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# *The Church of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary*

1090 Carmalt Street, Dickson City, PA 18519

Phone: 570-489-2091 ~ Email: [vbvm@comcast.net](mailto:vbvm@comcast.net) ~ Website: [www.vbvm.org](http://www.vbvm.org)



## PARISH STAFF

**Msgr. Patrick J. Pratico, J.C.D.**, Pastor  
**Karen Wallo**, Administrative Assistant  
**Robert Manento**, Director of Liturgical Music  
**Mary Jo Griffith**, Bookkeeper  
**Linda Skierski**, Director of Religious Education

## OFFICE HOURS

**Monday through Thursday: 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**  
Closed 12:00 noon to 1:00 p.m.

## MASS SCHEDULE

**Weekdays:** Monday - Friday 7:30 am  
**Saturday Vigil:** 4:00 pm  
**Sunday:** 8:00 & 10:30 am  
**Holy Days:** See bulletin

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Kindergarten (optional), 1st to 8th grade (required) Sundays from 9:00 am to 10:15 am September to May.  
Catholic School students are required to register to receive the sacraments of First Communion, Penance, and Confirmation in 2nd and 8th grade.

## NEW MEMBERS/CHANGE OF ADDRESS

New members are most welcome!

Call the Parish office at 570-489-2091 or go to [www.vbvm.org](http://www.vbvm.org) to register.

Parishioners are asked to notify the office of change of address or when moving from the parish.

## SACRAMENTS

**Reconciliation:** Saturday 8:30 a.m., and other times by request.

**Baptism:** Second Sunday of the month at 11:30 a.m. Registered parishioners may call the parish office to make arrangements.

**Marriage:** Arrangements must be made at least six months in advance by registered parishioners.

**Monthly Visitation of the Sick/Homebound:** Call the parish office to be placed on the list.

**Care of the Sick:** Please notify us at any time of the seriously ill, hospitalized or those needing anointing.

*We, the parish community of The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, in union with the guidance of the Holy Spirit and the leadership of our bishop and our pastor are called through Baptism to live the gospel of Jesus Christ. Through the sacramental life of the Church, especially the Eucharist, we are strengthened to live as a community committed to share the Word with all those in need with love and compassion, and to celebrate the fullness of life in Christ.*

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

### Weekly Mass Schedule

<b>Monday</b> 7:30 AM	<b>April 22</b> Leonard Moreiko (24th Anniv.) offered By Eleanor Moreiko
<b>Tuesday</b> 7:30 AM	<b>April 23</b> Sylvia Trently offered by Ron Bukowski and family
<b>Wednesday</b> 7:30 AM	<b>April 24</b> Suzette Borusiewicz offered by Alfred Borusiewicz
<b>Thursday</b> 7:30 AM	<b>April 25</b> Elaine King offered by Dorothy Molinaro & Fran Toole
<b>Friday</b> 7:30 AM	<b>April 26</b> No Mass Today
<b>Saturday</b> 4:00 PM	<b>April 27</b> James Wirth, Jr. (1st Anniv.) offered by Marty & Michelle Hrinko
<b>Sunday</b> 8:00 AM	<b>April 28</b> Stephen J. Vavrick (14th Anniv.) offered By wife Adrienne & children
10:30 AM	Living and deceased members of our parish

## CATHOLIC HOME MISSIONS

Next Week we will take up the Catholic Home Missions Appeal. Today, nearly 40% of dioceses in the United States and its territories are unable to fund the essential pastoral work their communities need. Your support of this appeal helps them meet these faith formation and sacramental needs. Please prayerfully consider how you can support this appeal. More information can be found at [www.usccb.org/home-missions](http://www.usccb.org/home-missions).

## HOMEBOUND, NURSING HOME VISITS AND ANOINTING OF THE SICK

If you or someone you know would like to be added to our monthly list of homebound parishioners or those in nursing homes, assisted living or rehabilitation facilities, call the parish office at 570-489-2091 or email [vbvm@comcast.net](mailto:vbvm@comcast.net), to have your name added to our visitation list. Msgr. Pratico makes regular monthly visits.

If a parishioner is in need of anointing/sacrament of the sick, please call the parish office at 570-489-2091. Please note that homebound visits are for those who are unable to leave their homes except for doctor appointments and other essential reasons.

## IN MEMORIAM

### Sanctuary Candle

John & Sophie Glenn, Frank Padula, John & Pat Glenn offered by Sophie Padula

### Altar Candles

Ray Pawelski offered by family

### Bread & Wine

Richard Woodyatt, Anna, John, Stella, Jack & Joseph Malewich, Clare & Chester Jezierski, Barbara Clarke & Bret Nalesnik offered by Maryanne

### Steeple Lights

Jim Wirth, Jr. offered by Lee Anne Staniszewski

## ONLINE GIVING

Go to [www.vbvm.org](http://www.vbvm.org)

Click on the **DONATE** tab, Click on **GIVE NOW**  
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## UPCOMING EVENTS:

DATE:	EVENT:
Apr. 23	Video Series—Unlocking the Bible 4/23, 4/30
May 14	Bingo Bonanza meeting 6:00 PM
May 18	Rosary for Vocations 3:30 PM
June 1	Troop 21 Pancake Breakfast 8:00 AM
June 4	Spark Planning Meeting 6:00 PM
June 24	Vacation Bible School

### VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

JUNE 24 THROUGH 28  
9:00 AM TO 12 NOON

REGISTRATION DUE BY MAY 26TH  
CHILDREN AGES 4 THROUGH 10 ARE WELCOME!

FOR MORE INFO E-MAIL JILL LENNON AT  
[dobreniecki@aol.com](mailto:dobreniecki@aol.com)

Registration forms are available in the  
Parish Office and the church vestibule.

### UNLOCKING THE MYSTERIES OF THE BIBLE

The last two sessions will take place on: **Apr. 23, 30**

Choose from the 11:00 am or 6:00 pm session.

**Troop 21**  
*Pancake Breakfast*

June 1st  
8:00-11:00am  
\$8.00

SAVE THE DATE!

Dine-In or Take Out  
St. Mary's Parish Center  
Dickson City

  
Pancakes, Sausage,  
Juice, Coffee/Tea

### PRAY THE ROSARY WITH US!

Our parish rosary group prays Monday through Friday after the 7:30 AM Mass. On Thursdays the special intention is for vocations for men and women to generously say "Yes" to the priesthood and consecrated life. Please join us in praying the rosary.



If you need a rosary you can get a free one at the parish office. If you don't know how to, or haven't prayed the rosary in a while, don't worry. It's very easy to follow along.



## ST. MARY'S MONDAY NIGHT BINGO

Doors open at 5:00 pm  
Early Bird begins at 6:30 pm  
Regular Games immediately following  
**\$1,000.00 Jackpot!**  
Kitchen opens at 5:00 PM  
Handicapped accessible from the  
Scott Road entrance.

## Knights of Columbus

Council 13864

Dickson City and Throop



Meetings take place on the  
**2nd Wednesday** of every month  
at **7:00 p.m.** in the cafeteria level of our  
school. Use the Scott Road entrance.

*New members are welcome !  
Handicapped Accessible*

2024

## WEDDING ANNIVERSARY MASS

His Excellency, the Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, D.D., J.C.L., Bishop of Scranton, and the Office for Parish Life wish to invite couples celebrating their 25th or 50th wedding anniversary in 2024 to a diocesan Wedding Anniversary Mass on Sunday, June 23rd.

The event includes a 2:30 PM mass at the Cathedral of Saint Peter followed by a reception.  
**The registration deadline for this event is May 26, 2024.**

To register, please go to  
<https://www.dioceseofscranton.org>  
or contact Bridget Guarnieri (570-207-2213 x 1133 or [familylife@dioceseofscranton.org](mailto:familylife@dioceseofscranton.org))



## Readings for the week of April 21, 2024

### Sunday:

Acts 4:8-12/Ps 118: 1, 8-9, 21-23, 26, 28, 29 (22)/Jn 3:1-2/Jn 10:11-18

### Monday:

Acts 11:1-18/Ps 42:2-3; 43:3, 4/Jn 10:1-10

### Tuesday:

Acts 11:19-26/Ps 87:1b-3, 4-5, 6-7/  
Jn 10:22-30

### Wednesday:

Acts 12:24—13:5a/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6 and 8/  
Jn 12:44-50

### Thursday:

1 Pt 5:5b-14/Ps 89:2-3, 6-7, 16-17/  
Mk 16:15-20

### Friday:

Acts 13:26-33/Ps 2:6-7, 8-9, 10-11ab/  
Jn 14:1-6

### Saturday:

Acts 13:44-52/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/  
Jn 14:7-14

### Next Sunday:

Acts 9:26-31/Ps 22:26-27, 28, 30, 31-32 (26a)/1 Jn 3:18-24/Jn 15:1-8



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## Gospel Meditation

### Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

Recently I was with my little dog Libby at a retreat center in the Arizona desert. I sat in a chair near a ravine filled with shrubs. Unbeknownst to me, Libby wandered down there and disappeared. Suddenly an animal's wild shriek erupted from the area. Without thinking, I bolted down into the ravine fully expecting to see coyotes, javelinas, or rattlesnakes. I didn't care. I desperately wanted to get Libby out of there, without any self-regard. Before I could face whatever danger lay hidden, my dog blissfully trotted out from an entirely different area, utterly unaware that I had (quite heroically) just placed my life on the line.

When the adrenaline wore off, I thought to myself: how far would I have been willing to go to save her? I don't know. But I do know, if I had literally died, my friends and family would have certainly thought me insane for dying for a dog. No offense, Libby.

How passionately Jesus wants us to know him and his willingness to die for us! This week he says, **"I know my own and my own know me,"** and **"I lay down my life for the sheep."** Here we encounter an insanely excessive love for us. Christianity is a relationship and not simply a religion or ethical code. In Jesus, God rescues and saves us. He laid down his life for you and me — and he has taken it up again. So often we are like Libby — blissfully ignorant of the reality of both our spiritual danger and his saving love. This Easter season, the risen Jesus calls us to be more conscious than ever before about his love. He never ceases to lay down his life for us.

— Father John Muir

## (PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

### The Good Shepherd and the Wolf

I remember very clearly the first movie I watched during my pregnancy with my eldest child. In this film, there is a scene where a young boy is kidnapped and shoved into the back of a van guarded by vicious dogs. His mother persists in trying to free him, even as the dogs snap at her. Their bared teeth and full-throated snarls don't slow her efforts in the slightest.

It wasn't a great movie or even a particularly great scene, but I'll never forget this scene. I'll never forget those dogs.

I had just learned that I was a mother a few days ago. The life growing deep within seemed to me as frail as a whispered secret, but I loved it powerfully. I worried constantly if the baby was safe and healthy. I agonized over signs — real or imagined — that could tell me if the poppyseed-sized child was thriving or failing.

I understood, for the first time in my life, why a woman would charge a pack of attack dogs without hesitation — not because she should, but because she has to.

She could choose not to fight, certainly. She could walk away. But why would she? A future without her son is so much more painful than any physical wound. She may fear for her life, but she fears a life without her child so much more.

The Good Shepherd discourse reveals to us the motivation behind God's actions throughout all of salvation history. From Adam to Noah to Abraham, all the way down to the time of the Messiah and beyond, He keeps trying to get us back. He keeps braving the attack dogs, time after time. He never stops. He never grows weary. And it baffles us: *what's in it for Him?* we wonder, because we are quicker to give up on ourselves than He is. *Why does He keep trying?*

He could choose not to fight, sure. But why would He? He doesn't want a future without us.

*"I will lay down my life for the sheep." — John 10:11*

*- Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman*

## Why do we do that? Catholic Life Explained

### Question:

What is unique or different about the way Catholics read and are exposed to the Bible?

### Answer:

Catholics are exposed to Scripture primarily through the Sunday readings from a book known as the *Lectionary*. The *Lectionary* is a book of selected passages from the Bible set in the context of a liturgical season, such as Advent, Lent, or ordinary time. There are four readings assigned to any Sunday: the first reading (usually from the Old Testament), the responsorial psalm, the second reading (usually from a New Testament letter), and the Gospel reading.

These readings together give them a new context. The selected readings relate to one another in a unique manner that is not present in the Bible text itself. In close proximity to each other, these readings now have the opportunity to converse with each other in a way that would have not been possible before. A homilist pays attention to all four readings, preparing a reflection that speaks of this conversation among the readings, enabling us to zero in on what this unique combination of God's word has to say to us this particular Sunday.

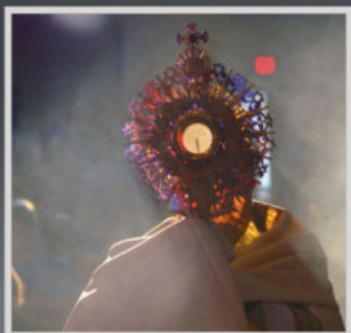
Next time you attend Sunday liturgy, try reading the Scripture ahead of time and see how this new relationship among the readings addresses and challenges you to be a better Christian here and now.



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# EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

*Sponsored by the Diocesan Vocations Office*



Thursday,  
May 2nd

7:00 PM

St. Maria Goretti Church  
42 Redwood Drive - Laflin

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## Sacred Heart of Jesus Church

215 Lackawanna Ave., Dupont, PA 18641

Invites you to hear

**Dr. Larry Chapp**

on Wednesday, April 24, at 6:30 PM

His topic is "The Universal Call to Holiness in Our Times". Dr. Chapp received his doctorate in theology from Fordham University. He taught theology at DeSales University and co-founded the Dorothy Day Catholic Worker Farm. He is a renowned author of many articles with the National Catholic Register and Catholic World Report, among other critically acclaimed periodicals. He is also the author of many books, a YouTube and podcast host, and chief author of the blog, Gaudiumetspes22.com. The lecture is free of charge and open to the public. Light refreshments will be served; please join us. All are welcome.

## DICKSON CITY CIVIC CENTER SPRING CRAFT AND VENDOR FAIR

Saturday, April 27th

11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Over 50 local crafters and vendors will have unique gifts for all interests and ages.

A basket raffle will be held to benefit the Dickson City Civic Center's youth and community programs.

There is a \$1 admission for adults.

Visit our Facebook page or call (570) 383-1813 for more information.

## Catholic Choral Society Spring Concerts

The annual spring concerts of the Catholic Choral Society of Scranton celebrating the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the choral group will be presented on Friday evening,

May 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM at Mary Mother of God Parish at Holy Rosary Church, 316 William Street in Scranton and on Sunday evening, May 19 at 7:00 PM at the Church of St. Ignatius Loyola, 339 N. Maple Ave., Kingston, PA.

On Friday evening, May 17<sup>th</sup>, at Holy Rosary Church, the Choral Society will host The Forest City Regional High School Chamber Singers directed by District 9 PMEA President Alison Yuravich.

On Sunday evening, May 19, at St. Ignatius Loyola Church, the Choral Society will host the Good Shepherd Academy Junior High Choir of Kingston under the direction of Thomas Hanlon.

Tickets: Adults \$10.00 – Seniors and students \$8.00 – Age 12 and under free.

## SCRANTON PREPARATORY

This summer, Scranton Preparatory School will offer **BUILD**, a free, 5-week higher achievement program, for students entering 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, or 8<sup>th</sup> grades from June 24, 2024 through July 25, 2024. Foundational courses in mathematics, reading, and writing will be creatively intertwined with weekly workshops in music, art, athletics, science, and technology for an amazing, enriching, and fun educational experience. Weekly "Out & About Days" will allow students to engage with, explore, and give back to the Scranton community. Start building a better future this summer at BUILD! For more information or to apply, visit [scrantonprep.org/BUILD](http://scrantonprep.org/BUILD).

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