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## Church of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Rectory Phone: 536-6110

E-Mail: visitationitown@dioceseaj.org Website: www.visitationbymchurch.com

Fax: 536-3709

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time August 31st, 2025

### **MASS SCHEDULE**

MONDAY - Weekday in Ordinary Time (Labor Day)

9:00 AM - Paul Schmidt

(Rea. by Mr. & Mrs. Theodore Tomera)

TUESDAY -**Weekday in Ordinary Time** 

12:05 PM -Victoria Kelly

(Req. by Pat Balagusz)

#### WEDNESDAY - Saint Gregory the Great, Pope and **Doctor of the Church**

5:30 PM -**Mary Ellen Leonard** 

(Reg. by Marianne Meyer)

Followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

THURSDAY - Weekday in Ordinary Time 12:05 PM -Francis John Beaujon (Reg. by Family)

**Weekday in Ordinary Time** FRIDAY -

12:05 PM -Msgr. Peter Tay (Reg. by Jeno Lecci)

Followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

**SATURDAY** - Vigil of 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:00 PM -Norma & Thomas Fabina (Reg. by Kathy Babik)

5:30 PM -**Juanita Canary** 

(VPM) (Reg. by Shirley Machowski)

SUNDAY -23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:00 AM -**Pro Populo** 

#### **SANCTUARY CANDLE**

Fr. John – Personal Intention

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 sugaested.

**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. Prebaptismal 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 Faster 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 24, 2025

Loose Money	\$402.00
Sunday Collection	
Assumption	\$5.00
Votive Candles	\$110.00
St. Peregrine	\$75.00
Sanctuary Candle	\$10.00
Petro Funeral	\$75.00
Parking Lot Rent	\$345.00
Donation - In Memory of Anna Marie Pfeil.	\$200.00
Donation - David Madigan Trust	\$1380.00

TOTAL: \$5302.00

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:

\*

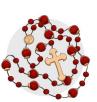
Anonymous Petitioners, Pat Balagusz, John Bair, Ralph Blair, David Clark, Ronald Cleaver, Dolores Danner, Francis Dietz, Dorothy Fisher, Barbara Fox, Paul Harnish, Catherine Heinlein, Mary Carol Hill and children, Donna Johnson, Gianna Kniss, Karen Kohan, Betsy Konar, Marylee Konicky, Madeleine Krueger, 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

<u>Please join us in remembering members of our</u> parish family who celebrate their birthdays the week of September 1st to September 7th:



Marianne Meyer Isabella Marano
Oliver George

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!!

FOOD PANTRY COLLECTION: We will be collecting non-perishable food items for the Saint Vincent de Paul Food Pantry over the next two weeks (through September 7th) 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.

In times of distress and despair, we must remember **Psalm 34:18** "The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit."

#### From Pontiff to Pew:

In his unique style, once again I am providing you with Pope Leo's **Sunday Angelius** message verbatim:

At the heart of today's Gospel {8/24} (Lk 13:22-30), we find the image of the "narrow gate," which Jesus uses in his answer to someone who asks him if only a few will be saved. Jesus says, "Strive to enter through the narrow gate, for many, I tell you, will try to enter and will not be able" (v 24). At first glance, this image can make us think: if God is the Father of love and mercy, who always stands with open arms to welcome us, why does Jesus say that the gate of salvation is narrow?

Certainly, the Lord does not want to discourage us. Rather, his words are meant primarily to challenge the presumption of those people who think they are already saved, who perform religious acts and feel that is all that is needed. They have not realized that it is not enough to perform religious acts unless they change hearts. The Lord does not want worship detached from life. He is not pleased with sacrifices and prayers, unless they lead to greater love for others and justice for our brothers and sisters. For this reason, when such people come before the Lord boasting that they ate and drank with him and heard him teaching in their streets, they will hear him reply: "I do not know where you come from; go away from me, all you evildoers!" (v 28).

Brothers and sisters, the challenge presented to us in today's Gospel is worth considering. While we may sometimes be judgmental towards those distant from the faith, Jesus calls into question "the security of believers." He tells us that it is not enough to profess the faith with words, to eat and drink with him by celebrating the Eucharist or to have a good knowledge of Christian doctrine. Our faith is authentic when it embraces our whole life, when it becomes a criterion for our decisions, when it makes us women and men committed to doing what is right and who take risks out of love, even as Jesus did. He did not choose the easy path of success or power; instead, in order to save us, he loved us to the point of walking through the "narrow gate" of the Cross. Jesus is the true measure of our faith; he is the gate through which we must pass in order to be saved (cf. Jn 10:9) by experiencing his love and by working, in our daily lives, to promote justice and peace. There are times when this involves making difficult and unpopular decisions, resisting our selfish inclinations, placing ourselves at the service of others, and persevering in doing what is right when the logic of evil seems to prevail, and so on. Once we cross that threshold, however, we will discover that life flourishes anew. From that moment on, we will enter into the immense heart of God and the joy of the eternal banquet that he has prepared for us.

This week, the full text of Pope Leo XIV's Wednesday Audience was not published. The following is the official summary released by the Vatican.

In his continuing catechesis on the Jubilee theme of "Christ our Hope," today Pope Leo considered the freedom and determination shown by Jesus at the moment of his arrest in the Garden of Olives. Our Lord approaches his coming passion freely and consciously, in obedience to the will of the Father and as an act of redemptive love. In this way, he reveals the

essence of true hope, the firm conviction that even in the midst of violence, injustice and suffering, God's love is ever present as a source of spiritual fruitfulness and the promise of eternal life. The way that Jesus exercised his freedom in the face of death teaches us not to fear suffering, but to persevere in confident trust in God's providential care. May our lives always be marked by this hope, born of the knowledge that if we surrender to God's will and freely give our lives in love for others, the Father's grace will sustain us in every trial and enable us to bear abundant fruit for the salvation of our brothers and sisters.

\*

### THE SEASON OF CREATION

The Season of Creation is an ecumenical initiative, sponsored by the Unites States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) celebrated every year from September 1 to October 4, beginning with the World Day of Prayer for the Care for Creation. The church invites us to explore how you can get involved during the Season of Creation.

The first thing is to be aware of and reflect upon Pope Leo XIV's Message for the 10th World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation 2025 (below). THIS IS IMPORTANT READING FOR EVERYONE.

#### Seeds of Peace and Hope

Dear Brothers and Sisters!

The theme of this World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, chosen by our beloved Pope Francis, is "Seeds of Peace and Hope". On the tenth anniversary of the establishment of this Day of Prayer, which coincided with the publication of the Encyclical Laudato Si', we find ourselves celebrating the present Jubilee as "Pilgrims of Hope." This year's theme thus appears most timely.

In proclaiming the Kingdom of God, Jesus often used the image of the seed. As the time of his Passion drew near, he applied that image to himself, comparing himself to the grain of wheat that must die in order to bear fruit (cf. Jn 12:24). Seeds are buried in the earth, and there, to our wonder, life springs up, even in the most unexpected places, pointing to the promise of new beginnings. We can think, for example, of flowers springing up on our roadsides from seeds that landed up there almost by chance. As those flowers grow, they brighten the gray tarmac and even manage to break through its hard surface.

In Christ, we too are seeds, and indeed, "seeds of peace and hope." The prophet Isaiah tells us that the Spirit of God can make an arid and parched desert into a garden, a place of rest and serenity. In his words, "a spirit from on high will be poured out on us, and the wilderness will become a fruitful field, and the fruitful field a forest. Then justice will dwell in the wilderness, and righteousness abide in the fruitful field. The work of righteousness will be peace, and the work of righteousness, quietness

(continued in the bulletin Insert)