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#### VISITATION PARISH MEMBERSHIP FORM

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

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](mailto:visitationjtown@dioceseaj.org)  
Website: [www.visitationbvmchurch.com](http://www.visitationbvmchurch.com)  
Fax: 536-3709



2nd Sunday of Advent  
December 7th, 2025

#### MASS SCHEDULE

**MONDAY** - Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception  
(Holy Day of Obligation)

12:05 PM - Albert Reynolds Jr.  
(Req. by Family)  
**\*Rescheduled from 12-5-25\***

5:30 PM - Vickie Schmidt  
(Req. by Suzanne & James Yelenick)

**TUESDAY** - Advent Weekday  
NO MASS

**WEDNESDAY** - Advent Weekday

5:30 PM - Peter Tay  
(Req. by Jeno Lecci)

Followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

**THURSDAY** - Advent Weekday

12:05 PM - Dorothy Rosemas  
(Req. by Cathy Fuska)

**FRIDAY** - Advent Weekday

12:05 PM - Esperanza "Cha Cha" Bair  
(Req. by husband John Bair)

Followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

**SATURDAY** - Vigil of 3rd Sunday of Advent

4:00 PM - Pro Populo

5:30 PM - Gloria Fenik  
(VPM)

(Req. by Family)

**SUNDAY** - 3rd Sunday of Advent

9:00 AM - Krumenacker Family  
(Req. by Dick & Gaile Krumenacker)

#### SANCTUARY CANDLE

In Memory of Esperanza "Cha Cha" Bair  
Req. by husband, John Bair

## 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 suggested.

**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 SATURDAY 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 Catholic candidates for Marriage must be registered, practicing members of a parish at least 6 months prior to scheduling the wedding.** **THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS.**

**INFANT BAPTISM:** Baptisms are generally celebrated 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.

**EUCARISTIC 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.

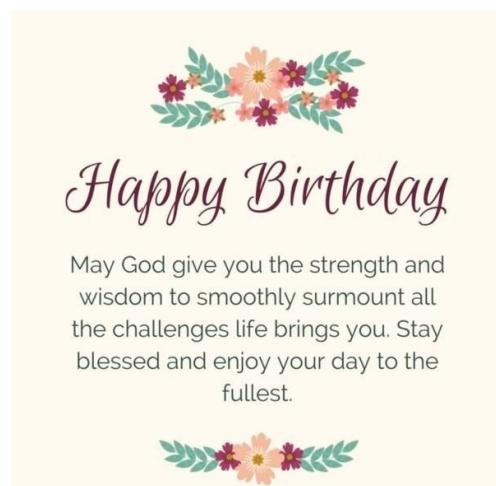
**\$\$ INCOME \$\$\$**  
**Collection - November 30, 2025**

Loose Money.....	\$205.00
Sunday Collection.....	\$2623.00
Votive Candles.....	\$135.00
St. Peregrine.....	\$60.00
Learning Lamp - Dec.....	\$3800.00
Parking Lot Rent.....	\$245.00
 <b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$7068.00</b>

\*\*\*\*\*  
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, Larry Oravetz, Anna Petro, Francis Petro, Jean Petroro, Maria Petro-Sanders, Mia Bella Rastall, Stacy Roberts, Sean Rovan, Stephen Sanders, Jennifer Schellhamer, Rose Sigg, Allegra Slick, Father John Slovikovski, Shirley Slovikovski, Ken Turner, Megan Varmecky, Carrie Young

\*\*\*\*\*  
Please join us in remembering members of our parish family who celebrate their birthdays the week of December 8th to December 14th:



Raymond Litzinger  
John Bair

Lacie George

Elizabeth Smitley  
James Wenderoth

**The 2026 Yearly Calendars of Prizes are now available!** The 2026 Yearly Calendars have now arrived and are available for purchase beginning this weekend in the main vestibule of the Church. This is potentially our largest fundraiser of the year. Please help us with this project by purchasing a calendar. They make wonderful Christmas gifts. Thank you.

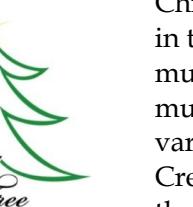


We always pray the rosary Saturday evening at approximately 3:30 PM prior to Mass as well as every Tuesday at 6:00 PM. On Wednesdays, Mass is celebrated at 5:30 PM followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 6:30 PM. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament also occurs on Friday following the 12:05 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!!!**



**Angel Tree 2025** - We are once again planning an Angel Tree. This is an opportunity to share our blessings with those who struggle to provide their children with gifts for Christmas. The tags for the gifts are currently hanging on the tree in the back of the vestibule. Young children should always be blessed with a happy and merry Christmas, so please consider this fine project. **PLEASE BE SURE TO RETURN YOUR ANGEL TREE GIFTS NO LATER THAN DECEMBER 21ST BEFORE OR AFTER MASS!**



**Turkey Raffle Follow-Up Meeting** - On Tuesday, December 9th, there will be a Turkey Raffle Wrap-Up meeting in the Visitation school cafeteria at 6:30 PM. We will also discuss next year's event. All those interested in the planning are asked to attend.

**Final Pilgrimage for the Jubilee 2025 Year** - On January 4th, 2026, the last Sunday of the Jubilee Year (which ends officially with the closing of the Holy Door in Rome on January 6th, the feast of the Epiphany), we will be carpools to Altoona, to Our Lady of Mount Carmel. Mass will be celebrated at 11:00AM. We will be leaving from the Visitation parking lot at 9:45 AM.

The reason for this pilgrimage is to view the *Presepio* (*The presepio, derived from the Latin word presepium, meaning manger, has been the defacto symbol of Christmas for Italian families for dozens of generations, and in the South, perhaps as long as a thousand years. This display, however, is much more than a nativity scene for it displays many scenes from traditional Italian life and it quite ornate and beautiful*). Afterward we will be stopping for lunch at Jethro's Restaurant.

Please contact Evelyn Haggerty at 814-243-2570 if you are interested. This mass will allow for a jubilee plenary indulgence if all of the other conditions are met (confession, etc.)

**From Pontiff to Pew:**

The following was the ecumenical message of Pope Leo on Friday, 28 November 2025 at an ecumenical prayer service during his Apostolic Visitation to Turkey on the occasion of the 1700th Anniversary of the First Ecumenical Council of Nicaea in 325 AD/CE:

Dear brothers and sisters,

At a period of history marked by many tragic signs, in which people are subjected to countless threats to their very dignity, the 1700th anniversary of the First Council of Nicaea is a precious opportunity to ask ourselves who Jesus Christ is in the lives of men and women today, and who he is for each one of us personally. This question is especially important for Christians, who risk reducing Jesus Christ to a kind of charismatic leader or superman, a misrepresentation that ultimately leads to sadness and confusion (cf. Leo XIV, Homily, *Holy Mass Pro Ecclesia*, 9 May 2025). By denying the divinity of Christ, Arius reduced him to a mere intermediary between God and humanity, ignoring the reality of the Incarnation such that the divine and the human remained irredeemably separated. But if God did not become man, how can mortal creatures participate in his immortal life? What was at stake at Nicaea, and is at stake today, is our faith in the God who, in Jesus Christ, became like us to make us "partakers of the divine nature" (2 Pet 1:4; cf. Saint Irenaeus, *Adversus Haereses*, 3, 19; Saint Athanasius, *De Incarnatione*, 54, 3).

This Christological confession of faith is of fundamental importance in the journey that Christians are making towards full communion. For it is shared by all Christian Churches and Communities throughout the world, including those which, for various reasons, do not use the Nicene-Constantinopolitan Creed in their liturgies. Indeed, faith "in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages... consubstantial with the Father" (Nicene Creed) is a profound bond already uniting all Christians. In this sense, to quote Saint Augustine, in the ecumenical context we can also say that, "although we Christians are many, in the one Christ we are one" (Exposition on Psalm 127). Consequently, with an awareness that we are already linked by such a profound bond, we can continue our journey of ever deeper adherence to the Word of God revealed in Jesus Christ, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, in mutual love and dialogue. In this way, we are all invited to overcome the scandal of the divisions that unfortunately still exist and to nurture the desire for unity for which the Lord Jesus prayed and gave his life. The more we are reconciled, the more we Christians can bear credible witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ, which is a proclamation of hope for all. Moreover, it is a message of peace and universal fraternity that transcends the boundaries of our communities and nations (cf. Francis, Address to participants in the Plenary Session of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, 6 May 2022).

Today, the whole of humanity afflicted by violence and conflict is crying out for reconciliation. The desire for full communion among all believers in Jesus Christ is always accompanied by the search for fraternity among all human beings. In the Nicene Creed, we profess our faith "in one God, the Father." Yet, it would not be possible to invoke God as

Father if we refused to recognize as brothers and sisters all the other men and women, who are created in the Image of God (cf. Second Vatican Ecumenical Council, Declaration *Nostra Aetate*, no. 5). There is a universal fraternity of men and women regardless of ethnicity, nationality, religion or personal perspectives. Religions, by their very nature, are repositories of this truth and should encourage individuals, groups and peoples to recognize this and put it into practice (cf. Leo XIV, Address at the conclusion of the Meeting for Prayer for Peace, 28 October 2025). Furthermore, we must strongly reject the use of religion for justifying war, violence, or any form of fundamentalism or fanaticism. Instead, the paths to follow are those of fraternal encounter, dialogue and cooperation.

I am deeply grateful to His All Holiness Bartholomew, for it was with great wisdom and foresight that he decided to commemorate together the 1700th anniversary of the Council of Nicaea in the very place where it was held. I likewise warmly thank the Heads of Churches and Representatives of Christian World Communions who have accepted the invitation to participate in this event. May God the Father, almighty and merciful, hear the fervent prayers we offer him today, and grant that this important anniversary may bear the abundant fruits of reconciliation, unity and peace.

\*\*\*\*\*  
The Holy Father returned from his Apostolic Visit to Turkey and Lebanon on Wednesday and therefore did not have his weekly Wednesday General Audience.

**\*\*MONDAY, DECEMBER 8TH – SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**

This Monday, December 8th is the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. In the Roman Catholic Church, this is a HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION when all Catholics are required to participate in the celebration of Mass that Day. The requirement to come to Church and participate in the celebration of the Eucharist carries the same moral weight as that of the Sunday obligation to attend Mass. Please note the Mass schedule for the holy day that is found on the front page of the bulletin.

**\*Next Weekend is the Final Weekend for the Food Collection.** Please bring all non-perishable food donations to the Church vestibule by next Sunday. If you have not given a small gift of food to this point, next weekend would be a wonderful time to participate in this wonderful act of charity as part of our Jubilee Year Works of Mercy. In addition, it will help both parishioners and families that struggle with food security during this very holy time of year. As always, we have done well thus far, and I for one am very grateful for your generosity.

"Advent is the whisper of heaven, reminding us that hope is on the way."

-Anonymous