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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
Ms. Chris Houghton, Maintenance

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time September 20th, 2026

MASS SCHEDULE

MONDAY - Saint Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist
NO MASS

TUESDAY - Our Lady of Sorrows
NO MASS

WEDNESDAY - Saint Pius of Pietrelcina, Priest
NO MASS

THURSDAY - Weekday in Ordinary Time
NO MASS

FRIDAY - Weekday in Ordinary Time
NO MASS

SATURDAY - Vigil of 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time
4:00 PM - Charles Turner
(Req. by wife Rosemary)

SUNDAY - 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time
9:00 AM - Pro Populo

SANCTUARY CANDLE
For the Spiritual and Temporal Welfare
of Father John
(Req. by Anonymous)

PLEASE note that Fr. John will be away from September 20th through September 27th for vacation. Please call the rectory for any urgent assistance needed and the secretary will assist you.



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

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 - September 13, 2026

Loose Money.....	\$398.00
Envelopes.....	\$229500
Retired Priests Medical.....	\$50.00
Catholic University of America.....	\$15.00
Votive Candles.....	\$42.00
St. Peregrine.....	\$46.00
Parking Lot Rent.....	\$195.00

TOTAL: \$3041.00

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 21st to September 27th:



Eileen Winski	Debbie Magro
Patrick O'Donnell	Jeanne Bailey
Francis Petro	Courtney Podrebarac
James Pupo	Edward Torchia
Dave Magro	Betty Ann Witkosky

For the Good of the Vineyard and Our Particular Part

Ethnic Fest - A heartfelt THANK YOU to our wonderful and ever faithful group of volunteers who donated Jello and “Spirits” and especially to the people who donated the transport van, ice wagon, Coke and juices needed for the weekend. Thank you also for your overwhelming financial generosity on the part of the many parishioners which helped to keep our expenses down.

A very special thank you to our small but dedicated group of volunteers who gave so much of their time, from making Jello shots, setting up and tearing down our booth, to the small but dedicated group of people who spent their weekend working at our booth. Thank you for your ACTIVE support of Visitation Parish.

Ethnic Fest 2026		
Income:	Ethnic Fest Weekend	\$9058.00
	Second Collection	\$818.00
	Private Donations	\$270.00
	Total:	\$10146.00
Expenses:	Sunseri’s	\$377.25
	St. Mary’s Church	\$250.00
	Temporary Liquor License	\$90.00
	Jello, “Spirits”	Donated
	Transport Van	Donated
	Ice wagon	Donated
	Coke, Juices for mixed drinks	Donated
	Total:	\$717.25
	Final Profit:	\$9428.75


 Turkey Raffle 2026 - There will be a Turkey Raffle meeting on September 29th at 6:30 PM in the school cafeteria. Anyone who is interested in helping out with planning or volunteering are more than welcome to attend. The annual Turkey Raffle will be held on Saturday, November 14th and more details will come in future bulletins.

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!

Today’s Gospel speaks to us of forgiveness, which is a fundamental feature of the Christian life. Jesus taught and exemplified forgiveness even on the cross, where he prayed to the Father for his persecutors with the familiar words: “Forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing” (Lk 23:34).

In today’s passage, Peter asks the Master precisely about this question: “Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?” (Mt 18:21). His words reveal a generous heart, for the number seven symbolizes fullness in the Bible, and “forgiving seven times” means forgiving abundantly. Jesus’ response, however, goes even further: “I do not say to you seven times, but seventy times seven” (v. 22); in other words, beyond all limits, without measure.

To clarify his point further, the Savior tells the parable of a servant who owed his master a large debt that was practically impossible to pay. Although his own debt was forgiven out of pure mercy, he did not extend the same mercy toward one of his fellow servants, and for this he was rebuked and severely punished (vv. 23-30).

With these words, Jesus reminds us that gift and forgiveness are the foundation of our existence. All things are given to us by God out of pure love, and none of us can claim to be perfect in responding to such goodness. For this reason, gratuitousness — which is the source of our existence — is also the best rule for our life together. We experience this every day. Forgiveness is indispensable, and without it, we cannot live in peace. Sooner or later conflicts, accusations, grudges and acts of vengeance emerge in our hearts and among people, and these acts destroy relationships, divide families and unleash wars.

Only forgiveness sets us free and restores the light, even where human material and moral poverty has darkened the horizon and made the path uncertain. Forgiveness, like a gentle breeze, sweeps away even the thickest clouds until the sun shines once more. Saint Peter himself experienced this many times in his life; in particular, when — after denying and abandoning Jesus during the Passion — he encountered the risen Lord on the shore of the lake and heard him ask just one question: “Simon ... do you love me?” (Jn 21:15). This was accompanied by an invitation, “follow me!” (v. 19), which was the same invitation given on the occasion of their first encounter. It was as if nothing had happened. This love, which forgives and heals, would mark for the first of the Apostles, the confirmation of his mission.

Let us therefore ask the Virgin Mary, Mother of Mercy, to help us forgive — always, even when it is difficult to take the first step — and to spread, with courage and perseverance, the serene and healing light of love that overcomes hatred and disarms all resentment.

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, 23-32). 3. The human community. Here it is in its entirety: Brothers and sisters, good morning and welcome!

By dedicating the second chapter to the “human community”, the Constitution Gaudium et Spes (GS) invites us to consider “the growing interdependence of men” as “one of the

salient features of the modern world” (no. 23). This reality must, however, find fulfilment “on the deeper level ... of this communion between persons”, for which “a mutual respect for the full spiritual dignity of the person” is essential (ibid.).

These are statements which, in our times, have taken on even greater urgency. On the one hand, technological development, the spread of the mass media and social media, and the ever-increasing use of artificial intelligence are opening up new possibilities, breaking down barriers and bridging distances; on the other hand, relationships are tending to become less and less personal, more virtual, and there is a risk of becoming accustomed to delegating to algorithms decisions that are the sole preserve of the human conscience. Ensuring that social relationships have real substance and personal depth is, in this regard, the contribution that the Christian community seeks to offer.

The Council invites us to draw criteria and strength from God’s creative plan, in which He willed that “all men should constitute one family and treat one another in a spirit of brotherhood”, which is why “love for God and neighbour is the first and greatest commandment” which found its full revelation and complete fulfilment in Christ (cf. GS, 24).

The perfection of the human person and the development of society must be regarded as closely interdependent: to set them against one another or separate them would be to render them meaningless. History, even recent history, clearly confirms this truth; we must therefore never tire of reiterating, in the words of the Fathers of the Second Vatican Council, that “the subject and goal of all social institutions is and must be the human person which for its part and by its very nature stands completely in need of social life” (GS, 25).

From this perspective, Gaudium et Spes affirms that the diversity of people and peoples in the world must not be considered as a danger or a threat, but rather as a resource for enrichment and growth. Conflict, which at times degenerates into violence, is the result of the power of sin and the way it conditions mindsets and actions at every level, causing destruction and death. We must be ever more open to the logic of reciprocity, sharing and care, as is also the case amongst the various members of the human body (cf. 1 Cor 12:21–25).

On this point, the Pastoral Constitution also offers a concise definition of the “common good”, recalling that it consists of “the sum of those conditions of social life which allow social groups and their individual members relatively thorough and ready access to their own fulfilment” (GS, 26). At the same time, acknowledging the interdependence among peoples, its states that “every social group must take account of the needs and legitimate aspirations of other groups, and even of the general welfare of the entire human family” (GS, 26).

Starting from this premise, the Council Fathers then set out some “practical and particularly urgent consequences” (GS, 27). First and foremost, respect for the human person. Gaudium et Spes states: “Whatever is opposed to life itself, such as any type of murder, genocide, *(Continued on insert)*