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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



The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

December 28th, 2025

MASS SCHEDULE

MONDAY - 5th Day within the Octave of the
Nativity of the Lord

12:05 PM - Dr. Larry Rutledge
(Req. by wife Barbara)

TUESDAY - 6th Day within the Octave of the
Nativity of the Lord

5:30 PM - Vicki Huston
(Req. by husband Mike)

WEDNESDAY - 7th Day within the Octave of the
Nativity of the Lord

4:00 PM - **Francis John Beaujon**
(Req. by Parents Fran and Charlotte)
Rescheduled from 12-20-25

THURSDAY - Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother
of God

9:00 AM - Albert and Anna Mattis
(Req. Fr. John)

FRIDAY - SS. Basil the Great and Gregory
Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors of the
Church

12:05 PM - Mary Hawthorne
(Req. by Cathy Fuska)
Followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

SATURDAY - The Most Holy Name of Jesus
4:00 PM - Pro Populo

SUNDAY - The Epiphany of the Lord

9:00 AM - Rev. Msgr. Raymond Balta
(Req. by Dr. George Frem)

SANCTUARY CANDLE

Spiritual and Physical Health of Fr. John
Anonymous



**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 21, 2025

Loose Money.....	\$314.00
Sunday Collection.....	\$2671.00
Immaculate Conception.....	\$45.00
Christmas Flowers.....	\$867.00
Share in the Care.....	\$55.00
 TOTAL:	\$3952.00

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 29th to January 4th:



Ava Bolinger
Janice Percosky
Andrew Hauman
Rose Turner
Peter Gallo

William Fagan
Steven Smitley
James Mical
Elizabeth Dugan
Jane Janiga

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 the other conditions are met (confession, communion, 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!!!

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. Thank you.

Funeral Arrangements: One of the most important celebrations in the life of a Catholic Christian is the celebration of the Funeral Mass. Once a Catholic has died, especially one who had dedicated their life to coming to celebrate the Eucharist Sunday after Sunday, it is only fitting that a funeral Mass should be celebrated. Recently, some faithful Catholics, who have made arrangements or had arrangements made for them, have opted to have a funeral liturgy outside of Mass at the funeral home. I want all parishioners to be clear that if the only reason that a Mass is not celebrated at Church is due to the GENUINE concern over the expense, something can always be worked out. If there are any questions regarding this practice, you may contact the pastor directly.

From Pontiff to Pew:

In this past week's **Sunday Angelus**, Pope Leo noted that the liturgy invited us to meditate on the figure of Saint Joseph. In particular, we see him at the moment when God reveals his mission in a dream (cf. Mt 1:18-24). Thus, a very beautiful episode of salvation history is presented, in which the protagonist, like us, is a fragile and fallible man, yet at the same time is courageous and strong in faith. The Evangelist Matthew calls him a "just man" (cf. 1:19), characterizing him as a pious Israelite who observes the Law and attends the synagogue. In addition to this, however, Joseph of Nazareth also strikes us as someone who is keenly sensitive and human. We see an example of this even before the Angel reveals to him the mystery that is taking place in Mary. When Joseph is faced with a situation that is difficult to understand and accept, with regard to his future bride, he does not choose the path of scandal and public condemnation, but the discreet and benevolent path of secret repudiation (cf. Mt 1:19). In this way, he shows that he understands the deepest meaning of his own religious observance: the meaning of mercy.

The purity and nobility of his sentiments, however, become even more evident when the Lord, in a dream, reveals his plan of salvation to him, indicating the unexpected role that he must take up as the spouse of the Virgin Mother of the Messiah. Here, indeed, with a great act of faith, Joseph leaves even the last resort of his security and sets sail toward a future that is now totally in God's hands. Saint Augustine describes his assent in this way: "Through Joseph's piety and charity, a son was born of the Virgin Mary, and he was the Son of God" (Serm. 51: 20, 30).

Piety and charity, mercy and abandonment: these are the virtues of the man from Nazareth that today's liturgy shows us, so that they may accompany us in these last days of Advent, towards Christmas. These are important attitudes that educate the heart to encounter Christ and our brothers and sisters. They can also help us to be, for one another, a welcoming manger, a hospitable home, a sign of God's presence. In this time of grace, let us not waste the opportunity to practice them: forgiving, encouraging, giving a little hope to those with whom we live and those we meet; and renewing in prayer our filial abandonment to the Lord and his providence, entrusting everything to him with confidence. The pope concluded by praying that we should find help from the Virgin Mary and Saint Joseph, who, with faith and great love, were the first to welcome Jesus, the Savior of the world.

Once again we would like to remind all parishioners and guests that cell phones are to be silenced or turned off during the liturgy. Texting is also not permitted during the Mass. Please be considerate of the celebrant and your fellow parishioners. Thank you.

Ephesians 5:25

"Husbands, Love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her."

Psalm 127:3

"Sons are indeed a heritage from the LORD, the fruit of the womb a reward."

From the Pastor's Desk

My dear friends I am sorry that I was only able to celebrate the Solemnity of Christmas on Christmas Eve. I have been very ill these last few weeks, (as I am certain that you may have noticed if you were resent the eve of December 24th). Not only have I been under the weather; but I have also been suffering from an unexplainable muscular twitch and I also need to get a new set of glasses since my eyes have changed since I had my cataract surgery. I felt terrible that evening and I also had a very difficult time at Mass at Valley Pike Manor. I am sorry to all of you if I did not make your experience at Mass either here at Church or at the Manor a joyous one. I also apologize for not being able to celebrate Mass here at Church on Christmas Day. It broke my heart not to celebrate Mass with you on Christmas Day! Please forgive me, if I could have done anything to make things better I would have.

I hope that you all had a very Blessed and Happy Christmas. Although I spend the majority of the day by myself, I was able to enjoy a late evening meal with my Mother and with two good friends. The feast of the Holy Family of Nazareth (Jesus, Mary and Joseph) has always been very special for me. I have several pieces of art that depict the Holy Family. I have always had great love for my Mother and Father (dearly departed). They were so good to my sister and I through the whole of our lives I remember how they really supported my sister when she was going through hard times when she lived in the south and how they were so loving toward her children (helping with and supporting them through all their years of education, supporting them in all their sporting events. And gifting them throughout the whole of their lives. She continues to be generous to all of them. And they always have supported me, especially throughout the whole of my priesthood, being very welcoming to me so that I would never have to spend a day off or holiday alone and being very generous to me in many, many, many ways. I continue to be blessed to have my Mom and spend every day with her since my dad died. I love her VERY much!!!

Because of the counseling that I do, I wanted to share a post that I made on Facebook (which I rarely do, i. e., post).

I wonder if Santa Claus and his elves have brothers and sisters and if they spend Christmas by themselves because they are all "so busy"??? I know that Nicolas of Smyrna (St Nicholas) had siblings. Just wondering. I think all siblings who have to spend Christmas alone when they have brothers and sisters who are alive is beyond belief.. I

counsel many people who are in that situation...sadly 😞 Please pray for these people. They were alone this past Christmas

If you have not yet picked up your envelopes for 2026, please pick them up on the HOLY DAY (January 1) or next Sunday (January 4th when we celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany)

VOLUNTEER CHRISTMAS PARTY

There will be a Christmas party on the last Day of the Christmas Season (according to the Church's Liturgical Calendar) January 11th at 6 PM in the school cafeteria. Please mark your calendars for that special date. It will be catered by **Joey Del** so no one will have to work (HOORAY!!!) There will be hors d'oeuvres and dessert too!!!

