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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

### 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time February 15th, 2026

#### MASS SCHEDULE

- MONDAY - Weekday in Ordinary Time**  
12:05 PM - Rose Mirabile  
(Req. by Jenò Lecci)
- TUESDAY - Weekday in Ordinary Time**  
8:00 AM - Spiritual & Temporal Welfare of Carol Evenson  
(Req. by Cathy Fuska)
- WEDNESDAY - Ash Wednesday**  
12:05 PM - Helene Balagusz  
(Req. by Nicolett Stofko)
- 5:30 PM - Paul Schmidt  
(Req. by Barry & Mickie Mills)  
Followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
- THURSDAY - Thursday after Ash Wednesday**  
NO MASS
- FRIDAY - Friday after Ash Wednesday**  
12:05 PM - Basil Balagusz (Birthday Remembrance)  
(Req. by Family)  
Followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
- 3:00 PM - Stations of the Cross
- SATURDAY - Vigil of 1st Sunday of Lent**  
4:00 PM - Paul Molchany  
(Req. by Cathy Fuska)
- 5:30 PM - Loretta Meyers  
(Req. by Family & Friends)
- SUNDAY - 1st Sunday of Lent**  
9:00 AM - Pro Populo

**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.

**SANCTUARY CANDLE**  
In Memory of Basil Balagusz  
Req. by Family

**\$\$ INCOME \$\$\$**  
**Collection - February 8, 2026**

Loose Money.....	\$263.00
Sunday Collection.....	\$2752.00
Solemnity of Mary.....	\$5.00
Black & Indian Missions.....	\$10.00
Initial Offering.....	\$12.00
Votive Candles.....	\$140.00
Bulletin Advertising.....	\$600.00
Parking Lot Rent.....	\$135.00

**TOTAL: \$3917.00**

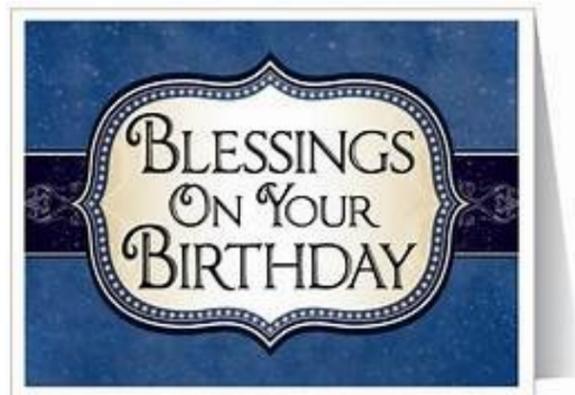
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Let us continue to pray for the members of our parish community who serve in the military, as well as for the sick, elderly and homebound members of our parish especially:

*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 16th to February 22nd:**



Zoey Furman  
 Raymond Riek  
 Donald Denk  
 Judith Lansberry

Barbara Mulvehill  
 Casey Cumberledge  
 Agnes Hornick  
 Dr. Russell Moore

**For the Good of the Vineyard and Our Particular Part**

**Rice Bowl Campaign** - CRS Rice Bowl is the Lenten program of Catholic Relief Services, the official relief and development agency of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Rooted in the history of the Eucharistic Congress, CRS Rice Bowl invites Catholics and faith communities in the United States to encounter God and our global family throughout Lent by practicing the pillars of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Lenten alms donated through CRS Rice Bowl support the work of CRS in more than 130 different countries. Twenty-five percent of donations stay in the local diocese, supporting hunger and poverty alleviation efforts. Since 1975, CRS Rice Bowl has raised more than \$350 million. The rice bowls will be in the vestibule of the church.

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**A reminder that our Lenten Fish Fry begins this Wednesday (Ash Wednesday) and continues every Friday during Lent with the exception of Good Friday. All information, including the number to call in orders, is located on the insert in today's bulletin.** Next weekend, we will be having our **first of four** scheduled second collections to help to offset some of the cost associated with the Fish Fry 2026. It is more important than ever that this Fish Fry be very successful given the current situation with our school building. While we ask everyone to contribute to this collection as their means allow, it is most important that you contribute if this is the only way that you are able to support us (i.e., you cannot volunteer, patronize our Fish Fry, etc.). The financial stability of our parish is the responsibility of every parishioner.

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Stations of the Cross will be celebrated each week at 3:00 PM during the Lenten Season with the exception of Good Friday. We hope that you can join us for this very traditional Lenten devotion.



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**Basket Party Planning Meeting** – There will be a basket party planning meeting on Monday, February 16th at 6:00 PM in the school cafeteria. All those planning on volunteering are invited and encouraged to attend.

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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 continued his reflection upon the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew's Gospel. After proclaiming the Beatitudes, Jesus addresses those who put them into practice, saying that thanks to them the earth is no longer the same and the world is no longer in darkness. "You are the salt of the earth... You are the light of the world" (Mt 5:13-14). Indeed, it is genuine joy that gives flavor to life and brings to light something that was not there before. This joy springs from a way of life, a way of inhabiting the earth and of living together that must be desired and chosen. It is the life that shines in Jesus, the new flavor of his words and deeds. After encountering Jesus in his poverty of spirit, his meekness and simplicity of heart, his hunger and thirst for justice, which unlocks mercy and peace as powers of transformation and reconciliation, those who would distance themselves from all this seem bland and dull.

The prophet Isaiah lists concrete gestures that overcome injustice: sharing bread with the hungry, bringing the poor and homeless into our homes, clothing those we see to be naked, without neglecting our neighbors and those in our own homes (cf. 58:7). The prophet continues, "then shall your light break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up speedily" (v. 8). On the one hand, there is light which cannot be hidden because it is as great as the sun that drives away the darkness every morning; on the other hand, there is a wound that was once burning and is now healing. Indeed, it is painful to lose flavor and give up joy; yet it is possible to have this wound in one's heart. Jesus seems to warn those who listen to him not to give up joy. Salt that has lost its flavor, he says, "is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot" (Mt 5:13). How many people – perhaps we ourselves – feel like they are worthless or broken. It is as if their light has been hidden. Jesus, however, proclaims a God who will never throw us away, a Father who cares for our names and our uniqueness. Every wound, even the deepest, will be healed by welcoming the word of the Beatitudes and setting us back on the path of the Gospel. Moreover, deeds of openness and attention to others will rekindle joy. At the same time, however, through their simplicity such gestures put us at odds with the world. Jesus himself was tempted in the desert to follow other paths, to assert his identity, to laud it and have the world at his feet. Yet he rejected the paths that would have caused him to lose his true flavor, the one we find every Sunday in the Bread that is broken, which is a life given and a silent love. Brothers and sisters, let us be nourished and enlightened by communion with Jesus. Without any boasting, we will then be like a city set on a hill, not simply visible, but also inviting and welcoming: the city of God where everyone, deep down, desires to live and find peace. Let us now turn our gaze and our prayers to Mary, the Gate of Heaven, that she may help us to become and remain disciples of her Son.

Pope Leo's **Wednesday Audience** continued his catechesis on the Conciliar Constitution *Dei Verbum*, "on Divine Revelation," which indicates in the Sacred Scripture, In Wednesday's catechesis he looked at the profound and vital link that exists between the Word of God and the Church, a bond expressed by the Conciliar Constitution Dei Verbum, in the sixth chapter. The Church is the rightful home of Sacred Scripture. Under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, the Bible arose from

the people of God, and is destined for the people of God. In the Christian community it has, so to speak, its habitat: indeed, in the life and the faith of the Church it finds the space where it can reveal its meaning and manifest its power. Vatican Council II reminds us that "the Church has always venerated the divine Scriptures just as she venerates the body of the Lord, since especially in the sacred liturgy, she unceasingly receives and offers to the faithful the bread of life from the table both of God's word and of Christ's body". Furthermore, "she has always maintained them, and continues to do so, together with sacred tradition, as the supreme rule of faith" (Dei Verbum, 21). The Church never ceases to reflect on the value of the Sacred Scriptures. After the Council, a very important moment in this regard was the Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops on the theme "The Word of God in the life and mission of the Church" in October 2008. Pope Benedict VI gathered its fruit in the post-Synodal Exhortation *Verbum Domini* (30 September 2010), in which he affirms: "The intrinsic link between the word and faith makes clear that authentic biblical hermeneutics can only be had within the faith of the Church, which has its paradigm in Mary's fiat... the primary setting for scriptural interpretation is the life of the Church" (no. 29). In the ecclesial community, Scripture therefore finds the sphere in which to carry out its particular task and achieve its purpose: to make Christ known and to open dialogue with God. Indeed, "ignorance of the Scriptures is ignorance of Christ". [1] This well-known expression of Saint Jerome reminds us of the ultimate purpose of reading and meditating on the Scriptures: to get to know Christ and, through Him, to enter into a relationship with God, a relationship that can be understood as a conversation, a dialogue. And the Constitution *Dei Verbum* presented the Revelation to us precisely as a dialogue, in which God speaks to humans as though to friends (cf. DV, 2). This occurs when we read the Bible with an inner attitude of prayer: God then comes towards us and enters into conversation with us. The Sacred Scripture, entrusted to the Church and preserved and explained by her, performs an active role: indeed, with its efficacy and power it sustains and invigorates the Christian community. All the faithful are called to drink from this wellspring, first and foremost in the celebration of the Eucharist and the other Sacraments. Love for the Sacred Scriptures and familiarity with them must guide those who carry out the ministry of the Word: bishops, priests, deacons, catechists. The work of exegetes and those who practise biblical sciences is invaluable, and Scriptures have a central place in theology, which finds its foundation and soul in the Word of God. The Church ardently desires that the Word of God may reach every one of her members and nurture their journey of faith. But the Word of God also propels the Church beyond herself; it opens her continually to the mission towards everyone. Indeed, we live surrounded by so many words, but how many of these are empty! At times we even listen to wise words, which do not however affect our ultimate destiny. On the contrary, the Word of God responds to our thirst for meaning, for the truth about our life. It is the only Word that is always new: revealing the mystery of God to us, it is inexhaustible, it never ceases to offer its riches.