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Church of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

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

20th Sunday in Ordinary Time August 16th, 2026

MASS SCHEDULE

MONDAY - Weekday in Ordinary Time

12:05 PM - **Richard Bair**
 (Req. by John Bair)
Rescheduled from 8-12-26

TUESDAY - Weekday in Ordinary Time

12:05 PM - **Mary Mattes**
 (Req. by Cathy Fuska)
Rescheduled from 8-13-26

WEDNESDAY - Weekday in Ordinary Time

5:30 PM - **The Meyers Family**
 (Req. by Ray & Sue Lombardi)
Followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

THURSDAY - Saint Bernard, Abbot and Doctor of the Church

12:05 PM - **Richard Pinkerton**
 (Req. by Rose Pinkerton)

FRIDAY - Saint Pius X, Pope
NO MASS

SATURDAY - Vigil of 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:00 PM - **Frank & Joann Daly**
60th Wedding Anniversary
 (Req. by Family)

SUNDAY - 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:00 AM - **Pro Populo**

SANCTUARY CANDLE

In Memory of Mary & Frank Mihalik and Frank Subich
 Req. by daughter Karen Kohan



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

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.

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	

\$\$\$ INCOME \$\$\$
 Collection - August 9, 2026

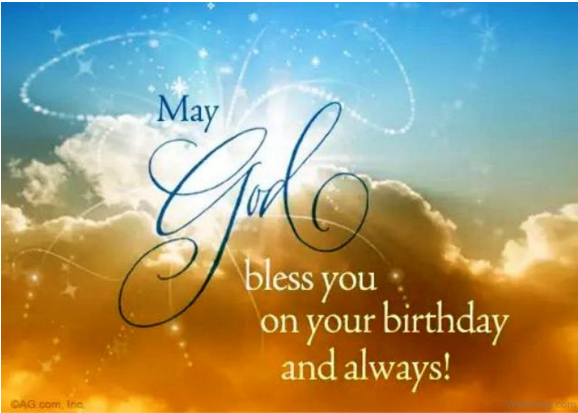
Loose Money.....	\$367.00
Envelopes.....	\$2727.00
Sanctuary Candle.....	\$10.00
Apartment Rental - August.....	\$625.00
Parking Lot Rent.....	\$175.00

TOTAL: **\$3904.00**

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, Jake Morisi, 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 Varnecky, Carrie Young

Please join us in remembering members of our parish family who celebrate their birthdays the week of August 17th to August 23rd:



Deborah Walter	Barbara Fox
Cathy Fuska	Izaak Nagle
Peggy Stahr	Kimberly George
Ashley Strack	Linda Petak
Barbara Harshberger	

For the Good of the Vineyard and Our Particular Part

We will be making Jello shots for the Ethnic Fest on **Monday, August 24th at 10 AM** in the school cafeteria. All who are able and willing to help are encouraged to attend!

Volunteer Picnic - There will be a picnic for all parish volunteers on Sunday, **August 23 at 2:00 PM** in the school cafeteria. All those who volunteer (especially whose presence in a staple at parish events and fundraisers) and encouraged to come to celebrate my gratitude for all that you do throughout the year. Please save the date in your calendar and sign up on the sheet in the main vestibule of the Church or call the rectory no later than Wednesday, August 19th . Thank you. Fr. John

FOSTER YOUR DEVOTIONAL LIFE: 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 the foster father of Jesus as the patron of the Universal Church. Remember the perpetual parish intention for the rosary is for Fr. John’s health, however, all 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 IT CAN MOVE YOU TO BELIEVE THAT WITH GOD ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE!!!



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.

Ethnic Fest - Now that **July 4th** has passed, **Labor Day** weekend will be fast upon us and with it our participation in the **Annual Johnstown Ethnic Fest**. As you know, this is one of our major fundraisers throughout the year, and our success allows us to meet our annual budgetary needs. We are requesting some essential items for this activity; in particular we are in need of Jello and Spirits for our main source of income, our Jello shots. Our supply of sprits is **VERY, VERY LOW** and we are in desperate need of donations. While items such as vodka (both regular and flavored), rum and tequila are **ALWAYS A GREAT NEED FOR US**, other forms of spirits are always appreciated. Please check the bulletin insert to see what we need. Volunteers are also needed to work the event. If you are able to help, there is a sign up sheet in the back of the church.

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!

Today’s Gospel speaks of Jesus approaching his disciples by walking on the waters of the Sea of Galilee in the midst of a storm (cf. Mt 14:22-33).

Following the miracle of the loaves and fish (cf. Mt 14:13-21), the Master urges his disciples to get into the boat and set out, while he withdraws to the mountain to pray by himself. Once away from the shore, the disciples find themselves at the mercy of the wind and struggle to make headway. After a successful experience in which they had been the protagonists of a miraculous sign, they now find themselves helpless and frightened in the face of the threat of the waves and the headwind.

As the night was drawing to a close, Jesus came towards them across the choppy waters, and, terrified, they mistook him for a ghost (v. 26). But he said to them, “Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid!” (v. 27). The Lord’s presence changes everything: Peter even manages to take a few steps across the waves towards him; but then losing his nerve, he begins to sink, and Jesus saves him. When the Master then steps into the boat, the storm subsides, and a profession of faith spontaneously springs out of the disciples’ hearts: “Truly, you are the Son of God!” (v. 33).

To realize this point, it was not enough for them simply to have witnessed a miracle, nor to have succeeded in the eyes of the people; instead, they had to experience their own weakness and, within it, recognize God’s presence. Only this experience could open their eyes and hearts to his closeness, finding peace even in the midst of the storm.

Sometime later, Jesus would say to them: “If you have faith and do not doubt... if you say to this mountain, ‘Be lifted up and thrown into the sea,’ it will be done” (Mt 21:21). This is similar to what they experienced on the lake: the peace of Christ, who had been on the mountain praying, reached them in the midst of the raging waters.

This miracle, then, teaches us something important. First, not to get carried away by success and never to be presumptuous. At the same time, not to despair, even in moments of darkness, when we feel powerless in the face of problems and, despite our efforts, it seems as though we are going backwards rather than forwards. Whatever the circumstances, Jesus does not abandon us, and if we humbly welcome him into the boat of our lives — through prayer, the sacraments and listening to his Word — in him, we will find peace, light and strength for our journey.

May Mary, who was proclaimed blessed for her faith (cf. Lk 1:45), help us to live in a trusting surrender to God.

In his weekly **Wednesday Audience**, Pope Leo began his exploration of the Documents of the Second Vatican Council. III. Constitution Sacrosanctum Concilium. 6. The liturgical year. Here it is in its entirety:

Dear brothers and sisters,

The fifth chapter of the Conciliar Constitution Sacrosanctum Concilium (SC) is dedicated to the liturgical year, a theme we would like to look at today, to explain its value in the life of every believer.

First of all, it is important to note that this way of referring to the cycle of Christian feasts as the ‘liturgical year’ became widespread in ecclesiastical language thanks to the work of the

Servant of God, Abbot Prosper Guéranger (1805–1875).

In the Encyclical Mediator Dei, Pope Pius XII states that it “is not a cold and lifeless representation of the events of the past, or a simple ... record of a former age. [The liturgical year] is rather Christ Himself who is ever living in His Church. Here He continues that journey of immense mercy which He lovingly began in His mortal life ... with the design of bringing men to know His mysteries and in a way live by them. These mysteries are ever present and active” (III Divinum Officium et Annus Liturgicus, II Cyclus Mysteriorum). The liturgical year should thus be understood as a constant renewal of the work of salvation which Christ accomplishes in history. As she journeys through this temporal cycle, the Church remains in contact with the Lord’s redemptive action, so that all the faithful may be filled with His grace (cf. SC, 102c).

The encounter with Jesus, who died and rose again for us, is the purpose that the Church always pursues, placing the celebration of the Paschal event at the centre of every moment.

Hence the Council Fathers considered “the foundation and kernel of the whole liturgical year” to be Sunday, “the original feast day” (cf. SC, 106). In various modern languages, its name indicates that it is the “dies Domini”, “the Lord’s day”. Even in those languages where the reference to the “day of the sun” (Sunday, Sonntag) has prevailed, the link with Christ can be discerned: Christ is the true “sun of righteousness” who enlightens every person!

Saint John Paul II, in the Apostolic Letter Dies Domini (31 May 1998) teaches that Sunday is the day of the Lord, the day of the Church, the day of man and, finally, the “day of days”. “Since Sunday is the weekly Easter, recalling and making present the day upon which Christ rose from the dead, it is also the day which reveals the meaning of time. ... Springing from the Resurrection, it cuts through human time, the months, the years, the centuries, like a directional arrow which points them towards their target: Christ’s Second Coming. Sunday foreshadows the last day, the day of the Parousia” (75), when we shall all rise again.

To sanctify Sunday, it is fundamental to celebrate the Eucharist. Listening to the Word and partaking of the Body of Christ entail, according to the Council Fathers, the coming together in unum (cf. SC, 106), that is, the joyful gathering of the faithful. In this assembly, the Christian community makes visible its communion with the Lord and bears witness to its belonging to Christ and its fidelity to the Church. This assembly cannot be substituted by a solely virtual presence, nor can it be reduced to a merely passive gathering. The liturgical assembly is in fact fulfilled through the active participation of brothers and sisters, called together to “thank God who ‘has begotten them again, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, unto a living hope’” (1 Pet 1:3) (ibid.).

In this regard, I urge everyone to seek the best possible conditions so that even those who are unable to take time off work on Sundays may take part in Holy Mass.

Dear friends, the liturgical year, punctuated by Sundays, has an interesting history, in which the faith and devotion of the Church are interwoven.

(continued in insert)