

Church of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary



1127 McKinley Avenue
Johnstown, PA 15905

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Rev. John J. Slovickovski, 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.

5th Sunday of Easter May 3rd, 2026

MASS SCHEDULE

MONDAY - Easter Weekday
NO MASS

TUESDAY - Easter Weekday
NO MASS

WEDNESDAY - Easter Weekday
5:30 PM - Anna Marie Pfeil - Anniversary
(Req. by Barb & Rupe)
Rescheduled from 4-22-26

THURSDAY - Easter Weekday
12: 05 PM - Helene Balagusz
(Req. by Lois & Robert Slivinsky)
Rescheduled from 4-23-26

FRIDAY - Easter Weekday
12:05 PM - Helen Woznick
(Req. by Ed & Charlene Torchia)
Rescheduled from 4-24-26

SATURDAY - Vigil of 6th Sunday of Easter
4:00 PM - All Mothers Living and Deceased

SUNDAY - 6th Sunday of Easter
9:00 AM - All Mothers Living and Deceased

SANCTUARY CANDLE
All Mothers Living and Deceased



The daily readings may be found at either USCCB.ORG or with the daily readings listed in the back of the missalette.

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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 - April 26, 2026

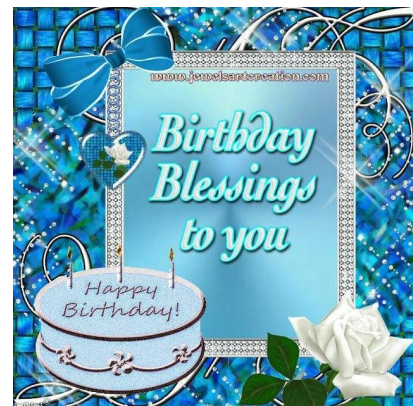
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Parking Lot Rent.....	\$105.00

TOTAL: \$3607.25

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 May 4th to May 10th:



Wade Meyer
 Martin Bolinger

Jeanne Prosser
 Kimberly Litvin

Barbara Penna

For the Good of the Vineyard and Our Particular Part

Visitation Parish and DJ Tom Hoover presents: Music Bingo Night - Visitation Parish will be having our first ever music bingo night with DJ Tom Hoover. It's just like bingo but with song titles instead of numbers on the bingo cards. As he plays the music videos, guests will mark the song titles off their bingo cards. Guests won't have to guess the song titles as they will be displayed on the screen. This event will be held on Saturday, June 6th, with doors opening @ 5:15 PM and first round of bingo @ 6:30 PM. For more information, please be sure to check out the bulletin insert included in today's bulletin. If anyone is interested in buying a ticket, you may be able to purchase them at mass on the weekends or by calling Debbie Magro at (814) 536-3426 or (814) 243-9028. You may also call the rectory from Monday to Friday between 9AM - 2:30 PM if you are interested in purchasing a ticket.



Public Rosary - There will be a public rosary in honor of Our Lady of Fatima, on Saturday, May 9th at noon at the Vine Street Parklet in downtown Johnstown and on Thursday, May 21st at 6:30 PM at St. Clement Church.

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. 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!!!

Please continue to pray for Fr. John as he continues to recover from the many complications of his most recent hospital stay. He wants nothing more than to be able to celebrate the Eucharist with us during mass and we all pray that he makes a full recovery soon.

Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else, believe because of the works themselves. Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever believes in me will do the works that I do, and will do greater ones than these, because I am going to the Father." ~ *John 14:11-12*

From Pontiff to Pew:

On Sunday, after the prayerful recitation of the **Regina Caeli**, Pope Leo XIV greeted all of those assembled in Saint Peter's Square. Here it is in its entirety:

Brothers and sisters, good afternoon and happy Sunday!

As we continue our journey through the Easter season, today's Gospel presents us with Jesus' comparison of himself to a shepherd and also to the gate of the sheepfold (cf. Jn 10:1-10).

Jesus draws a contrast between the shepherd and the thief. Indeed, he says that "anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit" (v. 1). He goes on to make this even clearer: "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly" (v. 10). The difference is clear: the shepherd has a special bond with his sheep and can therefore enter by the gate of the sheepfold. On the other hand, if someone has to climb over the fence to get in, then he is certainly a thief who wants to steal the sheep.

Jesus is telling us that he is bound to us by a relationship of friendship, for he knows us, calls us by name, guides us, and – just as the shepherd does with his sheep – searches for us when we are lost and binds up our wounds when we are sick (cf. Ezek 34:16). Jesus does not come as a thief to take away our life and our freedom, but to lead us along the paths of righteousness. He does not come to ensnare or deceive our conscience, but to illuminate it with the light of his wisdom. He does not come to taint our earthly joys, but to open them to a fuller and more lasting happiness. Those who entrust themselves to him have nothing to fear, for he does not deprive us of life, but comes to give it to us in abundance (cf. v. 10).

Brothers and sisters, we are invited to reflect on, and especially to be vigilant over, the gate to our heart and our life, because whoever enters may either increase our joy, or steal it from us like a thief. "Thieves" can take many forms. They could be: people who, regardless of appearances, suppress our freedom or fail to respect our dignity; beliefs and biases that prevent us from viewing others and life with serenity; mistaken ideas that can lead us to make negative choices; or superficial and consumeristic lifestyles that leave us empty on the inside and push us to live constantly beyond ourselves. And let us not forget those "thieves" who, by pillaging the earth's resources, waging blood-thirsty wars, or fueling evil in any form, do nothing but rob each of us of the possibility of a future marked by peace and serenity.

We must ask ourselves: Who do we want to guide us in life? Which "thieves" have tried to break into our fold? Have they succeeded, or have we managed to ward them off?

Today, the Gospel invites us to trust in the Lord. He does not come to take anything from us. On the contrary, he is the Good Shepherd who increases life and offers it to us in abundance. May the Blessed Virgin Mary always accompany us on our journey and intercede for us and for the whole world.

In his weekly **Wednesday Audience**, Pope Leo wanted to talk about his Apostolic Journey he made from April 13th to April 23rd. Here is the Wednesday Audience in its entirety:

Dear brothers and sisters, good morning and welcome!

Today I would like to talk about the Apostolic Journey I made from 13 to 23 April, visiting four African countries: Algeria, Cameroon, Angola and Equatorial Guinea.

Since the very beginning of my Pontificate, I have

thought about a journey in Africa. I thank the Lord for granting me the opportunity to undertake it, as Shepherd, to meet and encourage the people of God; and also to experience it as a message of peace at a moment in history marked by conflicts and serious and frequent violations of international law. And I express my heartfelt thanks to the Bishops and Civil Authorities who welcomed me, and to all those who helped organize the visit.

Providence would have it that the first stop should be the very country where the sites of Saint Augustine are found, namely Algeria. Thus, I found myself, on the one hand, revisiting the roots of my spiritual identity and, on the other, crossing and strengthening bridges that are very important for the world and the Church today: the bridge with the very fruitful age of the Fathers of the Church; the bridge with the Islamic world; and the bridge with the African continent.

In Algeria I received a welcome that was not only respectful but warm, and we were able to experience firsthand and show the world that it is possible to live together as brothers and sisters, even of different religions, when we recognize ourselves as children of the same merciful Father. Furthermore, it was a timely opportunity to learn from the example of Saint Augustine: through his life experience, his writings and his spirituality, he is a teacher in the search for God and for truth. A testimony that is more important than ever today for Christians and for every person.

In the next three countries I visited, the population is instead predominantly Christian, and I therefore found myself immersed in an atmosphere of celebration of the faith and warm welcome, enhanced also by the characteristic traits of the African people. Like my Predecessors, I too experienced something of what happened to Jesus with the crowds in Galilee: He saw them thirsting and hungry for justice, and proclaimed to them: "Blessed are the poor, blessed are the meek, blessed are the peacemakers", and, recognizing their faith, said, "You are the salt of the earth and the light of the world" (cf. Mt 5:1-16).

The visit to Cameroon allowed me to reinforce the call to work together for reconciliation and peace, for that country too is, unfortunately, marked by tensions and violence. I am glad to have travelled to Bamenda, in the Anglophone region, where I encouraged people to work together for peace. Cameroon is known as "Africa in miniature", because of the variety and richness of its natural environment and its resources, but we can also interpret this expression to mean that the great needs of the entire continent are found in Cameroon: the need for a fair distribution of wealth; the need to provide space for the young, overcoming endemic corruption, that of promoting integral and sustainable development, countering the various forms of neo-colonialism with far-sighted international cooperation. I thank the Church in Cameroon and all the Cameroonian people, who welcomed me with such love, and I pray that the spirit of unity which was evident during my visit may be kept alive and guide future choices and actions.

(continued on insert)