

# Church of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary



1127 McKinley Avenue  
Johnstown, PA 15905

Rectory Phone: 536-6110  
E-Mail: [visitationjtown@dioceseaj.org](mailto:visitationjtown@dioceseaj.org)  
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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**

**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.

**Palm Sunday**  
**March 29th, 2026**

### MASS SCHEDULE

**MONDAY - Monday of Holy Week**  
Private Mass in Rectory

**TUESDAY - Tuesday of Holy Week**  
Private Mass in Rectory

**WEDNESDAY - Wednesday of Holy Week**  
Private Mass in Rectory

**THURSDAY - Holy Thursday - Mass of the Lord's Supper**  
7:00 PM - Priests of the Altoona-Johnstown Diocese  
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in **ABSOLUTE SILENCE** until 9:00 PM

**FRIDAY - Good Friday**  
12:05 PM - Celebration of the Lord's Passion

**SATURDAY - Holy Saturday**  
4:00 PM - Blessing of Easter Baskets  
8:30 PM - Easter Vigil  
Living & Deceased Members of Visitation Parish

**SUNDAY - Easter Sunday**  
9:00 AM - Living & Deceased Members of Visitation Parish

### SANCTUARY CANDLE

Easter Blessing for Frank & Elizabeth Mateljan  
Req. by daughter Barbara Vedock

The daily readings may be found at either [USCCB.ORG](http://USCCB.ORG) or with the daily readings listed in the back of the misalette.

**\*Please note that the parish office will be closed from April 2nd – 6th for the Easter holiday. The parish office will reopen on Tuesday, April 7th at 9 AM.**

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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**

**\$\$\$ INCOME \$\$\$**  
**Collection - March 22, 2026**

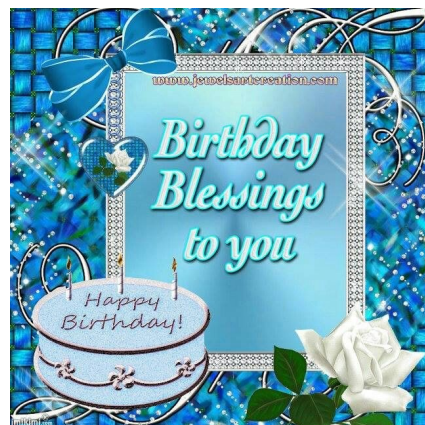
Loose Money.....	\$377.00
Sunday Collection.....	\$3010.00
Solemnity of Mary.....	\$5.00
Easter Offering.....	\$20.00
Easter Flowers.....	\$205.00
Ash Wednesday.....	\$10.00
Parking Lot Rent.....	\$35.00

**TOTAL: \$3662.00**

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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 Petrora, 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 30th to April 5th:**



Christine Bumbernick  
 Connie Grunza  
 Craig Moore  
 Barbara Costlow

Lynnette Corona  
 Jessica Martella  
 Allyana Stephens  
 Bonnie Trigona

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

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

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

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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. 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. **There will be a basket party committee meeting on Monday, March 31st, at 6 PM in the school cafeteria.**



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**Visitation Parish Easter Gas Card Giveaway - PLEASE BE SURE TO TURN IN ALL MONEY AND TICKETS NO LATER THAN TUESDAY, MARCH 31ST SINCE THE PARISH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED FROM THURSDAY APRIL 2ND TO MONDAY APRIL 6TH FOR THE EASTER HOLIDAY!** On Easter Sunday, April 5, 2026, Visitation Parish will be chancing off a ticket for \$500 of Sheetz Gasoline. The Winning number will be taken from the first three (straight) numbers drawn of the 7 PM official Pick 3 daily Pennsylvania Lottery. If the winning ticket is not sold, the winner will be determined by a random drawing. Thank you to all who have supported this new fundraiser that is earmarked to assist with the budgetary deficit caused by the present lack of a renter for our school building.

**From Pontiff to Pew:**

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

Dear brothers and sisters, good morning!

On this Fifth Sunday of Lent, the liturgy proclaims the Gospel of the raising of Lazarus (cf. Jn 11:1-45). In the Lenten journey, this is a sign that speaks of Christ's victory over death and of the gift of eternal life, which we receive through Baptism (cf. Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1265). Today Jesus also says to us, as he did to Martha, Lazarus's sister: "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die" (Jn 11:25-26).

The liturgy thus invites us, in light of the fact that Holy Week is drawing near, to relive the events of the Lord's Passion — the entry into Jerusalem, the Last Supper, the trial, the crucifixion, the burial — so that we may grasp their most authentic meaning and open ourselves to the gift of grace they contain.

These events are fulfilled in the risen Christ, who has conquered death and lives within us through Baptism, for our salvation and the fullness of life.

His grace illumines this world, which seems to constantly search for novelty and change, even at the cost of sacrificing important things — time, energy, values, affections — as if fame, material goods, entertainment and fleeting relationships could fill our hearts or make us immortal. It is a symptom of a longing for the infinite that each of us carries within us, a need that cannot be satisfied by passing things. Nothing finite can quench our inner thirst, for we are made for God, and we find no peace until we rest in him (cf. Confessions, I, 1.1).

The account of the resurrection of Lazarus, then, invites us to listen to this profound need and, with the power of the Holy Spirit, to free our hearts from habits, conditioning and ways of thinking which, like boulders, shut us away in the tomb of selfishness, materialism, violence and superficiality. In these places there is no life, but only confusion, dissatisfaction and loneliness.

Jesus also cries out to us: "Come out!" (Jn 11:43), urging us to emerge from these cramped spaces, renewed by his grace, to walk in the light of love, as new women and men, capable of hoping and loving, without calculation and without measure, according to the model of his infinite charity.

May the Virgin Mary help us to live these holy days with her faith, her trust and her fidelity, so that the glorious experience of encountering her risen Son may be renewed in us each day.

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, 5. On the foundation of the Apostles. The Church in her hierarchical dimension. Here is the Wednesday Audience in its entirety:

Dear brothers and sisters, good morning and welcome! We will continue our catecheses on the Documents of the Second Vatican Council, commenting on the Dogmatic Constitution *Lumen gentium* on the Church (LG). After presenting her as the People of God, today we will consider her hierarchical form.

The Catholic Church is founded on the Apostles, whom Christ appointed as the living pillars of His mystical Body, and possesses a hierarchical structure that works in the service of the unity, mission and sanctification of all her members. This sacred Order is permanently founded on the Apostles (cf. Eph 2:20; Rev 21:14), as authoritative witnesses to the resurrection of Jesus (cf. Acts 1:22; 1 Cor 15:7) and sent by the Lord Himself on mission into the world (cf. Mk 16:15; Mt 28:19). Since the Apostles are called to faithfully preserve the Master's salvific teaching (cf. 2 Tim 1:13-14), they hand on their ministry to men who, until Christ's return, continue to sanctify, guide and instruct the Church "through their successors in pastoral office" (Catechism of the Catholic Church, no. 857).

This apostolic succession, founded on the Gospel and in the Tradition, is explored further in Chapter III of *Lumen gentium*, entitled "On the hierarchical structure of the Church and in particular on the Episcopate". The Council teaches that the hierarchical structure is not a human construct, functional to the internal organization of the Church as a social body (cf. LG, 8), but a divine institution whose purpose is to perpetuate the mission given by Christ to the Apostles until the end of time.

The fact that this theme is addressed in Chapter III, after the first two chapters have considered the very essence of the Church (cf. Acta Synodalia III/1, 209-210), does not imply that the hierarchical constitution is a subsequent element with respect to the People of God: as the Decree *Ad gentes* notes, "the Apostles were the first budding-forth of the New Israel, and at the same time the beginning of the sacred hierarchy" (no. 5), inasmuch as they were the community of those redeemed by Christ's Paschal Mystery, established as a means of salvation for the world.

By the adjective "hierarchical", therefore, the Council intends to indicate the sacred origin of the apostolic ministry in the action of Jesus, the Good Shepherd, as well as its internal relationships. The Bishops, first and foremost, and through them the priests and deacons, have received tasks (in Latin *munera*), which lead them to the service of "all those who belong to the People of God", so that, "working toward a common goal freely and in an orderly way, [they] may arrive at salvation" (LG, 18).

*Lumen gentium* repeatedly and effectively recalls the collegial and communal nature of this apostolic mission, reaffirming that the "duty which the Lord committed to the shepherds of His people is a true service, which in sacred literature is significantly called 'diakonia' or ministry" (LG, 24). We can therefore understand why Saint Paul VI presented the hierarchy as a reality "born of the charity of Christ, to fulfil, spread and ensure the intact and fruitful transmission of the wealth of faith, examples, precepts and charisms bequeathed by Christ to His Church" (Address, 14 September 1964, in Acta Synodalia III/1, 147).

Dear sisters and dear brothers, let us pray to the Lord that He may send to His Church ministers who are ardent with evangelical charity, dedicated to the good of all the baptized, and courageous missionaries in every part of the world.