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Church of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

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



7th Sunday of Easter *June 1, 2025*

MASS SCHEDULE

MONDAY -	Easter Weekday No Mass—Priest Retreat
<u>TUESDAY</u> -	St. Charles Lwanga & Companions No Mass—Priest Retreat
<u>WEDNESDA</u>	Y - Easter Weekday No Mass—Priest Retreat
THURSDAY -	St. Boniface, Bishop and Martyr No Mass—Priest Retreat
	Easter Weekday Paul Schmidt (reg. by Mr. & Mrs. Theodore Tomera)
	 Vigil of 8th Sunday of Easter Helene Balagusz—1 yr anniversary remembrance (req. by family)
	8th Sunday of Easter Pro Populo

SANCTUARY CANDLE

In Memory of Helene Balaausz One Year Remembrance Rea. by Family

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

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

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 SATUR-DAY OF EVERY MONTH. Confession may ALWAYS

be arranged with Fr. John personally by calling the rectory office. Please avail yourselves to this lifegiving 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 EX-CEPTIONS.

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.

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 - May 25, 2025

Loose Money	\$478.00
Sunday Collection	
Ascension	\$130.00
Catholic Communications Campaign	\$10.00
St. Peregrine	\$20.00
In Memory of Anna Marie Pfeil	\$100.00

TOTAL: \$2883.00

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, Lori Nixon, Larry Oravetz, Anna Petro, Francis Petro, Jean Petroro, Maria Petro-Sanders, Mia Bella Rastall, Stacy Roberts, Sean Rovan, Stephen Sanders, Jennifer Schellhammer, Rose Sigg, Allegra Slick, Father John Slovikovski, Shirley Slovikovski, Ken Turner, Megan Varmecky, Christi Vavrek, Carrie Young

Please join us in remembering members of our parish family who celebrate their birthdays the week of June 2nd to June 8th:



May God give you the strength and wisdom to smoothly surmount all the challenges life brings you. Stay blessed and enjoy your day to the fullest.



Patricia McMonagle Michelle Leonard Vincent O'Donnell

Nancy Koontz Amy Schmidt James Werner

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

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 on Friday 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 PRACTICES WOULD MAKE AN EXCELLENT EASTER DEVOTION. A VISITATION TO THE RISEN LORD PRE-SENT IN THE BLESSED SACRAMENT COULD PROVIDE YOU WITH THE "TRUE" **GRATITUDE FOR THE GIFT OF ETERNAL LIFE WE HAVE** ALL RECEIVED.

The Liturgical Environment: Sometimes I believe that we fail to realize that highlighting the dignity of the space in which we worship can be almost as important as the worship that we offer. Simply put, being surrounded by beauty can motivate our attitude toward liturgical prayer. When I think about the upcoming season of Ordinary Time, which will last from Pentecost until the first Sunday of Advent at the beginning of November, I think about just how "bare" our Church interior will become. The spring flowers that filled the sanctuary will be retired and the only "natural" decoration will be the greenery that we now possess which consists of a few live plants. To be honest, our present collection of plants has become "old" and "tired." I have been here at Visitation for ten (10) years and we have never made a significant investment in new green plants of any kind. As a result, I am asking for you to help the parish to purchase some new plants by giving to a one time collection at the beginning of July. On the weekend of July 5/6 an envelope will be attached to the parish bulletin allowing you to make a donation toward some new greenery for our Church interior. Your donation is completely voluntary. I merely ask that you prayerfully consider a modest donation to assist us with this project, what ever your means allow. Thank you for even considering making this small gesture toward the beatification of our Church interior, knowing that " The use of living flowers and plants, rather than artificial greens, serves as a reminder of the gift of life God has given to the human community." Built from Living Stones, Art, Architecture, and Worship, USCCB, 2000.

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.

From Pontiff to Pew:

Pope Leo XIV addressed the following message to those gathered for the **Regina Caeli** this past Sunday:

In whatever the Lord calls us to do, in both our daily lives and our journey of faith, there are times when we feel inadequate. Yet this Sunday's Gospel (cf. Jn 14:23-29) tells us not to rely on our own abilities but on the mercy of the Lord who has chosen us, and to be certain that the Holy Spirit guides us and teaches us all things. On the eve of the Master's death, the Apostles, in their bewilderment and distress, wondered how they were to continue to bear witness to the kingdom of God. Jesus then spoke to them of the gift of the Holy Spirit. He made this wonderful promise: "Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them" (v. 23). In this way, Jesus freed the disciples from their anxiety, telling them: "Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid" (v. 27). For if we remain in his love, he comes to dwell in us and our life will become a temple of God. His love enlightens us, influences the way we think and act, spreads outwards to others and embraces every situation in our lives. This dwelling of God within us, brothers and sisters, is precisely the gift of the Holy Spirit, who takes us by the hand and enables us to experience God's presence and closeness amid our daily lives, for he makes us his home. It is wonderful to think that, when we consider our individual calling, the situations we encounter and the people entrusted to our care, our commitments and responsibilities, and our service in the Church, each of us can say with confidence: "Despite my weakness, the Lord is not ashamed of my humanity. Instead, he comes to dwell within me. He accompanies me with his Spirit; he enlightens me and makes me an instrument of his love for others, for society and for the world."

Dear friends, on the basis of that promise, let us walk in the joy born of faith, in order to become a holy temple of the Lord. Let us resolve to bring his love everywhere, never forgetting that each of our sisters and brothers is a dwelling place of God and that his presence is manifested above all in the little ones, in the poor and the suffering, who ask us to be thoughtful and compassionate Christians.

Pope Leo's Wednesday Audience continued his cat-echesis on the Jubilee theme of "Christ our Hope," explored Visitation Parish 1st Annual Ice the parable of the Good Samaritan. Through this story, Jesus Cream Crawl - Visitation Parish teaches us that eternal life is found through showing mercy. will have its first annual ice cream The parable that Jesus tells has, in fact, a road as its setting, crawl/social. This will be hapand it is a difficult and impervious road, like life. It is the road pening every Saturday or Sunday travelled by a man going down from Jerusalem, the city on the through August 2025 at 7:00 PM. Church mountain, to Jericho, the city below sea level. It is an image The next date and place will be on **Ice Cream** that already foreshadows what might happen: it happens that Sunday, June 8th at O'Shea's in Social the man is attacked, beaten, robbed and left half dead. It is the Geistown. All are welcome to experience that happens when situations, people, sometimes join. Please contact Kristyn Amendola at (814) 248-2942 even those we have trusted, take everything from us and leave for more information or to arrange transportation. us in the middle of the road. Just like the priest and the Levite who passed by on the other side, at times we fail to be true "We are all the more capable of proclaiming the Gospel the neighbors to those around us, caught up in our own interests more we allow ourselves to be conquered and transformed and the busyness of life. However, life is made up of encounby Him [Christ], allowing the power of the Spirit to purify ters, and in these encounters, we emerge for what we are. We us in our innermost being, making our words simple and find ourselves in front of others, faced with their fragility and sincere, our desires honest and pure, and our actions gen--Pope Leo XIV erous." weakness, and we can decide what to do: to take care of them



or pretend nothing is wrong. A priest and a Levite go down that same road. They are people who serve in the Temple of Jerusalem, who live in the sacred space. And yet, the practice of worship does not automatically lead to being compassionate. Indeed, before being a religious matter, compassion is a question of humanity! Before being believers, we are called to be human. We can imagine that, after staying a long time in Jerusalem, that priest and that Levite are in a hurry to return home. It is indeed haste, so present in our lives, that very often prevents us from feeling compassion. Those who think that their own journey must take precedence are not willing to stop for another. But here comes someone who is actually able to stop: he is a Samaritan, hence a person belonging to a despised people (cf. 2 Kings 17). In his case, the text does not specify the direction, but only says that he was travelling. Religiosity does not enter into this. This Samaritan simply stops because he is a man faced with another man in need of help. Compassion is expressed through practical gestures The Good Samaritan surprises us by his compassion, and his example of generosity challenges us to lay aside our selfishness. As noted above, we can also see ourselves in the man who fell into the hands of robbers, for we have all experienced the difficulties of life and the pain brought about by sin. In our frailty, we discover that Christ himself is the Good Samaritan who heals our wounds and restores our hope. Let us turn, then, to the Sacred Heart, model of true humanity, and ask him to make our heart ever more like his.

SAVE THE JUBILEE DATES:

June 29th: Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul Mass, St. Michael's Basilica, Loretto, PA

October 17th: Pilgrimage – Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception Washington, D.C.

(Please note that only a limited number of buses will be departing from the Johnstown area for this tour, so it is imperative that you sign up once the announcement is formally posted)

