

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

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 255-3822(DUCA) Frank <b>Duca Funeral Home, Inc.</b> ducafuneralhome.com<br>Westmont Chapel 1622 Menoher Blvd. 15905<br>Frank Duca, Supv., Funeral Director                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | 3 Generations of Trusted Duca Family Care<br>East Hills Chapel & Crematory 404 Walters Avenue, 15904<br>Bradley Duca, Supv., Funeral Director                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>Dr. John P. Walker</b><br><br><b>Family Dental Center</b><br>"Experience the Art of Dentistry"<br>Cosmetic Dentistry • Crowns<br>Bridges • Dentures<br>ZOOM! Professional Whitening System<br>Root Canals & Extractions<br>New Patients Welcome<br>Most Insurance Accepted<br>(814) 255-7181<br>www.DrJohnWalker.com<br>307 State Street • Johnstown, PA 15905 | <b>BRETT INSURANCE AGENCY, INC.</b><br><b>Jim Brett</b><br>Phone: 814-535-8649<br>E-mail: jbrett@brettinsurance.com<br><hr/> <b>Randy's BiLo FOODS</b><br>81 Osborne Street Johnstown • 535-7704<br>1514 Jefferson Ave. Windber • 467-6624<br>"Your Friendly Neighborhood Market" | <b>Country Delights</b><br>Est. 1987<br><br>Specializing in Wedding Packages & Cookies for All Occasions.<br>Homestyle Cooking and Baking<br>Please visit us at www.country-delights.com<br>814-288-5372<br>129 Dickey Hill Road, Davisville, PA | <b>Francis G. Ozog Funeral Home, Inc.</b><br>710 Broad Street Johnstown, PA 15906<br>814.539.5127<br><b>Frank G. Ozog</b><br>Funeral Director<br>"Our family serving your family with compassion, dignity and respect for over 90 years."<br>With Over 90 Years Serving The Greater Johnstown Area<br>We Offer Services That Fit Every Family's Needs<br>Traditional Funeral Services<br>Contemporary Funeral Services<br>Cremation Services<br>Pre-Need Counseling |
| <b>PICKING - TREECE - BENNETT MORTUARY, INC.</b><br>West Hills • 921 Menoher Blvd. • 814-255-4040 • PTBMortuary.com<br>CARING, COMPASSIONATE SERVICE SINCE 1909<br>THE AREA'S MOST SPACIOUS AND ACCESSIBLE FUNERAL HOME<br>THOMAS L. DIXON, Supervisor                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | <b>GRANDVIEW MONUMENT SALES, INC.</b><br>Alexis C. Kozak DIRECTOR OF SALES alexisad@aol.com<br>CELL (814) 242-0000<br>Grandview Cemetery<br>801 Millcreek Road, Johnstown, PA 15905                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>Michelle Walters Photography</b><br><br>I aim to capture and document real-life events, situations or milestones.<br>Let me capture your most precious moments.<br>Book Today!<br>814-244-1647<br>MWALTERS912@YAHOO.COM                                                                                                                                      | <b>ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS HERE</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | <b>NO MORE BOTTLES</b><br><br><b>TEAR, TAKE &amp; GO!</b><br>"Caring For You & About You Since 1964"<br><b>Martella's Pharmacies</b><br>Franklin St.   Park Hill   Ligonier<br>Windber   Central City   Boswell<br>www.martellaspharmacy.com<br>CALL US TODAY 814-535-1833                                                                                                     |
| <b>Henderson Funeral Homes</b><br>(814) 536-4602                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | <b>Ask about our:</b><br>• Bethlehem Steel Retirees Program<br>• COPE - Grief Help Group<br>• YOUR CHOICE PLAN                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |

| VISITATION PARISH MEMBERSHIP FORM                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |             |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| NAME _____                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | PHONE _____ |
| ADDRESS _____                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |             |
| CITY _____                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | ZIP _____   |
| Check One: <input type="checkbox"/> New Registration <input type="checkbox"/> Change of Address <input type="checkbox"/> Moving Out of Parish <input type="checkbox"/> Want Envelopes<br>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](http://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

### 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time September 27th, 2026

#### MASS SCHEDULE

**MONDAY** - Weekday in Ordinary Time  
**NO MASS**

**TUESDAY** - Saints Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael,  
 Archangels  
**NO MASS**

**WEDNESDAY** - Saint Jerome, Priest and Doctor  
 of the Church  
 5:30 PM - The Lombardi Family  
 (Req. by Ray and Sue Lombardi)  
 Followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

**THURSDAY** - Saint Therese of the Child Jesus,  
 Virgin and Doctor of the Church  
 12:05 PM - Dr. Larry Rutledge  
 (Req. by wife Barbara)

**FRIDAY** - The Holy Guardian Angels  
 12:05 PM - Francis Dietz  
 (Req. by Pat Balagusz)  
 Followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

**SATURDAY** - Vigil of 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time  
 4:00 PM - Pro Populo

**SUNDAY** - 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time  
 9:00 AM - Mike, Pauline & Carol Ann Cleaver  
 (Req. by Ron Cleaver)

**SANCTUARY CANDLE**  
 In Memory of Charles Turner  
 (Req. by wife Rosemary)



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.

|                                        |          |
|----------------------------------------|----------|
| <b>\$\$ INCOME \$\$\$</b>              |          |
| <b>Collection - September 20, 2026</b> |          |
| Loose Money.....                       | \$370.00 |
| Envelopes.....                         | \$218700 |

**TOTAL:        \$2557.00**

\*\*\*\*\*  
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 September 28th to October 4th:**



|                  |                    |
|------------------|--------------------|
| Hannah Oberhaus  | Nada Prohaska      |
| Judy Horner      | Brett Hudson       |
| Melissa Davidson | Roseanne Wenderoth |

**For the Good of the Vineyard and Our Particular Part**  
 \*\*\*\*\*  
**Ice Cream Crawl Update** – Sunday, October 11<sup>th</sup>, 2026, is our last ice cream social of the year, and it will be held in the school cafeteria starting at 6 PM. Anyone interested in attending is asked to bring a half gallon of their favorite flavor and topping to share. Sign-up sheets will be in the vestibule to sign up and indicate the flavor and topping you are bringing.  
 \*\*\*\*\*



**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!!!**  
 \*\*\*\*\*

**Theology on Tap - Young Adult Group (18-39):** Our September Theology on Tap with Bishop Mark was our largest yet with almost 55 in attendance including new members. Our September 30th (6pm) speaker is Fr. Frank Scornaienchi, TOR, Pastor of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish and Provincial Superior for the TOR Franciscans, who will be speaking on 800 Years of Saint Francis. All young adults are invited to join us for faith and fellowship. There is no cost to attend. For more information contact Geoffrey Stumpo at (814) 659-7415 or geoff-stumpo@gmail.com.  
 \*\*\*\*\*

**Public Rosary** – There will be a public rosary praying for Honoring Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary & Praying for Respect for Life on Saturday, October 3rd, at noon at St. Clement Church and on Saturday, October 10th, at noon in Central Park in downtown Johnstown.



**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!  
 In today’s liturgy, through the words of the prophet Isaiah, the Lord gives us great cause for hope, telling us that his thoughts are not our thoughts, that his ways are not our ways (cf. Is 55:8). Yes, God’s plans are infinitely greater — and, let us say, more “human” — than those that we men and women, marked by sin, can conceive or bring to fruition. Thus, the prophet’s call, which is more relevant than ever, is that we abandon our warped ways and return to the Lord, who is mercy and forgiveness (vv. 6–7).  
 In the Gospel, Jesus’ parables describe the newness of what God has in store for us; yet they also reveal the resistance we generally offer to a more generous justice and greater love. Today, in particular, we hear the story of the laborers called to work in the vineyard (cf. Mt 20:1–16) — some for a full day, some for only a few hours, and some only as the sun was setting. But the heart of the parable lies in the moment of payment, when the landowner keeps his word to the workers hired at the first hour and pays them as agreed; yet he wants them to see his goodness and, right before their eyes, treats the last ones in the same way.  
 One detail especially should not escape our notice. The landowner gives the steward a specific order that the workers are to be paid “beginning with the last and then going to the first” (Mt 20:8). The negative reaction of those who had worked all day, then, could easily have been avoided; it was intentional, however, because the revelation of God’s goodness is for everyone, not just for a few. God has different ways and fresh ideas even for those who consider themselves to be first and believe they have earned what they have, that they deserved the results they have achieved. Instead, we all gain joy, wisdom and a better future when the law of love interrupts that of calculation, when the experience of mercy broadens that of merit, and when the gift of peace suspends rivalries and brings us closer together in gratitude.  
 Brothers and sisters, it is indeed a grace to be God’s co-workers, to labor in his vineyard, to serve his Kingdom of justice and peace! There is no room for envy or division where God’s newness breaks forth. Therefore, let us seek the Lord while he may be found; let us call upon him while he is near; let us abandon crooked paths and wicked thoughts (cf. Is 55:6–7).  
 Let us look to our Most Holy Mother, for she is a creature like us yet without blemish. Thus, she can help us to hope in God and to entrust ourselves to his mercy, so that his ways may become our ways and his thoughts may become our thoughts.  
 In his weekly **Wednesday Audience**, Pope Leo began his exploration of the Documents of the Second Vatican Council. IV. Pastoral Constitution Gaudium et spes. Here it is in its entirety:  
 Brothers and sisters, good morning and welcome!  
 As we continue our journey through the Pastoral Constitution Gaudium et Spes of the Second Vatican Ecumenical Council, we come to the third chapter of the first part, which bears the intriguing title: “Man’s Activity Throughout the World”. The fundamental question is this: what is the value of human activity in the world, and therefore of technical, social

and scientific progress? We may recall that, less than four years after the close of the Council, on the night of 20–21 July 1969, man set foot on the Moon for the first time.  
 Created in the image and likeness of God, the human being is the agent of progress. With freedom and intelligence, he increases his knowledge, thereby advancing society as a whole. We can easily see this by considering the improvements in living conditions over successive generations. Indeed, the Document states, “many benefits once looked for, especially from heavenly powers, man has now enterprisingly procured for himself” (no. 33).  
 For this reason, some thinkers have portrayed scientific and technical progress as something that weakens man’s relationship with God, to the point of making it seem superfluous, or even as antagonistic to the Christian faith. And this interpretation has brought about a change in the way contemporary man views the world, compared with previous ages. Such a prejudice is particularly prevalent in that part of Western culture which has lost its reference to Christian Revelation. In post-Christian humanisms, the human being and God are mistakenly presented as rivals: in order to assert his knowledge, his freedom and his progress, man would have to emancipate himself from God. Ultimately, however, by denying the relationship with God, one also loses the possibility of affirming the transcendent value of the human person. This is the “tragedy of atheistic humanism”, well described by a leading theologian of the Second Vatican Council, Henri de Lubac. [1]  
 The Council wishes to provide a clear answer: Christians, states Gaudium et Spes, “can justly consider that by their labour they are unfolding the Creator’s work, consulting the advantages of their brother men, and are contributing by their personal industry to the realization in history of the divine plan” (no. 34). Indeed, the Constitution continues, “far from thinking that works produced by man’s own talent and energy are in opposition to God’s power, and that the rational creature exists as a kind of rival to the Creator, Christians are convinced that the triumphs of the human race are a sign of God’s grace and the flowering of His own mysterious design” ( ibid.). In essence, God has placed in the hands of men and women a creation that is still in statu viae – that is, on a journey, in the process of growth – so that they may bring it to fulfillment through their wise activity. [2]  
 Here there is an important reference to the mystery of the Incarnation. Humanity – and with it work, progress and the autonomy of created realities – is not absorbed or nullified by the encounter with God, but rather taken up in its entirety, continuing to be, in Christ, free and active: indeed, it is in Him that it finds full truth and freedom. Furthermore, in the Eucharistic celebration, the fruit of human labour, represented by bread and wine, is placed upon the altar every day to be transformed into the Body and Blood of Christ.  
 From this perspective, an important truth emerges: to encounter God, the human being must not abandon his earthly occupations, but can live his vocation fully, carrying out his daily work well and sanctifying it. [3]  
**(Continued on insert)**