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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			

Church of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Rectory Phone: 536-6110
E-Mail: visitationjtown@dioceseaj.org
Website: www.visitationbvmchurch.com
Fax: 536-3709



16th Sunday in Ordinary Time July 19th, 2026

MASS SCHEDULE

MONDAY - Weekday in Ordinary Time
NO MASS

TUESDAY - Weekday in Ordinary Time
5:30 PM - Rosemarie Sigg
(Req. by Vince & Donna Rzasz)

WEDNESDAY - Saint Mary Magdalene
5:30 PM - Joseph M. Martella, Sr.
(Req. by Jackie Martella)
Followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

THURSDAY - Weekday in Ordinary Time
9:00 AM - Joseph Lecci
(Req. by Lecci Family)

FRIDAY - Weekday in Ordinary Time
12:05 PM - Charlene Tarnowsky
Birthday Remembrance
(Req. by father, John Bair)
Followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

SATURDAY - Vigil of 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time
4:00 PM - Frank Fratrach
(Req. by Cathy Fuska)

SUNDAY - 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time
9:00 AM - Pro Populo

SANCTUARY CANDLE
In Memory of Charlene Tarnowsky
Req. by father, John Bair



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

1127 McKinley Avenue Johnstown, PA 15905

Rev. John J. Slovikovski, PhD, Pastor
Rev. Mr. John Fontana, Deacon
Mrs. Maureen Clark, DRE
Mrs. Kathleen Bumbernick, DMM
Ms. Catherine Bennett, Secretary
Ms. Chris Houghton, Maintenance
Mr. David Kozak, Chairperson, PC
Mr. Joseph Martella, Vice-Chairperson, PC
Mr. Steve Myers, Chairperson, FC

**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.

Eucharistic 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 - July 12, 2026

Loose Money.....	\$279.00
Envelopes.....	\$3242.00
Holy Father.....	\$20.00
Apartment Rental - July.....	\$625.00

TOTAL: \$4166.00

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, Marylee Konicky, Madeleine Krueger, Dick Krumenacker, Gaile Krumenacker, Victoria Leflie, Michael Letzo, Joanne Macri, Patricia Mainhart, Eric Mangiafico, Marianne Mangiafico, Pat Meagher, Myla Minner, Pauline Molchany, Larry Oravetz, Anna Petro, Francis Petro, Jean Petroro, Maria Petro-Sanders, Mia Bella Rastall, Stacy Roberts, Sean Rovon, Stephen Sanders, Jennifer Schellhammer, Allegra Slick, Father John Slovikovski, Shirley Slovikovski, Ken Turner, Megan Varmecky, Carrie Young

Please join us in remembering members of our parish family who celebrate their birthdays the week of July 20th to July 2654th:



Andrew Bezek	Douglas Crum
Joseph Furman	Jessica Sabella
James Stephens	Ian Skovensky
Jeff Figura	Dianne Krise
Stephen Katancik	

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!!!



PLEASE NOTE THE UPDATED DAYS FOR THE TRIDUUM BELOW!

Saint John Gualbert Cathedral - Saint Anne Triduum: July 24–26: Join us as we gather in prayer and celebration to honor Saint Anne, the beloved mother of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Schedule of Events

Friday, July 24 - Vespers – 6:00 PM

Saturday, July 25 -Holy Mass – 6:00 PM

Sunday, July 26 – Holy Mass followed by a Eucharistic Procession – 5:00 PM (Deacon John Fontana - Homilist)

We are honored to welcome **our newly ordained permanent deacons, Deacon Wally Zapotoczny, Deacon Matt Marafino and Deacon John Fontana** as guest homilists throughout the Triduum. During the Eucharistic Procession, we will also unveil and carry a new statue of Saint Anne, created through innovative AI-assisted design and brought to life through 3D-printing technology. All are warmly invited to participate in these special days of prayer, worship, and fellowship as we seek the intercession of Saint Anne for our families, parish, and community.

Visitation Parish Labor Day Gas Card Giveaway

On Labor Day Monday, September 7th, 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. The cost of one ticket is \$5, or 5 tickets may be purchased for \$20. Please support this fundraiser that is earmarked to assist with the budgetary deficit caused by the present lack of a renter for our school building.

There has been someone who has purchased the gas ticket number # **514**. The person gave us the wrong half of their ticket, so if they would be able to call the rectory and let Catherine, our secretary know, we would appreciate it. She can schedule a time for that person to bring the other half of the ticket with their information on it over and take the half they need.

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!

In today’s liturgy, the Evangelist Matthew presents us with the Parable of the Sower (cf. Mt 13:1–23), which describes the generosity and trust with which God sows his Word in our hearts and his power in us.

Jesus himself, the Word made flesh, who gave his life for our salvation, is the seed that the Father continues to sow throughout the world so that, by dying, he may bear much fruit (cf. Jn 12:24). It is true that sometimes he finds in us hard and unresponsive soil, at other times distracted soil, like the beaten path, the rocky ground, or the thorny bushes. Yet there are also moments when he finds receptive and fertile ground, and then miracles of love are set in motion that have the power to transform everything — as we ourselves have no doubt experienced in our own lives. For this reason, the Father never ceases to sow, because he knows that the power of his love is stronger than our weakness (cf. 2Cor 12:9–10).

Referring to the “seed” of the Word of God, Saint John Chrysostom asks, “How could it be reasonable to sow among thorns, on rocky ground, or on the path? In the case of seeds and soil, it would not be reasonable; but in the case of souls and doctrine, it is altogether praiseworthy” (Homilies on the Gospel of Matthew, 44, 5), because in God’s hands it is possible that “rocky ground may be transformed into fertile soil; that the path may no longer be trampled underfoot or exposed to every passer-by, but become rich earth; and that the thorns may be cleared away and the seed may enjoy complete security” (ibid.).

God’s generosity towards us is not naïve but wise. He sees within us the potential of a good that, at times, we ourselves might fail to recognize. For this reason, the Lord, who knows the soil of our hearts better than we, never ceases to believe in us — in who we are and in who we can become, day by day, if we entrust ourselves to him in faith.

Thus, from the generosity and trust with which the seed is sown, and from the humility and openness with which it is received, the fruits of the Holy Spirit grow within us and spread. Saint Paul teaches that they are “love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control” (Gal 5:22). How greatly our world stands in need of these fruits: to be filled with them and transformed by them!

Let us therefore resolve, especially during these summer days of vacation, to make room for listening to, reading, and meditating on the Word of God, thereby fostering — together with rest and wholesome recreation — meaningful moments of silence and prayer. In this way, we shall return to our usual activities renewed in body and spirit, ready to proclaim the Good News of the Gospel and ever more capable of contributing to the growth of the Kingdom of God.

May Mary, Queen of the Apostles and Star of the Evangelization, help us.

For some Clarification: Pope Leo and the War with Iran

I found the following article in Newsweek Magazine this week and I thought that it might bring some much needed clarification on Pope Leo XIV’s recent statements with regard to the war in Iran. It is not meant to speak ill of President Trump, it is merely further elucidation on the Church’s position on war

and peace, commentary upon which is a long standing papal tradition.

The Vatican defended Pope Leo XIV’s Iran war criticisms as “spiritual” amid a monthslong feud between the Catholic Church leader and President Donald Trump — and just days after U.S. Ambassador to the Holy See Brian Burch equated his critiques to those of political leaders.

Leo’s comments on the war have put him at odds with the Trump administration, which began striking Iran in late February. The critiques have drawn Trump’s ire, with the president criticizing Pope Leo numerous times in posts on Truth Social, including in an April 12 post attacking the pope as “WEAK on Crime, and terrible for foreign policy.” Leo has sought to downplay the feud. The impact of the friction has led to political and spiritual questions in the United States, which is home to tens of millions of Catholics, many of whom voted for Trump. The feud presents a major test of loyalty among Trump’s Catholic supporters ahead of key midterm elections. Newsweek reached out to the U.S. Embassy to the Holy See for comment via email.

Andrea Tornielli, the editorial director for the Vatican’s Dicastery for Communication, addressed the pope’s war critiques in an editorial published in Vatican News on Monday. “Even when he speaks about war and peace, migration or how to remain human in the age of artificial intelligence, the Successor of Peter remains, above all, a spiritual leader,” Tornielli wrote. The pope is “proclaiming the Gospel” when he speaks on issues, including those that may be political in nature such as calling “for an end to the mad arms race—even going beyond the concept of a ‘just war,’” he wrote.

Robert Orsi, professor of history at Northwestern University, told Newsweek the question of the pope’s leadership is “complex,” having to do with “Catholicism’s place as a moral and religious force in the modern world.”

“It’s true that the pope is a religious leader; it is also true that the pope speaks as a religious leader to political and social issues,” he said. The Vatican’s editorial comes just days after Burch addressed some of the pope’s critiques in an interview with The New York Times. In the interview, he said the pope’s comments were as the political leader of the Vatican, rather than the leader of the Church. Tornielli did not specifically name Burch in the editorial. “When the pope acts as the sovereign leader of the Holy See, he is coequal with world leaders,” Burch said. He also said the pope cannot judge whether the Iran war is just or unjust because he only has access to “a set of limited facts,” the Times reported. Burch plays a critical role amid the apparent rift between Trump and the Vatican and could play a key role in rebuilding that relationship.

Orsi said Burch is “trying to drive a wedge between the pope’s authority as a world leader and his authority as a spiritual leader, but this can’t be done in Catholicism.” “The pope speaks religiously as a world leader, in a way that Donald Trump, for example, cannot,” he said. “Just like the bread and wine become the body and blood of Christ in the sacrament of the Eucharist, so spiritual and

(continued in insert)