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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 ~ Website: 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 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.

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Weekly Mass Schedule

Monday 7:30 AM	April 29 Phillip Froncek offered by St. Mary's Bingo workers
Tuesday 7:30 AM	April 30 Elaine King (2nd Anniv.) offered by Howard & family
Wednesday 7:30 AM	May 1 Joseph & Adeline Lulewicz, Wilfred, Mary & Tom Melia offered by Jacque
Thursday 7:30 AM	May 2 Richard Woodyatt, Anna, John, Stella, Jack & Joseph Malewich, Clare & Chester Jezierski, Barbara Clarke, and Bret Nalesnik offered by Maryanne
Friday 7:30 AM	May 3 Joyce Fanucci offered by Barbara & Mario Spinosi
Saturday 10:00 AM 4:00 PM	May 4 First Holy Communion Mary & Harry Soborowski offered by daughter Elaine & son Jerry
Sunday 8:00 AM 10:30 AM	May 5 Living and deceased members of our parish Romagnoli, Fiorani, Ubaldini & Meoni Families and Michael & Angelo offered by The Meoni Family

IN MEMORIAM

Sanctuary Candle

Paul & Catherine Prorock and family
offered by Peter & Theresa Rumensky

Altar Candles

Dolores Rutkowski & Matilda Thomas
offered by Joseph & Beverly Thomas

Bread & Wine

Ann Killian
offered by Jim

Steeple Lights

Frank, Marie & William Damski
offered by James & Judy Damski

CATHOLIC HOME MISSIONS

Support the Catholic Home Missions Appeal today! Nearly 40% of dioceses in the United States and its territories are considered mission territories because they are unable to fund essential pastoral activities needed in their communities. Your support funds religious education, seminary formation, lay ministry training, and other programs that build vibrant faith communities right here in the United States. Please be generous. More information can be found at www.usccb.org/home-missions.

CEMETERY/MAUSOLEUM NEWS

PRE-PLANNING YOUR BURIAL/ENTOMBMENT

Preplanning your burial or entombment is not something most people like to think about, however, having a plan relieves your family of the need to make difficult decisions at a time of loss when people are grieving and under stress.

We can help you if you have questions about ground burial versus entombment. In our cemetery we have burial plots for caskets and for cremations. We also have a Columbarium specifically for cremated remains. All crypts in the mausoleum have been sold.

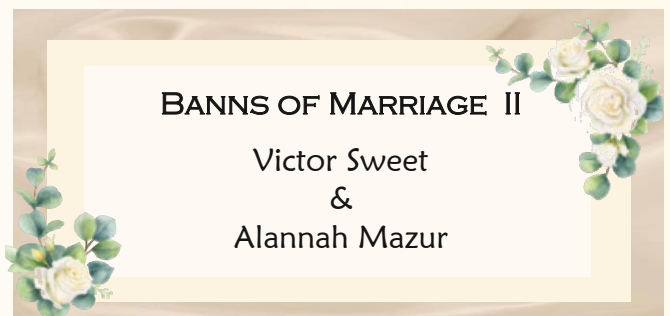
Our Columbarium contains 12" x 12" niches for cremated remains. Niches are still available for sale. We also have one and two grave plots available in the cemetery along with cremation graves.

If you would like more information on graves or niches, please call the parish office at 570-489-2091.

ONLINE GIVING

Go to www.vbvm.org

Click on the **DONATE** tab ,Click on **GIVE NOW**
YOUR SUPPORT IS GREATLY APPRECIATED!



UPCOMING EVENTS:

DATE:	EVENT:
Apr. 30	Video Series—Unlocking the Bible 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

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

UNLOCKING THE MYSTERIES OF THE BIBLE

The last session will take place on: **Apr. 30**
Choose from the 11:00 am or 6:00 pm session.

Troop 21 Pancake Breakfast



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

Readings for the week of April 28, 2024

Sunday:

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

Monday:

Acts 14:5-18/Ps 115:1-2, 3-4, 15-16/
Jn 14:21-26

Tuesday:

Acts 14:19-28/Ps 145:10-11, 12-13ab, 21/
Jn 14:27-31a

Wednesday:

Acts 15:1-6/Ps 122: 1-2, 3-4ab, 4cd-5/
Jn 15:1-8

Thursday:

Acts 15:7-21/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 10/
Jn 15:9-11

Friday:

1 Cor 15:1-8/Ps 19:2-3, 4-5/Jn 14:6-14

Saturday:

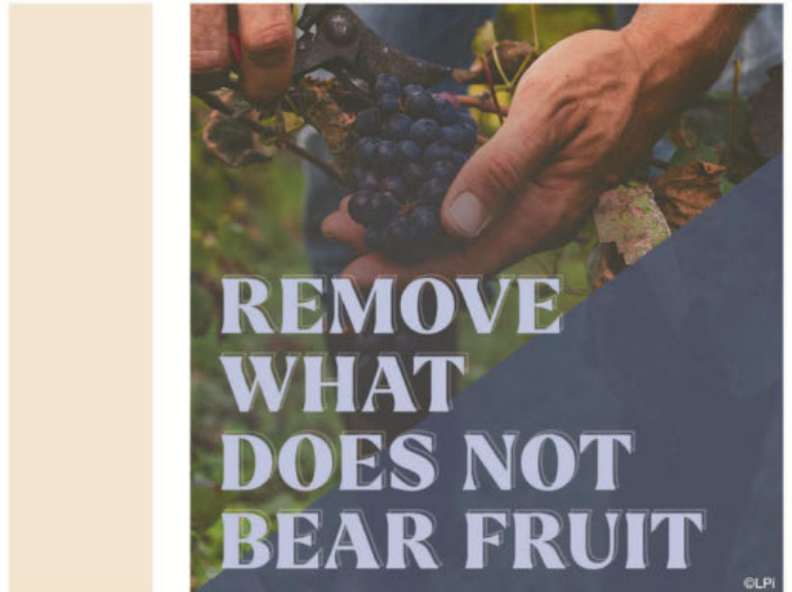
Acts 16:1-10/Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 5/Jn 15:18-21

Next Sunday:

Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48/Ps 98:1, 2-3,
3-4 (see 2b)/1 Jn 4:7-10/Jn 15:9-17



Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.
The English translation of Psalm Responses from Lectionary for
Mass © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in
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Gospel Meditation

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

My friend and fellow pastor, Father Paul, noticed unsightly, overgrown trees near his parish church. He asked the maintenance crew to cut back the growth, which they happily did, telling him the trees would be much healthier and even fuller after a good pruning. A few days later, Father Paul received a letter from an irate man in the neighborhood who wrote, "Jesus would never prune trees like that. He loves trees, unlike you."

I suspect that the neighbor was not familiar with this week's Gospel in which Jesus says of his Father, "**He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit**" (John 15:2) I don't mean to pick too much on that fellow. He was perhaps ignorant of arboriculture. But I'd wager his main confusion was the pruning and removing quality of God's love. That confusion afflicts us all to some degree, doesn't it? It is just so darn easy to react negatively when God cuts something out of our lives and assume it's not his work at all. In the moment, all we see is the loss, and not the loving desire for future flourishing.

The cross is the great pruning of Christ's body. Jesus' rising is the brand-new growth. It is God's promise to us that all the painful pruning in life is leading us somewhere beautiful. What has been cut back or out in your life? A friend, an opportunity, a sense of certainty, a job, health, a relationship? This week, offer those dry branches to the one who lovingly prunes us in order to make our lives burst with verdant growth.

— *Father John Muir*

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

Love in Deed

It's a Wonderful Life is one of my favorite Christmas movies. It only occurred to me recently, though, that this film, for all its yuletide aesthetic, is actually more of an Easter story.

I love this movie because it's a very Catholic film — not overtly, although we do see the main character, George Bailey, going to Mass. No, it's the themes that are Catholic, not the set dressing. It's a story about the choices we make — to love, or not to love? To sacrifice, or not to sacrifice? To put oneself first, or to put oneself last? It's a story about what the consequences of those choices look like here in the world, and what they look like in heaven.

In the film, we meet a young George Bailey who dreams of growing up to do amazing, impressive things. Over the years, he makes a choice here and he makes a choice there ... and when all is said and done, the adult George Bailey is a tired, overworked husband and father with no worldly attributes that anyone would envy.

But he's a man who has loved in deed, not just in word, and who has reaped the spiritual rewards of those choices.

The season of Easter is about rejoicing in true redemption, not in worldly triumph. The Word of God is not a bedtime story. It's a pruning shear. To hear it is to be changed, to be shaped. To live it is to lose some things, so that you might bloom in unexpected ways. To welcome the Word is to be willing to look different, to feel different.

Anyone can say, "I love you, I accept you, I want to help you." But what does it actually look like, to love in deed and not just in word? It looks like giving something up: free time, wealth, comfort, worldly approval. It looks, to the casual observer, like pain.

To someone who has no concept of how plants grow and thrive, a gardener's pruning shears look like an executioner's sword. To someone who has no concept of how souls grow and thrive, a tomb barred by a stone looks like the end of a story, when in fact it's just the beginning.

"Children, let us love not in word or speech, but in deed and truth." — 1 John 3:18

- Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Why do we do that? Catholic Life Explained

Question:

How does a person become a canonized saint?

Answer:

It is important to remember that all the saints are people, real people who lived just as we do! The first saints of the Church were martyrs or theologians known for a holy life. Over time, the Church has established a set process to investigate the causes of saints.

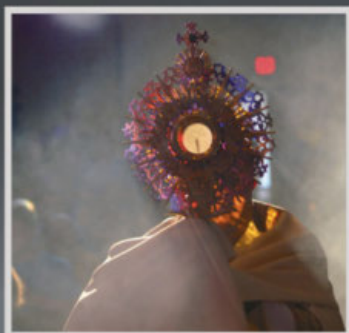
After a holy person's death, the bishop of their diocese initiates the canonization process with the Vatican. Typically, they must wait five years to ensure any false enthusiasm has lessened. With Vatican approval, the process begins and the person receives the title "Servant of God." The first phase involves collecting information about the person's life and scrutinizing it carefully. One person has the specific role of raising doubts — this is the origin of the phrase "devil's advocate!" When it is clear the person truly lived a heroically holy life according to Church teaching, they are declared "Venerable."

If the person is a martyr for the faith, they will also be declared "Blessed." If the person is not a martyr, they must be credited with a miracle. This is also closely examined for authenticity. Once the miracle is authenticated as truly a miracle performed by God through the person or through their intercession, they are beatified. An additional authenticated miracle is required before canonization, and we can call them "Saint."

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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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**Knights of Columbus
Jessup-Peckville Chapter 10729**

**Bus trip on Memorial Day
Monday, May 27
To**

**Citi Field in New York City
New York Mets vs
Los Angeles Dodgers**

Cost is \$140.00 per person (bus only \$90)
Bus leaves from Jessup Hose Co. #1, 4th Ave. at 11 am
Game time is 4:00 pm

For more info contact
Bob Wasilchak at 570-954-2057
John Bogdanovicz 570-687-6522

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vegetable, roll, butter, dessert

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Catholic Choral Society Spring Concerts

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

May 17th 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 17th, 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 6th, 7th, or 8th 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.

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