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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

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.

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.

AA MEETINGS

Wednesdays at 7:00 PM

Saturdays at 9:00 AM in the school auditorium. Use the rear entrance on the Dundaff St. side.

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 ADVENT Weekly Mass Schedule



7:30 AM Michael Michalczyk offered by Monica

Tuesday December 24

4:00 PM William Rutkowski, Sr., William

Rutkowski, Jr. & Jessica Rutkowski offered by children & grandchildren

10:00 PM Mary Ann Wnuk offered by St. Mary's

Choir

Wednesday December 25 - CHRISTMAS

9:30 AM Living and deceased members of our

parish

Thursday December 26

7:30 AM Maryanne Woodyatt offered by Theresa

& Marie Froncek

Friday December 27

7:30 AM Nancy Kovaleski offered by John &

Joanne Pesota

Saturday December 28

4:00 PM Patrick & Anne Colgan, Charles Sr. &

Julia Valonis, Charles Jr. & Joseph Valonis, Theresa Greening, Joan & Paul Wrabel, Martin Padden offered by Jerry

& Ann Valonis

Sunday December 29

8:00 AM Living and deceased members of our

parish

10:30 AM Dorothy Butkiewicz, Mary Ann Wnuk,

Eleanor Moreiko and the deceased

members of St. Mary's Choir

IN MEMORIAM

Sanctuary Candle

Stanley & Marie Michalik and deceased members of the Michalik, Szywka, Nole & Bielawski Families offered by Karen Wallo and family

Altar Candles

William Spegar offered by wife Mary Ann

Bread & Wine

William & Dolores Rutkowski, Joseph & Matilda Thomas offered by Joseph & Beverly Thomas

Steeple Lights

Horvath & Polinsky Families offered by Matt & Karen Horvath and sons





We offer our sincere and heartfelt thanks to Brenda Kovaleski and her team of helpers who once again did a tremendous job organizing our Giving Tree!

A big "Thank You" to all the generous donors of gifts, gift cards, monetary donations and cookies. Your gifts will surely brighten the Christmas of each recipient.

May God bless each and every one of you for you thoughtfulness and generosity!

2025 PARISH CALENDARS THANK YOU!

We offer our heartfelt thanks to the FRANK T. MAZUR FUNERAL HOME and the Mazur Family for once again sponsoring our Parish calendars.

On behalf of all our parishioners and friends, we thank you for your continued generosity.

May God bless you and all those you hold dear this Advent and Christmas Season and throughout the New Year!

LIVESTREAM HELP NEEDED

Every Sunday, our 10:30 am Mass is livestreamed on the parish's Facebook page. We rely on a rotation of volunteers to do this. If you are interested in assisting, please reach out to the parish office at 570-489-2091 or vbvm@comcast.net.



Thank You to Our 2024 Christmas Flower Donors

Donations were received this week from the following:

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Adamski, Stasia, Carl & Gina Adrian, Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Angeloni, Mr. & Mrs. Edward Anuszewski, Mrs. Madeline Bartkovsky, Mr. & Mrs. Paul, Sr. Bevacqua, Mr. & Mrs. Joseph

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Buchinski, Mr. & Mrs. Robert Buckley, Ryan & Shannon, Megan, & Kristen

Butkiewicz, Ms. Audrey Butkiewicz, Mr. Vincent

Callis, Ms. Karin
Calomino, Mrs. Bernice
Chilek, Mrs. Deborah
Cichocki, Joseph Mr.
Cordell, Miss Cynthia
Damski, Mr. & Mrs. James

Damski, Mr. & Mrs. Thomas DeAngelo, Mr. & Mrs. Vincent

DeFazio, Mr. David Dippre, Mr. Aiden Dippre, Mr. & Mrs. James Dobroski, Mr. & Mrs. Jerome Domski, Mr. & Mrs. Eugene Echan, Mr. & Mrs. John Fenton, Miss Kara

Filipski, Mrs. Beverly Franklin, Mrs. Mary Therese Frattali, Mrs. Joyce

Froncek, Ms. Marie Froncek, Ms. Theresa

Fueshko, Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Fueshko

Gambini, Mrs. Ann

Gavronsky, Mr. & Mrs. Ronald

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Hauser, Mrs. Dorothy Hine, Mr. & Mrs. Robert

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Jaskulski, Mrs. Patricia Jaskulski, Mr. Paul Jurkiewicz, Mr. & Mrs. Frank

Kaminski, Mrs. Elaine Kapinus, Mr. & Mrs. Richard

Kaszuba Family Kazmerski, Mrs. Felicia

In Memory/Honor of:

Carl S. Adamski

Frank & Sue Adrian, Chester & Julie Dombroski

Nick & Mary Bomba Anuszewski Family

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Francis & Elizabeth Biondi, Armand & Rita Bevacqua Andy Bianchi, James Bianchi, Philamonia Rose

Fritz & Irene Kozloski, Frank & Veronica and Bianchi & Kozloski families

Bill & Rose Bilinski, Bill MacCallum, Barbara MacCallum, Anna Kalinowski & Ryan Stets

Anthony Bitsko

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Francis X. Borusiewicz, Sr.

Richard Bowen

Margaret B. Brewinski and the Brewinskim Balish & Lewicki Families Adam, Sophie, Robert, Sr., & Zachary Buchinski and John Lutian, Jr. Christopher Buckley, Stanley & Marie Michalik, Bill & Dolores Buckley

• • •

Dorothy Butkiewicz M. Kurilla & A. Kurilla

Tony, Mom & Dad, Fran & Joe Calomino

Joseph Chilek

Mr. & Mrs. Walter Cichocki

Alice Cordell, Norman, Sally & Joseph

Frank, Marie & William Damski, and Mary Ann Wnuk

Zaluski & Damski Families

Salvatore & Agnes DeAngelo, Leo C. Woelkers, Jr.

...

Stanley & Beverly Shuta, Lisa Shuta Stanley & Beverly Shuta, Lisa Shuta Isherwood, Dobroski & Pinto Families

Our Families

Deceased family members Gary Fenton & Ed Buckery

Edward Filipski and the Filipski & MacCallum Families

Mother & Father

Paul & Sadie, Ron & Cindy, Lynn & Marcia

Felix G., Mary & Phillip Froncek Felix G., Mary & Phillip Froncek

Fueshko, Moczulski & Kobierecki Families John Gambini, Johana Dobernecki

George Moss, Sr. and the deceased members of the Moss Family

Joseph Guzewski

Mom, Dad, Son and Sister

...

Joseph & Helen Kaminski, & Joseph Kaminski, Jr.

Ray Hauser, Stanley Viscovitz

Bernard Ziomek, Robert Hine, Scott Hine

Robert Holzman, Ceil & Henry Budzinski, Helen & Catherine Pifcio

Mary & Joseph Ryzbarsky

Ann Horvath, George & Ann Horvath, Basil & Ann Polinsky

Our parents and the entire family

Husband, Frank Jaskulski Father, Frank Jaskulski

Florence & Frank Jurkiewicz, Michael & Kathrin Bokota

Jerry Kaminski Gail Green

George & Dolores Kaszuba

Boniface Kazmerski



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Donations were received this week from the following:

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Lashinski, Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Lee, Ms. Melanie Lesh, Carole

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In Memory/Honor of:

Adolph & Helen Siderowicz, Frank & Martha Filipski

Kobierecki & Vladika Families Parents, John & Anna Kobierecki

Patricia Kobierecki

Elise Kolcharno, Jean & Joseph Pruzinsky, Leonard Buza

Hotovy & Kowalski Families

Walter Krucar, Jeff Krucar, Mrs. Emily Nieratko Jeff Krucar, Walter Krucar, Mrs. Emily Nieratko

Pearl Pawloski, Ceil & Ed Choinacki

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Arlene & John Krushinski, Eva Krushinski

Marion & Monica Wanas Richard Michael Lesh Ann Davis, Catherine Feeney Robert Tocki & John Liuzo Joe & Barbara Lloyd

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John T. Marchinkeviz, John & Angi, Mary & Matt

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Mary & Peter Matuszewski, Marianne Olzewski

Frank T. & Helen Mazur, Tony Astolfi

Lucille Ervin, Victorine Milani

Michael & Ann Fedorka, Irene Mishura

John Mlodzienski

Daniel Mol, Sr., Kein Mol, Helen Mol, Stanley Mol, Jr. & Sr.

Daniel Mol, Sr.

Charles A. Myskowski, Charles W. Myskowski, Hymak & Myskowski parents Vincent & Emily Nieratko, Stanley & Jeanete Lebida, Ronald & MaryLou Rzeszewski

Jean Kupst, Tom O'Neill, Janet Nowogorski

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Carl Schick

John, Amelia & Edward Roman

Tyler Marcinkevich Charles Orlando



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Wiktor, Mrs. Judith Wrobleski, Mr. & Mrs. Joseph

Wyszynski, Miss Lucille Yagelski, Mrs. Joan

Yanoski, Mr. Ronald, Jr. Zewe, Mr. & Mrs. Andrew

Ziomek, Mrs. Mary Ann

AS 3

AS 4

In Memory/Honor of:

•••

Dad Dave Spinello & Uncle Frank Jaskulski Dad Dave Spinello & Uncle Frank Jaskulski Dave Spinello and the Jaskulski Family Jean Richel, Peg Stehle, Laura Jean Satkowski

Tyler Marcinkevich E. Straub & N. Woollam Donald Strubeck

Husband John Swartz, Pesota Family, & Gene DePasquale

Peter & Sally Syrylo

Mr. & Mrs. Alex Tarby, Mr. & Mrs. Gerald Hughes, Eleanor Hughes Milite, Vincent Milite

Toth & Cherney Families Dolly, Helen & Veronica

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Stephen Vavrick, Mary Cesari & The Cesari Family

Stanley & Marie Michalik, Deborah Wallo, and deceased members of the Michalik, Szywka,

Bielawski, Nole, Wallo & Harhut Families

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Florrie Washo Przywara Family

Michael Wiktor, Chester & Sophie Golinski

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Ron Yagelski, Cindy Yagelski, Frank & Julia Remick

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Zackary Scoblick

Connor Scoblick

Durdan & Zewe Families

Bernard Ziomek, Walter & Mary Ziomek, John, Mabel & John Regis, Jr.

MINISTRY MASS SCHEDULE for DECEMBER 24 & 25

	Dec. 24 - 4:00 PM	Dec. 24 - 10:00 PM	Dec. 25 - 9:30 AM
EM 1 EM 2	Cathy Bilinski Bill Bilinski	Carole Paswinski Debbie Smith	Bill Tarby Bill Michlowski
EM 3	Jim Scoblick	Jen Hegedus	Eleanor Lilik
L1	Mark Prushinski	Rob Hegedus	Lisa Kita Myers
L 2	Cathie Bianchi		
AS 1	Grayson Decker	Gavin Hegedus	
AS 2	Nicholas Kovaleski	Bernard Lennon	

MINISTRY MASS SCHEDULE for DECEMBER 28 & 29

	Dec. 28 - 4:00 PM	Dec. 29 - 7:30 AM	Dec. 29 - 10:30 AM
EM 1	Amanda Schwenk	Bill Tarby	Donna Tratthen
EM 2	Debie Smith		
L 1	Raymond Schwenk	Tozia Stachacz	Jeff Kovaleski
AS 1	Matt & Zach Schwenk		Nicholas Kovaleski
AS 2	Grayson Decker		Dylan Walter

Liturgical Life

CATHOLIC

The Hidden Truth

If you have ever been visibly pregnant, chances are that someone, somewhere, whom you do *not* know, has reached out to touch your stomach.

I've had this happen to me, and sure, it's a little strange. Generally, I prefer people to ask before they touch me. But it's also very sweet, this great mystical excitement inspired by a pregnant belly. We know that belly is special. We know enclosed within it is hope and potential — the very future of our world. Hidden, but real. How can we help but venerate it?

It's why the pregnant Madonna is my favorite devotional image. I even prefer it over the depictions of the Madonna and Child because I find in the sight of Mary's swollen belly more to meditate upon than I find in the unveiled face of the Christ Child. Salvation and redemption, enclosed in flesh, moving, and growing and breathing, but I cannot see it. It's real and it's true and it's there.

And it is hidden.

There is much about God that we know with certainty. But there is so much that remains beyond our sight, beyond our comprehension. Questions of evil and sorrow. Pain and tragedy. Life and death. Why don't we have all the answers? We grow very impatient about this. We're like teenagers who want to be trusted with all the family secrets. We hate feeling left out of the loop.

But truth, like life, does not come to us showing its face. Perhaps this is because we could not bear its terrible beauty. Perhaps it's because we would not recognize it if it was laid bare for us to see.

But it's there, right in front of us. We can reach out and touch it. We may not see it. We may not understand it. But we can know it.

- Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Why do we do that? Catholic Life Explained

Question:

Why do we give gifts at Christmas?

Answer:

Great events in and of themselves are not tangible. They occur in life but leave no mark behind, nothing that someone could come across and know that something significant occurred. So we mark the event with monuments, holidays, gold watches or plaques, making a meaningful event tangible and memorable.

Gifts at Christmas do the same thing. They mark the occasion of the birth of Jesus, communicating a bit of the joy of the day by allowing us to be both giver and receiver. Gift-giving sets aside the day as special and different. The special foods, customs, decorations, and gifts all help focus our attention on the importance and meaning of the day and at the same time allow us to share personally in its joy and happiness.

In giving gifts, though, we can share in the meaning of Christmas in a significant way. We imitate God in sharing with others. We give a bit of ourselves to others in the gifts we give, just as God gives us the gift of his Son. No wonder we often say that the best gifts are those that come from the heart. Given in love, these presents are wrapped in the best covering of all.

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