

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. Slovickowski, 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

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: jbrett@brettinsurance.com

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, Davisville, 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

Randy's BiLo FOODS

81 Osborne Street
Johnstown • 535-7704
1514 Jefferson Ave.
Windber • 467-6624

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

GRANDVIEW MONUMENT SALES, INC.

Alexis C. Kozak
DIRECTOR OF SALES
alexisad@aol.com
CELL (814) 242-0000

Grandview Cemetery
801 Millcreek Road, Johnstown, PA 15905

Michelle Walters Photography
Specializing in Lifestyle 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

NO MORE BOTTLES
with Medi-Pac

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

Henderson Funeral Homes

(814) 536-4602

Ask about our:

- Johnstown • Bethlehem Steel Retirees Program
- Geistown • COPE - Grief Help Group
- Conemaugh • YOUR CHOICE PLAN

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

4th Sunday of Lent March 15th, 2026

MASS SCHEDULE

- MONDAY - Lenten Weekday**
Albert Reynolds Sr.
(Req. by Mary Reynolds)
(Private Mass in Rectory)
Rescheduled from 3-9-26
- TUESDAY - Lenten Weekday**
12:05 PM - Angeline Lecci
(Req. by Lecci Family)
- WEDNESDAY - Lenten Weekday**
12:05 PM - Carol J. Houghton
(Req. by Family)
- THURSDAY - St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary**
12:05 PM - James Rován - Birthday Remembrance
(Req. by Spouse and Family)
- FRIDAY - Lenten Weekday**
12:05 PM - Helene Balagusz
(Req. by Ron Cleaver)
Followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
- 3:00 PM - Stations of the Cross
- SATURDAY - Vigil of 5th Sunday of Lent**
4:00 PM - Paul Molchany
(Req. by Family)
- 5:30 PM - Anna Marie Pfeil
(VPM) (Req. by Barb Harshberger)
- SUNDAY - 5th 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.

Eucharistic 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.

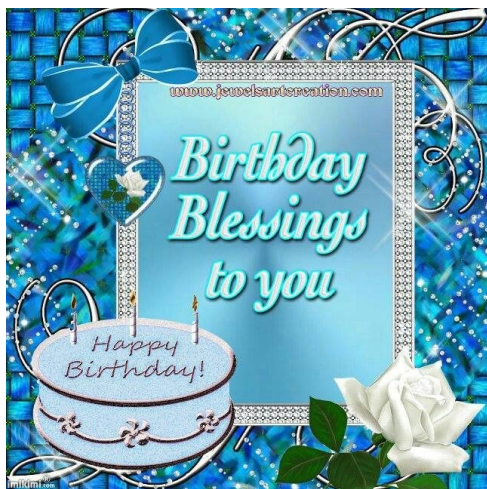
\$\$\$ INCOME \$\$\$
Collection - March 8, 2026

Loose Money.....	\$498.00
Sunday Collection.....	\$2910.00
Ash Wednesday.....	\$20.00
Apartment Rental - March.....	\$625.00
Parking Lot Rent.....	\$70.00

TOTAL: \$4123.00

 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 Leftie, 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 March 16th to March 22nd:



Margaret Blough
 Connie Pribozie
 Valerie Gjurich
 Carrie Young
 Delaney Leis

Linda Garanich
 Ron Conahan
 Andrea Nosko
 David Doepken
 Thomas Oberhaus

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 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!!!



Basket Party Information - On April 11th and April 12th, we will be having our second annual walk-through basket party in the school gymnasium. We are in need of new items for baskets, already made baskets worth \$25 and up. Gift cards, lottery tickets and spirits are also greatly appreciated. Please bring your donations to the church vestibule. There will be donation letters in the vestibule of the church to take if you know of any businesses that would be willing to help us. The very last day to bring items will be **March 31st**. There will also be a sign up sheet for volunteers to help with the basket party in the vestibule of the church. The next basket party meeting will be on **March 16th** at 6 PM in the school cafeteria.



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.

Annual Lenten Penance Service - Please join us for our annual Lenten Penance Service on Thursday, March 19th at 5:30 PM. We will have 10 priests with us that evening, so please make the most of this opportunity to be reconciled with God and neighbor prior to the celebration of Easter. We look forward to seeing you there.



From Pontiff to Pew:

As part of the **Sunday Angelus**, Pope Leo XIV, on the Second Sunday of Lent, reflected upon on the 4th Gospel and the story of the woman at the well. Since the first centuries of the Church's history, the dialogue between Jesus and the Samaritan woman, the healing of the man born blind and the resurrection of Lazarus illuminate the path of those who, at Easter, will receive Baptism and begin a new life. These great Gospel passages, which we read beginning this Sunday, are intended for the catechumens to help them on their journey to become Christians. At the same time, these passages are heard once again by the entire community of believers to help them to be more authentic and joyful Christians.

Indeed, Jesus is the response to our thirst. As he suggested to the Samaritan woman, the encounter with him stirs in the depths of each person "a spring of water gushing up to eternal life" (Jn 4:14). How many people in the entire world are searching even today for this spiritual spring! "Sometimes I am there too," writes the young Etty Hillesum in her diary. "But more often stones and grit block the well, and God is buried beneath. Then he must be dug out again." [1] Dear friends, there is no energy better spent than that dedicated to freeing our heart. For this reason, Lent is a gift: we are starting the third week and now we are able to intensify the journey!

It is also written in the Gospel that: "His disciples came [and] they were astonished that he was speaking with a woman" (Jn 4:27). They are reluctant to accept his mission as their own, so the Master has to prompt them: "Do you not say, 'Four months more, then comes the harvest'? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting" (Jn 4:35). The Lord still says to his Church: "Lift up your eyes and recognize God's surprises!" In the fields, four months prior to the harvest, one sees practically nothing. But there, where we see nothing, grace is already at work and its fruits are ready to be gathered. The harvest is great: perhaps the workers are few because they are distracted by other activities. Jesus, on the other hand, is attentive. According to custom, he ought to have simply ignored that Samaritan woman; instead, Jesus speaks with her, listens to her, and shows her respect - without a hidden agenda and without disdain.

How many people seek in the Church this same sensitivity, this availability! And how beautiful it is when we lose track of time in order to give attention to the person we are encountering, as we see in this passage. Jesus was so spiritually nourished by God's desire to reach people on the deepest levels that he even forgot to eat (cf. Jn 4:34). Thus, the Samaritan woman becomes the first of many female evangelizers. Because of her testimony, many from her village of despised and rejected people came to meet Jesus, and also in them faith bubbled forth like pure water.

In his weekly **Wednesday Audience**, Pope Leo continued his exploration of the Conciliar Constitution *Lumen gentium*, the dogmatic Constitution on the Church, looking at the second chapter, dedicated to the People of God. God, who created the world and humanity, and who wishes to save every man, carries out his work of salvation in history, choosing a real people and dwelling among them. For this reason, He calls Abraham and promises him descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and the sand on the seashore (cf. Gen 22:17-18). With Abraham's children, after freeing them from slavery, God makes a covenant with them, accompanies them, cares for them, and gathers them together whenever they

stray. Therefore, the identity of this people is given by God's action and by faith in Him. They are called to become a light for other nations, like a beacon that will draw all peoples, the whole of humanity, to itself (cf. Is 2:1-5). The Council affirms that "All these things, however, were done by way of preparation and as a figure of that new and perfect covenant, which was to be ratified in Christ, and of that fuller revelation which was to be given through the Word of God Himself made flesh" (LG, 9). Indeed, it is Christ who, in giving His Body and His Blood, unites this people in Himself and in a definitive way. It is a people now made up of members of every nation; it is united by faith in Him, by adherence to Him, by living the same life as Him, animated by the Spirit of the Risen One. This is the Church: the people of God who draw their existence from the body of Christ [1] and who are themselves the body of Christ; [2] not a people like any other, but the People of God, called together by Him and made up of women and men from all the peoples of the earth. Its unifying principle is not a language, a culture, an ethnicity, but faith in Christ: the Church is therefore - according to a splendid expression of the Council - the assembly of "all those who in faith look upon Jesus" (LG, 9).

It is a messianic people, precisely because it has Christ, the Messiah, as its head. Those who belong to it do not pride themselves on merits or titles, but only on the gift of being, in Christ and through Him, daughters and sons of God. Above any task or function, therefore, what really matters in the Church is to be grafted onto Christ, to be children of God by grace. This is also the only honorary title we should seek as Christians. We are in the Church in order to receive life from the Father unceasingly and to live as His children and brothers and sisters among ourselves. Consequently, the law that animates relationships in the Church is love, as we receive and experience it in Jesus; and her goal is the Kingdom of God, towards which she walks together with all humanity.

Unified in Christ, Lord and Saviour of every man and woman, the Church can never turn inwards on herself, but is open to everyone and is for everyone. If believers in Christ belong to it, the Council reminds us that "All men are called to belong to the new people of God. Wherefore this people, remaining one and unique, must extend to the whole world and to all ages, so that the intention of God's will may be fulfilled, who in the beginning created human nature as one and wants to gather together his children who were scattered" (LG, 13). Even those who have not yet received the Gospel are therefore, in some way, oriented towards the people of God, and the Church, cooperating in Christ's mission, is called upon to spread the Gospel everywhere and to everyone (cf. LG 17), so that every person may enter into contact with Christ. This means that in the Church there is, and there must be, a place for everyone, and that every Christian is called to proclaim the Gospel and bear witness in every environment in which he or she lives and works. Thus, this people shows its catholicity, welcoming the wealth and resources of different cultures and, at the same time, offering them the newness of the Gospel to purify them and to raise them up (cf. LG, 13). In this regard, the Church is one but includes everyone. A *(Continued on Insert)*