

From Pontiff to Pew:

the cultural forms of each age and has been able to influence them and even transform them. The liturgy has thus been, for centuries, a driving force for evangelization. Today, this energy must be renewed in continuity with the authentic and living Catholic tradition, that is, in accordance with a dynamic aimed at introducing believers to the fullness of the truth.

It is therefore understandable why the Council Fathers recommended that the revision of the rites, when “the good of the Church genuinely and certainly requires them”, must be carried out taking care that “any new forms adopted should in some way grow organically from forms already existing” (SC, 23). For the good of the entire Church, every reform must always be preceded by careful “theological, historical and pastoral” investigation (ibid.). The Council Magisterium, in this way, thus calls for the avoidance of confusion amongst the faithful, discouraging anyone from adding, removing or altering anything in liturgical matters on their own initiative (cf. SC, 22). The progress evoked in the Conciliar Constitution in no way compromises ecclesial communion: rather, it seeks to confirm and foster it.

I therefore urge all those called to prepare the celebration of the divine mysteries, in particular priests who exercise the ministry of liturgical presidency, to always uphold that respect for the texts and regulations of the liturgy which springs from an inner attitude of openness and trust in God, manifesting humility before His greatness and sincere fidelity to ecclesial communion.

From the Pastor's Desk

Greetings to all of you, my beloved friends. I am glad that I am really not a believer in luck or chance for if I were I would have to say that “If I had no bad luck, I’d have no luck at all.” I say this because to add *insult to injury* (and in fact, *injury to injury*) this past Tuesday morning, at 10:45 AM my maintenance person, Chris Houghton and I were in a serious car accident on the way back from Forbes Hospital for routine blood work. At the intersection of routes 56 and 711 in Seward, PA a car went through a stop sign and hit us head on, primarily on the right passenger side. It was really by a miracle that we were able to “walk away” from the accident alive. We were both wearing seat belts and all of the air bags in the car

were deployed. We were both bruised VERY badly, and taken to the Conemaugh Emergency Room. I was treated and released after 6 hours; however, Chris had to stay overnight to be released the next day. It was a miracle that neither of us had any broken bones given the force of the crash. I was also wearing a neck pillow (I was asleep until the split second before the crash) which I believe also saved me from a more severe neck injury. What a miracle God worked that day, and thanks be to Him!!! I am still in a great deal of pain at the time of this writing (early Friday morning) so please say some extra prayers for Chris and for me. Wow! I am truly at a loss for words over the whole ordeal and am a bit verklempt even writing about it now. Again, please keep us in prayer.

**Congratulations - Celebration - Save the Date -NOTE
THE CHANGE OF DATE**

To ALL the members of Visitation Parish,

On Monday, May 11, 2026, Fr. John celebrated his 30-year anniversary of priestly ordination. What a tremendous life of service that he has offered to the Church, and for 12 of those years we have been privileged to have Fr. John serving as the pastor of our parish. Most priests have a huge celebration to mark their 25th anniversary; however, Fr. John did not because of the proximity to the Covid-19 outbreak and the need for him to stay healthy in light of an upcoming liver transplant (which actually did not occur until several years afterward). In any case, we the parish would like to mark the celebration of his 30th anniversary with a party on Saturday, July 25th with a formal dinner here in the parish gymnasium, following the 5:00 PM Saturday Vigil Mass. Please mark your calendar and save the date. We would love to see our entire parish family gather for this milestone event marking a life of dedicated service to God, the Church, and our parish family.