

Please support the sponsors on this page. It is through their support that this bulletin is made possible.

255-3822(DUCA)		Frank Duca Funeral Home, Inc.	ducafuneralhome.com
Westmont Chapel 1622 Menoher Blvd. 15905 Frank Duca, Supv., Funeral Director		3 Generations of Trusted Duca Family Care	East Hills Chapel & Crematory 404 Walters Avenue, 15904 Bradley Duca, Supv., Funeral Director
Dr. John P. Walker  Family Dental Center "Experience the Art of Dentistry" Cosmetic Dentistry • Crowns Bridges • Dentures ZOOM! Professional Whitening System Root Canals & Extractions New Patients Welcome Most Insurance Accepted (814) 255-7181 www.DrJohnWalker.com 307 State Street • Johnstown, PA 15905	"Best Auto Rates For Drivers Over 50" BRETT INSURANCE AGENCY, INC. Jim Brett Phone: 814-535-8649 E-mail: jlbrett@brettinsurance.com		
	Randy's BiLo FOODS 81 Osborne Street Johnstown • 535-7704 1514 Jefferson Ave. Windber • 467-6624 129 Dickey Hill Road, Davidsville, PA		
	COUNTRY DELIGHTS EST. 1987 Specializing in Wedding Packages & Cookies for All Occasions. Homestyle Cooking and Baking Please visit us at www.country-delights.com 814-288-5372		
	Francis G. Ozog Funeral Home, Inc. 710 Broad Street Johnstown, PA 15906 814-539-5127 Frank G. Ozog Funeral Director "Our family serving your family with compassion, dignity and respect for over 90 years." With Over 90 Years Serving The Greater Johnstown Area We Offer Services That Fit Every Family's Needs Traditional Funeral Services Contemporary Funeral Services Cremation Services Pre-Need Counseling		
PICKING - TREECE - BENNETT MORTUARY, INC. West Hills • 921 Menoher Blvd. • 814-255-4040 • PTBMortuary.com CARING, COMPASSIONATE SERVICE SINCE 1909 THE AREA'S MOST SPACIOUS AND ACCESSIBLE FUNERAL HOME THOMAS L. DIXON, Supervisor		GRANDVIEW MONUMENT SALES, INC. Alexis C. Kozak DIRECTOR OF SALES alexisad@aol.com CELL (814) 242-0000 Grandview Cemetery 801 Millcreek Road, Johnstown, PA 15905	
Michelle Walters Photography Specializing in Lifestyle Photography I aim to capture and document real-life events, situations or milestones. Let me capture your most precious moments. Book Today! 814-244-1647 MWALTERS912@YAHOO.COM	ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS HERE		
Henderson Funeral Homes (814) 536-4602	Ask about our: - Johnstown - Geistown - Conemaugh - Bethlehem Steel Retirees Program - COPE - Grief Help Group - YOUR CHOICE PLAN		
Martella's Pharmacies Franklin St. Park Hill Ligonier Windber Central City Boswell www.martellaspharmacy.com CALL US TODAY 814-535-1833			

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
Ms. Chris Houghton, Maintenance

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time September 6th, 2026

MASS SCHEDULE

MONDAY - Weekday in Ordinary Time

9:00 AM - John Slovikovski Sr.
(Req. by Ray & Sue Lombardi)

TUESDAY - Weekday in Ordinary Time

12:05 PM - Donald E. Houghton
(Req. by Family)

WEDNESDAY - St. Peter Claver, Priest

5:30 PM - Barry Mills
(Req. by Mary Delusa)
Followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

THURSDAY - Weekday in Ordinary Time

12:05 PM - Rosemary Sigg
(Req. by Vince & Donna Rzasal)

FRIDAY - Weekday in Ordinary Time

NO MASS

SATURDAY - Vigil of 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:00 PM - Norma & Tom Fabina
(Req. by Helen Polonia)

SUNDAY - 24th 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.

*Please note that the Rectory office will be closed on
Monday, September 7th, 2026 in observance for Labor
Day. The office will be open the following day at 9 AM*

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

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.

EUCARISTIC 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 30, 2026

Loose Money.....	\$231.00
Envelopes.....	\$2585.00
Assumption.....	\$5.00
Votive Candles.....	\$135.00
St. Peregrine.....	\$38.00
David Madigan Foundation.....	\$1520.00
Parking Lot Rent.....	\$210.00

TOTAL: \$4719.00

Second Collection - Ethnic Fest \$818.00

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 September 7th to September 13th:



Oliver George

Charlene Torchia

Renee Stephens

Constance Pupo

Gregory Leis

Anthony Penna

For the Good of the Vineyard and Our Particular Part

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.

Diocesan Family Conference: We Are the Body of Christ - In celebration of the 125th Anniversary of the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown, the annual diocesan men’s, women’s, and youth conferences have been combined into one signature event for all ages. This family conference offers enrichment opportunities for men, women, married couples, single individuals, young adults, teens and youth. There will be a keynote address for all and breakout sessions for the groups mentioned above. Bishop Mark will celebrate Mass as part of the day, and the Sacrament of Reconciliation and a Eucharistic Adoration Chapel will be available. This conference will be held on Saturday, September 19th, 2026 at Bishop Carroll Catholic High School, Ebensburg. Registration will begin at 7:45 AM and the conference will start at 9:00 AM. The deadline to register is **no later than September 11th**. There will be registration booklets in the vestibule of the church and will include more information regarding the conference as well as the schedule of events.

Fatima Devotions - The Franciscan Friars, T.O.R., from Loretto, invite you to participate with them in celebrating the Fatima Devotions on Sunday September 13th at 6:30pm in the Gardens at Mount Assisi (in case of inclement weather it will be at Immaculate Conception Chapel on the campus of St. Francis University). Fr. William Shee, TOR will be the homilist We encourage you to Bring a Friend!

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 tells us how Jesus reveals to his disciples the Mystery of his impending Passion. The Messiah, he says, must “go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised” (Mt 16:21).

What he says is a far cry from their expectations of a triumphant and powerful Messiah, with whose help they would defeat and trample their enemies (cf. Ps 108:13). Already, during the time they had spent with him, they had been amazed by so many of his deeds and words. Yet this latest message truly goes beyond all expectations. In particular, Peter expresses his disagreement and rebukes Jesus, saying to him: ““God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you”” (v. 22).

Shortly before, Peter had recognized in him “the Messiah, the Son of the living God” (v. 16). Now, however, surprised and perhaps disappointed by what he hears, he rebukes him, which stands in contrast to the beautiful profession of faith he had just made. He seems to be saying, “Yes, I believe you are the Messiah, but that is not how the world is saved.” His is an outburst of zeal, certainly motivated by sincere love, and yet it gives us something to consider.

For us, too, in fact, it is not always easy to understand and accept God’s ways, especially when they are very far from our own. Then the temptation arises — against all the reasoning of faith — to think that the Lord is the one who is wrong, or worse still, that he is not listening to us or is not concerned about us. Faced with this uncertainty, Peter, even in his impulsiveness, teaches us two important things.

The first is, even in such moments, never to cease our dialogue with the Lord. Instead, we are confidently to tell him our difficulty in understanding what he is asking of us.

The second is never to judge God’s work, but rather humbly and prayerfully to listen to what he is revealing to us through his actions, even when they do not meet our expectations.

The greatness of the first of the Apostles is also evident in this.

Jesus replies: “Get behind me, Satan!” (v. 23), and explains to him and the other disciples that, to follow in his footsteps, they must deny themselves, take up their crosses, and follow him (cf. v. 24). Peter will do just that: after listening to him, he will accept the challenge and remain faithful to the words of Christ — whom he has recognized as his Redeemer — for the rest of his life, even unto martyrdom.

Let us therefore ask the Lord that we, too, in our life of faith and in our prayer, may have the same sincerity as Peter, humbly telling Jesus what we truly feel, even when our hearts are confused. At the same time, may we cultivate Peter’s own docility in accepting what Jesus asks of us beyond our expectations.

May Mary help us, for she was obedient to God’s plans even at the foot of the cross of her Son Jesus.

In his weekly **Wednesday Audience**, Pope Leo began his exploration of the Documents of the Second Vatican Council. IV. Pastoral Constitution Gaudium et spes (GS 1–10) 1. The Church: Listening to and Serving the World.

Here it is in its entirety:

Dear brothers and sisters, good morning and welcome!

With today’s meeting, we will begin to reflect on the Pastoral Constitution Gaudium et Spes, with which the Second Vatican Council intended to focus on a fundamental theme, namely the relationship between the Church and the contemporary world. Saint John XXIII, as early as his inaugural address of 11 October 1962, had sought to take issue with the “prophets of doom” who, “though burning with zeal for religion [...] go about saying that our times, when compared with past centuries, are entirely worse; and go so far as to behave as if they had nothing to learn from history” (Address Gaudet Mater Ecclesia, 11 October 1962, 4.2). Hence the task entrusted to the Council Fathers: “In the present state of human events, in which humanity appears to be entering a new order of things, one must rather see the mysterious plans of Divine Providence, which are brought to fulfilment in due course through the work of men, and often beyond their expectations, and which, with wisdom, arrange everything, even adverse human affairs, for the good of the Church” (Gaudet Mater Ecclesia, 4.4).

Three years later, the promulgation of Gaudium et Spes recognized in this discernment an essential element of the nature of the Church, describing her pastoral character as constitutive; hence the definition of “pastoral Constitution”. It is not a question of naïve optimism, but rather a renewed fidelity to the Mystery of Christ who, by becoming incarnate, chooses to share our life: He made Himself “like His brethren in every respect” (Heb 2:17; cf. 4:15) and took upon Himself the consequences of sin, dying “as a ransom for all” (1 Tim 2:6). This sharing in our humanity is the path that Christ calls the Church to follow; hence, the Conciliar Constitution Gaudium et Spes begins by declaring that the Church makes her own “the joys and the hopes, the griefs and the anxieties of the men of this age, especially those who are poor or in any way afflicted” (GS 1).

It is a sharing that calls on us to leave behind all passivity and indifference in the face of current events, history and people’s lives, especially in the face of the rapid and profound changes we are experiencing today. We cannot remain as unengaged spectators; rather, we must listen with our hearts, allow ourselves to be challenged, and become involved. With Christ and sustained by the power of His Spirit, believers are called to take on the burdens of their brothers and sisters, especially those who are crushed by injustice, discrimination, and violence. Indeed, only in sharing and commitment is it possible to arrive at adequate responses, always supported by the certainty that “the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us” (Rm 8:18).

In this regard, proximity towards humanity opens the way to a deeper understanding of events and of Revelation itself; and, in the same vein, Gaudium et Spes recalls that “the Church has always had the duty of scrutinizing the signs of the times and of interpreting them in the light of the Gospel” (GS 4). This Conciliar Constitution therefore

(Continued on insert)