

# Church of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary



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Johnstown, PA 15905

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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**

## 5th Sunday of Lent March 22nd, 2026

Sunday 3/22 2:00 PM - The Shroud of Turin  
Presented by Mary and Chip Knott

### MASS SCHEDULE

- MONDAY - Lenten Weekday**  
Barry Mills (Private Mass in Rectory)  
(Req. by Alan Sidwar)
- TUESDAY - Lenten Weekday**  
12:05 PM - Patricia Balagusz - Birthday Celebration  
(Req. by Family)
- WEDNESDAY - The Annunciation of the Lord**  
5:30 PM - Paul Schmidt  
(Req. by Helen Boyle)  
Followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
- THURSDAY - Lenten Weekday**  
12:05 PM - Francis John Beaujon  
(Req. by Fran & Charlotte Beaujon)
- FRIDAY - Lenten Weekday**  
12:05 PM - Hannah Salem  
(Req. by John & Julie Fontana)  
Followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
- 3:00 PM - Stations of the Cross
- 6:30 PM - The Via Dolorosa  
Presented by Deacon Michael Russo
- SATURDAY - Vigil of Palm Sunday**  
4:00 PM - Michael "Cork" Crisafulli  
(Req. by Walt & Mary Werzyn)
- SUNDAY - Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord**  
9:00 AM - Pro Populo

**SANCTUARY CANDLE**  
Easter Blessing for Aunts Anna Marie & Margaret  
Mateljan  
Req. by niece Barbara Vedock

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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

**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.

**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 - March 15, 2026**

Loose Money.....	\$315.00
Sunday Collection.....	\$2130.00
Initial Offering.....	\$15.00
Catholic Relief Services.....	\$71.00
Votive Candles.....	\$111.00
St. Peregrine.....	\$43.00
Sanctuary Candles.....	\$20.00
Parking Lot Rent.....	\$315.00

**TOTAL: \$3020.00**

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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*

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**Please join us in remembering members of our parish family who celebrate their birthdays the week of March 23rd to March 29th:**



Maureen Clark  
 Peggy Cavanaugh  
 Dawn Stephens

Patricia Balagusz  
 Christine Butler  
 Stephanie Zanghi

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

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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 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!!!**



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**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.



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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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**Holy Week Decorating Schedule** - The schedule for decorating the church for Holy Week is as follows:

**Saturday 3/28** - For Palm Sunday @ 9 AM

**Wednesday 4/1** - For Holy Thursday @ 3 PM

**Thursday 4/2** - For Good Friday will be after the Holy Thursday Mass and **Friday 4/3** @ 9 AM

**Saturday 4/4** - For the Easter Vigil @ 9 AM

If anyone is able and willing to come and help decorate any of the dates an times listed above, we would really appreciate it. Think of it as a way of strengthening your relationship with God by volunteering your time and talents with Him!



**From Pontiff to Pew:**

During this past Sunday's **Angelus**, Pope Leo XIV offered the following reflection in its entirety:

Dear brothers and sisters, happy Sunday!

The Gospel reading for the **Fourth Sunday of Lent** narrates the healing of a man blind from birth (cf. Jn 9:1-41). Through the symbolism of this account, John the Evangelist speaks to us of the mystery of salvation: while we were in darkness, while humanity walked in gloom (cf. Is 9:2), God sent his Son as the light of the world, to open the eyes of the blind and illuminate our lives.

The prophets had announced that the Messiah would open the eyes of the blind (cf. Is 29:18; 35:5; Ps 146:8). Jesus himself confirmed the authenticity of his mission by showing that "the blind receive their sight" (Mt 11:5), and he presented himself with the words: "I am the light of the world" (Jn 8:12). Certainly, all of us can say that we are "blind from birth," for by ourselves we cannot see the mystery of life in all its depth. That is why God became flesh in Jesus, so that the clay of our humanity, shaped by the breath of his grace, might receive a new light, one capable of helping us to see ourselves, others and God in truth.

It is striking that, over the centuries, the opinion has spread and persists to this day that faith is a kind of "leap in the dark," a renunciation of thought, such that having faith would mean believing "blindly." However, the Gospel shows us that through contact with Christ, our eyes are opened. Indeed, the religious authorities ask the healed blind man with insistence: "Then how were your eyes opened?" (Jn 9:10); and again: "How did he open your eyes?" (v. 26).

Brothers and sisters, we too are healed by the love of Christ and are called to live our faith with "open eyes." Faith is not a blind act, a forsaking of reason or a retreat into some sort of religious certainty that causes us to turn our gaze away from the world. On the contrary, faith helps us to see things "as Jesus himself sees them, with his own eyes: it is a participation in his way of seeing" (Lumen Fidei, 18). In this sense, faith is an invitation to "open our eyes," as the Lord did, especially towards the suffering of others and the afflictions of the world.

Today, in a particular way, in the face of the many questions of the human heart, as well as the tragic situations of injustice, violence and suffering that mark our time, it is essential that our faith be alert, attentive and prophetic. It should likewise open our eyes to the darkness of the world, and bring to others the light of the Gospel through our commitment to peace, justice and solidarity.

Let us ask the Virgin Mary to intercede for us, so that the light of Christ may open the eyes of our hearts and enable us to bear witness to him with simplicity and courage.

In his weekly **Wednesday Audience**, Pope Leo continued his exploration of the Conciliar Constitution *Lumen gentium*, the dogmatic Constitution on the Church, The Documents of Vatican Council II, 4. The Church, a Priestly and Prophetic People. Here is the Wednesday Audience in its entirety:

Dear brothers and sisters, good morning and welcome! Today I would like to revisit the second chapter of the Conciliar Constitution *Lumen gentium* (LG), devoted to the Church

as the people of God.

The messianic people (LG, 9), receive from Christ the participation in the priestly, prophetic and kingly work office through which his salvific mission is carried out. The Council Fathers teach that the Lord Jesus, through the new and eternal Covenant, has established a kingdom of priests, constituting his disciples as a 'royal priesthood' (1 Pet 2:9; cf. 1 Pet 2:5; Rev 1:6). This common priesthood of the faithful is given with Baptism, which enables us to worship God in spirit and truth, and to "confess before men the faith which they have received from God through the Church" (LG, 11). Furthermore, through the sacrament of Confirmation, all the baptized "are more perfectly bound to the Church ... and the Holy Spirit endows them with special strength so that they are more strictly obliged to spread and defend the faith, both by word and by deed, as true witnesses of Christ" (ibid.). This consecration is at the root of the common mission that unites the ordained ministries and the lay faithful. In this regard, Pope Francis observed that, "Looking at the People of God is remembering that we all enter the Church as lay people. The first sacrament, which seals our identity forever, and of which we should always be proud, is Baptism. Through Baptism and by the anointing of the Holy Spirit, (the faithful) 'are consecrated as a spiritual house and a holy priesthood' (LG, 10), [so that] everyone forms the faithful Holy People of God" (Letter to the President of the Pontifical Commission for Latin America, 19 March 2016).

The exercise of the royal priesthood takes place in many ways, all aimed at our sanctification, first and foremost through participation in the offering of the Eucharist. Through prayer, asceticism and active charity, we thus bear witness to a life renewed by God's grace (cf. LG, 10). As the Council summarizes, "it is through the sacraments and the exercise of the virtues that the sacred nature and organic structure of the priestly community is brought into operation" (LG, 11).

The Council Fathers then teach that the holy People of God also participate in the prophetic mission of Christ (cf. LG, 12). In this context, the important theme of the sense of the faith and the consensus of the faithful is introduced. The Doctrinal Commission of the Council specified that this *sensus fidei* "is like a faculty of the whole Church, by which she, in her faith, recognises the revelation handed down, distinguishing between true and false in matters of faith, and at the same time penetrates it more deeply and applies it more fully in life" (cf. Acta Synodalia, III/1, 199). The sense of faith therefore belongs to individual believers not in their own right, but as members of the People of God as a whole.

*Lumen gentium* focuses on this latter aspect, and places it in relation to the infallibility of the Church, to which that of the Roman Pontiff is inherent and by which it is served. "The entire body of the faithful, anointed as they are by the Holy One (c. 1 Jn 2:20,27), cannot err in matters of belief. They manifest this special property by **(continued on insert)**