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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



1st Station: *Jesus is condemned to death*

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.

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.

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

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.

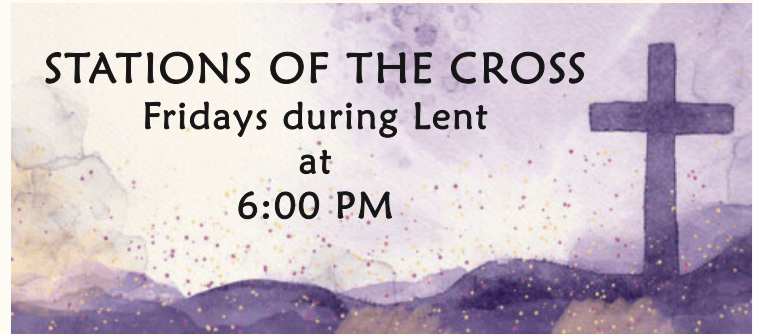
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

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.

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.

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT
Weekly Mass Schedule

- Monday** **March 10**
7:30 AM Mike & Pearl Kostic offered by Lucy Wyszynski
- Tuesday** **March 11**
7:30 PM Chester & Mary (43rd Anniv.) Brewinski offered by Ben Eglesia family
- Wednesday** **March 12**
7:30 AM Cochrane, Kalinowski, Kula & Perko Families offered by Antoinette Perko
- Thursday** **March 13**
7:30 AM Peter E. Srebro offered by family
- Friday** **March 14**
7:30 AM Roman (Anniv.) & Helen Pilch, Rose (Anniv.) & Walter Yankovich, Walter Yankovich, Jr. offered by family
- Saturday** **March 15**
4:00 PM Pasco T. Pratico
- Sunday** **March 16**
8:00 AM Living and deceased members of our parish
10:30 AM Denise Goldyn (14th Anniv.) and Ceil Goldyn offered by the Fleming Family



CONFESSIONS

Beginning Monday, March 24th and each Monday up to and including April 14th from 5:30 to 6:15 p.m., we will offer confessions here at Visitation BVM Parish.

In addition we will have confessions on Wednesday, April 16th from 11:30 a.m. to 12:15 pm.

We also have confessions every Saturday at 8:30 a.m. on a regular basis.

The Diocesan website, www.dioceseofscranton.org has very helpful materials to help you in preparing to make a good confession, prayers you may find helpful, and answers to frequently asked questions.

IN MEMORIAM

Sanctuary Candle

Living and deceased members of our parish

Altar Candles

Pearl Terry offered by Diane & Michael

Bread & Wine

Pearl Terry offered by Diane & Michael

Steeple Lights

Irene & Al Czarnecki offered by Jerome & Dayle Dobroski



LENTEN HOLY HOUR WITH BISHOP BAMBERA

All of the faithful in the Diocese of Scranton are invited to a Lenten Holy Hour with the Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, D.D., J.C.L., Bishop of Scranton, to commemorate the diocesan phase of the 2025 Holy Year of Hope. These gatherings will take place in each of the twelve deaneries of the Diocese of Scranton.

The Lenten Holy Hour for our deanery, the Dunmore Deanery, will take place on Thursday, March 27 at 7:00 p.m. Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish

A Jubilee Year is traditionally proclaimed by the Universal Church every 25 years. It is a particular year set aside to encourage the faithful to embark on pilgrimages, to repent of their sins and forgive the sins of others, and to renew a focus on the spiritual life. The Jubilee Year 2025 will be centered on the theme "Pilgrims of Hope." As His Holiness, Pope Francis, so beautifully expressed it: "We must fan the flame of hope that has been given us, and help everyone to gain new strength and certainty by looking to the future with an open spirit, a trusting heart and far-sighted vision." Mark your calendars and plan on joining Bishop Bambera for this special Holy Year celebration.



Cursillo is an experience in Christian education for those seeking to strengthen their faith.

Join us for the upcoming **Men's Cursillo Weekend** to be held at St. Gabriel's Retreat House, 631 Griffin Pond Rd., Clarks Summit, PA 18411, **March 13th thru 16th.**

If anyone has any questions or is interested in going please contact Jim Scoblick at 570 351 8509.

MENTAL HEALTH MINISTRY NEWS

- Our Mental Health Ministry is blessed to have Deacon Ed Shoener, the founding member of the Association of Catholic Mental Health Ministry, join us at all the Masses the weekend of March 15 and 16. Deacon Shoener founded this ministry after his family suffered the loss of his daughter through suicide.

Deacon Ed Shoener has made it his mission to decrease the stigma and misconceptions of mental illness, to teach compassion for those dealing with mental illness, and to assist parishes with beginning their own mental health ministries.



MENTAL HEALTH STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Our parish has Stations of the Cross each Friday in Lent at 6:00 pm.

On Friday, March 21st at 6:00 PM the meditations will reflect those suffering with mental illness and the pain of their families and friends as Jesus suffered for each of us in HIS Passion & Death.

Please join us for these touching reflections.



Monday Night Bingo is our parishes largest fundraiser. We can use a few more helpers from 5:00 to 6:30 pm. Can you help during those hours on Monday evenings? 1, 2, 3 or 4 times a month? Just stop by the Bingo room any Monday evening during Bingo, or call the parish office at 570-489-2091 for information.

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

Mini Reflection: The devil knows that Jesus is human, so he uses all the best tricks he has for getting humans to break. The devil will try these things with us, too — this Lent, and throughout our lives. But how can we resist? We're only human. What do we have that the devil doesn't have?

What the Devil Doesn't Have

The devil knows all the rules. The devil knows all the Bible verses. He probably knows them better than you do (certainly better than I do).

He knows them so well that here, in today's Gospel, he thinks he can outsmart the Son of God. He thinks he can out-argue him.

See, the thing you need to know about the devil is that he could have a master's degree in theology. Maybe even a doctorate. But have you ever met a master's student, or even a doctoral one, who doesn't have a particular passion for what they're studying? I sure have.

The devil didn't rebel against God because he didn't understand God's will. He rebelled because he understood God's will perfectly — and he didn't like it.

The devil knows that Jesus is human, and so in today's Gospel he employs all the very best tricks he has for getting humans to break. Physical hunger. Insecurity and a desire for power. The yearning to appear learned and wise.

The devil will try these things with us, too — this Lent, and throughout our lives.

It doesn't work with Jesus, because, of course, Jesus is not just human. He can feel temptation, but he will not submit to it. But how are we supposed to do the same? We're not divine. We're just human.

Well, here's the thing. We may be only human, but as Christians, we have a secret weapon. (No, it's not a master's degree in theology. Some of you may have that, but it probably doesn't make you holier.)

We have a love of what the devil has renounced — those things belonging solely to God. Truth. Joy. Humility. Sanctifying sacrifice.

Let the love of those things carry you through this Lent, and beyond.

— *Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman*

Why do we do that?

Catholic Life Explained

Question:

After attending our parish retreat and feeling much better and stronger about my faith, I want to make this Lent worthwhile. What can I do to keep the spirit and practice of Lent?

Answer:

You've already taken the first step by going on the parish retreat. It is important for us to "tune up" our faith, taking some time to renew ourselves through prayer, meditation and education. By deepening our knowledge and understanding of faith, we are often better attuned to its richness and meaning for our life.

Lent is an intense retreat, a forty-day period of reflection and penance that prepares us to celebrate the passion, death and resurrection of Christ. Our communication with God and our awareness of him is the purpose of prayer. Setting aside extra time each day helps intensify the season. Prayer includes daily Mass, Stations of the Cross, communal penance services and private confession. Making restitution for sin as well as disciplining our hearts and minds to focus on God is the purpose of penance. It helps us restore a sense of balance to our souls, thrown off kilter by sin. Penance includes personal sacrifice, self-denial, fasting, almsgiving and charitable works.

Finally, spiritual practices help us sharpen our understanding and insight into the meaning and understanding of our faith. When you take your faith seriously, you do what is necessary to follow Jesus more closely, to integrate your life and your faith more carefully.



Gregory Vladika Needs a Living Liver Donor

Hi, my name is Gregory Vladika, I'm 61 years old and I am in need of a living liver donor. I am a loving husband to Crystal, a proud father to Adrianna, and a doting Papa to one-year-old Noah. I have always been an active and social person, golfing, enjoying dinners with friends and family and celebrating life's moments with laughter and joy. Despite my efforts to lose weight and adhere to medical interventions, my condition progressed leading to this current state of my health. Dietary restrictions have become a part of my daily life and are now replaced by careful meal planning and avoidance of certain foods. The fear of what the future might hold began to overshadow my once bright outlook on life. I have found strength in my family, my friends and my faith. Crystal has stood by me every

step of the way. My daughter Adrianna, along with her husband Josh, continue to be sources of support and love during this challenging time. Noah has brought a new sense of purpose to my life. Every time I see Noah, I'm reminded of why I'm fighting so hard. I want to be there for him as he grows up. I want to be a part of his life.

Why I Need a Liver

My journey with fatty liver disease has progressed to decompensated cirrhosis of the liver, a diagnosis delivered in May 2024. Despite weight loss and medical intervention, my liver is failing. Determined for my health and well-being, I sought treatment at the University of Pennsylvania Hospital. After extensive evaluations, the doctors confirmed that a LIVING LIVER DONOR is essential for my survival. As I continue to navigate the complexities of my health, I remain hopeful. I'm committed to do everything I can do to reclaim my health for my family. I look forward to a future filled with possibility, laughter, and cherished moments with my family, especially little Noah.

Thank you for being here. If you're interested in getting tested to be my donor, click the button on this page <https://nkr.org/WWK569> to get started. You can also help me by sharing my story and this site with others.

LIVER DONATION BASICS

A living donor would donate only a piece of their liver. Their remaining liver will grow back to a normal size, and the piece donated to me will grow to a normal size as well.

A donor would have their hospital and medical costs covered. Donor Shield Protections (including lost wages, travel, lodging, and more) offered exclusively through the NKR, may also be available.



MINISTRY MASS SCHEDULE for March 15 & 16

	<u>4:00 PM</u>	<u>8:00 AM</u>	<u>10:30 AM</u>
EM 1	Amanda Schwenk	Bill Tarby	Bill Michlowski
EM 2	Debbie Smith		
L	Ray Schwenk	Laura Paulus	Jeff Kovaleski
AS 1	Zachary Schwenk		Nicholas Kovaleski
AS 2	Matthew Schwenk		Dylan Walter



BE A CATHOLIC MAN

Lenten Men's Retreat

April 4-5, 2025

BE IMITATORS OF CHRIST

Holy Transfiguration Retreat Ctr., 1000 Seminary Road, Dalton, PA
Overnight Friday 6:00 PM to Saturday 2:00 PM
Adoration • Benediction • Reconciliation • Mass with Bishop Bambera

Guest speaker: **John Edwards**
Founder of Pew Ministries and host of "Just a Guy in the Pew" Podcast

- Mind and Heart of a Leader
- What Men Want / What Men Need
- How to Build A Successful Men's Group
- Next Steps / Practical Suggestions

Cost: \$100 includes lodging
\$75 without lodging

For information contact Joe Adcroft:
570-351-6256

register by March 27 at:
BeACatholicMan.com



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MENU:

POTATO PANCAKES, NOODLES AND CABBAGE (HALUSHKI), PIEROGY, FRIES, SOUPS, DEEP FRIED OREOS, and DAILY FEATURES

ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST SELLING POTATO PANCAKES AND PIZZA

St. John the Evangelist Parish, 35 William St. in Pittston, will hold food sales each Friday in Lent as well as Good Friday (March 7 through April 18). Selling Potato Pancakes at 3 for \$5.00 and your choice of take-and-heat Red Pizza or White Pizza with Broccoli for \$15.00 a tray. Pickup will be from 3:30 to 6:00 PM each Friday in the Msgr. Bendik Pastoral Center (entrance on Church Street). Please call the parish office at 570-654-0053 by Thursday of each week to place your orders.

FISH FRY - Takeout

Knights of Columbus Council 12572


St. Ann's Basilica, 1239 St. Ann St., Scranton, PA

FRIDAY MARCH 14, 28 & APRIL 11

Menu: Beer Battered Cod, Fries, Tartar Sauce, and a drink. \$10 per Meal.

*Meals will be served from the Food Stand at the bottom of hill near the outdoor Stations.
Tickets available online or by calling 570-241-6420


Diocese of Scranton **VOCATIONS**



EZRA 10:4

A RETREAT FOR MEN DISCERNING THE PRIESTHOOD

Rev. Alex Roche



Holy Family Spiritual Renewal Center, Nanticoke
Hosted by the Diocese of Scranton Vocations Office

MARCH 21-22, 2025

REGISTER AT DIOCESEOFSCRANTON.ORG/VOCATIONS

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE HIGH SCHOOL RETREAT

March 21st-23rd, 2025

Holy Transfiguration Retreat Center
Dalton, PA

REGISTRATION FEE:

First Time Participants - \$200

Trainees (2nd or 3rd time at ISLI) - \$215

includes meals, lodging, retreat materials and a t-shirt



Register today at dioceseofscranton.org



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