

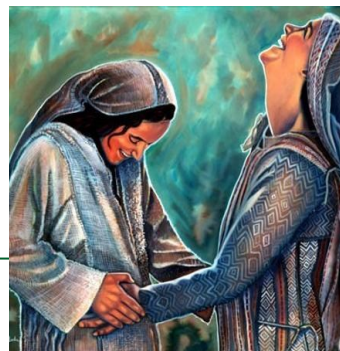
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NAME _____	PHONE _____
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Check One: ☐ New Registration ☐ Change of Address ☐ Moving Out of Parish ☐ Want Envelopes	
Please drop Membership Form into the offertory basket or mail to Rectory. 814-536-6110	

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

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time October 4th, 2026

MASS SCHEDULE

MONDAY - Weekday in Ordinary Time

12:05 PM - Betty Petro
(Req. by Jeno Lecci)

TUESDAY - Weekday in Ordinary Time

12:05 PM - Dr. Larry Rutledge
(Req. by wife Barbara)
Rescheduled from 10-1-2026

WEDNESDAY - Our Lady of the Rosary

NO MASS

THURSDAY - Weekday in Ordinary Time

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

FRIDAY - Weekday in Ordinary Time

12:05 PM - Francis John Beaujon
(Req. by Fran & Charlotte Beaujon)
Followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

SATURDAY - Vigil of 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:00 PM - Melissa Lovette
(Req. by Mother & Brothers)

SUNDAY - 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:00 AM - Pro Populo

SANCTUARY CANDLE

Spiritual and Temporal Welfare of Fr. 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.

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.

Loose Money.....	\$337.00
Envelopes.....	\$2257.00
Catholic University.....	\$10.00
Retired Priests Medical.....	\$31.00
Parking Lot Rent.....	\$65.00

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:

***Please join us in remembering members of our
parish family who celebrate their birthdays the
week of October 5th to October 11th:***



Ice Cream Crawl Update – Sunday, October 11th, 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 - Our annual Turkey Raffle is scheduled for Saturday, November 14th at the Visitation School gymnasium. Doors will open at 6:00 PM. Additional details will be provided in next week's bulletin.

Winter Coat Drive - Visitation Parish is coming together with Johnstown Crossroads, a local clinic that helps individuals seeking opioid addiction treatment, with a winter coat drive. This winter coat drive will help ensure their patients and families stay warm throughout the colder months. We will have donation boxes in the vestibule of the church for any donations. They are looking for any new or gently used coats and jackets for children and adults which will be placed in their Community Coat Room for patients and their families to be able to choose a coat. The Winter Coat Drive will be until October 27th to ensure that Johnstown Crossroads has time to pick the donations up and get them ready for their patients and families. Let us help those less fortunate or in need by providing them with a warm coat for these upcoming colder months.



This past Sunday, Pope Leo XIV held the Holy **Mass in** the Prairie of the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Lourdes in the town of Lourdes, France on his apostolic journey to France. Pope Leo XIV offered the following reflection in its entirety:

Brothers and sisters, pilgrims from France and from throughout the world, in seeing you gathered here this morning in our Mother's home, I see the universal face of the Church. Some of you have crossed continents, traveled far, and brought your joys and burdens to this sacred grotto. What a joy it is to be together, as one heart and one family.

I would especially like to greet the pilgrims who have come from every province and diocese of France. Today you stand on this blessed ground that has received so many graces. May this pilgrimage rekindle the flame of faith in your homes and parishes. Take the consolation of Lourdes back to your neighbors, your loved ones and the whole French people.

This Sunday's readings touch on a central part of the message that the Virgin Mary entrusted to Saint Bernadette: the call to conversion, both tender and urgent. In the Gospel, Jesus looks with truth and deep sorrow upon hearts that have remained closed, "you did not repent" (Mt 21:32). Why does this wound the heart of Christ? Because God does not want his children to be lost. The prophet Ezekiel reminds us, "When a righteous man turns away from his righteousness and commits iniquity, he shall die for it." However, since "he considered and turned away from all the transgressions which he had committed, he shall surely live, he shall not die" (Ez 18:26, 28). This is why the call to repentance runs through Sacred Scripture and the preaching of the Gospel down the centuries. Its gravity reminds us of the urgency and necessity of conversion. It is today, not tomorrow, that we must repent. Indeed, now is the acceptable time, now is the day of salvation (cf. 2 Cor 6:2). God wants us to live, to open our eyes and return to him. To repent is to leave the paths on which we lost our way, and to follow the way of life, opening our hearts to the sole joy that never passes away.

Jesus himself is quite direct in calling us to repentance. As Saint Luke tells us, “Unless you repent, you will all perish” (Lk 13:5). But he also extends our horizon beyond this earthly life to the horizon of eternal life. For while happiness in this world is fleeting and relative, and sadly sometimes out of reach for some, true happiness is promised to everyone in hope, and this is what we should seek above all else, in all our efforts and choices. Did not the Virgin Mary say to Saint Bernadette, “I do not promise to make you happy in this world but in the next”?

This promise, made right here, has a particular force in this land of France, and it challenges the way we think today. In an age and society that seek progress and material wellbeing, but can sometimes forget the horizon of eternity, Mary comes to remind us of the greatness and richness of our calling to life, to eternal life. In the face of current trends that seek to redefine the value of human life in illness, suffering and old age, the grotto of Massabielle stands as a place of Christian hope. Here, no one is turned away due to their frailty. Your crutches, your wheel-chairs and your hidden tears are not obstacles; instead, they are the very place where you are fully respected and welcomed, and where you can experience a transforming encounter with the infinite love of God. Lourdes is blessed as a place for professing the beauty and sanctity of life, for life is welcomed here as a

precious gift from God, and is called to flourish for ever in the love of the Father.

"I promise you!" Indeed, eternal life is a firm and certain promise that the Lord makes to us. He has already won it for us by his death on the cross and his resurrection, and through the grace of baptism he is bringing it to fulfillment in us each day. It is within our reach, but we must freely welcome it, take hold of it and not stand in its way. For the obstacle to grace and eternal life — the only obstacle to this love — is sin, whereby we turn in upon ourselves, refusing God and shutting ourselves up in our own darkness. Our personal responsibility therefore comes into play, and a great responsibility it is. God has made us free, since freedom is necessary for love; no one can be forced to love. We must therefore use our freedom to say yes to Christ, relying on his grace, like Mary. This is a yes that we renew until our final breath — "now and at the hour of our death" — as we say in the Hail Mary.

We hear the same urgent call to conversion in the words which Mary spoke right here, "Penance! Penance! Penance!" She repeats the word three times. And she asks Bernadette to perform certain acts of penance. Why? Are we slow to understand? Do we too easily think of ourselves without sin? Do we not practice penance enough? The Virgin asks us to do penance not only for ourselves, because we too need it, but also "for sinners," for a world that is going astray. How can our hearts not be moved by the conflicts that are spreading and destroying so many innocent lives? Yet the evil of our time comes from the human heart. God is not responsible for it. As he says to the Israelites, "Is my way not just? Is it not your ways that are not just?" (Ez 18:25). It is therefore human hearts that must change, beginning with our own.

Penance is an act of love, carried out in solidarity with the human family. It is an act of love for God, because we want to make amends for the wounds our sins have dealt to his heart. It is also an act of love for those brothers and sisters of ours who do not heed this call to conversion, and whose sins lead them towards death. This call to conversion also concerns the Church herself as she makes her earthly journey. She must have the courage to begin with herself. In order to heal the deep wounds, infidelities and painful errors that have occurred within her, we must humbly place ourselves under the Lord's purifying gaze. Recognizing our own faults is essential to our spiritual growth. As Saint Augustine wrote, "Do not be content with what you are, if you want to become what you are not yet" (Disc. 169, 15, 18).

Our Mother's reminder of our duty to pray and repent fills us with great hope, because she shows us that the way to change the course of things is by uniting ourselves to the passion of Christ. Dear friends who are sick, so many of you here in Lourdes are familiar with suffering. You can live your trials and pains in this spirit of offering, and so take part in the redemptive work that the world so greatly needs. In this way, you are truly at the heart of the Church, and your role is irreplaceable.

(Continued on insert)