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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



1127 McKinley Avenue
 Johnstown, PA 15905

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

Rectory Office Hours: Monday through Friday, 9:00AM - 3:00PM

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time August 23rd, 2026

MASS SCHEDULE

MONDAY - Saint Bartholomew, Apostle
 12:05 PM - Joann Retzer
 (Req. by Jen0 Lecci)

TUESDAY - Weekday in Ordinary Time
 12:05 PM - Vicki Huston
 (Req. by Mike Huston)

WEDNESDAY - Weekday in Ordinary Time
 5:30 PM - Anna Marie Pfeil
 (Req. by Barb & Rupe)
 Followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

THURSDAY - Saint Monica
 12:05 PM - Francis John Beaujon
 (Req. by Fran & Charlotte Beaujon)

FRIDAY - Saint Augustine, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
 12:05 PM - Samantha Benton
 (Req. by Fr. John)
 Followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

SATURDAY - Vigil of 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
 4:00 PM - Pro Populo

SUNDAY - 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
 9:00 AM - Kevin Cyburt
 (Req. by Marian & George)

SANCTUARY CANDLE
 For the Spiritual and Temporal Welfare of Father 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.

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 - August 16, 2026

Loose Money.....	\$220.00
Envelopes.....	\$2731.00
Assumption.....	\$767.00
Parking Lot Rent.....	\$70.00

TOTAL: \$3788.00

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 Rován, Stephen Sanders, Jennifer Schellhammer, Allegra Slick, Father John Slovikoovski, 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 24th to August 30th:



Mia Rastall Madison Podrebarac
 Charlotte Cooney

For the Good of the Vineyard and Our Particular Part

Ethnic Fest - It is difficult to believe that the Annual Summer Ethnic Fest is now only two (2) weeks away!! As you are well aware, this is one of our major fundraisers of the year and **the financial stability of our parish is heavily dependent upon our participation in this event!** We are greatly appreciative of the donations of Jello and spirits that we have received. At this point, our most **urgent** need is for **volunteers** to work our booth over the Labor Day weekend. If you are able to work even a few hours over the course of the weekend, please take time to sign the sign-up sheet in the main vestibule of the Church or call the rectory to indicate your availability. If you have not yet volunteered for this event, please consider doing so since we all bear a responsibility for the financial stability for our parish community, especially in light of our lack of a renter for our school building. We are grateful for the sharing of your gifts of time and talent!!

Also, please note that we will be having one of our four regularly scheduled annual collections next weekend (August 29/30) to offset some of our overhead costs associated with the Ethnic Fest. We ask that you please be generous as your means allow. This is a great way to play your part in assisting with this very important fundraiser that us central to the life and vitality of our parish.

Charitable Giving Update - I would once again like to take this opportunity to thank all who gave so generously to our spontaneous request for donations for Catholic Charities, the Saint Vincent de Paul Society, and our own parish poor box (which assists those members of our parish who are currently in a state of financial hardship.) To date, we have collected a total of **\$1,454.00** which will be donated equally among the three aforementioned causes. I am more than amazed at this outstanding outpouring of generosity on our part, mush less without any notice. As always, you have shown your desire to take the gospel message to heart, especially its command to care for our brothers and sisters who are truly poor and hungry. Remember: *“Our gives freely yet grows all the richer; another withholds what he should give, and only suffers want. A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed”* (Proverbs 11:24-25).

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!!!



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!

Yesterday we contemplated the Virgin Mary in her unbreakable bond with her Son. Not even death could sever that union of persons in soul and body, which is eternal life. Every Sunday reminds us that the same fulfillment is reserved for those who follow Jesus. His resurrection is not a past event, but new life that draws us in.

This is demonstrated today by the Canaanite woman, who is the protagonist of the Gospel proclaimed at Mass (cf. Mt 15:21-28). Although she did not belong to his people and lived in a foreign land, she persistently sought to speak with Jesus, following him like a disciple who already had a bond with him. They had probably never met before, yet in a mysterious way, faith had already taken root in her. She does not desire anything for herself, but rather peace for her tormented daughter. She places her trust in Jesus, in whom she recognizes the Messiah, a descendant of David (cf. v. 22).

The Evangelist does not hide the obstacles faced by this woman. The disciples see her as a nuisance, and Jesus himself resists her pleas. The Master had actually withdrawn to that region (cf. v. 21), and we can imagine that, as on other occasions, he was seeking a secluded place to pray and instruct his disciples. At that moment, however, something unexpected happens. Reflecting upon this, we can understand Jesus’ obedience in fulfilling his mission by allowing himself to be moved by what he sees and hears. Finally, he says to her: “Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish” (v. 28).

Even today, the Church can be surprised by God’s work and spread the peace of Christ beyond boundaries already drawn. Her mission is anticipated by divine grace, which works in the depths of our consciences, so that in every encounter — even those that disrupt our plans — we are to listen attentively by opening our eyes and hearts to what God wants to tell us.

From the Canaanite woman we learn humility and determination. Thanks to her faith, we learn that God’s table is set for everyone and that no one is left merely with crumbs (cf. vv. 26-27), because each person has his or her own place with the Father. In the light of this faith, inequalities, discrimination and barriers that trample on the dignity of too many of God’s sons and daughters become unbearable.

Dear brothers and sisters, we are the Church of Jesus Christ in a troubled world; a world that seeks peace. Let us ask Mary, our Mother, to intercede for us “because on her lips is proclaimed ‘the strongest and most innovative hymn ever articulated, the Magnificat’” (Magnifica Humanitas, 244). It is the song of one who now sees reality through God’s eyes and, for this reason, does not lose hope and acts in charity.

In his weekly **Wednesday Audience**, Pope Leo began his exploration of the Documents of the Second Vatican Council. III. Constitution Sacrosanctum Concilium. 7. Sacred Music. Here it is in its entirety:
 Dear brothers and sisters,

The sixth chapter of the Constitution Sacrosanctum Concilium (SC) of the Second Vatican Council is dedicated to sacred music. The document states that “The musical tradition of the universal Church is a treasure of inestimable value, greater even than that of any other art. The main reason for this

pre-eminence is that, as sacred song united to the words, it forms a necessary or integral part of the solemn liturgy.” (SC, 112). It specifies that “Sacred music is to be considered the more holy in proportion as it is more closely connected with the liturgical action, whether it adds delight to prayer, fosters unity of minds, or confers greater solemnity upon the sacred rites. But the Church approves of all forms of true art having the needed qualities, and admits them into divine worship.” (ibid.).

Here we find the core of the Council’s teaching, which confirms and deepens the ministerial function of music in the liturgy, which had already been highlighted by Saint Pius X in the Motu Proprio Inter sollicitudines (22 November 1903). Music, indeed, is part of the liturgical action and is not merely a decorative part of the celebration. In the liturgy, to sing and to play music means to pray, attuning one’s heart to that of our sisters and brothers and to God, through active participation in the mystery that is being celebrated. In particular, music expresses the affective dimension of prayer, as Saint Augustine says: “Cantare amantis est”, that is, “singing belongs to those who love” (Sermo 336, 1). This is very important, because it helps us to open our hearts to God’s action in grace and to allow ourselves to be moulded by it.

Singing also fosters communion. It contributes to the unity of hearts, overcoming differences between people and bringing everyone together in praise of God through the symphony of voices. Thus, it becomes an epiphany of the Church, a tangible manifestation of the communion that belongs to her very nature.

Certain requirements arise from the profound theological significance of sacred song as an integral part of the liturgical action. The first is that it must respond at every level to what is most appropriate for the liturgical moment, beyond fashions or the particular sensitivities of composers. Its form, especially in its melodic aspect, must be at once noble and simple, of high musical quality and easily performable, particularly when it is intended to be sung by the whole assembly (cf. SC, 121).

For the same reason, the Council recommends that the texts too should be suitable, profound and at the same time readily understandable, inspired mainly by Sacred Scripture, the liturgical books and the spiritual Tradition of the Church. Attention must be paid to this, so that the dynamic expressed in the ancient principle *lex orandi, lex credendi*, that is, the law of prayer is also the law of faith, may remain alive and continue to grow.

Sacrosanctum Concilium devotes considerable attention to the theme of the active participation of the faithful (cf. no. 114). This “must be understood [...] on the basis of a greater awareness of the mystery being celebrated and its relationship to daily life” (Benedict XVI, Apostolic Exhortation Sacramentum caritatis, 52), in a “spirit of constant conversion which must mark the lives of all the faithful” (ibid., 55). As for the concrete way in which this can be achieved through the specific role of sacred music, the Constitution offers a clear answer: “the people should be encouraged to take part by means of acclamations, responses, psalmody, antiphons, and songs” and “reverent **(Continued on insert)**