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since 1892.



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.*

THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Weekly Mass Schedule

Monday 7:30 AM	January 27 Robert J. Petrone (13th Anniv.) offered by Robert Petrone
Tuesday 4:00 PM	January 28 Robert P. Mazzoni offered by Ricky & Marion Griffiths
Wednesday 9:30 AM	January 29 Ronald D. Evans offered by Ron Bukowski & family
Thursday 7:30 AM	January 30 Ceil Perkowski (2nd Anniv.) offered by daughters
Friday 7:30 AM	January 31 Elizabeth M. D'Adamo offered by Karen & John Wallo
Saturday 4:00 PM	February 1 Bill & Olga Raban offered by John & Debbie Raban
Sunday 8:00 AM	February 2 Living and deceased members of our parish
10:30 AM	The Sobieski Family offered by The Dando Family

IN MEMORIAM**Sanctuary Candle**

Edward Bartish
offered by wife Marilyn

Altar Candles

Stasia Wyszinski and the Wyszinski Family
offered by Pastor & Sweeney Families

Bread & Wine

Stasia Wyszinski and the Wyszinski Family
offered by Pastor & Sweeney Families

Steeple Lights

Francis X. Borusiewicz, Sr.
offered by children & grandchildren

**HOMEBOUND/NURSING HOME VISITS/
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, to have your name added to our visitation list. Msgr. Pratico makes regular monthly visits to all homebound parishioners on our list.

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 visits and other essential reasons.

MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT GROUP

There are so many individuals everywhere who have mental health challenges that stem from prolonged health problems, injuries, addictions and more which lead to depression and other issues.

We invite all who have family members, friends, and loved ones with these challenges to this confidential space where we listen to and learn from others enduring the same sufferings. We have information on additional resources if needed.

Our Lord asks us to be compassionate and merciful to those who need support.

Our next **Mental Health Support Group** meeting will take place on

Wednesday, February 5th
at 6:30 PM in the Parish Center
(Lower Level/Cafeteria),
625 Dundaff St., Dickson City, PA.
Please join us!

ONLINE GIVING

Go to www.vbvm.org
Click on the **DONATE** tab, Click on **GIVE NOW**
YOUR SUPPORT IS GREATLY APPRECIATED!

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.

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because He has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor."

(Luke 4:18)

Are you being called to share Christ's message of hope through a life of service in the Church? Explore your vocation with openness. Talk to your priest or reach out to the Diocese of Scranton Vocation Office at 570-207-1452 or email: info@dioceseofscranton.org.



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 5:30 PM
Handicapped accessible from Scott Road
VISIT: www.bingo.vbvm.org

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.



FOR COUPLES WHO ARE PLANNING A WEDDING

It is important to remember to reserve the date with the church before booking your reception venue. We receive many calls from couples who reserve the venue first and then are disappointed when the church is not available on that date.

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.

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*

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

Mini Reflection: Jesus didn't come to fix the brokenness of the world. He came to fix our brokenness. He offers us not relief from the trials of life, but an answer to the question of how to live in joy, in love and in purpose in the midst of these evil days.

These Evil Days

"Alas, that these evil days should be mine."

If you've ever seen "The Lord of the Rings," you might recognize this quote from "The Two Towers." The words are spoken by King Theoden at the grave of his only son and heir, as Theoden contemplates the coming war for Middle Earth, a war which has already claimed the life of his son, a war he wants no part of, a war that seems utterly hopeless and unwinnable.

These evil days.

You don't have to be a fantasy enthusiast or even a Tolkien fan to identify with Theoden here. We have all experienced this same feeling of despair, perhaps increasingly in this age of technology and social media, when the ills of the whole world — violence, injustice, moral disorder and chaos — are in our faces, on our phones, looming over our days.

But when we despair like this, we forget an important truth: this is the time of fulfillment, and we are lucky enough to be living through it.

Yes, the world is broken. It was broken two thousand years ago, too, when Jesus stood up in the synagogue on the Sabbath and read the words of the prophet Isaiah: "He has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives...and to proclaim a year acceptable to the Lord."

Jesus didn't come to fix the brokenness of the world. He came to fix *our* brokenness. He offers us not relief from the trials of life, but an answer to the question of how to live in joy, in love and in purpose in the midst of these evil days.

— Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Why do we do that?

Catholic Life Explained

Question:

I've heard that love is a theological virtue. What does that mean?

Answer:

Charles Shultz, the creator of the Peanuts comics wrote, "*I love mankind ... it's people I can't stand!*" This good humored comment gets at an important truth. St. John wrote a very strong statement in one of his letters: "*If anyone says 'I love God,' but hates his brother, he is a liar; for whoever does not love a brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen*" (1 John 4:20). How often do we say "I love the homeless," but ignore the parish food drive? Or insist on the importance of respecting others, but don't bother to say hello to our cashier? If we can't love an individual person, we might not love people like we think, and we certainly need to work on our love for God.

Love is "*the theological virtue by which we love God above all things for His own sake, and our neighbor as ourselves for the love of God*" (CCC 1822). God knows acts of love of Him and others isn't always easy. So He invites us to pray for the grace to do it. The virtue of love gives us the grace and strength we need to offer our lives to God and love people in our lives, especially those who are difficult to respect, tolerate, and care for. Real love, of course, is risky. Real love wills the good of the other when we just want good for ourselves. Real love gets up on the cross when we'd prefer to take a nap in Gethsemane. Real love changes things.

GOSPEL MEDITATION

January 26, 2025

3rd Sunday of Ordinary Time

Luke 1:1-4, 4:14-21

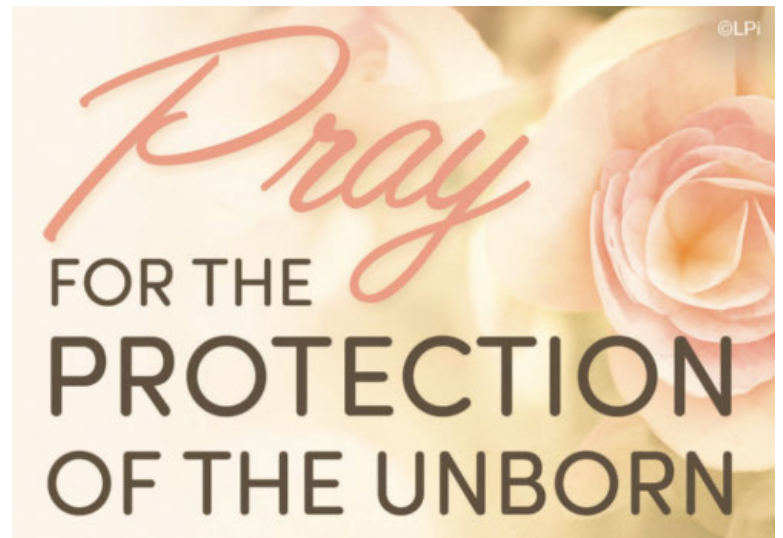
A young couple in my parish told me they were expecting their second child, a baby boy. I knew that their five-year old only child Emma had been desperately wanting to be a big sister for years, so I said, “Emma must have been so happy when you told her the news.” “Actually,” they said, “she burst into tears. She wanted a baby *sister!*” How often in life God wonderfully fulfills our desires and we are sad because we don’t approve of the *way* he does it. We want to control the gift and the delivery method.

The same thing occurs in the Gospel this week when Jesus announces in his hometown that the promise of an Anointed One bringing glad tidings to the poor is “**fulfilled in your hearing**” (Luke 4:21). After a moment of elation, his fellow townsfolk realize *this man* is the way God is fulfilling his promises, and they erupt into a violent outburst. So Jesus departs. How sad for them.

Every single Sunday at Mass, including this one, some version of this happens to many of us. God’s word announces the fulfillment of God’s promises in Christ, and we easily overlook or disdain it. His way is almost never according to our narrow expectations. What’s required of us is to set these aside, and to embrace a new openness to God’s gifts, no matter how he wishes to give them. God is fulfilling his promises the way He likes — why be sad?

Father John Muir

©LPi



MINISTRY MASS SCHEDULE for February 1 & 2

	<u>4:00 PM</u>	<u>8:00 AM</u>	<u>10:30 AM</u>
EM 1	Debbie Smith	Bill Tarby	Chuck Wallinger
EM 2	Jennifer Hegedus		
L	Robert Hegedus	Jim Killian	Jeff Kovaleski
AS 1	Gavin Hegedus		Zachary Kovaleski
AS 2			Sabriana Kovaleski

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JAN 31 AND FEB 1 2025
FRIDAY - 5:30 TO 9:30 PM
SATURDAY - 8:00 AM TO 5:30 PM
DINNER/BREAKFAST/LUNCH, MASS INCLUDED

WHY COME?

- BRING ALIVE SACRAMENTAL BAPTISM AND CONFIRMATION
- DEEPEN COMMUNION WITH GOD & FELLOW CHRISTIANS
- ENKINDLE EVANGELISTIC FERVOR
- EQUIP PEOPLE WITH CHARISMS FOR SERVICE & MISSION

TEXT KYRA KRZYWICKI AT 570-606-1380 TO REGISTER OR IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS

FREE TO ATTEND



Nazareth Group Meeting

The Capuchin Sisters of Nazareth invites all young women (grades 9 – 12) to join us on Saturday, February 1, 2025, from 11:00AM – 4:30PM. Come and learn more about the Faith, make wholesome friendships, and grow more in love with Jesus through prayer and hearing inspirational talks. To RSVP by January 30, or for more information, please call Sister Angela in Tunkhannock at 570-836-2737 or Sister Clare in Williamsport at 570-745-3334. Please join us!

Holy Cross High School Friends of the Crusaders

NIGHT AT THE RACES

February 1, 2025

Doors open at 5:30 - Admission \$25.00

501 E. Drinker Street
Dunmore, PA 18512

Call Krista at 570-862-8478
to make a reservation.

Must be 21 years of age to attend.

Telespond Senior Services

Our Mission is to provide life-enriching services to older adults in Northeast PA and their families on both a community-wide and individual basis.

Services include:

- **Adult Day Center** for residents of Lackawanna County.
- **In-Home Personal Care Aides**
- **Senior Companion Program** in Lackawanna County.
- **The Older Adult Advocacy Center**, a regional project serving seniors experiencing abuse or neglect.

ADULT DAY CENTERS offer engaging activities by compassionate and professional staff Monday through Friday from 6:30 am to 5:30 pm. Door-to-door transportation is available, a hot meal and snacks are provided and nurses are available on premise. Serves individuals typically 60 years of age and older, including the physically and/or cognitively impaired, those unable to perform the activities of daily living independently, chronic health conditions requiring supervision, newly discharged from hospital or rehab centers, and those experiencing isolation.

For more information call 570-346-7860. Telespond Senior Services, 1200 Saginaw St., Scranton, PA 18505.



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429 Church St, Archbald

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