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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
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 Bumbnick, 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

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time January 18th, 2026

MASS SCHEDULE

MONDAY - Weekday in Ordinary Time
NO MASS

TUESDAY - Weekday in Ordinary Time
NO MASS

WEDNESDAY - Saint Agnes, Virgin and Martyr
5:30 PM - Joan Marhefka
(Req. by Cathy Fuska)
Reschedule from 1-14-26
Followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

THURSDAY - Weekday in Ordinary Time
12:05 PM - Betty Petro
(Req. by Jen0 Lecci)
Reschedule from 1-13-26

FRIDAY - Weekday in Ordinary Time
12:05 PM - Gloria Fenik
(Req. by Family)
Reschedule from 1-16-26
Followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

SATURDAY - Vigil of 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
4:00 PM - Pro Populo

5:30 PM - Anna Marie Pfeil
(VPM) (Req. by Marge & Ron Bendick)

SUNDAY - 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
9:00 AM - Ann Tay Lecci
(Req. by Jen0 Lecci)
Reschedule from 1-15-26

SANCTUARY CANDLE
Spiritual and Physical Health of Fr. John
Anonymous

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. **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.

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.

Loose Money.....	\$253.00
Sunday Collection.....	\$2357.00

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, 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 Petraro, Maria Petro-Sanders, Mia Bella Rastall, Stacy Roberts, Sean Rovon, Stephen Sanders, Jennifer Schellhammer, Rose Sigg, Allegra Slick, Father John Slovikovski, Shirley Slovikovski, Ken Turner, Megan Varnecky, Carrie Young

Please join us in remembering members of our parish family who celebrate their birthdays the week of January 19th to January 25th:



For the Good of the Vineyard and Our Particular Part

FISH FRY PLANNING MEETING - On Tuesday, January 20, 2026, there will be a planning meeting for the upcoming Lenten Fish Fries at 6:30 PM in the school cafeteria. All those who are planning on volunteering are invited and encouraged to attend. Our parish depends upon fundraisers such as the Fish Fry and we are always in need of more volunteers. Please, prayerfully consider coming forward to assist us with this project. You will come to see that our fish fry team is committed to fellowship and community building as much as delivering a more than satisfying meal for the Fridays of Lent.



Angel Tree 2025 - On behalf of Birthright and the children of the 6 families who we sponsored this year, I'd like to thank all the generous parishioners who gave their time and treasure to provide a Blessed and Merry Christmas to the families who struggle in our area. As usual, the support was outstanding.

A very special thank you to our extremely generous “Secret Santa” parishioners whose generous donations enabled us to provide gifts for all the angels on our tree, as well as gift cards for food for all the families. May God bless you richly for your kindness.

Lastly, thank you to all the parishioners who gladly took the time to shop for the children whose gift tags were unable to be taken from the tree. You exhibit the true spirit of Visitation Parish.

- Cathy Fuska

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 IN
2026!! 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!!!

Please note that the parish office will be closed on Monday, January 19th, 2026 in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. day. The office will resume its normal office hours on Tuesday, January 20th, 2026. Thank you!

During this past Sunday's **Angelus**, Pope Leo XIV offered the following reflection:

The feast of the Baptism of Jesus, which we celebrate today, anticipates the beginning of Ordinary Time. This liturgical season will invite us to follow the Lord together, to listen to his Word and to imitate his gestures of love towards others. In doing so, we confirm and renew our Baptism, the sacrament that makes us Christians, freeing us from sin and transforming us into children of God through the power of his Spirit of life.

Today's Gospel recounts how this efficacious sign of grace comes about. When Jesus is baptized by John in the Jordan River, he sees "the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him" (Mt 3:16). At the same time, from the open heavens, the voice of the Father resounds: "This is my Son, the Beloved" (v. 17). In this moment, the entire Godhead becomes present in history: just as the Son descends into the waters of the Jordan, the Holy Spirit descends upon him and, through him, is given to us as the power of salvation. Dear friends, God does not look upon the world from afar, unconcerned with our lives, our troubles or our expectations! Instead, he comes among us with the wisdom of his Word made flesh, drawing us into a wondrous plan of love for all humanity.

This is why John the Baptist, filled with wonder, asks Jesus: “Do you come to me?” (v. 14). Yes, in his holiness, the Lord allows himself to be baptized like a sinner, to reveal God’s infinite mercy. The Only-Begotten Son, in whom we are brothers and sisters, comes to serve rather than dominate, to save rather than condemn. He is Christ the Redeemer. He takes upon himself what is ours, including our sin, and gives us what is his: the grace of new and eternal life.

The sacrament of Baptism makes this event present in every time and place, welcoming each of us into the Church, the people of God, composed of men and women of every nation and culture reborn by his Spirit. Let us, therefore, dedicate this day to remembering the great gift we have received, committing ourselves to bear witness to it with joy and authenticity. Just today, I baptized several newborn babies who have become our new brothers and sisters in the faith. How beautiful it is to celebrate the love of God – who calls us by name and frees us from evil – as one family! This first of the sacraments is a sacred sign that accompanies us forever. In moments of darkness, Baptism is light; in life's conflicts, it is reconciliation; at the hour of death, it is the gateway to heaven.

Let us pray together, asking the Virgin Mary to sustain our faith and the mission of the Church each day.

Pope Leo's **Wednesday Audience** continued his catechesis on the Documents of Vatican Council II. I. Dogmatic Constitution Dei Verbum. 1. God speaks to men as to friends (Reading: Jn 15:15). Here is the Wednesday Audience in its entirety:

Dear brothers and sisters, good morning and welcome! We have started the cycle of catechesis on Vatican Council II. Today we will begin to look more closely at the Dogmatic Constitution *Dei Verbum*, on the divine Revelation. It is one of the most beautiful and important of the Council and, to introduce it, it may be helpful to recall the words of Jesus: “No

longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you" (Jn 15:15). This is a fundamental point of Christian faith, which *Dei Verbum* reminds us of: Jesus Christ radically transforms man's relationship with God, which is henceforth a relationship of friendship. Therefore, the only condition of the new covenant is love.

Saint Augustine, commenting on this passage of the Fourth Gospel, insists on the perspective of grace, which alone can make us friends of God in his Son (Commentary on the Gospel of John, Homily 86). Indeed, an ancient motto stated: "*Amicitia aut pares invenit, aut facit*", "friendship is born between equals, or makes them so". We are not equal to God, but God himself makes us similar to Him in his Son.

For this reason, as we can see in all the Scripture, in the Covenant there is a first moment of distance, in which the pact between God and mankind always remains asymmetrical: God is God and we are creatures. However, with the coming of the Son in human flesh, the Covenant opens up to its final purpose: in Jesus, God makes us sons and daughters, and calls us to become like Him, albeit in our fragile humanity. Our resemblance to God, then, is not reached through transgression and sin, as the serpent suggests to Eve (cf. Gen 3:5), but in our relationship with the Son made man.

The words of the Lord Jesus that we have recalled – “I have called you friends” – are reprised in the Constitution Dei Verbum, which affirms: “Through this revelation, therefore, the invisible God (see Col 1:15; 1 Tim 1:17) out of the abundance of His love speaks to men as friends (see Ex 33:11; Jn 15:14-15) and lives among them (see Bar 3:38), so that He may invite and take them into fellowship with Himself” (no. 2). The God of Genesis already conversed with our first parents, engaging in dialogue with them (cf. Dei Verbum, 3); and when this dialogue was interrupted by sin, the Creator did not cease to seek an encounter with his creatures and to establish a covenant with them. In the Christian Revelation, that is, when God became man in his Son in order to seek us out, the dialogue that had been interrupted is restored in a definitive manner: the Covenant is new and eternal, nothing can separate us from his love. The Revelation of God, then, has the dialogical nature of friendship and, as in the experience of human friendship, it does not tolerate silence, but is nurtured by the exchange of true words.

The Constitution Dei Verbum also reminds us of this: God speaks to us. It is important to recognize the difference between words and chatter: this latter stops at the surface and does not achieve communion between people, whereas in authentic relationships, the word serves not only to exchange information and news, but to reveal who we are. The word possesses a revelatory dimension that creates a relationship with the other. In this way, by speaking to us, God reveals himself to us as an Ally who invites us into friendship with Him.

From this perspective, the first attitude to cultivate is listening, so that the divine Word may penetrate our minds and our hearts; at the same time, we are required to *(continued on insert)*