’s Riverside Nursery. Your support with this fundraiser is greatly appreciated. **Please note that these coupons will only be available for three weeks.**

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 call the rectory office ASAP!** There is only **1** seat left for this pilgrimage! We look forward to sharing the day with you.

From Pope Francis to the Pew:

In his **Sunday Angelus** message, Pope Francis reflected upon the Gospel of the fifth Sunday of Lent which presents the episode of the woman caught in adultery. While the scribes and the pharisees want to stone her, Jesus restores the lost beauty to this woman. She has fallen in the dust; Jesus passes his finger on this dust and writes a new story for her. It is the “finger of God”, who saves His children and frees them from evil. During my hospitalization, even now in his convalescence Pope Francis says that he feels the “finger of God” and experiences His caring touch. On the day of the Jubilee of the sick and the world of healthcare, he asked the Lord that this touch of His love may reach those who suffer and encourage those who care for them. He continues to pray for doctors, nurses and health workers, who are not always helped to work in adequate conditions and are sometimes even victims of aggression. Their mission is not easy and must be supported and respected. He hopes that the necessary resources will be invested in treatment and research, so that health systems are inclusive and attentive to the most fragile and the poorest. He thanked in particular the inmates of Rebibbia women’s prison for the note they have sent to him. I pray for them and for their families. On International Day of Sport for Development and Peace, he declared his hope that sport may be a sign of hope for so many people who need peace and social inclusion, and I thank the sporting associations that educate in fraternity in practical way. Continued to pray for peace: in tormented Ukraine and Gaza, in the former, the many civilian victims, including a lot of children; and in the latter, where people are reduced to living in unimaginable conditions, without shelter, without food, without clean water. He also asked for prayers for peace throughout the Middle East; in Sudan and South Sudan; in the Democratic Republic of the Congo; in Myanmar, hard hit by the earthquake; and in Haiti, where violence rages, and two religious sisters were killed a few days ago.

As he continued to contemplate Jesus’ encounters with some figures from the Gospel in his **Wednesday Audience**, he focuses upon an nameless “man” from the Gospel of Mark (10:17). He is a man who has observed the commandments ever since his youth who yet continues to search the meaning of his life. He has made a luxurious life for himself (i.e., he is wealthy), yet in this life he continues to search for happiness, which is eternal life. As Jesus makes His way through the street, this fellow runs up to Him, kneels before Him and asks: “Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” (v. 17). Notice the verbs: “what must I do to have eternal life”. Since observance of the Law did not give him the happiness and security of being saved, he turns to the Master Jesus. What is striking is that this man does not know the vocabulary of gratuitousness! Everything is a duty. Eternal life is for him an inheritance, something that is obtained by right, through meticulous observance of commitments. But in a life lived in this way, although certainly for good purpose, what space can love have? As always, Jesus goes beyond appearances. While on the one hand this man sets out before Jesus his fine resume, Jesus goes beyond and looks within. The verb that Mark uses is very significant: “looking at him” (v. 21). Precisely because Jesus looks within each one of us, He loves us as we truly are. Indeed, what will He have seen inside this person? What does Jesus see when He looks within every one of us and loves us, despite our distraction?

loved as we are. Looking at him, says the Gospel, He “loved him” (v. 21). Jesus loves this man before He even extended the invitation to follow Him. He loves him just as he is. Jesus’ love is gratuitous: exactly the opposite of the logic of merit that has beset this person. We are truly happy when we realize we are loved in this way, freely, by grace. And this also applies to the relationships between us: as long as we try to buy love or beg for affection, those relationships will never make us feel happy. The proposal Jesus makes to this man is to change his way of living and relating with God. Indeed, Jesus recognizes that inside him, as in all of us, something is lacking. It is the desire we carry in our heart to be loved. There is a wound that belongs to us as human beings, the wound through which love passes. To overcome this lack we do not need to “buy” recognition, affection, consideration: instead, we need to “sell off” everything that weighs us down, to make our hearts freer. There is no need to continue to take for ourselves, but rather to give to the poor, to provide, to share. Finally, Jesus invites this man not to stay alone. He invites him to follow Him, to be within a bond, to live a relationship. Indeed, only in this way will it be possible to emerge from his anonymity. We can hear our name only within a relationship, in which someone calls us. If we remain alone, we will never hear our name spoken, and will continue to be that “man”, anonymous. Perhaps today, precisely because we live in a culture of self-sufficiency and individualism, we find ourselves more unhappy because we no longer hear our name spoken by someone who loves us freely. This man does not accept Jesus’ invitation and stays alone, because the allure of autonomy of his life, supported by wealth, keeps him held back. His sadness is the sign that he has not managed to leave. At times, what we think are riches are instead only burdens that are holding us back. The hope is that this person, like each one of us, will sooner or later change and decide to set sail. The Pope ends entrusting to the Heart of Jesus all people who are sad and undecided, so that they may feel the loving gaze of the Lord, who is moved by looking tenderly within us.

Walk-Thru Spring Basket Party - Mom’s House will be holding a walk-through basket party on Saturday, May 3rd from 10 AM - 4 PM and Sunday, May 4th from 11 AM - 3 PM. Admission is \$5 for a slab of 25 and \$5 for additional slabs. For more information, please call (814) 535-4848.

SAVE THE DATE: The Visitation Annual Summer Picnic will be held on Sunday, June 22nd. There will be lots of food and fun (more details to follow). The entertainment will be provided by the Irish Band, FULL KILT (free of charge). Please continue consider making this afternoon and evening part of your summer festivities.

Fr. John will be away from April 21st - April 30th in Fatima, Portugal; various holy sites in Spain and to Lourdes, France as a chaplain with an pilgrimage group. Please pray for his health and conversion during this time away.