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VISITATION PARISH MEMBERSHIP FORM

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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

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.

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time
August 24th, 2025

MASS SCHEDULE

MONDAY - Weekday in Ordinary Time
12:05 PM - Vicki Huston
(Req. by husband Mike)

TUESDAY - Weekday in Ordinary Time
12:05 PM - Vickie Schmidt
(Req. by Helen Boyle)
Rescheduled from 7-30-25

WEDNESDAY - Saint Monica
5:30 PM - Anna Marie Pfeil
(Req. by Barb Harshberger)
Followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

THURSDAY - Saint Augustine
12:05 PM - John Slovikovski Sr.
(Req. by Ray & Sue Lombardi)
Rescheduled from 8-1-25

FRIDAY - The Passion of Saint John the Baptist
12:05 PM - Jack Bulisok
(Req. by Nicolett Stofko)
Followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

SATURDAY - Vigil of 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
4:00 PM - Pro Populo

SUNDAY - 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
9:00 AM - Dr. John DiFazio, PhD
(Req. by Ron Cleaver)

SANCTUARY CANDLE
In Memory of Sandor Yuhás
Req. by sister, Alexis Kozak

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

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

Collection - August 17, 2025

Loose Money.....	\$556.00
Sunday Collection.....	\$2340.00
Assumption.....	\$854.00

TOTAL: \$3750.00

Second Collection - Ethnic Fest \$1078.00

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 Leftie*, *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 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 25th to August 31st:



Madison Podrebarac

Jeno Lecci

Charlotte Cooney

Tiffany Leis

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

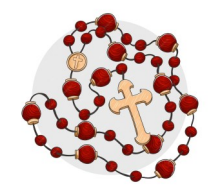
SERIOUSLY CONSIDER SOME EXTRA TIME WITH THE LORD THIS WEEK. We pray the rosary every Saturday evening at approximately 3:30 PM prior to Mass as well as every Tuesday at 6:00 PM. On Wednesdays, Mass is celebrated at 5:30 PM followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 6:30 PM. Adoration of the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

IMPORTANT REMINDER - PARISH FINANCE COUNCIL MEETING: There will be a meeting of the Parish Finance Council on Monday August 25th at 6:00 PM in the Elizabethan Suite. All members should make every effort to attend.

FOOD PANTRY COLLECTION: We will be collecting non-perishable food items for the Saint Vincent de Paul Food Pantry over the next two weeks. The continuing rising costs of groceries are leaving more persons in our parish and in our community who struggle financially in need of basic food items to feed their families. If you are able, if it be only a can of soup or vegetables or a box of instant potatoes or rice, please consider donating a food item. In doing so, we fulfill the Master's call to feed the hungry. Donations may be left in the main vestibule of the Church.



From Pontiff to Pew:

In his unique style, once again I am providing you with Pope Leo’s Sunday Angelus message verbatim:

Today’s Gospel presents us with a demanding text (cf. Lk 12:49-53), in which Jesus uses strong images and great frankness to teach his disciples that his mission, and even that of his followers, is not a “bed of roses”, but a “sign of contradiction” (cf. Lk 2:34). In this way, the Lord anticipates what he will have to face in Jerusalem when he will be opposed, arrested, insulted, beaten, crucified; when his message of love and justice will be rejected; when the leaders of the people will react with viciousness at his preaching. Moreover, many of the communities to which the evangelist Luke was writing were also experiencing the same thing. As the Acts of the Apostles tells us, they were peaceful communities that, despite their own limitations, sought to live the best they could the Master’s message of love (cf. Acts 4:32-33). Yet they were suffering persecutions. All of this reminds us that being or doing good does not always receive a positive response. On the contrary, because its beauty at times annoys those who do not welcome it, one can end up encountering harsh opposition, even insolence and oppression. Acting in truth has its cost, because there are those in the world who choose lies, and the devil, who takes advantage of the situation, often seeks to block the actions of good people. Jesus, however, invites us with his help not to give in and conform ourselves to this mentality, but to continue to act for our good and the good of all, even those who make us suffer. He invites us not to respond to insolence with vengeance, but to remain faithful to the truth in love. The martyrs witnessed to this by shedding their blood for their faith. We, too, can imitate their example even in different circumstances and ways.

Let us think, for example, of the price that good parents must pay if they want to educate their children according to sound principles. Eventually they will have to say “no” and correct their children; this will cause them pain. The same is true for a teacher who desires to form students properly, or for a professional, religious, or politician, who desires to carry out their mission honestly. It is true for anyone who strives to exercise his or her responsibilities consistently according to the teachings of the Gospel. In this regard, Saint Ignatius of Antioch, while travelling toward Rome to undergo martyrdom, wrote to the Christians of that city: “I do not want you to please men, but to please God” (Letter to the Romans 2:1). He added, “It is better for me to die in Jesus Christ than reign over the ends of the earth” (ibid., 6:1).

Pope Leo, during his **Wednesday Audience**, in his catechesis on the Jubilee theme of “Christ our Hope,” continued to reflect on Jesus’ passion, death and resurrection by considering his forgiving love. Despite his betrayal, Jesus loves his disciples until the end: he washes their feet, and even offers a morsel of bread to his betrayer in one last attempt to demonstrate that love. This morsel, in fact, signifies that God does everything possible to reach us in order to offer his love and forgiveness.

How many relationships are broken, how many stories become complicated, how many unspoken words remain suspended. And yet the Gospel shows us that there is always a way to continue to love, even when everything seems irredeemably compromised. To forgive does not mean to deny evil, but to prevent it from generating further evil. It is not to say that nothing

has happened, but to do everything possible to ensure that resentment does not determine the future. While never denying that evil exists or acting as if bad things do not happen in this world, the example of Jesus shows us that true forgiveness does not wait for contrition but is offered first as a gift.

We too experience painful and difficult nights. Nights of the soul, nights of disappointment, nights in which someone has hurt or betrayed us. In those moments, the temptation is to close ourselves up, to protect ourselves, to return the blow. But the Lord shows us the hope that that another way exists, always exists. He teaches us that one can offer a morsel even to someone who turns their back on us. That one can respond with the silence of trust. And that we can move forward with dignity, without renouncing love.

When we experience wounds and betrayal, let us ask for the grace to offer true forgiveness, even when we feel misunderstood and abandoned, or even when it seems to be in vain. In this way, may we know the freedom and peace that comes from a loving and forgiving heart.

Hagiography: Hagiography is formally the study of the writings of the lives of the saints. Two **powerhouse** saints in our Catholic tradition are being celebrated, this week Saint Monica and Saint Augustine, Wednesday and Thursday, respectively. I would suggest that if you have the opportunity - **and I mean if you really have the opportunity (you have nothing other pressing on your schedule, if you are retired , or if you are free during your lunch hour)—please come and consider joining us for Mass one or both of those days.** Let me intrigue you with a few short notes about each of these saints.

Saint Monica: St. Monica was born in Thagaste, a Roman town in what is now modern-day Algeria, in Africa. She was raised in a Christian family, but her husband Patricius, was a pagan and had a violent temper. Despite this, Monica persisted in her faith, and she raised her children to be Christians. One of her children was Augustine, who would later become one of the most renowned theologians in Christianity. Monica’s relationship with Augustine was difficult at times, as he was a rebellious youth who lived a hedonistic lifestyle. Despite this, Monica never gave up on him and prayed tirelessly for his conversion. Monica’s persistence and prayers were finally answered when Augustine converted to Christianity. This conversion was a significant moment for Augustine and for the Church. Augustine would become one of the most notable bishops of the early Christian Church and one of the greatest theologians of all time. Monica died in Ostia, Italy, in 387 AD. Her death was a great loss for Augustine, who wrote about his mother in his Confessions, one of the most famous Christian texts. Her last words to Augustine were, “Lay this body anywhere, let not care for it trouble you; this only I ask you, that you remember me at the altar of the Lord, wherever you be.” Monica is the patroness of mothers, wives, troubled parents, and patience. I wonder if there is not any one of us that could not benefit from her

(To be continued — see insert)