

Church of the Visitation

Rectory Phone: 536-6110

Fax: 536-3709

E-Mail: visitation@floodcity.net

Website: www.visitationchurch.net

Catholic Charities: 535-6538



1127 McKinley Avenue
Johnstown, PA 15905

Rev. John J. Slovikovski, Pastor

Mrs. Maureen Clark, DRE

Mr. Mark Ed, Music Director

OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE

November 22, 2015

Rectory Office Hours: 8 AM - 3 PM Monday-Thursday

MASS SCHEDULE

MONDAY— St. Clement, St. Columban

8:00 AM Art Oleskey
(Req. by Visitation Friends)

TUESDAY— St. Andrew Dung-Lac

8:00 AM Joe & Johnny Bortoli
(Req. by Mom & Dad)

WEDNESDAY— St. Catherine of Alexandria

8:00 AM No Mass

THURSDAY— Thanksgiving Day

9:00 AM Ron Hobbs
(Req. by Family)

FRIDAY— Weekday

8:00 AM Gertrude Reynolds
(Req. by Family)

SATURDAY— Weekday

5:30 PM Valley Pike Manor
No Mass

4:00 PM Basil Balagusz
(Req. by Family)

SUNDAY— 1ST Sunday of Advent

8:00 AM Intentions of the Parish Family

10:30 AM Ed Molchany
(Req. by Frank Koval & Jennie)

SANCTUARY CANDLE:

Basil Balagusz
Req. by Family

MASSES FOR SUNDAY: Saturday 4:00 PM
Sunday 8:00 AM and 10:30 AM

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE: Saturday 1:00 PM

INFANT BAPTISM: Arrange in advance for pre-baptismal instructions.

COMMON POLICY FOR BAPTISM: The parents must attend an instruction/preparation class on the Sacrament of Baptism. Arrangements are made through the Parish Office. Catholic Sponsors need a letter from their Pastor stating they are in full communion with the Catholic Church.

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE: By appointment with the Pastor at least nine months prior to the date of marriage.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK: Done after any Sunday Mass when requested.

MEMBERSHIP: Please contact the Rectory Office to register as a member.

SCRIPTURE READINGS THIS WEEK:

Mon 11/23: Dn 1:1-6, 8-20 / Lk 21:1-4
Tue 11/24: Dn 2:31-45 / Lk 21:5-11
Wed 11/25: Dn 5:1-6, 13-14, 16-17, 23-28 /
 Lk 21:12-19
Thu 11/26: Dn 6:12-28 / 1 Cor 1:3-9 /
 Lk 17:11-19
Fri 11/27: Dn 7:2-14 / Lk 21:29-33
Sat 11/28: Dn 7:15-27 / Lk 21:34-36
Sun 11/29: Jer 33:14-16 / 1 Thes 3:12—4:2 /
 Lk 21:25-28, 34-36



We are praying for...

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 All the Men and women fighting for our country in the military services, all the elderly, homebound, sick and hospitalized members of our parish family, especially the following: Pat Barnhart, Patrick Brady, Phyllis Brady, Jack Bulisok, Margaret Case, Louise Connelly, John Correll, Kevin Cyburt, Frank Daly, Tom Fabina, Ida Fallon, Gloria Fenik, John Frieko, Josephine Gallo, Joseph Guydo, Eugene Hipp, Deborah Hockey, Mary Ann Holtz, Carol Houghton, Mary Kenny, Rosemary Kiser, Dorothy Kleinosky, Kathy Kohan, Madeleine Krueger, Anne Kucera, Rose Leone, David Magro, Martha Majoris, James McCabe, Loretta Meyers, Anna Miller, Ethel Pavlik, Eileen Rengh, Anna Petro, Stephanie Poltrack, Atlas Rea, Charlotte Rollins, James Rovon, Marion Saia, Maria (Petro) Sanders, John Slovikovski, John Sweeney, Joe Taresco, Edward Waddell.

If any of the above has sufficiently recovered and can be removed from the list, please contact the Parish Office. Thank you.

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SERVERS: Nov. 28-29

SAT 4:00 PM S. Wachs & J. Corona
SUN 8:00 AM S. & T. Marano
10:30 AM O. Friday & Z. Nagle

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LECTORS: Nov. 28-29

SAT 4:00 PM J. DiBuono -1
 C. Arnone -2
SUN 8:00 AM M. Flynn -1
 D. Kozak -2
10:30 AM P. Molchany -1
 O. Standley -2

Nov. 26 – 9:00 AM- D. Krumenacker

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF THE

EUCCHARIST: Nov. 28-29

SAT 4:00 PM (Plate) P. Balagusz,
 *Ja. Bulisok, J. Correll
 (Cup) *C. Vavrek, P. Cavanaugh, R. Sigg,
 B. Tran

SUN 8:00 AM (Plate) *J. Kuswara,
 *M. Carney, C. Hobbs
 (Cup) G. Krumenacker, A. Reynolds,
 E. Hobbs, D. Kurmenacker

10:30 AM (Plate) *V. Rosa, B. Williams,
 P. Molchany
 (Cup) C. Williams, *P. Molchany, B. Nagle,
 D. Tedjeske

Nov. 26 – 9:00 AM

(Plate) A. Reynolds, *G. Krumenacker,
 M. Clark
 (Cup) N. Vavrek, J. Aspey, *H. Balagusz,
 P. Molchany

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GREETERS: Nov. 28-29

SAT 4:00 PM (ST) W. Werzyn
 (VP) M. Werzyn

SUN 8:00 AM (ST) M. Carney
 (VP) K. Garanich

10:30 AM (ST) Ushers
 (VP)

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\$\$\$ INCOME \$\$\$

November 15, 2015

Sunday Envelopes	\$3,731.35
Loose	762.66
Energy	20.00
Catholic Education	30.00
Catholic Charities	70.00
Parking	<u>100.00</u>
	\$4,714.01



GOD GAVE YOU
 A GIFT OF
 86,400 SECONDS
 TODAY. HAVE YOU
 USED ONE TO SAY
 THANK YOU?



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO OUR PARISHIONERS WHO ARE CELEBRATING A BIRTHDAY THIS WEEK NOV. 15-21

Velma Harteis, Roy Horner Jr, Patrick Brady, Mary Deter, Rebecca McDaniel, Mickie Mills, Vickie Schmidt, Larry Golish, Terrence Werner, Katrin O'Donnell



PARISH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Nov. 22- Class

Nov. 29-Thanksgiving Vacation



For the months of November and December, all donations received in Visitation's

St. Vincent DePaul Poor Box will be given to our area Food Pantry. As you know, the pantries are in dire need of our help. All donations will be most gratefully received

ST. NICK'S TOY RESALE DAY



VISITATION SCHOOL

**SATURDAY
DECEMBER 5TH**

11:00 AM-3:00 PM

COME BUY GENTLY USED TOYS, CLEAN AND IN WORKING CONDITION!

If you would like to donate toys, please leave them in the vestibule of the Church.

*First Presbyterian Church, corner of Lincoln and Walnut Streets presents the **32nd Annual Festival of the Nativity** on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, December 4, 5, and 6 from 6-9 PM each evening. Features include Bell Choirs, Church Choirs, Johnstown Reed Band, Nativity Displays, Art Works and more!*



Children's Christmas Pageant.

Sign-ups begin this week. A sign-up sheet is on the table in the vestibule. Rehearsals will be on December 4, 11, and 18 from 6-7 PM in the church.



RADA knife order brochures are available in the back of the church. You are encouraged to take orders from family, friends, coworkers, etc to help support this fundraiser.

Give Thanks to the Lord

What does Thanksgiving mean for us as Catholic Christians? How do we share this with children? Kids have the common sense to recognize that offering thanks requires both a giver and a receiver. For instance, when a child receives a gift he/she might write a thank you note to the gift giver. In a larger sense, God is the giver of all good things in life. On Thanksgiving Day and every day we should remind children of this. When we participate in Mass we can remember that the word Eucharist comes from the Greek word *eucharistia* which means thanksgiving. God's greatest gift to us is that of his own son, who offered his life for our salvation. Our natural response should be to offer our lives in return. Take time this month to lead children on a path of gratitude and service

THANKSGIVING TABLE PRAYER

O Gracious God, we give you thanks for your overflowing generosity to us. Thank you for the blessings of the food we eat and especially for this feast today. Thank you for our home and family and friends, especially for the presence of those gathered here. Thank you for our health, our work and our play. Please send help to those who are hungry, alone, sick and suffering war and violence. Open our hearts to your love. We ask your blessing through Christ your son. Amen.

Gratitude

—Cara Callbeck

My husband has a habit that I find both irritating and wise all at once. When I come home after a really bad day at work, the first thing he asks me is, “What are you thankful for today?” □ While he knows that he’ll be greeted with my pithy retort of, “I’m thankful it’s over,” □ he also knows that in that one quick exchange he has refocused me. That question forces me away from my bleak and self-pitying outlook on the day and reminds me that I ought to be thankful that I had the day to begin with.

Gratitude is quite possibly the greatest weapon God gives us against despair. When we take the time to be grateful, it diverts our gaze toward the light rather than the darkness. This theme of gratitude in the bleakest moments is all over the Bible. As they began their ministry, the apostles were persecuted, flogged, and threatened. Their response to this, though, was to rejoice that they were considered worthy to suffer dishonor for the sake of God. They saw the light in the midst of darkness, and it gave them what they needed to keep on with their ministry. In the Gospel of Luke, Jesus is described as “anxious” □ to eat the Passover meal with the apostles, and he gives thanks during that meal. He knew it was his last, he knew one of his apostles would betray him, and yet he found a little bit of light in that dark day.

I challenge you, the next time life seems to push you down at every turn or you’re just having a lousy day, to take some time to consider the question that irritates me: *What are you thankful for today?* It might seem like an insurmountable challenge in some circumstances. If that’s the case, Padre Pio offers you this ounce of hope, “The most beautiful act of faith is the one made in darkness, in sacrifice, and with extreme effort.” □

Preparing

—Tom McGrath

For as long as we’ve been married, my wife and I hosted Thanksgiving dinner. We invite both sides of the family to attend. Sometimes quite a crowd gathers around our expanded dining room table as we bow our heads in thanksgiving then carve the turkey.

One year when the number of attendees was at an all-time high, Kathleen and I awoke on Thanksgiving morning feeling nervous.

Even before early Mass at our parish, we were pulling chairs up from the basement, cleaning every nook and cranny, and running to the store for last-minute ingredients. Later, as the time of our guests’ arrival slowly drew closer, you could feel the tension mount in our house. It was clear that there were far more “nice touches” we could do than we had time to accomplish, and Kathleen and I were getting on each other’s nerves.

So we went for a walk. We put down the dust rag and the spatula and took a stroll around our neighborhood. As we walked in the refreshing air, we recalled the times we had enjoyed around our dining room table with the relatives we so loved. We began to talk about Thanksgivings we’d celebrated when we were growing up, remembering the people who had welcomed us to their table and into their lives. We even recalled a few words from the homily we heard at Mass that morning that spoke of gratitude as the way to open our hearts to the goodness of life.

When we arrived home, everything had changed. We had spent a lot of time and worry preparing our house. Finally, we had taken time to prepare our hearts. And that made all the difference.





Advent of Christmas Party

*This year we will celebrate an **Advent of Christmas Party** for the children of the parish, pre-K through 5th Grade on Saturday, December 12 from 6:00-8:00 PM in the school hall. There will be food, games, and activities in which the entire family can participate. We are asking that students in grades 6-12 come and assist with this event. Service hours will be allotted for participation in the party (preparation, serving food, working at games, assisting crafts, etc.). We hope that this will become an annual event at our parish. Please consider joining us for this new tradition. Sign-up sheets will be in the vestibule of the Church for the next two weekends.*

Year of Mercy Planning Meeting

There will be a planning meeting for all those persons who are interested in parish programming for the Extraordinary Year of Mercy on Monday, November 23, 2015 at 7:00 PM in the school cafeteria. Please consider joining us as we plan for this historic year. If you need to learn about the Year of Mercy, please look at the following site.

<http://www.iubilaeummisericordiae.va/content/gdm/en.html>

Toy Sale

The annual Toy Sale is scheduled for December 5 from 11:00 AM until 3:00 PM. This service to local families provides the opportunity to purchase like new or gently used toys at garage sale prices or lower. We are still in need of volunteers to assist with food preparation and serving. Please sign up in the vestibule of the Church or call the rectory.

Advent Penance Service

Our Advent Penance Service will be held on Thursday, December 17 at 6:30 pm in preparation for the celebration of the Nativity of the Lord. A number of local priests will be available for confessions. This will be the last formal opportunity at Visitation Parish to celebrate the sacrament of penance. Also, our second grade students will be celebrating penance for the first time at this service. Please join us for this first formal event as we begin the Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy.

Thanksgiving Day Mass

We will celebrate Mass on Thanksgiving Day at 9:00 AM. Our collection will be given to our Visitation Chapter of the Saint Vincent De Paul Society to assist those who struggle financially, especially as the holiday season approaches.