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VISITATION PARISH MEMBERSHIP FORM

NAME _____ PHONE _____

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



1127 McKinley Avenue
Johnstown, PA 15905

Rectory Phone: 536-6110
E-Mail: visitationjtown@dioceseaj.org
Website: www.visitationbvmchurch.com
Fax: 536-3709

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

4th Sunday in Ordinary Time February 1st, 2026

MASS SCHEDULE

- MONDAY - The Presentation of the Lord**
12:05 PM - Esperanza "Cha Cha" Bair
(Req. by husband John)
- TUESDAY - Weekday in Ordinary Time**
12:05 PM - Francis John Beaujon
(Req. by parents Francis & Charlotte)
- WEDNESDAY - Weekday in Ordinary Time**
5:30 PM - Kathleen Mikesic
(Req. by Cathy Fuska)
Followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
- THURSDAY - Saint Agatha, Virgin and Martyr**
Barry Mills
(Req. by Suzanne & John Yelenick)
(Private Mass in Rectory)
- FRIDAY - Saint Paul Miki and Companions, Martyrs**
12:05 PM - John J Slovikovski, Sr.
(Req. by Fr. John)
Followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
- SATURDAY - Vigil of 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time**
4:00 PM - Ann Tay Lecci
(Req. by Jenno Lecci)
- 5:30 PM - Anna Marie Pfeil
(VPM) (Marge & Ron Bendick)
- SUNDAY - 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time**
9:00 AM - Pro Populo

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

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. 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.

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

\$\$\$ INCOME \$\$\$
Collection - January 25, 2026

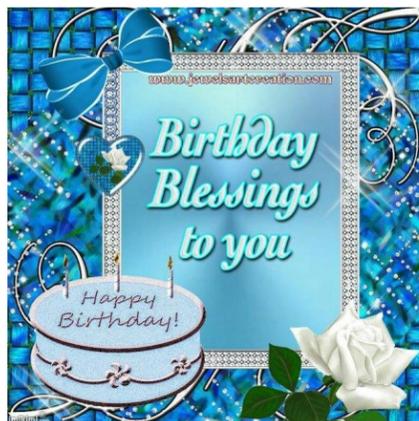
Loose Money.....	\$257.80
Sunday Collection.....	\$1942.00
Solemnity of Mary.....	\$75.00
Initial Offering.....	\$15.00
Votive Candles.....	\$178.00
St. Peregrine.....	\$50.00
Parking Lot Rent.....	\$140.00

TOTAL: \$2657.80

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 Petrora, 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 February 2nd to February 8th:



William Lansberry
 Shannon Stephens

Kathleen Hipp

For the Good of the Vineyard and Our Particular Part

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!!!



SAVE THE DATE - It is difficult to believe that Lent is less than three weeks away. With this in mind, I would like you to reserve the following date: Saturday, February 14th immediately following the 4:00 PM Vigil Mass we will celebrate our Annual Mardi Gras party from 5:00 PM until 6:30 PM in the school cafeteria. In years gone by this this has

been one of our most well attended social events and we would certainly like the tradition to continue. Please consider joining us that day for good food and fun fraternizing. As always, this gathering is FREE for all who attend. There will be a sign up sheet in the vestibule of the church.

St. Andrew/St. Vincent DePaul Food Pantry

The St. Andrew/St. Vincent DePaul Food Pantry is open on the second Monday of the month from 3 PM - 5 PM.

The next pick up date will be Monday, February 9th, 2026!

****MUST QUALIFY UNDER INCOME GUIDELINES****

Household Size	Annual Income
1 person	\$27,861.00
2 people	\$37,814.00
3 people	\$47,767.00
For each ADDITIONAL member add	\$9,953.00

Public Rosary - There will be a public rosary for praying for the Salvation of Souls and for the Sick on Thursday, February 12th at 6:30 PM at St. Clement Church and on Saturday, February 14th at noon at St. John Gualbert Cathedral in downtown Johnstown at the St. Anne Shrine.

From Pontiff to Pew:

During this past Sunday's **Angelus**, Pope Leo XIV reflected upon the gospel where, After his baptism, Jesus began his preaching and called his first disciples: Simon, who is called Peter, his brother Andrew, and James and John (cf. Mt 4:12-22). Reflecting more closely on this scene from today's Gospel, we can ask ourselves two questions. The first concerns the timing of Jesus' mission, and the second regards the place he chose to preach and to call his apostles. We may ask: When did he begin? And where did he begin?

First of all, the Gospel tells us that Jesus began his preaching "when he heard that John had been arrested" (v. 12). He began, therefore, at what might appear to be an inopportune moment. John the Baptist had just been imprisoned, and the leaders of the people were seemingly reluctant to embrace the newness of the Messiah. Apparently, it was a time that called for caution. Yet, it was precisely in this dark situation that Jesus began to bring the light of the Good News: "The kingdom of heaven has come near" (v. 17). In our lives, both individually and as a Church, interior struggles or circumstances we deem unfavorable can lead us to believe that it is not the right time to proclaim the Gospel, to make a decision, to make a choice, or to change a situation. In this way, however, we risk becoming paralyzed by indecision or imprisoned by excessive prudence, whereas the Gospel calls us to dare to trust. God is at work at all times; every moment is "God's time," even when we do not feel ready or when the situation seems unfavorable.

The Gospel also offers us insight into the specific place where Jesus began his public mission. We are told that he "left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum" (v. 13). By doing so, he remained in Galilee - a predominantly pagan territory that trade had transformed into a crossroads and a place of encounter. We might describe it as a multicultural region, traversed by people of diverse origins and religious affiliations. In this sense, the Gospel reveals that the Messiah, while coming from Israel, transcends the borders of his own land to proclaim a God who draws close to everyone. He is a God who excludes no one, and who comes not only for the "pure," but enters fully into the complexity of human situations and relationships. As Christians, therefore, we too must overcome the temptation toward isolation. The Gospel must be proclaimed and lived in every setting, serving as a leaven of fraternity and peace among all individuals, cultures, religions and peoples.

Brothers and sisters, like the first disciples, we are called to embrace the Lord's invitation with joy, knowing that every time and every place in our lives is permeated by his presence and his love. Let us pray to the Virgin Mary, that she may obtain for us this inner trust and accompany us on our journey.

Pope Leo's **Wednesday Audience** continued his catechesis on the Conciliar Constitution *Dei Verbum*, "on Divine Revelation," focusing upon the relationship between Sacred Scripture and Tradition. We can take two Gospel scenes as a backdrop. In the first scene, which takes place in the Upper Room, Jesus, in his great discourse-testament addressed to the disciples, affirms: "These things I have spoken to you, while I am still with you. But the Counsellor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you. ... When the Spirit of truth

comes, he will guide you into all the truth" (Jn 14:25-26; 16:13). The second scene takes us instead to the hills of Galilee. The risen Jesus shows himself to the disciples, who are surprised and doubtful, and he advises them: "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations ... teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you" (Mt 28:19-20). In both scenes, the intimate connection between the words uttered by Christ and their dissemination throughout the centuries is evident. It is what the Second Vatican Council affirms, using an evocative image: "There exists a close connection and communication between sacred tradition and Sacred Scripture. For both, flowing from the same divine wellspring, in a certain way merge into a unity and tend toward the same end" (Dei Verbum, 9). Ecclesial Tradition branches out throughout history through the Church, which preserves, interprets and embodies the Word of God. The Catechism of the Catholic Church (cf. no. 113) refers, in this regard, to a motto of the Church Fathers: "Sacred Scripture is written principally in the Church's heart rather than in documents and records", that is, in the sacred text.

In the light of Christ's words, quoted above, the Council affirms that "this tradition which comes from the Apostles develops in the Church with the help of the Holy Spirit" (Dei Verbum, 8). This occurs with full comprehension through "contemplation and study made by believers", through "a penetrating understanding of the spiritual realities which they experience" and, above all, with the preaching of the successors of the apostles who have received "the sure gift of truth". In short, "the Church, in her teaching, life and worship, perpetuates and hands on to all generations all that she herself is, all that she believes" (ibid.).

In this regard, the expression of Saint Gregory the Great is famous: "The Sacred Scriptures grow with the one who reads them". [1] And Saint Augustine had already remarked that "there is only one word of God that unfolds through Scripture, and there is only one Word that sounds on the lips of many saints". [2] The Word of God, then, is not fossilized, but rather it is a living and organic reality that develops and grows in Tradition. Thanks to the Holy Spirit, Tradition understands it in the richness of its truth and embodies it in the shifting coordinates of history. In this regard, the proposal of the holy Doctor of the Church John Henry Newman in his work entitled *The Development of Christian Doctrine* is striking. He affirmed that Christianity, both as a communal experience and as a doctrine, is a dynamic reality, in the manner indicated by Jesus himself in the parables of the seed (cf. Mk 4:26-29): a living reality that develops thanks to an inner vital force. [3]

The apostle Paul repeatedly exhorts his disciple and collaborator Timothy: "O Timothy, guard what has been entrusted to you" (1 Tim 6:20; cf. 2 Tim 1:12-14). The Dogmatic Constitution *Dei Verbum* echoes this Pauline text when it says: "Sacred tradition and Sacred Scripture form one sacred deposit of the word of God, committed to the Church", interpreted by the "living teaching office of **(Continued on insert)**