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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



17th Sunday in Ordinary Time July 26th, 2026

MASS SCHEDULE

- MONDAY** - Weekday in Ordinary Time
5:30 PM - Fr. Jacques Daley, OCB
(Req. by Fr. John)
- TUESDAY** - Weekday in Ordinary Time
12:05 PM - Jean Pierre Oberle and family & Michel Hugrel
(Req. by Pat Balagusz)
- WEDNESDAY** - Saints Martha, Mary and Lazarus
NO MASS
- THURSDAY** - Weekday in Ordinary Time
NO MASS
- FRIDAY** - Saint Ignatius of Loyola, Priest
NO MASS
- SATURDAY** - Vigil of 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time
4:00 PM - Spiritual & Temporal Welfare of Fr. John for his 30th Anniversary of Ordination
(Req. by Visitation Parish Family)
- SUNDAY** - 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time
9:00 AM - Pro Populo

SANCTUARY CANDLE

Spiritual & Temporal Welfare of Fr. John
for his 30th Anniversary of Ordination
Req. by Visitation Parish Family



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 Bumbnick, 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 19, 2026

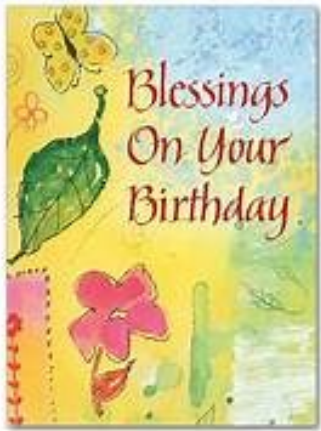
Loose Money.....	\$265.00
Envelopes.....	\$1624.00
Votive Candles.....	\$77.00
St. Peregrine.....	\$36.00
Parking Lot Rent.....	\$35.00

TOTAL: \$2037.00

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 Rován, Stephen Sanders, Jennifer Schellhammer, Allegra Slick, Father John Slovickovski, Shirley Slovickovski, Ken Turner, Megan Varmecky, Carrie Young

Please join us in remembering members of our parish family who celebrate their birthdays the week of July 27th to August 2nd:



Barbara Vedock	George Walters
Mary Ellen Carney	James Mical, Jr.
Kaitlin Mical	Brody Bolinger
Barbara Carrier	Dick Krumenacker
Francis Beaujon	Sharon Lovette
Debi McCaffrey	Craig Foust

For the Good of the Vineyard and Our Particular Part

Visitation Parish Labor Day Gas Card Giveaway

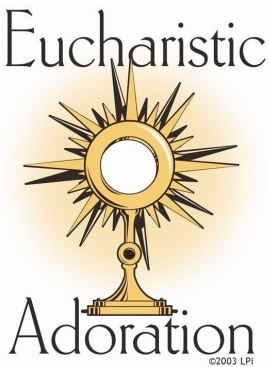
On Labor Day Monday, September 7th, 2026, Visitation Parish will be chancing off a ticket for \$500 of Sheetz Gasoline. The Winning number will be taken from the first three (straight) numbers drawn of the 7 PM official Pick 3 daily Pennsylvania Lottery. If the winning ticket is not sold, the winner 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. There has been another person who has bought a few tickets and have also left the half of the stub they are supposed to keep. The numbers are # **091, 181, 187, 302** and **824**. If whoever purchased these tickets can call the rectory, we would appreciate it as well.

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!!!

Fishers of Men Vocations Appeal - Next Sunday is our diocese’s Fishers of Men Vocation Appeal. Bishop Bartchack is asking for your support to fund the formation of our new seminarians and to strengthen the work of our Vocation Office. Thanks be to God, the number of our seminarians is growing – which also means the cost of formation is increasing. We also have dozens of men actively discerning a call to the priesthood, which is a great blessing! Your financial support is essential for supporting our future priests! Learn more and make a gift by visiting ajvocations.org. Thanks for your generosity.



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!

Following the parable of the sower, Jesus continues to address the crowds using a series of images: the good wheat and the weeds, the mustard seed and the yeast in the dough (cf. Mt 13:24-43).

These three short parables recall the coming of the Kingdom of God in history, its action in human lives, and the way it grows, expands and transforms the world from within. Through these images, Jesus warns us against the temptation of thinking that God is a powerful figure who imposes himself by force, who takes over and dominates, or who arrives triumphantly. Instead, God favors smallness, a sign of his discreet love, by which he leaves us free to accept or reject him. His love makes its presence felt even among the weeds, acts in a hidden and invisible way like the smallest of all seeds, and leavens the dough without making a sound.

Brothers and sisters, through these parables, Jesus reveals something important about the manner in which God works in our lives and in history. We sometimes expect God to do something spectacular; we want him to intervene from on high, immediately uprooting the weeds of evil. We imagine a strong and powerful God, and, unfortunately, we also model our way of being Christians and way of being the Church on this image. However, the Kingdom of God spreads even amidst the weeds, requiring us to train our vision so we can discern the good that sprouts despite the darkness of evil, and avoiding rash judgments. It comes like the smallest of seeds and thus calls for patience in accompanying these processes, so that we can recognize it in the little things of daily life and in the simplicity of ordinary existence. It grows invisibly like yeast in flour, and so we are freed from discouragement and invited to have faith even when it seems that God is absent. In fact, he is always with us, and his love is always ready to help us..

God’s way of acting must also become the way in which we live, both as individuals and as the Church, amidst the reality that surrounds us. We are called to adopt a Gospel-centered approach, without hastily opposing others through arrogant judgments, without imposing ourselves through power and force, and without losing trust in God’s work. As the then-Cardinal Ratzinger said, it is a matter of submitting ourselves to the logic of the seed – which is not that of success and greatness, but that of making ourselves small and serving others (cf. Address to Catechists and Religion Teachers, 10 December 2000). In this way, we will become like small seeds of the Gospel that sprout, and leavens of love that transform the dough of the world.

Let us ask the Blessed Virgin Mary, who knew how to welcome the seed of the Word in her smallness, to sustain us on our journey and intercede for us.

Pope Leo XIV has written and spoken extensively on Artificial Intelligence (AI) and I have been doing some work on the ethics of AI. I thought that since Pope Leo does not give a Wednesday Audience while he is on his summer retreat at Castle Gandolfo in Italy, I would like to share some of his more telling quotes on the nature of AI. They are as follows:

Speaking on Human Dignity and AI the pope writes:

“Our dignity lies in our ability to reflect, choose freely, love unconditionally, and enter into authentic relationships with others” – highlighting that AI must not undermine human uniqueness or moral responsibility.

Speaking on the clergy and ministry Leo observes that: “Like all the muscles in the body, if we do not use them, if we do not move them, they die. The brain needs to be used, so our intelligence must also be exercised a little so as not to lose this capacity.” Specifically, here he urges clergy to actively engage their intellect rather than out-source spiritual work to AI: however, this could be applied to us all and any of our work.

Here Pope Leo speaking to youth notes that “Access to data – however extensive – must not be confused with intelligence, which necessarily involves the person’s openness to the ultimate questions of life and reflects an orientation toward the True and the Good” reminding that AI cannot replace human wisdom or moral discernment. Again, this is applicable to us all.

Finally, Here Pope Leo acknowledges AI’s potential while cautioning people against its misuse: “AI, especially Generative AI, has opened new horizons... but also raises troubling questions on its possible repercussions on humanity’s openness to truth and beauty, on our distinctive ability to grasp and process reality.”

While there are many other citations that I could have offered I hope that these communicate to you the Church’s position that AI is fundamentally a good thing. There are; however, many dangers and pitfalls that could potentially arise with its misuse. I unfortunately have come across this when grading student papers and have had to call students out on their use of AI to write papers. This is by far the exception; however, it is a danger, nonetheless. There are many other such potential problems with the use of AI. Let us pray that we and others all have the courage to use AI as a gift and not as a crutch.

From the Pastor’s Desk

My dear friends of Visitation Parish. I want to begin my reflection today by explaining the reason for my unanticipated absence from 9:00 AM Mass last Sunday. One of the negative effects of my Gastroparesis (which is delayed stomach emptying) is a delay in the effects of medication. Unfortunately, there is no equation for calculating the time of delay. So result, from Tuesday until Saturday of two weeks prior (that is the week before last Sunday) I only slept between two (2) and three (3) hours each evening, since I took my bumex (the most potent pill form diuretic) anywhere between 10 AM and 12 Noon. Unfortunately, the diuretic only took effect between 7 PM and 9 PM the evening before those days. The effects last anywhere between 5-8 hours for me. The time that it takes is not consistent, some days it has taken effect as early as three (3) to four (4) hours after taking the pill, other days it has been as long as 12 (12) hours later. Also, most other medications take effect within 2-3 after having taken them. In any case, I need to use the bathroom every 45 minutes once the bumex takes effect. Therefore, as a result of major sleep deprivation, I slept from 3 AM on Sunday

(continued in insert)