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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



**4th Sunday of Advent**  
December 21st, 2025

#### MASS SCHEDULE

##### **MONDAY - Advent Weekday**

12:05 PM - **James Rovan**  
(Req. by Ezio D. Francesco & Jean Fraser)  
**\*Rescheduled from 12-19-25\***

##### **TUESDAY - Advent Weekday**

5:30 PM - **Anna Marie Pfeil**  
(Req. by Chris Hoffman)  
**Followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament**

##### **WEDNESDAY - Vigil of the Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord**

4:00 PM - **Dr. Frank T. Carney**  
(Req. by Kathy Carney)  
6:00 PM - **Charles & Ida Machowski**  
(Req. by Shirley Machowski)

##### **THURSDAY - Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord**

9:00 AM - **Pro Populo**

##### **FRIDAY - Feast of Saint Stephen, First, Martyr**

12:05 PM - **Barry Mills**  
(Req. by Joyce Ziance)  
**\*Rescheduled from 12-17-25\***  
**Followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament**

##### **SATURDAY - Vigil of The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph**

4:00 PM - **Pro Populo**

**SUNDAY - The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph**  
9:00 AM - **John Slovikovski Sr.**  
(Req. by Charlie Turnery)

#### **SANCTUARY CANDLE**

All Living and Deceased Members  
of Visitation Parish

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

**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 - December 14, 2025**

Loose Money.....	\$375.00
Sunday Collection.....	\$3110.00
Immaculate Conception.....	\$47.00
Christmas Flowers.....	\$170.00
Share in the Care.....	\$38.00
Perquisites - Cascino Funeral.....	\$100.00

**TOTAL: \$3840.00**

**Second Collection -**

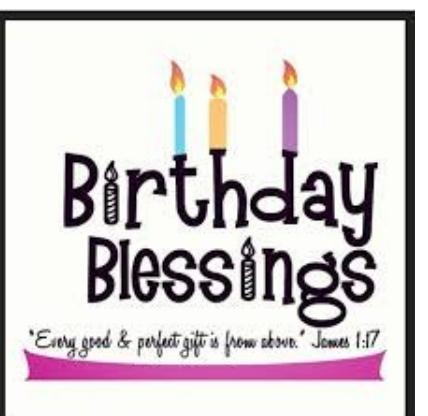
**\$339.00**

\*\*\*\*\*  
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, 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, Carrie Young

\*\*\*\*\*

Please join us in remembering members of our parish family who celebrate their birthdays the week of December 22nd to December 28th:



Aaron Skovensky  
 Philippa Kraft  
 Noah Rastall

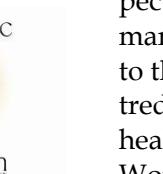
Scott Lorditch  
 Patricia Bernardo  
 Lois Slivinsky  
 Charles Stephens

**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 carpooling 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, 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.)

\*\*\*\*\*  
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!!!**



**From the Pastor's Desk**

This week was unfortunately very trying for me for a number of reasons; therefore, I needed to take the weekend off so that I would be able to have Christmas Masses this upcoming week. I knew that I was a bit off during our penance service this past week and since I was unable to have Masses on Christmas last year because of having Covid and the flu I thought it best just to rest over the weekend, so that I would be able to celebrate the Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord with you. I will be sharing a written Christmas message with you on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

Unfortunately, I do have to mention that once again we had another occasion when someone was texting during Mass last weekend. Once again, someone boldly was texting during my homily, NOT EVEN ATTEMPTING TO HIDE THE FACT THAT THEY WERE DOING SO. To this point, I have not felt the need to call persons out directly for doing this; however, I feel that if this behavior does continue, I may have to do something other than just pausing for an extended period of time if the practice of texting or answering calls during Mass does not stop. I ask kindly that all persons please turn off their cell phones before Mass. If you are expecting a call that is URGENT, please leave the nave of the Church during Mass to take the call. Thank you.

\*\*\*\*\*  
Please note that the parish offices are closed from December 24th - December 28th. Thank you!

**From Pontiff to Pew:**

In this week's **Sunday Angelus**, Pope Leo reflected upon the Gospel which Gospel places in jail with John the Baptist, who finds himself imprisoned because of his preaching (cf. Mt 14:3-5). Nevertheless, he does not lose hope, thus becoming for us a sign that a prophet, even in chains, retains the ability to use his voice in the pursuit of truth and justice. From prison, John the Baptist hears "about the works of Christ" (Mt 11:2), which are different from what he expected, so he sends his disciples to ask him: "Are you the one who is to come, or should we wait for another?" (v. 3). Those who seek truth and justice, those who long for freedom and peace, have questions about Jesus: Is he truly the Messiah, the Savior promised by God through the prophets? Jesus responds by directing our gaze toward those whom he loved and served. It is: the least, the poor, the sick who speak on his behalf. Christ announces who he is by what he does. And what he does is a sign of salvation for all of us. In fact, by encountering Jesus - lives previously deprived of light, speech and taste regain meaning - the blind see, the mute speak, the deaf hear. The image of God, seemingly disfigured by leprosy, regains wholeness and vitality. Even the dead, who are completely lifeless, come back to life (cf. v. 5). This is the Gospel of Jesus, the good news proclaimed to the poor. Thus, when God comes into the world, it is clearly seen! The words of Jesus free us from the prison of despair and suffering. Every prophecy finds its expected fulfillment in Him. It is Christ who opens the eyes of man to the glory of God. He gives voice to the oppressed and to those whose voices have been silenced by violence and hatred. He defeats ideologies that make us deaf to the truth. He heals the ailments that deform the body. In this way, the Word of life redeems us from evil, which causes the heart to die. For this reason, in this Advent season, as disciples of the Lord, we are called to combine our anticipation of the Savior with attention to what God is doing in the world. Then we will be able to experience the joy of freedom in encountering our Savior: "Gaudete in Domino semper - Rejoice in the Lord always" (Phil 4:4). This invitation introduces today's Holy Mass, the third Sunday of Advent called Gaudete Sunday. Let us rejoice, since Jesus is our hope, especially in times of trial, when life seems to lose meaning and everything appears darker, words fail us, and we struggle to understand others.

In Pope Leo's **Wednesday Audience**, which continues the Jubilee Year 20205 Cycle of Catechesis entitled, "Jesus Christ our hope, The Resurrection of Christ" where he reflects upon *The challenges of the contemporary world, and Easter as the refuge of the restless heart*.

Human life is characterized by a constant movement that drives us to do, to act. Nowadays speed is required everywhere in order to achieve optimal results in a wide variety of fields. How does Jesus' resurrection shed light on this aspect of our experience? When we participate in his victory over death, will we rest? Faith tells us: yes, we will rest. We will not be inactive, but we will enter into God's repose, which is peace and joy. So, should we just wait, or can this change us right now? We are absorbed by many activities that do not always leave us satisfied. A lot of our actions have to do with practical, concrete things. We have to assume responsibility for many commitments, solve problems, face difficulties.

Jesus too was involved with people and with life, not sparing himself, but rather giving himself to the end. Yet we often perceive how too much doing, instead of giving us fulfilment, becomes a vortex that overwhelms us, takes away our serenity, and prevents us from living to the fullest what is truly important in our lives. We then feel tired and dissatisfied: time seems to be wasted on a thousand practical things that do not, however, resolve the ultimate meaning of our existence. Sometimes, at the end of days full of activities, we feel empty. Why? Because we are not machines, we have a "heart"; indeed, we can say that we are a heart. The heart is the symbol of all our humanity, the sum of our thoughts, feelings and desires, the invisible centre of our selves. The Evangelist Matthew invites us to reflect on the importance of the heart, quoting this beautiful phrase of Jesus: "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also" (Mt 6:21). It is therefore in the heart that true treasure is kept, not in earthly safes, not in large financial investments, which today more than ever before are out of control and unjustly concentrated at the bloody price of millions of human lives and the devastation of God's creation. It is important to reflect on these aspects, because in the numerous commitments we continually face, there is an increasing risk of dispersion, sometimes of despair, of meaninglessness, even in apparently successful people. Instead, interpreting life in the light of Easter, looking at it with the Risen Jesus, means finding access to the essence of the human person, to our heart: *cor inquietum*. With this adjective "restless", Saint Augustine helps us understand the human being's yearning for fulfilment. The full sentence refers to the beginning of the Confessions, where Augustine writes: "Lord, you have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you" (I, 1,1).

Restlessness is the sign that our heart does not move by chance, in a disordered way, without a purpose or a destination, but is oriented towards its ultimate destination, the "return home". The authentic approach of the heart does not consist in possessing the goods of this world, but in achieving what can fill it completely; namely, the love of God, or rather, God who is Love. This treasure, however, can only be found by loving the neighbour we meet along the way: brothers and sisters in flesh and blood, whose presence stirs and questions our heart, calling it to open up and give itself. Our neighbour asks us to slow down, to look them in the eye, sometimes to change our plans, perhaps even to change direction. Here is the secret of the movement of the human heart: returning to the source of its being, delighting in the joy that never fails, that never disappoints. No one can live without a meaning that goes beyond the contingent, beyond what passes away. The human heart cannot live without hope, without knowing that it is made for fullness, not for want. Jesus Christ, with his Incarnation, Passion, Death and Resurrection, has given us a solid foundation for this hope. The restless heart will not be disappointed, if it enters into the dynamism of the love for which it was created. The destination is certain, life has triumphed, and in Christ it will continue to triumph in every death of daily life. This is Christian hope: let us always bless and thank the Lord who has given it to us!