

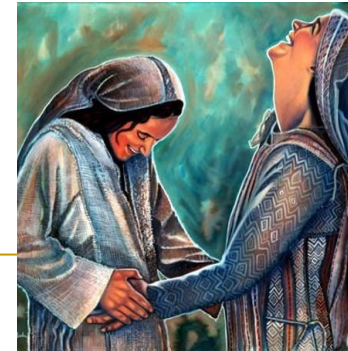
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Church of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

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 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

The Epiphany of the Lord January 4th, 2026

MASS SCHEDULE

MONDAY - St. John Neumann, Bishop
NO MASS

TUESDAY - Christmas Weekday
12:05 PM - Carmela Casino
(Req. by Jenő Lecci)

WEDNESDAY - Christmas Weekday
5:30 PM - Paul Schmidt
(Req. by Helen Boyle)

Followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

THURSDAY - Christmas Weekday
5:30 PM - Barry Mills
(Req. by Barb Conner)

FRIDAY - Christmas Weekday
12:05 PM - Helene Balagusz
(Req. by Debbie & Dave Magro)
Followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

SATURDAY - Vigil of The Baptism of the Lord
4:00 PM - Katheleen Mikesic
(Req. by Maryann Korenoski & Chuck Conzatti)

5:30 PM - Loretta Myers
(VPM) (Req. by Family & Friends)

SUNDAY - The Baptism of the Lord
9:00 AM - Pro Populo

SANCTUARY CANDLE

Spiritual and Physical Health of Fr. John
Anonymous



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

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.

EUCCHARISTIC 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 28, 2025

Loose Money.....	\$354.00
Sunday Collection.....	\$2531.00
Christmas Flowers.....	\$190.00
Initial Offering.....	\$25.00
Votive Candles.....	\$267.00
St. Peregrine.....	\$60.00
Apartment Rental - Dec & Jan.....	\$1250.00
Parking Lot Rent.....	\$140.00

TOTAL:

\$4817.00

Christmas Collection -

Loose -	\$1580.00
Envelopes -	\$4980.00
Total -	\$7223.00

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 Rován, Stephen Sanders, Jennifer Schellhammer, Rose Sigg, Allegra Slick, Father John Slovikovski, Shirley Slovikovski, Ken Turner, Megan Varmecy, Carrie Young

Please join us in remembering members of our parish family who celebrate their birthdays the week of January 5th to January 11th:



Robert Barger

David Conrad

John Fontana

Robert Borosky

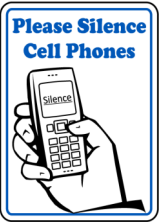
Francis Daly

Eddie Corona

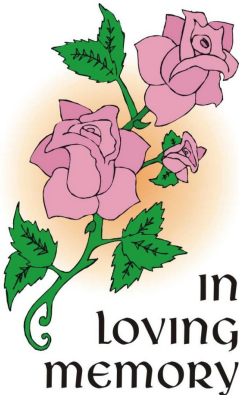
We always pray the rosary Saturday evening at approximately 3:30 PM prior to Mass as well as every Tuesday at 6:00 PM. On Wednesdays, Mass is celebrated at 5:30 PM followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 6:30 PM. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament also occurs on Friday following the 12:05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

IMOPRTANT NOTICE Parishioners in Nursing Care or other Long Term Care facilities: We would like to reach out to all of our parishioners who are in the hospital, in nursing care or other long-term care facilities. **We cannot do so; however, if we are not made aware that individuals have been admitted to such facilities.** We kindly ask if you or a relative have been relocated or admitted to such facilities that you place a call the rectory, so that you can be placed on our First Friday communion call list. We would like to update our records for 2026. Also, if you are aware of anyone in one of these facilities, please call the rectory to let us know. Thank you.

Use of Cell Phones and Texting: Once again we are asking that everyone please silence their cell phones prior to the beginning of Mass each week. We also ask the out of courtesy for the presider and those around you, please do not text during Mass. If you must receive a call during Mass, please relocate to the main vestibule. Thank you.



In Loving Memory: This past December, we celebrated funerals for two beloved members of Visitation Parish. Katheleen “Kate” Mikesic transitioned to her eternal home on December 1st. Kate was a loving wife and mother who knew both the suffering of loss and the suffering of illness, which joined her in a unique way with Christ’s own suffering and death. We pray that she has received the fullness of God’s mercy in the grace of the resurrection. Carmela Casino, a lifelong member of Visitation Parish died on December 5th. She was also a loving wife and a mother of eight (one can only imagine the graces that she gained in that vocation). We pray that she also received the benefits of God’s mercy as she made her final transition from time to eternity. Katheleen and Carmela, while you will be missed, we celebrate your movement to God’s home. REST IN PEACE.



From Pontiff to Pew:

This past Sunday, Pope Leo XIV offered the following reflection on the feast of the Holy Family and shared his thought on the story of the gospel: the flight of Jesus, Mary and Joseph into Egypt. It is a moment of trial for Jesus, Mary and Joseph. Indeed, the bright image of Christmas is suddenly almost eclipsed by the disturbing shadow of a deadly threat, which has its origin in the troubled life of Herod. A cruel and bloodthirsty man, who is feared for his brutality, but precisely for this reason he is deeply lonely and gripped with the fear of being deposed. When he learns from the Magi that the “king of the Jews” has been born (Mt 2:2), feeling this to be a threat to his power, he decrees that all children of the same age as Jesus should be killed. In his kingdom, God is performing the greatest miracle in history, in which all the ancient promises of salvation are fulfilled, but he cannot see this because he is blinded by the fear of losing his throne, riches and privileges. In Bethlehem there is light and joy as some shepherds have received the heavenly announcement and have glorified God before the manger (cf. Lk 2:8-20). But none of this can penetrate the armored defenses of the royal palace, except as a distorted echo of a threat to be stifled with blind violence. It is precisely this hardness of heart, however, that further highlights the value of the presence and mission of the Holy Family. In the despotic and greedy world represented by the tyrant, it is the birthplace and cradle of the only possible answer of salvation, that of God who, in total gratuitousness, gives himself to men without reserve and without pretension.

Being obedient to the voice of the Lord by taking his Bride and child to safety, the gesture of Joseph is revealed in all its redemptive significance. In Egypt, the flame of domestic love, to which the Lord has entrusted his presence in the world, grows and gains strength in order to bring light to the whole world.

As we contemplate this mystery with wonder and gratitude, we think of our families and the light they can bring to the society in which we live. Unfortunately, the world always has its “Herods,” its myths of success at any cost, of unscrupulous power, of empty and superficial well-being, and it often pays the price in the form of loneliness, despair, divisions and conflicts. Let us not allow these mirages to suffocate the flame of love in Christian families. On the contrary, in our families, we should cherish the values of the Gospel: prayer, frequent reception of the sacraments – especially Confession and Communion – healthy affections, sincere dialogue, fidelity, and the simple and beautiful concreteness of everyday words and gestures. This will make them a light of hope for the places in which we live; a school of love and an instrument of salvation in God’s hands (cf. Francis, Homily at Mass for the 10th World Meeting of Families, 25 June 2022). Let us therefore ask our Father in Heaven, through the intercession of Mary and Saint Joseph, to bless our families and all families throughout the world, so that by following the model of his Son made man, they may be for all an efficacious sign of his presence and his endless charity.

In his Final Wednesday Audience of 2025, Pope Leo reflected upon the past year which had certainly been marked by important events: some of them joyful, such as the pilgrimage of so many of the faithful on the occasion of the Holy Year;

others painful, such as the passing of the late Pope Francis, and the scenarios of war that continue to convulse the planet. At its end, the Church invites us to place everything before the Lord, entrusting ourselves to his Providence, and asking him to renew, in us and around us, in the coming days, the wonders of his grace and mercy. It is in this dynamic that the tradition of the solemn singing of the Te Deum, with which we will thank the Lord this evening for the blessings we have received, finds its place. We will sing, “You are God: we praise you”, “In you, Lord, is our hope”, “Have mercy on us”. In this regard, Pope Francis observed that while “worldly gratitude, worldly hope are evident ... they are focused on the self, on its interests ... Instead, in this Liturgy ... one breathes an entirely different atmosphere: one of praise, of wonder, of gratitude” (Homily of First Vespers of the Solemnity of Mary Mother of God, 31 December 2023). And it is with these attitudes that today we are called upon to reflect on what the Lord has done for us over the past year, as well as to examine our consciences honestly, to evaluate our response to his gifts and to ask forgiveness for all the times we have failed to treasure his inspirations and invest the talents he has entrusted to us in the best possible way.

This leads us to reflect on another great sign that has accompanied us in recent months: that of the “journey” and the “destination”. This year, countless pilgrims have come from all over the world to pray at the Tomb of Peter and to confirm their adherence to Christ. This reminds us that our whole life is a journey, whose final destination transcends space and time, to be fulfilled in the encounter with God and in full and eternal communion with Him (cf. Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1024). We will also ask for this in the Te Deum prayer, when we say: “Bring us with your saints to glory everlasting”. It is no coincidence that Saint Paul VI defined the Jubilee as a great act of faith in “anticipation of future destinies ... which we already foretaste and ... prepare for” (General Audience, 17 December 1975). And in this eschatological light of the encounter between the finite and the infinite, a third sign can be seen: the passage through the Holy Door, which so many of us have made, praying and imploring forgiveness for ourselves and our loved ones. It expresses our “yes” to God, who with his forgiveness invites us to cross the threshold of a new life, animated by grace, modelled on the Gospel, inflamed by “love for that neighbour, in whose definition ... every man is included ... in need of understanding, help, comfort, sacrifice, even if personally unknown to us, even if bothersome and hostile, but endowed with the incomparable dignity of a brother” (Saint Paul VI, Homily on the occasion of the closing of the Holy Year, 25 December 1975; cf. Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1826-1827). It is our “yes” to a life lived with commitment in the present and oriented towards eternity.

Dear friends, we meditate on these signs in the light of Christmas. Saint Leo the Great, in this regard, saw the feast of the Birth of Jesus as the proclamation of a joy that is for everyone: “Let the saint rejoice”, he exclaimed, “because he is approaching his reward; let the sinner rejoice, because he is offered forgiveness; let the pagan take courage, because he is called to life” (First Discourse on the Nativity of the Lord, 1). **{Continued on insert}**