

Please support the sponsors on this page. It is through their support that this bulletin is made possible.

255-3822(DUCA)	Frank Duca Funeral Home , Inc.	ducafuneralhome.com
Westmont Chapel 1622 Menoher Blvd. 15905 Frank Duca, Supv., Funeral Director	3 Generations of Trusted Duca Family Care	East Hills Chapel & Crematory 404 Walters Avenue, 15904 Bradley Duca, Supv., Funeral Director

Dr. John P. Walker



Family Dental Center

"Experience the Art of Dentistry"

Cosmetic Dentistry - Crowns
Bridges - Dentures
ZOOM! Professional Whitening System
Root Canals & Extractions

New Patients Welcome
Most Insurance Accepted

(814) 255-7181
www.DrJohnWalker.com
307 State Street - Johnstown, PA 15905

"Best Auto Rates For Drivers Over 50"

BRETT INSURANCE AGENCY, INC.

Jim Brett
Phone: 814-535-8649
E-mail: jibrett@brettinsurance.com

Randy's BiLo FOODS

81 Osborne Street
Johnstown • 535-7704

1514 Jefferson Ave.
Windber • 467-6624

Country Delights
EST. 1987



Specializing in Wedding Packages & Cookies for All Occasions.
Homestyle Cooking and Baking

Please visit us at
www.country-delights.com

814-288-5372
129 Dickey Hill Road, Davidsville, PA

Francis G. Ozog Funeral Home, Inc.

710 Broad Street
Johnstown, PA 15906
814.539.5127

Frank G. Ozog
Funeral Director

"Our family serving your family with compassion, dignity and respect for over 90 years."

With Over 90 Years Serving The Greater Johnstown Area

We Offer Services That Fit Every Family's Needs

Traditional Funeral Services
Contemporary Funeral Services
Cremation Services
Pre-Need Counseling

PICKING - TREECE - BENNETT MORTUARY, INC.

West Hills • 921 Menoher Blvd. - 814-255-4040 • PTBMortuary.com

CARING, COMPASSIONATE SERVICE SINCE 1909
THE AREA'S MOST SPACIOUS AND ACCESSIBLE FUNERAL HOME
THOMAS L. DIXON, Supervisor •

If anyone is interested in advertising their business, please give Catherine, the parish secretary, at (814) 536-6110 extension 1.

Henderson Funeral Homes

- Johnstown
- Geistown
- Conemaugh

Ask about our:

- Bethlehem Steel Retirees Program
- COPE - Grief Help Group
- YOUR CHOICE PLAN

NO MORE BOTTLES

with... **Medi-Pac**

Michelle Walters Photography

I aim to capture and document real-life events, situations or milestones.

Let me capture your most precious moments.

Book Today!

814-244-1647
MWALTERS912@YAHOO.COM

ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS HERE

TEAR, TAKE & GO!

"Caring For You & About You Since 1964"

Martella's Pharmacies

Franklin St. | Park Hill | Ligonier
Windber | Central City | Boswell

www.martellaspharmacy.com
CALL US TODAY 814-535-1833

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

1st Sunday of Lent February 22nd, 2026

MASS SCHEDULE

- MONDAY - Lenten Weekday**
Dr. Larry Rutledge
(Req. by Mr. & Mrs. William Rippin)
(Private Mass in Rectory)
Rescheduled from 2-9-26
- TUESDAY - Lenten Weekday**
5:30 PM - Barry Mills
(Req. by Barb Connor)
- WEDNESDAY - Lenten Weekday**
5:30 PM - Health & Welfare of
John Bair, Ann Koval, Pat Kozak
and Connie Pribozie
(Req. by Gaile Krumenacker)
Followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
- THURSDAY - Lenten Weekday**
12:05 PM - Mary Tay
(Req. by Jenno Lecci)
- FRIDAY - Lenten Weekday**
12:05 PM - James Rovon
(Req. by Chuck & Pat Sura)
Followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
- 3:00 PM - Stations of the Cross
- SATURDAY - Vigil of 2nd Sunday of Lent**
4:00 PM - Ann Tay Lecci
(Req. by Jenno Lecci)
- SUNDAY - 2nd Sunday of Lent**
9:00 AM - Pro Populo

SANCTUARY CANDLE
Spiritual and Physical Health of Fr. John
Anonymous

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.

\$\$\$ INCOME \$\$\$
Collection - February 15, 2026

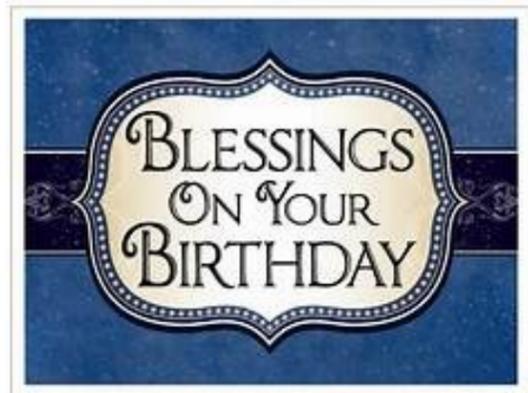
Loose Money.....	\$382.00
Sunday Collection.....	\$3183.00
Votive Candles.....	\$64.00
Sanctuary Candle.....	\$10.00
St. Peregrine.....	\$57.00
Bulletin Advertising.....	\$300.00
Apartment Rent - Feb.....	\$625.00

TOTAL: \$4621.00

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 Petrora, Maria Petro-Sanders, Mia Bella Rastall, Stacy Roberts, Sean Rován, 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 23rd to March 1st:



Dr. Donna Datko
 Donna Decker
 Brad Lehman
 Teresa Arnone
 Stephanie Rovanssek

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. Since 1975, CRS Rice Bowl has raised more than \$350 million. The rice bowls will be in the vestibule of the church next to the Lenten Prayer Partners envelopes.

Young Adult Group (18-39): All young adults (18-39) are invited! There is no cost to attend. Our next Theology on Tap is February 25th at the Boulevard Grill at 6pm with Fr. David Dodd TOR speaking on: The Scriptures and the Power of God: Highly Valuing the Scriptures. For more information contact Geoffrey Stumpo at (814) 659-7415 or geoffstumpo@gmail.com.

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.



 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 ESPECIALLY DURING LENT 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!!!**



SOME LENTEN INSPIRATION
 -"Lent comes providentially, to shake us from our lethargy."
 -Pope Francis
 -"We can think of Lent as a time to eradicate evil or to cultivate virtue, a time to pull up weeds or plant good seeds, for the Christian ideal is always positive rather than negative."
 -Rev. Fulton J Sheen

From Pontiff to Pew:

As part of his reflections for the **Sunday Angelus**, Pope Leo XIV, following the Gospel cycle continued his reflections upon another part of the "Sermon on the Mount" (cf. Mt 5:17-37). After having proclaimed the Beatitudes, Jesus invites us to enter into the newness of the Kingdom of God. In order to guide us on this journey, he reveals the true meaning of the precepts of the Law of Moses. They are not meant to satisfy an external religious need of feeling "righteous" before God, but to bring us into a relationship of love with God and with our brothers and sisters. For this reason, Jesus says that he did not come to abolish the Law, but to bring it to fulfillment (cf. v. 17). The Law is fulfilled precisely by love, which brings its profound meaning and ultimate purpose to completion. We are called to achieve a righteousness that "exceeds" (cf. v. 20) that of the scribes and Pharisees, a righteousness that is not limited to observing the commandments, but that opens us to love and compels us to love. Jesus examines some of the precepts of the Law that refer to concrete cases, and uses linguistic formulas called antinomies to show the difference between formal religious righteousness and the righteousness of the Kingdom of God: on the one hand, "You have heard that it was said to the men of old," and on the other, Jesus affirms, "But I say to you" (cf. vv. 21-37). This approach is very important, because it shows that the Law was given to Moses and the prophets as a way to come to know God and his plan for us and for history or, to use an expression of Saint Paul, as a pedagogue who guided us to him (cf. Gal 3:23-25). But now, God himself, in the person of Jesus, has come among us, bringing the Law to fulfillment, making us children of the Father and giving us the grace to enter into a relationship with him as children and as brothers and sisters among ourselves. Brothers and sisters, Jesus teaches us that true righteousness consists in love and that, within every precept of the Law, we must learn to identify a call to love. Indeed, it is not sufficient to refrain from killing a person physically if one then kills with words and undermines the dignity of the other (cf. Mt 5:21-22). Similarly, it is not enough to be technically faithful to one's spouse and not commit adultery if the relationship lacks mutual tenderness, listening, respect, care for the other and shared goals (cf. vv. 27-28, 31-32). We could add other examples to the ones that Jesus himself offers us. The Gospel offers us this valuable teaching: minimal righteousness is not enough; great love is needed.

In his **Wednesday Audience**, Pope Leo began his catechesis on the Vatican II's *Dogmatic Constitution on the Church, Lumen Gentium*. When the Second Vatican Council, to whose documents we are dedicating the catecheses, wanted to describe the Church, it was concerned first and foremost with explaining where its origins lie. In order to do so, in the Dogmatic Constitution Lumen gentium, approved on 21 November 1964, it drew the term "mystery" from the Letters of Saint Paul. By choosing this word, he did not mean to say that the Church is something obscure or incomprehensible, as is commonly thought when the word "mystery" is heard. It is exactly the opposite: indeed, when Saint Paul uses the word, especially in the Letter to the Ephesians, he wishes to indicate a reality that was previously hidden and is now revealed. It refers to God's plan, which has a purpose: to unify all creatures thanks to the reconciliatory action of Jesus Christ, an

action that was accomplished in his death on the cross. This is experienced first of all in the assembly gathered for the liturgical celebration: there, differences are relativized, and what counts is being together because we are drawn by the Love of Christ, who broke down the wall of separation between people and social groups (cf. Eph 2:14). For Saint Paul, mystery is the manifestation of what God wanted to achieve for the whole of humanity, and is made known in local experiences, which gradually widen to include all human beings and even the cosmos. The condition of humanity is one of fragmentation that human beings are unable to repair, even though the tendency towards unity dwells in their heart. The action of Jesus Christ enters into this condition through the power of the Holy Spirit, and overcomes the powers of division and the Divider himself. Gathering together to celebrate, having believed in the proclamation of the Gospel, is experienced as an attraction exerted by the cross of Christ, which is the supreme manifestation of God's love. It is feeling called together by God: this is why the term *ekklesia* is used, that is, an assembly of people who recognize that they have been summoned together. So, there is a certain coincidence between this mystery and the Church: the Church is the mystery made perceptible. This convocation, precisely because it is brought about by God, cannot however be limited to a group of people, but rather is destined to become the experience of all human beings. Therefore, the Second Vatican Council, at the beginning of the Constitution Lumen gentium, states that: "the Church is in Christ like a sacrament or as a sign and instrument both of a very closely knit union with God and of the unity of the whole human race" (no. 1). With the use of the term "sacrament" and the consequent explanation, it is intended to indicate that the Church is an expression of what God wants to accomplish in the history of humanity; therefore, by looking at the Church, we can to some extent grasp God's plan, the mystery. In this sense, the Church is a sign. In addition, the term "instrument" is added to the term "sacrament", precisely to show that the Church is an active sign. Indeed, when God works in history, he involves in his activity the people who are the objects of his action. It is through the Church that God achieves the aim of bringing people to him and uniting them with one another. Union with God finds its reflection in the union of human beings. This is the experience of salvation. It is not a coincidence that in the Constitution Lumen gentium, in Chapter 7, dedicated to the eschatological nature of the pilgrim Church, again uses the description of the Church as a sacrament, with the specification "of salvation": "Christ, having been lifted up from the earth has drawn all to Himself (cf. Jn 12:32 gr.). Rising from the dead (cf. Rom 6:9) He sent His life-giving Spirit upon His disciples and through Him has established His Body which is the Church as the universal sacrament of salvation. Sitting at the right hand of the Father, He is continually active in the world that He might lead men to the Church and through it join them to Himself and that He might make them partakers of His glorious life by nourishing them with His own Body and Blood".

(Continued on bulletin insert)