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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**

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time August 30th, 2026

MASS SCHEDULE

MONDAY - Weekday in Ordinary Time

12:05 PM - Emma Dietz
(Req. by Barbara Dietz de Santis)

TUESDAY - Weekday in Ordinary Time

12:05 PM - Mary Reynolds
(Req. by Jackie Martella)

WEDNESDAY - Weekday in Ordinary Time

5:30 PM - Fr. John - Spiritual & Temporal Welfare
30th Anniversary
(Req. by John Bair)

Followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

THURSDAY - Saint Gregory the Great, Pope and Doctor of the Church

12:05 PM - Ann Tay Lecci
(Req. by Jeno Lecci)

FRIDAY - Weekday in Ordinary Time

12:05 PM - Ray Handzus
(Req. by Tony & Sue Caputo)

Followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

SATURDAY - Vigil of 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:00 PM - Jim & Eileen Winski
64th Wedding Anniversary
(Req. by Family)

SUNDAY - 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:00 AM - Pro Populo

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 mis-
salette.

IN LOVING MEMORY: The Sanctuary Lamp is avail-
able for your intentions by calling the
parish office. Please attempt to request your inten-
tions as early as possible. A \$10 donation is sug-
gested.

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 Cath-
olic candidates for Marriage must be registered,
practicing members of a parish at least 6 months
prior to scheduling the wedding. THERE ARE NO EX-
CEPTIONS.**

INFANT BAPTISM: Baptisms are generally celebrat-
ed 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 \$\$\$	
<u>Collection - August 23, 2026</u>	
Loose Money.....	\$369.00
Envelopes.....	\$3292.00
Assumption.....	\$80.00
Parking Lot Rent.....	\$315.00

TOTAL: \$4056.00

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 Slovikooski, 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 August 31st to September 6th:



Jeno Lecci
Marianne Meyer

Tiffany Leis
Isabella Marano

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 (1) week 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 as well as those who have signed up to volunteer. We are grateful for the sharing of your gifts of time and talent!!

We would also like to thank those whose means allowed them to contribute to our second collection this weekend. We hope to see you all there to support our parish and to patronize our booth! Our booth will be located at the corner of 5th Avenue and Power Street, across from St. Mary’s Pavilion.

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!!!



2026 Wedding Anniversary Celebration Information - Bishop Mark Bartchak and the Family Life Office cordially invite all couples celebrating 1, 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60+ years of marriage in 2026 (and their families) to attend the Annual Wedding Anniversary Liturgy. Couples may attend Sunday, September 13 in ALTOONA at Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament or Sunday, September 20 in JOHNSTOWN at St. John Gualbert Cathedral. Both locations are handicap accessible. Liturgies in each location begin at 2:00 p.m. Most Rev. Bishop Mark will be the celebrant and homilist at each celebration. Refreshments/snacks will be available after the mass for anniversary couples and their families. Reservations must be made through your parish for either celebration by Friday, September 11th. If anyone is interested in attending, please call the rectory to either pick up or have the form mailed to you.

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.

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!

This Sunday’s Gospel (Mt 16:13-20) confronts us with a question that speaks to each of us on our journey of faith: Who is Jesus, truly, for me?

The Gospel passage makes us understand how decisive this question is for the experience of discipleship. Indeed, although the twelve apostles had already shared so much of the life and ministry of their teacher, Jesus did not take for granted that they truly knew him or had understood the mystery of the Kingdom of God. Thus, after asking them what people were saying about him, he addressed them directly: “But who do you say that I am?” (Mt 16:15).

Brothers and sisters, this is a fundamental question for the disciples of every age, and for each one of us. Faith is not something given to us once and for all. Rather, we continually need to rediscover the face of Christ and his Gospel, to enter more deeply into his message and to renew the choices we make in our lives, so that they may be consistent with what we profess. In this way, we can overcome the temptation to think that we already know everything and to reduce faith to mere habit.

The question that is put to us each day — who is Jesus for me, and what does his presence mean in my life? — emerges especially in prayer and when we meditate on the Gospel. Yet it also arises when we encounter the wounds and needs of our brothers and sisters, and in those relationships and situations that most deeply challenge our conscience. In our daily lives, in short, we can discover whether the Lord Jesus is for us merely a great figure of history, who said and did important things, or the Christ of God, the One sent to bring us into the love of the Father and to transform our lives and the world in which we live.

Dear brothers and sisters, let us seek not to retreat into our own convictions and religious certainties, but to remain open to an authentic relationship with Christ. At times, when it comes to the Christian faith, we may be content with what we have merely “heard,” with common assumptions or with what has been handed down to us, perhaps even with the best of intentions. Yet Jesus calls us to give a personal response, to know him more closely and to allow ourselves to be shaped by friendship with him through an ever new encounter. This may also ask us to follow unfamiliar paths and to make choices different from those we had imagined.

This is true both for our personal journey and for the journey of the Church, as well as for our pastoral choices, when we may sometimes think that it is enough simply to continue doing things as we have always done them. Instead, it is important to ask ourselves often: Who is the Lord for me? Do I truly know him? What is his Gospel asking of me today? What steps and what choices am I called to make?

Let us invoke the Blessed Virgin Mary, who sought the will of God in her heart through her Son, that she may always guide us along the path of faith.

In his weekly **Wednesday Audience**, Pope Leo concluded his exploration of the Documents of the Second Vatican Council. III. Constitution Sacrosanctum Concilium. 8. The

motivations of the liturgical reform. Here it is in its entirety:

Dear brothers and sisters,

In this final catechesis on the Constitution Sacrosanctum Concilium, today I would like to look at the reasons why the Council Fathers sought to promote a reform of the liturgy. In this regard, the third Letter from the Council, which Cardinal Giovanni Battista Montini, then archbishop of Milan, sent on 28 October 1962 to the faithful of his Church, is particularly enlightening. The liturgy, he wrote, “is a sincere expression of both the divine and the human. It is language. On the one hand, it is a vehicle for divine teaching; on the other, it is a voice in dialogue with God. It is clear that it cannot renounce its didactic function, nor can it fail to offer faith and piety the opportunity to be expressed with spontaneous intelligibility”. [1] Motivated by these convictions, the future Pope Saint Paul VI affirmed that the faithful “cannot and must no longer remain silent and passive. Their physical presence cannot be reconciled with their spiritual absence”. [2]

The similarity between these statements and those which would appear in no. 48 of the Conciliar Constitution is evident: “The Church ... earnestly desires that Christ’s faithful, when present at this mystery of faith, should not be there as strangers or silent spectators; on the contrary, through a good understanding of the rites and prayers they should take part in the sacred action conscious of what they are doing, with devotion and full collaboration. They should be instructed by God’s word and be nourished at the table of the Lord’s body; they should give thanks to God; by offering the Immaculate Victim, not only through the hands of the priest, but also with him, they should learn also to offer themselves; through Christ the Mediator they should be drawn day by day into ever more perfect union with God and with each other, so that finally God may be all in all”. These words express a renewed awareness of the value of the liturgy. Through the Church’s ritual actions, whilst the memorial of the work of salvation is celebrated, the opportunity is provided to experience a true relationship with God, coming into contact with the salvific event. Since the gestures, the words of the sacred liturgy are critical to realizing this experience, the participation of the faithful cannot be passive.

The Conciliar reform, by placing at the centre that which constitutes the heart of the ecclesial experience, was intended to allow the liturgy to shine forth as “the primary source of that divine exchange in which the life of God is communicated to us”. [3] From this conviction arose the need to make the richness of the biblical texts and prayers more accessible to all the faithful, and to streamline the order of the celebration compared with that set out in the liturgical books then in use.

Indeed, since the liturgy is a living entity, throughout the centuries it has always been subject to developments and changes. The Magisterium adapted its forms to the needs of different eras. It is therefore not surprising that the Second Vatican Council too, with the utmost respect for the heritage of tradition, and precisely in order to make it more accessible, considered it necessary to revise **(Continued on insert)**