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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



18th Sunday in Ordinary Time August 2nd, 2026

MASS SCHEDULE

MONDAY - Weekday in Ordinary Time

12:05 PM - Francis Dietz
(Req. by Rose Bracken)

TUESDAY - Saint John Vianney, Priest

12:05 PM - Jingles McClain
(Req. by Fr. John)

WEDNESDAY - Weekday in Ordinary Time

NO MASS

THURSDAY - The Transfiguration of the Lord

NO MASS

FRIDAY - Weekday in Ordinary Time

12:05 PM - Rosemary Buckshaw
(Req. by Deacon John & Julie Fontana)
Followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

SATURDAY - Vigil of 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:00 PM - Helene Balagusz
Birthday Remembrance
(Req. by Family)

SUNDAY - 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:00 AM - Pro Populo

SANCTUARY CANDLE

Spiritual & Temporal Welfare of Fr. John
Req. by Anonymous



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 26, 2026

Loose Money.....	\$350.00
Envelopes.....	\$3984.00
Parking Lot Rent.....	\$170.00

TOTAL: \$4504.00

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 Petrero, Maria Petro-Sanders, Mia Bella Rastall, Stacy Roberts, Sean Rován, Stephen Sanders, Jennifer Schellhammer, 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 July 27th to August 2nd:



Christine Cumberledge	Sandy Marano
Angela Thompson	Michael Butler
Kathleen McMonagle	Alexandria Krise

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

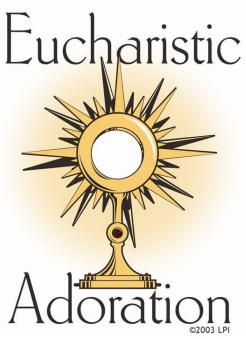


Lottery. If the winning ticket is not sold, the winner will be determined by a random drawing. The cost of one ticket is \$5, or 5 tickets may be purchased for \$20. Please support this fundraiser that is earmarked to assist with the budgetary deficit caused by the present lack of a renter for our school building.

There have been some people who have purchased gas ticket numbers # 064, 188, 360, 456, 514, 791, and 814. These people gave us the wrong half of their tickets, 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 them to bring the other half of the ticket with their information on it over and take the half they need. If we do not receive the correct side of the ticket, we have no idea who it belongs to.

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 - This 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. There will be a pamphlet with a donation envelope attached to this week’s bulletin if anyone would be able to donate to this appeal. We currently have four seminarians who are in the program, so please keep them in your prayers as they continue on their spiritual journey into priesthood. There is more information regarding this vocation in the bulletin insert.



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!

At the heart of Jesus’ teachings lies the mystery of the Kingdom of God, which today’s Gospel likens to treasure and a pearl (cf. Mt 13:44–52). The parables convey the surprise of those who find something far beyond what they could have hoped for, so much so that selling or leaving everything behind no longer seems a sacrifice, but a gain. Indeed, from the very beginning, the evangelists portray Jesus’ call to follow him as irresistible. It is a free choice, yet also urgent and capable of eliciting a ready and wholehearted response. This is a first important aspect of how God is near and makes himself known: encountering his Kingdom marks a turning point that does not limit life but enlarges it. If anything must change on our part, it is only so that our lives may be opened to greater possibilities, not fewer.

There is a second aspect that Jesus seems to attach great importance to: the one who finds the treasure hidden in the field is likely a peasant, while the pearl is recognized as precious by a merchant, perhaps a traveler. Two more parables follow, in which the protagonists are fishermen and a scribe well-versed in both the old and the new. Other parables compare the Kingdom to a woman kneading dough or tidying her house, to a king planning for war, a man designing a tower, administrators managing payments or investments, and to shepherds and farmers. In short, the Kingdom of God reveals its inestimable beauty in different ways, but calls everyone – men and women, young and old, rich and poor – to a profound renewal. Everyone is capable of understanding it and is drawn to it.

Today, too, the Church is a communion of people who differ in origin, culture, abilities and responsibilities. Yet all are called to recognize themselves as “one” in Jesus Christ: he is the hidden treasure, the pearl of great price, the net that gathers those who are scattered. From the beginning, Jesus called and gathered around himself people who would otherwise never have come to know one another. In this way, he demonstrated that God has no favorites, but instead offers his love freely, especially to the little ones or those cast aside.

Brothers and sisters, all we have to do is ask for this gift, the very same one sought by the young King Solomon (cf. 1 Kings 3:5, 7–12). It is the gift of recognizing the pearl of great price, of discerning the treasure for which it is worth selling everything. While the consumer culture influences our tastes, constantly creating new needs only to sell us solutions that never satisfy, and that sometimes even poison the heart, we must learn to grasp what truly matters: the treasure of a relationship with God that opens us to joy and helps us to live our relationships with one another more fully.

May the intercession of Mary, Seat of Wisdom, direct our desire for life toward Jesus, so that in him it may find its complete fulfillment.

In lieu of his normal Wednesday Audience, Pope Leo addresses the Andrea Bocelli Foundation with children’s choirs from Uganda, The Holy Land and Italy from Castel Gandolfo. Here are some of his words from his speech:

Dear friends, my dear young people from Uganda, the Holy Land and Italy.

Welcome! I am very happy that you have come to join us today. It is a joy to share these moments with you. I thank all

the choir members for your hard work in preparing this recital, and I congratulate the choir directors.

It is significant that Sacred Scripture and the Liturgy of the Church speak of “choirs of angels and saints” when describing the joy of heaven, not because they are literally singing all the time, but because united in love they behold God together and find in him the fullness of happiness.

My dear young friends, as you were singing, did you notice how music drew all of us into an experience of something new, something that was greater than any one of us alone could create? This is the experience of beauty. It opens before us a new horizon, and it awakens within us the desire to go out to meet that horizon.

In this regard, continue to cultivate the gifts that God has given you, and allow them to lead you towards him. He is everything we are looking for in life, the one who alone can quell our restless hearts. Remember that you have been made for great things, and that this world is not enough to quench your thirst for meaning and happiness.

Know too that the Holy Father loves you and prays for you, for your families and for your countries. In a particular way, I pray that peace may reign in your homes and in all those places throughout the world that continue to suffer from violence.

In closing, I would like to thank the Andrea Bocelli Foundation for the work you carry out on behalf of young people who experience educational and social disadvantages. Through the power of music, you are contributing to the Church’s mission of promoting the integral development of every human person and serving the common good. May God bless your efforts. Thank you.

Deacon John’s Reflections - Matthew 14:13-21

A short reflection on today’s Gospel. I think there are a few things from this Gospel that are relevant to us here today.

Jesus was mourning the death of John the Baptist, so he withdrew to pray. Sometimes we all need to be alone in solitude. Not only when mourning the death of a beloved, but regularly. Meet with Jesus in prayer, alone.

Jesus saw the crowd, “his heart was moved with pity and he cured their sick”. Although he had just been in mourning and was probably tired, he still ministered to those who needed him. I know we all have somewhat busy lives and do our best to help our friends and loved ones who need us. When we get tired and weary, hopefully, we can look at this example for strength.

The disciples asked Jesus to dismiss the crowds so “they can go to the villages and buy food for themselves”. Jesus said to them “There is no need for the to go away, give them some food yourselves”. Jesus is talking to us. Today, Jesus wants US to help those who don’t have enough. The poor, the downcast, the homeless the unwanted. Feed them with food, with money, your time and your talents or just being an ear in their presence. If I have said this once, I’ve said it a million times, you will NEVER out give God. IF you are able to give, even just at little, Take what you have, bless it and give it.