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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
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

18th Sunday in Ordinary Time
August 10th, 2025

MASS SCHEDULE

MONDAY - Saint Claire, Virgin
NO MASS

TUESDAY - Weekday in Ordinary Time
NO MASS

WEDNESDAY - Weekday in Ordinary Time
5:30 PM - Charlene Tarnowsky
Rescheduled from 7-25-25
(Req. by father John Bair)
Followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

THURSDAY - Vigil—Solemnity of the Assumption of
the BVM
5:30 PM - Joseph Latch III
Rescheduled from 7-28-25
(Req. by Jen0 Lecci)

FRIDAY - Solemnity of the Assumption of the BVM
12:05 PM - James Rovani
Rescheduled from 7-29-25
(Req. by Rick & Jeanne Skovensky)
Followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

SATURDAY - Vigil of 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time
4:00 PM - Sally Flaherty
(Req. by Fr. John)

SUNDAY - 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time
9:00 AM - Pro Populo

SANCTUARY CANDLE
Spiritual and Temporal Welfare of
Fr. John J. Slovikovski

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

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 - August 3, 2025

Loose Money.....	\$375.00
Sunday Collection.....	\$3016.00
One Time Greenery.....	\$30.00
Learning Lamp Rent - August.....	\$3800.00
Parking Lot Rent.....	\$275.00

TOTAL: \$7496.00

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 Rován, 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 August 11th to August 17th:



Erin Schiffhauer
 Keegan Leis
 Mary Reynolds
 Bradley Rastall

Leona Cowan
 Savannah Marano
 Mary Werzyn
 Deborah Walter

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

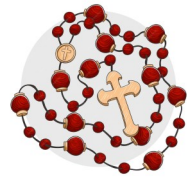
CONSIDER SOME EXTRA TIME WITH THE LORD THIS WEEK. We pray the rosary every Saturday evening at approximately 3:30 PM prior to Mass as well as every Tuesday at 6:00 PM. On Wednesdays, Mass is celebrated at 5:30 PM followed by adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 6:30 PM. Adoration of

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!!!

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 continue to be available for purchase in the main 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. This has the opportunity for being the easiest fundraiser of the calendar year – PLEASE CONSIDER HELPING US TO RAISE MUCH NEEDED FUNDS BY PURCHASING AND/OR SELLING A TICKET OR TWO!!

Final Greenery total: Thanks to the generosity of parishioners we have collected a total of \$1690.00 toward new greenery for the enhancement of our Church interior. We will be purchasing new plants later this month.

ETHNIC FEST - Labor Day weekend is only three weeks away 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. We continue to be in desperate need of volunteers to help with our booth (sign-up sheets are in the main vestibule of the Church) and to assist with making Jello shots on Wednesday, August 20 @ 10:00AM. We also continue to be in great need of various kinds of Jello and Spirits (a list may be found on today’s bulletin insert). Finally, we will have our third annual scheduled second collection next weekend (Aug. 16/17) to help defray some of the cost associated with the event. Thank you for your willingness to participate in this important fundraiser in any way.



From Pontiff to Pew:

Although, I had just returned from the hospital on Sunday, I did take the opportunity to read the homily given by Pope Francis during his Mass for Young People in honor of the Jubilee Year 2025. I found it to be so powerful, I have decided to share it with you in exchange for the normal Angelus greetings:

After last night’s Prayer Vigil, we gather again today to celebrate the Eucharist, the Sacrament of the Lord’s total gift of himself to us. We can imagine ourselves today retracing the journey made on Easter evening by the disciples on the road to Emmaus (cf. Lk 24:13-35): they set out from Jerusalem frightened and disappointed, convinced that, after Jesus’ death, there was nothing more to expect, nothing in which to place their hope. But they later found him along the way, welcomed him as a travelling companion, listened to him as he explained the Scriptures, and then recognized him in the breaking of the bread. Their eyes were opened, and the joyful news of Easter found a place in their hearts. Today’s liturgy does not mention this episode directly, but it does invite us to reflect on what it recounts: the encounter with the risen Christ who transforms our lives and enlightens our affections, desires and thoughts.

The first reading, taken from the Book of Ecclesiastes, invites us, like the two disciples, to come to terms with the experience of our limitations and the fleeting nature of all things that pass away (cf. Eccl 1:2; 2:21-23). On a similar note, the Responsorial Psalm presents us with the image of “the grass that is renewed... in the morning it flourishes and is renewed; in the evening it fades and withers” (Ps 90:5-6). These are two strong reminders which may be a bit shocking, but which should not frighten us as if they were “taboo” issues to be avoided. The fragility they speak of is, in fact, part of the marvel of creation. Think of the image of grass: is not a field of flowers beautiful? Of course, it is delicate, made up of small, vulnerable stems, prone to drying out, to being bent and broken. Yet at the same time these flowers are immediately replaced by others that sprout up after them, generously nourished and fertilized by the first ones as they decay on the ground. This is how the field survives: through constant regeneration. Even during the cold months of winter, when everything seems silent, its energy stirs beneath the ground, preparing to blossom into a thousand colors when spring comes. We too, dear friends, are made this way, we are made for this. We are not made for a life where everything is taken for granted and static, but for an existence that is constantly renewed through gift of self in love. This is why we continually aspire to something “more” that no created reality can give us; we feel a deep and burning thirst that no drink in this world can satisfy. Knowing this, let us not deceive our hearts by trying to satisfy them with cheap imitations! Let us rather listen to them! Let us turn this thirst into a step stool, like children who stand on tiptoe, in order to peer through the window of encounter with God. We will then find ourselves before him, who is waiting for us, knocking gently on the window of our soul (cf. Rev 3:20). It is truly beautiful, especially at a young age, to open wide your hearts, to allow him to enter, and to set out on this adventure with him towards eternity. Saint Augustine, reflecting on his intense search for God, asked himself: “What, then, is the object of our hope [...]? Is it the earth? No. Is it something that comes from the earth, such as gold, silver, trees, crops, or water [...]? These things are pleasing, these things are beautiful, these things are good” (Sermo 313/F, 3). And the conclusion he reached was: “Seek the one who made them, he is your hope” (ibid.).

Thinking of his own journey, he prayed, saying: “You [Lord] were within me, but I was outside, and it was there that I searched for you [...] You called, you shouted, and you broke through my deafness. You flashed, you shone and you dispelled my blindness. You breathed your fragrance on me; I drew in breath and now I pant for you. I have tasted you (cf. Ps 34:8; 1 Pt 2:3) now I hunger and thirst for more (cf. Mt 5:6; 1 Cor 4:11); you touched me, and I burned for your peace” (Confessions, 10, 27). Sisters and brothers, these are beautiful words and they remind us of what Pope Francis said to young people like you in Lisbon during World Youth Day: “we find ourselves facing great questions that have no simple or immediate answers, but challenge us to continue the journey, to rise above ourselves and to press beyond the here and now. [...] We are called to something higher, and we will never be able to soar unless we first take flight. We should not be alarmed, then, if we sense an inner thirst, a restless, unfulfilled longing for meaning and a future [...] We should not be lethargic, but alive!” (Address to University Students, 3 August 2023).

There is a burning question in our hearts, a need for truth that we cannot ignore, which leads us to ask ourselves: what is true happiness? What is the true meaning of life? What can free us from being trapped in meaninglessness, boredom and mediocrity? In recent days, you have had many beautiful experiences. You have met other young people from different parts of the world and from diverse cultures. You have exchanged knowledge, shared expectations and entered into dialogue with the city through art, music, technology and sport. At the Circus Maximus, you also approached the Sacrament of Penance and received God’s forgiveness, asking for his help to live a good life. Through all this, you can grasp an important point: the fullness of our existence does not depend on what we store up or, as we heard in the Gospel, on what we possess (cf. Lk 12:13-21). Rather, fullness has to do with what we joyfully welcome and share (cf. Mt 10:8-10; Jn 6:1-13). Buying, hoarding and consuming are not enough. We need to lift our eyes, to look upwards, to the “things that are above” (Col 3:2), to realize that everything in the world has meaning only insofar as it serves to unite us to God and to our brothers and sisters in charity, helping us to grow in “compassion, kindness, humility, meekness and patience” (Col 3:12), forgiveness (cf. ibid., v. 13) and peace (cf. Jn 14:27), all in imitation of Christ (cf. Phil 2:5). And in this way we will grow in an ever deeper understanding of what it means that hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us (cf. Rom 5:5). Dear young people, Jesus is our hope. It is he, as Saint John Paul II said, “who stirs in you the desire to do something great with your lives [...] to commit... to improving yourselves and society, making the world more human and more fraternal.” (XV World Youth Day, Prayer Vigil, 19 August 2000). Let us remain united to him, let us remain in his friendship, always, cultivating it through prayer, adoration, Eucharistic Communion, frequent Confession, and generous charity, following the examples of Blessed Piergiorgio Frassati and Blessed Carlo Acutis who will soon be declared saints. Aspire to great things, to holiness, wherever you are. Do not settle for less. You will then see the light of the Gospel growing every day, in you and around you.