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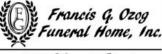
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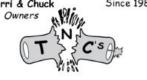
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## Church of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

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

Fax: 536-3709

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time September 21st, 2025

#### **MASS SCHEDULE**

**MONDAY** - Weekday in Ordinary Time NO MASS

TUESDAY -**Weekday in Ordinary Time** 

12:05 PM -**Betty Petro** 

(Reg. by Karen & Reggie Kohan)

**WEDNESDAY - Weekday in Ordinary Time** 5:30 PM -Elizabeth Worthington

(Rea. by Roy Family)

Followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

THURSDAY - Weekday in Ordinary Time 12:05 PM -100th Birthday Celebration of Francis Dietz

(Req. by Family)

FRIDAY -**Weekday in Ordinary Time** 

James Rovan 12:05 PM -

(Rea. by Chuck & Pat Sura)

SATURDAY - Saint Vincet de Paul. Priest 4:00 PM -**Pro Populo** 

5:30 PM -**Anna Marie Pfeil** 

(VPM) (Reg. by Kim & John George)

**SUNDAY -**25th Sunday in Ordinary Time 9:00 AM -Rob Kasisky Jr.

(Reg. by Fr. John)

#### **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 - September 14, 2025

Loose Money	\$248.00
Sunday Collection	
Assumption	\$3.00
Catholic University	\$9.00
Sanctuary Candle	\$10.00
Apartment Rent - Sept	\$625.00

TOTAL: \$2905.00

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 September 22nd to September 28th:



Nada Prohaska

Debbie Magro Francis Dietz Courtney Podrebarac **Edward Torchia** Betty Ann Witkosky

Diane Griffin Francis Petro James Pupo Dave Magro Hannah Oberhaus

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 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!!

Turkey Raffle 2025 - There will be a Turkey Raffle meeting on September 23rd at 6:30 PM in the school cafeteria. Anyone who is interested in helping out with planning or volunteering are more than welcome to attend. The annual Turkey Raffle will be held on Saturday, November 15th and more details will come in future bulletins.

\*

\*

### **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 litary of St. Joseph since Wednesday is dedicated to him as the patron of the Universal Church. Remem-

ber 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!!! \*

A REMINDER TO ALL GOING ON THE JUBILEE PILGRIM-AGE TRIP THAT PAYMENT IS DUE BY SEPTEMBER 22ND!

Please call the rectory with any questions.

#### From Pontiff to Pew:

The following is a summary of the Pope's Angelus reflection for Sunday, September, 17th, the Feast of the Exultation of the Holy Cross, which commemorates the discovery of the Cross by Saint Helen in Jerusalem in the fourth century, and the return of the precious relic to the Holy City by the Emperor Heraclius. The Gospel reading that the liturgy places before us (cf. Jn 3:13-17) helps us to understand it. The scene unfolds at night: Nicodemus, one of the leaders of the Jews, a righteous and openminded person (cf. Jn 7:50-51), comes to meet Jesus. He needs light and guidance: he seeks God and asks the Teacher of Nazareth for help because he recognizes him as a prophet, a man who performs extraordinary signs. The Lord welcomes him, listens to him, and eventually reveals to him that the Son of Man must be lifted up, "so that whoever believes in him may have eternal life" (Jn 3:15), adding: "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life" (v. 16). Nicodemus, who perhaps does not fully comprehend the meaning of these words in the moment, will certainly do so when he helps to bury the Savior's body after the crucifixion (cf. Jn 19:39). It is then that he will understand that God, in order to redeem humanity, became man and died on the cross. Jesus speaks of this to Nicodemus, recalling an episode in the Old Testament, when the Israelites were bitten by venomous snakes in the desert and were healed by looking upon the bronze serpent that Moses had fashioned and mounted on a pole in obedience to God's command (cf. Num 21:4 -9).

The pope notes that God saves us by showing himself to us, offering himself as our companion, teacher, doctor, friend, to the point of becoming bread broken for us in the Eucharist. In order to accomplish this task, he used one of the cruelest instruments that human beings have ever invented: the cross. That is why today we celebrate the "exultation": for the immense love with which God has transformed the means to death into an instrument of life, embracing it for our salvation, teaching us that nothing can separate us from him (cf. Rom 8:35-39) and that his love is greater than our own sin (cf. Francis, Catechesis, 30 March 2016). It is important to note the Pope's emphasis, as I have always maintained, is on LOVE more so than suffering, Pope Leo's final prayer is that through the intercession of Mary, the Mother who was present at Calvary near her Son, that the saving love of her Son may take root in us and grow, and that we too may know how to give ourselves to each other, as he gave himself completely to all.

In our journey of catechesis on Jesus our hope, today we will contemplate the mystery of Holy Saturday. The Son of God lies in the tomb. But this "absence" of his is not emptiness: it is expectation, a restrained fullness, a promise kept in the dark. It is the day of the great silence, in which the sky seems mute and the earth immobile, but it is precisely there that the deepest mystery of the Christian faith is fulfilled. It is a silence laden with meaning, like the womb of a mother who carries her unborn but already living child.

The body of Jesus, taken down from the cross, is carefully wrapped, as one does with something precious. John the Evangelist tells us that he was buried in a garden, inside "a new tomb where no one had ever been laid" (Jn 19:41). Nothing is left to chance. That garden recalls the lost Eden, the place where God and man were united. And that tomb, never used, speaks of something that has still to happen: it is a threshold, not an end.

At the beginning of creation, God planted a garden; now the new creation also begins in a garden: with a closed tomb that will soon be opened.

Holy Saturday is also a day of rest. According to the Jewish Law, no work is to be done on the seventh day: indeed, after the six days of creation, God rests (cf. Gen 2:2). Now, the Son too, after completing his work of salvation, rests. Not because he is tired, but because he loved up to the very end. There is nothing left to add. This rest is the seal on the completed task; it is the confirmation that what should have been done has truly been accomplished. It is a repose filled with the hidden presence of the Lord.

We struggle to stop and rest. We live as if life were never enough. We rush to produce, to prove ourselves, to keep up. But the Gospel teaches us that knowing how to stop is an act of trust that we must learn to perform. Holy Saturday invites us to discover that life does not always depend on what we do, but also on how we know how to take leave of what we have been able to do.

In the tomb, Jesus, the living Word of the Father, is silent. But it is precisely in that silence that the new life begins to ferment. Like a seed in the ground, like darkness before dawn. God is not afraid of the passing time, because he is also the God of waiting. Thus, even our "useless" time, that of pauses, emptiness, barren moments, can become the womb of resurrection. Every silence that is welcomed can be the premise of a new Word. Every suspended time can become a time of grace, if we offer it to God.

Jesus, buried in the ground, is the meek face of a God who does not occupy all space. He is the God who lets things be done, who waits, who withdraws to leave us freedom. He is the God who trusts, even when everything seems to be over. And we, on that suspended Sabbath, learn that we do not have to be in a hurry to rise again; first we must stay and welcome the silence, let ourselves be embraced by limitation. At times we seek quick answers, immediate solutions. But God works in depth, in the slow time of trust. The Sabbath of the burial thus becomes the womb from which the strength of an invincible light, that of Easter, can spring forth.

Dear friends, Christian hope is not born in noise, but in the silence of an expectation filled with love. It is not the offspring of euphoria, but of trustful abandonment. The Virgin Mary teaches us this: she embodies this expectation, this trust, this hope. When it seems to us that everything is at a standstill, that life is a blocked road, let us remember Holy Saturday. Even in the tomb, God was preparing the greatest surprise of all. And if we know how to welcome with gratitude what has been, we will discover that, precisely in smallness and silence, God loves to transfigure reality, making all things new with the fidelity of his love. True joy is born of indwelt expectation, of patient faith, of the hope that what has been lived in love will surely rise to eternal \*

Jubilee Choir Rehearsal - The final Jubilee choir rehearsal for the October 17th Jubilee Basilica mass will be on Monday, September 29th from 7:00 PM until 9:00 PM at Visitation Parish. To anyone who is taking part in this wonderful, once in a lifetime opportunity, please make sure to mark your calendars so that you will be able to attend the prac-