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18th Sunday in Ordinary Time
August 3rd, 2025

MASS SCHEDULE

MONDAY - Saint John Vianney, Priest
NO MASS

TUESDAY - Weekday in Ordinary Time
NO MASS

WEDNESDAY - The Transfiguration of the Lord
NO MASS

THURSDAY - Weekday in Ordinary Time
NO MASS

FRIDAY - Saint Dominic, Priest
NO MASS

SATURDAY - Vigil of 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time
4:00 PM - Helene Balagusz - Birthday Remembrance
(Req. by Family)
5:30 PM - Juanita Canary
(VPM) (Req. by Shirley Machowski)
SUNDAY - 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time
9:00 AM - Pro Populo

SANCTUARY CANDLE
In Memory of Helene Balagusz -
Birthday Remembrance
Req. by Family

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

The rectory office will be closed on Thursday, August 7th
because our secretary, Catherine, will be having a procedure
and will be out for the day. The office will be open the next
day, Friday, August 8th at 9:00 AM.

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 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 - July 27, 2025

Loose Money.....	\$269.00
Sunday Collection.....	\$2325.00
Holy Father.....	\$3.00

TOTAL: \$2594.00

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 Rovon, Stephen Sanders, Jennifer Schellhammer, Rose Sigg, Allegra Slick, Father John Slovickowski, Shirley Slovickowski, 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 August 4th to August 10th:



Michelle Walters
Michael Butler
Kathleen McMonagle
Tammy Meyers

Angela Thompson
Mary Ellen Maestra
Alexandria Krise
Patrick Cascino

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


STEELER TICKET LOTTERY - Once again our Church has been blessed, through the generosity of a parishioner, to offer chances to a Steelers game: Steelers vs. the Cleveland Browns at 1:00 PM on Sunday October 12th, 2025 at Acrisure Stadium. Chances cost \$10 each and include seating for 4 persons at the game. Seats are located on the 40-yard line, ten rows up from the field. Package includes transportation to the game by way of the Steeler bus, and \$200 of mad money. The winners are determined by the PA Lottery 7:00 PM drawing of the Pick 3 on October 3rd. Those who have either the number below or the number above the winning number will receive \$100 each. Tickets can be purchased in the vestibule of the Church, beginning this weekend, before or after weekend Masses or by calling the rectory office. **We would also appreciate anyone who is willing to take tickets to sell.** Thank you for your support of this important fundraiser.



Young Adult Group (18-39): On August 8th there is a Rosary and Bonfire at Greenhouse Park at 6pm, and August 9th at 9am is our 2nd annual Hike at Laurel Highlands Trail Route 56 Trailhead. All young adults (18-39) and young families with their children are invited to join us for faith and fellowship! For more information contact Geoffrey Stumpo at (814) 659-7415 or geoffstumpo@gmail.com.

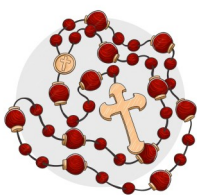

Ethnic Fest - Now that **July 4th** has passed, **Labor Day** weekend will be fast upon us and with it our participation in the **Annual Johnstown Ethnic Fest**. As you know, this is one of our major fundraisers throughout the year, and our success allows us to meet our annual budgetary needs. Although it is early, we are beginning to request some essential items for this activity; in particular we are in need of Jello and Spirits for our main source of income, our Jello shots. Our supply of spirits is **VERY LOW** and we are in desperate need of donations. While items such as vodka (both regular and flavored), rum and tequila are **ALWAYS A GREAT NEED FOR US**, other forms of spirits are always appreciated. More information will be provided in the coming weeks.

CONSIDER SOME EXTRA TIME WITH THE LORD
THIS WEEK. We pray the rosary every Saturday evening at



THIS WEEK. 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 HAVE THE POTENTIAL TO CHANGE YOUR LIFE !!** A VISITATION WITH OUR LORD PRESENT IN THE BLESSED SACRAMENT IS NEARLY A PERFECT FORM OF PRAYER AND CAN HELP YOU TO BELIEVE THAT WITH GOD ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE!!!



From Pontiff to Pew:

Once again, I felt that Pope Leo XIV's **Sunday Angelus** reflection upon last Sunday's Gospel was so meaningful, I am sharing it with you in its entirety:

Today's Gospel presents Jesus teaching his disciples the Our Father (cf. Lk 11:1-13). This is the prayer that unites all Christians, in which the Lord invites us to address God as "Abba," "Father," with childlike "simplicity, filial trust... boldness, the certainty of being loved" (Catechism of the Catholic Church, 2778).

The Catechism of the Catholic Church expresses this very well: “Thus the Lord’s Prayer reveals us to ourselves at the same time that it reveals the Father to us” (ibid., 2783). Indeed, how true this is, for the more we pray with confidence to our heavenly Father, the more we discover that we are beloved children and the more we come to know the greatness of his love (cf. Rom 8:14-17).

Today's Gospel goes on to describe the characteristics of God's fatherhood through vivid images: that of a man who gets up in the middle of the night to assist a friend in welcoming an unexpected visitor; and that of a parent who is concerned about giving good things to his children.

These images remind us that God never turns his back on us when we come to him, even if we arrive late to knock at his door, perhaps after mistakes, missed opportunities, failures, or even if, in order to welcome us, he has to “wake up” his children who are sleeping at home (cf. Lk 11:7). Indeed, in the great family of the Church, the Father does not hesitate to make us all participants in each of his loving gestures. The Lord always listens to us when we pray to him. If he sometimes responds in ways or at times that are difficult to understand, it is because he acts with wisdom and providence, which are beyond our understanding. Even in these moments, then, let us not cease to pray – and pray with confidence – for in him we will always find light and strength.

When we recite the Our Father, in addition to celebrating the grace of being children of God, we also express our commitment to responding to this gift by loving one another as brothers and sisters in Christ. Reflecting on this, one of the Fathers of the Church wrote: “We must remember... and know that when we call God ‘our Father’ we ought to behave as children of God” (Saint Cyprian of Carthage, *De Dom. orat.*, 11), and another adds: “You cannot call the God of all kindness your Father if you preserve a cruel and inhuman heart; for in this case you no longer have in you the mark of the heavenly Father’s kindness” (Saint John Chrysostom, *De orat. Dom.*, 3). We cannot pray to God as “Father” and then be harsh and insensitive towards others. Instead, it is important to let ourselves be transformed by his goodness, his patience, his mercy, so that his face may be reflected in ours as in a mirror.

Dear brothers and sisters, today's liturgy invites us, through prayer and charity, to feel loved and to love as God loves us: with openness, discretion, mutual concern, and without deceit. Let us ask Mary to help us respond to this call, so that we may manifest the sweetness of the Father's face.

Pope Leo's **Wednesday Audience** continued his catechesis on the Jubilee theme of "Christ our Hope," concluded with the public life of Jesus, marked by encounters, parables, and healings. Here is the Wednesday Audience in its entirety:

This time in which we live also needs healing. Our

world is marked by a climate of violence and hatred that demeans human dignity. We live in a society that is becoming ill due to a kind of "bulimia" of social media connections: we are hyperconnected, bombarded by images, sometimes false or distorted. We are overwhelmed by countless messages that stir within us a storm of contradictory emotions. In this scenario, it is possible that within us arises the desire to turn everything off. We may come to prefer not to feel anything anymore. Even our words risk being misunderstood, and we may be tempted to close ourselves in silence, into a lack of communication where, despite our closeness, we are no longer able to say to one another the most simple and profound things. In this regard, today I would like to reflect on a passage from the Gospel of Mark that presents us with a man who cannot speak or hear (cf. Mk 7:31-37). Just as it can sometimes happen to us, perhaps this man chose not to speak anymore because he did not feel understood; he chose to shut off every voice because he had been disappointed and wounded by what he had heard. In fact, it is not he who goes to Jesus to be healed, but others bring him. One may think that the people who take him to the Master are concerned about his isolation. The Christian community, however, has also seen in these people an image of the Church, which accompanies each person to Jesus so that they may listen to His word. The episode takes place in pagan territory, so we are in a context where other voices tend to drown out God's voice. Jesus' behavior may initially seem strange, because He takes this person aside (v. 33a). In this way, He seems to emphasize his isolation, but on closer look, it helps us to understand what lies behind the silence and closure of this man, as if Jesus had perceived his need for intimacy and closeness. Before anything else, Jesus offers him silent closeness, through gestures that speak of a profound encounter: He touches this man's ears and tongue (cf. v. 33b). Jesus does not use many words; He says only what is necessary in that moment: "Be opened!" (v. 34). Mark uses the word in Aramaic – Eph'phatha – as though to let us hear, almost "in person" its sound and breath. This simple and beautiful word contains the invitation that Jesus addresses to this man who had stopped listening and speaking. It is as if Jesus were saying to him: "Be opened to this world that frightens you! Be opened to the relationships that have disappointed you! Be opened to the life you have given up facing!" Closing in on oneself, in fact, is never a solution. After the encounter with Jesus, that person not only begins to speak again, but he does so "plainly" (v. 35). This adverb, inserted by the Evangelist, seems to suggest something deeper about the reasons for his silence. Perhaps this man had stopped speaking because he felt he was saying things the wrong way, perhaps he felt inadequate. All of us experience what it means to be misunderstood, to feel that we are not truly heard. All of us need to ask the Lord to heal our way of communicating, not only so that we may be more effective, but also so that we may avoid wounding others with our words. To begin speaking correctly again is the start of a journey, it is not yet the destination. In fact, Jesus forbids that man from talking about what has happened to him (cf. v. 36).