

# 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)  
Website: [www.visitationbvmchurch.com](http://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

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](http://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](mailto:jbrett@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](http://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

**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](mailto: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](http://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

## 7th Sunday of Easter May 17th, 2026

### MASS SCHEDULE

- MONDAY - Easter Weekday**  
NO MASS
- TUESDAY - Easter Weekday**  
NO MASS
- WEDNESDAY - Easter Weekday**  
NO MASS
- THURSDAY - Easter Weekday**  
12: 05 PM - Francis John Beaujon  
(Req. by Fran & Charlotte Beaujon)  
**\*Rescheduled from 3-26-26\***
- FRIDAY - Easter Weekday**  
12:05 PM - Hannah Salem  
(Req. by John & Julie Fontana)  
**\*Rescheduled from 3-27-26\***  
Followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
- SATURDAY - Vigil of Pentecost Sunday**  
4:00 PM - Pro Populo
- 5:30 PM - Eleanor Thomas  
(VPM)  
(Req. by Shirley Machowski)
- SUNDAY - Pentecost Sunday**  
9:00 AM - Charlene Tarnowsky  
(Req. by father John Bair)

### SANCTUARY CANDLE

In Loving Memory of Zlata Prohaska & Parents  
Req. by Nada Prohaska



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

## 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 - May 10, 2026**

Loose Money.....	\$319.00
Envelopes.....	\$3167.00
Lenten Rice Bowl.....	\$15.00
Mother's Day.....	\$205.00
Sanctuary Candle.....	\$20.00
Parking Lot Rent.....	\$50.00

**TOTAL: \$3776.00**

\*\*\*\*\*  
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 May 18th to May 24th:



Martin Kozak  
 Linda Crocco  
 Jennifer Lentz  
 James Wachs

Walter Werzyn  
 Brenda Winski  
 James R. Winski

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. 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!!!



\*\*\*\*\*  
**Diaconate Ordination et alia...**

By the Grace of God, the Most Reverend Mark L. Bartchak, J.C.L. has called our own **John Fontana** to be ordained to the Order of Deacons on Saturday, June 6, 2026 at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament in Altoona, at 10:00 AM. As so many of you have played a role in John's formation, all are invited and encouraged to participate in this Ordination Liturgy, (which is a celebration of Eucharist). If you are interested in a carpool, please sign up in the main vestibule of the Church and we will see if we can get a carpool together. Unfortunately, we cannot celebrate this glorious event immediately; however, there will be **a reception in John's honor the following Saturday, June 13 immediately following the 4:00 PM Mass.** Please consider being part of the many festivities surrounding this sacramental milestone in John's life. There will be a sign up sheet in the vestibule for the reception for all who wish to attend.

\*\*\*\*\*  
**Diocesan 125 Anniversary Celebration**

*On Sunday, May 31, 2026,* the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown will mark its 125 Anniversary with a special liturgy (celebration of Eucharist) celebrated at 2:00 PM in the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament. This will be one of the largest celebrations in our diocese's history for it will be attended by the Apostolic Pro Nuncio (or his delegate), our Metropolitan Archbishop, 4-5 other bishops from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, as well as several other religious and political dignitaries. All members of the diocese are encouraged to attend. Some members of our parish have expressed an interest in attending. Therefore, if you are interested either sign the signup sheet in the main vestibule of the Church or call the rectory by Wednesday, May 27 by the end of the business day. It would be lovely if we could get a carpool together.

\*\*\*\*\*  
 I will be away from the afternoon of Sunday, May 17 until the evening of Wednesday, May 20. In the event of an emergency please call the rectory and the parish secretary will respond accordingly (if it is after regular office hours, your call will be returned promptly the next business day.) I ask that you pray that I am able to spend some time relaxing while I am away. As always, I will remember you in my prayers as well.

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:

In today's Gospel, we hear some of the words Jesus addressed to his disciples during the Last Supper. As he turns the bread and wine into a living expression of his love, Christ says: "If you love me, you will keep my commandments" (Jn 14:15). This statement frees us from the misconception that we are loved because we keep the commandments, as if our righteousness were a prerequisite for God's love. On the contrary, God's love is the basis for our righteousness. We truly keep the commandments according to God's will when we recognize his love for us, just as Christ revealed it to the world. Jesus' words are therefore an invitation to enter into a relationship, not a blackmail or a suspicious ultimatum. This is why the Lord commands us to love one another as he has loved us (cf. Jn 13:34): it is Jesus' love that begets love within us. Christ himself is the standard, the measure of true love: the love that is faithful forever, pure and unconditional. The love that knows no "buts" or "maybes;" the love that gives of itself without seeking to possess; the love that gives life without taking anything in return. Because God loved us first, we too can love, and when we truly love God, we truly love one another. It is like life itself: just as only those who have received life can live, so too, only those who have been loved can love. The Lord's commandments are therefore a way of life that heal us from false loves. They are a spiritual lifestyle that is a path towards salvation.

It is precisely because he loves us that the Lord does not leave us alone in life's trials; he promises us the Paraclete, that is, the Advocate, the "Spirit of truth" (Jn 14:17). This gift is one that "the world cannot receive" (ibid.), as long as it persists in evil, oppressing the poor, excluding the weak and killing the innocent. Those who respond to Jesus' love for all, on the other hand, will find in the Holy Spirit an ally who will never fail: "You know him," says Jesus, "for he dwells with you, and will be in you" (ibid.). We can therefore bear witness to God, who is love, always and everywhere. Love is not an idea of the human mind, but the reality of divine life, through which all things were created out of nothing and redeemed from death. By offering us true and eternal love, Jesus shares with us his identity as the beloved Son: "I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you" (v. 20). This all-encompassing communion of life refutes the Accuser — the Paraclete's adversary, the spirit opposed to our defender. In fact, while the Holy Spirit is the power of truth, the Accuser is the "father of lies" (Jn 8:44), who seeks to set humanity against God and people against one another: the very opposite of what Jesus does by saving us from evil and uniting us as a people of brothers and sisters in the Church.

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, Dogmatic Constitution Lumen gentium. He notes that The Second Vatican Council chose to dedicate the last chapter of the Dogmatic Constitution on the Church to the Virgin Mary (cf. Lumen gentium, 52-69). She "is hailed as a pre-eminent and singular member of the Church, and as its type and excellent example in faith and charity" (LG, 53). These words invite us to understand how in Mary, who under the action of the Holy Spirit welcomed and brought forth the Son of

God made flesh, we can recognize both the model and the pre-eminent member and mother of the entire ecclesial community. By allowing Herself to be shaped by the work of Grace, which came to fulfillment in Her, and by welcoming the gift of the Most High with Her faith and Her virginal love, Mary is the perfect model of what the whole Church is called to be: a creature of the Word of the Lord and mother of the children of God, begotten in docility to the action of the Holy Spirit. Furthermore, as She is the believer par excellence, in whom we are offered the perfect form of unconditional openness to the divine mystery within the communion of God's holy people, Mary is an excellent member of the ecclesial community. Finally, inasmuch as She brings forth children in the Son, loved in the eternal Beloved who came among us, Mary is the mother of the whole Church, which can turn to her with filial confidence, in the certainty of being heard, protected and loved. One might express the sum of these characteristics of the Virgin Mary by referring to Her as a woman who is the icon of the Mystery. The word woman highlights the historical reality of this young daughter of Israel, to whom it was granted to live the extraordinary experience of becoming the mother of the Messiah. The expression icon emphasizes that, in Her, the two-fold movement of descent and ascent is fulfilled: in Her, both God's gratuitous election and Her free consent of faith in Him shine forth. Mary is therefore the woman who is the icon of the Mystery, that is, of the divine plan of salvation, once hidden and now revealed in its fullness in Jesus Christ.

The Council has left us clear teaching on the unique place reserved to the Virgin Mary in the work of Redemption (cf. Lumen gentium, 60-62). It recalls that the sole Mediator of salvation is Jesus Christ (cf. 1 Tm 2:5-6), and that his Mother Most Holy "in no way impedes, but rather fosters the immediate union of the faithful with Christ (cf. LG, 60). At the same time, "predestined from eternity by that decree of divine providence which determined the incarnation of the Word to be the Mother of God, the Blessed Virgin ... in this singular way ... cooperated by Her obedience, faith, hope and burning charity in the work of the Saviour in giving back supernatural life to souls. Wherefore She is our mother in the order of grace" (ibid., 61). The mystery of the Church is also reflected in the Virgin Mary: in Her, the people of God find the representation of their origin, their model and their homeland. In the Mother of the Lord, the Church contemplates her own mystery, not only because she finds in Her the model of virginal faith, maternal charity and the spousal covenant to which she is called, but also and above all because in Her she recognizes her own archetype, the ideal figure of what she is called to be. As we can see, the reflections on the Virgin Mother collected in Lumen gentium teach us to love the Church and to serve within her the fulfillment of the Kingdom of God, which is coming and which will be fully realized in glory.

Let us then allow ourselves to be questioned by the sublime model given to us by Mary, Virgin and Mother, and let us ask Her to help us, through Her intercession, to **(Continued on insert)**