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VISITATION PARISH MEMBERSHIP FORM

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ADDRESS _____

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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



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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

5th Sunday in Ordinary Time February 8th, 2026

MASS SCHEDULE

- MONDAY - The Presentation of the Lord**
Dr. Larry Rutledge
(Req. by Mr. & Mrs. William Rippin)
(Private Mass in Rectory)
- TUESDAY - Saint Scholastica, Virgin**
5:30 PM - Michael "Cork" Crisafulli
(Req. by Walt & Mary Werzyn)
- WEDNESDAY - Weekday in Ordinary Time**
5:30 PM - Anna Marie Pfeil
(Req. by daughter Barb & son-in-law Rupe)
Followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
- THURSDAY - Weekday in Ordinary Time**
12:05 PM - James Rován
(Req. by Ezio DiFrancesco & Jean Fraser)
- FRIDAY - Weekday in Ordinary Time**
12:05 PM - Carmella Cascino
(Req. by Jenó Lecci)
Followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
- SATURDAY - Vigil of 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time**
4:00 PM - Robert E. Urban
(Req. by Family)
- SUNDAY - 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time**
9:00 AM - Pro Populo

SANCTUARY CANDLE

Private Intention
Fr. John



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

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.

ANOIDING 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 - February 1, 2026

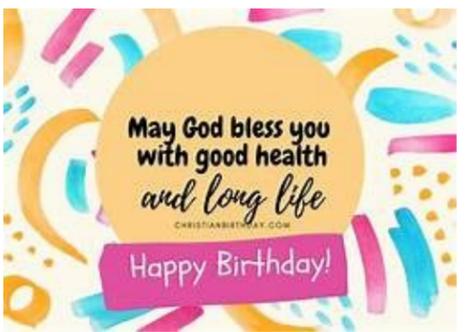
Loose Money.....	\$222.00
Sunday Collection.....	\$3447.00
Votive Candles.....	\$70.00
Bulletin Advertising.....	\$200.00
Perquisites - Dietz & Petrosky Funerals.....	\$300.00
Learning Lamp Rent - Feb.....	\$3800.00
Parking Lot Rent.....	\$315.00

TOTAL: \$8354.00

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 Petrero, 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 9th to February 15th:

- | | |
|------------------|-------------------|
| Elizabeth Cramer | Kelly Garanich |
| Julie Fontana | Jeffrey Palm |
| Brent Hancock | Margaret Wildner |
| Patricia Kozak | Madeleine Krueger |
| Ann Marie Lynch | Janice Martella |
| Matthew Oberhaus | |



For the Good of the Vineyard and Our Particular Part

SAVE THE DATE - It is difficult to believe that Lent is just over one week 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. (THIS IS NEXT WEEKEND) 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.

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!!!**



From Pontiff to Pew:
 During this past Sunday's **Angelus**, Pope Leo XIV reflected upon what he called "beautiful passage from the Good News that Jesus announces to all humanity: the Gospel of the Beatitudes" (Mt 5:1-12). These are, in fact, lights that the Lord kindles in the darkness of history, revealing the plan of salvation that the Father accomplishes through the Son, with the power of the Holy Spirit.
 On the mountain, Christ gives his disciples the new law, no longer written on stone. It is a law that renews our lives and makes them good, even when the world seems to have failed us and is full of misery. Only God can truly call the poor and afflicted blessed (cf. vv. 3-4), because he is the highest good who gives himself to all with infinite love. Only God can satisfy those who seek peace and justice (cf. vv. 6.9), because he is the just judge of the world and the author of eternal peace. Only in God do the meek, the merciful and the pure of heart find joy (vv. 5.7-8), because he is the fulfilment of their expectations. In persecution, God is the source of redemption; in falsehood, he is the anchor of truth. Therefore, Jesus proclaims: "Rejoice and be glad!" (v. 12). These Beatitudes remain a paradox only for those who believe that God is other than how Christ reveals him. Those who expect the arrogant to always rule the earth are surprised by the Lord's words. Those who are accustomed to thinking that happiness belongs to the rich may believe that Jesus is deluded. However, the delusion lies precisely in the lack of faith in Christ. He is the poor man who shares his life with everyone, the meek man who perseveres in suffering, the peacemaker persecuted to death on the cross. In this way, Jesus illuminates the meaning of history. It is no longer written by conquerors, but rather by God, who is able to accomplish it by saving the oppressed. The Son looks at the world through the Father's love. On the other hand, as Pope Francis said, there are "the experts in illusion. We should not follow them because they are unable to give us hope" (Angelus, 17 February 2019). Instead, God gives this hope primarily to those whom the world dismisses as hopeless. Therefore, dear brothers and sisters, the Beatitudes become for us a measure of happiness, leading us to ask whether we consider it an achievement to be bought or a gift to be shared; whether we place it in objects that are consumed or in relationships that accompany us. It is in fact because of Christ (cf. Mt 5:11) and thanks to him that the bitterness of trials is transformed into the joy of the redeemed. Jesus does not speak of a distant consolation, but of a constant grace that always sustains us, especially in times of affliction. The Beatitudes lift up the humble and disperse the proud in their inmost thoughts (cf Lk 1:51). Therefore, we ask for the intercession of the Virgin Mary, servant of the Lord, whom all generations call blessed.
 Pope Leo's **Wednesday Audience** continued his catechesis on the Conciliar Constitution *Dei Verbum*, "on Divine Revelation," which indicates in the Sacred Scripture, read in the living Tradition of the Church, a privileged space for encounter where God continues to speak to the men and women of every time, so that, by listening, they can know him and love him. The biblical texts, however, were not written in a heavenly or super-human language. Indeed, as daily life teaches us, two people who speak different languages cannot understand each other, cannot enter into dialogue, and are unable to establish a relationship. In some cases, making oneself understood to others is

a first act of love. This is why God chooses to speak using human languages and thus, various authors, inspired by the Holy Spirit, have written the texts of Sacred Scripture. As the Conciliar document reminds us, "the words of God, expressed in human language, have been made like human discourse, just as the word of the eternal Father, when He took to Himself the flesh of human weakness, was in every way made like men" (DV, 13). Therefore, not only in its content, but also in its language, the Scripture reveals God's merciful condescension towards men, and his desire to be close to them.
 Throughout the course of Church history, the relationship between the divine Author and the human authors of the sacred texts has been studied. For several centuries, many theologians were concerned to defend the divine inspiration of the Sacred Scripture, almost considering the human authors merely as passive tools of the Holy Spirit. In more recent times, reflection has re-evaluated the contribution of hagiographers in the writing of sacred texts, to the point that the Conciliar document speaks of God as the principal "author" of Sacred Scripture, but also calls hagiographers "true authors" of the sacred books (cf. DV, 11). As a keen exegete of the last century observed, "to reduce human activity to that of a mere amanuensis is not to glorify divine activity". [1] God never mortifies human beings and their potential!
 If, therefore, the Scripture is the word of God in human words, any approach to it that neglects or denies one of these two dimensions proves to be partial. It follows that a correct interpretation of the sacred texts cannot dispense with the historic environment in which they developed and the literary forms that were used; on the contrary, to renounce the study of the human words that God used risks leading to fundamentalist or spiritualist readings of the Scripture, which betray its meaning. This principle also applies to the proclamation of the Word of God: if it loses touch with reality, with human hopes and sufferings, if an incomprehensible language is used, uncommunicative or anachronistic, it is ineffective. In every age, the Church is called to re-propose the Word of God in a language capable of being embodied in history and reaching hearts. As Pope Francis reminds us, "Whenever we make the effort to return to the source and to recover the original freshness of the Gospel, new avenues arise, new paths of creativity open up, with different forms of expression, more eloquent signs and words with new meaning for today's world". [2]
 Equally reductive, on the other hand, is a reading of Scripture that neglects its divine origin and ends up understanding it as a mere human teaching, as something to be studied simply from a technical point of view or as a text "only of the past". [3] Rather, especially when proclaimed in the context of the liturgy, Scripture is intended to speak to today's believers, to touch their present lives with their problems, to enlighten the steps to be taken and the decisions to be made. This becomes possible only when believers read and interpret the sacred texts under the guidance of the same Spirit who inspired them (cf. DV, 12). In this regard, the Scripture serves to nurture the life and charity of believers, as Saint Augustine recalls: "Whoever ...Continued on todays insert."