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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



## 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.

## PARISH STAFF

**Msgr. Patrick J. Pratico, J.C.D.,** Pastor  
**Karen Wallo,** Administrative Assistant  
**Karen Horvath,** 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](http://www.vbvm.org) to register.

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

## MENTAL HEALTH SPIRITUAL SUPPORT GROUP

Our Mental Health Spiritual Support Group meets on the first Wednesday of each month in the school lower level at 6:30 pm.

## 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.

## 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 Parish Center. Use the Scott Road entrance. *New members are welcome !*

**EASTER SUNDAY**  
**OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD**  
 Weekly Mass Schedule

<b>Monday</b> 7:30 AM	<b>April 21</b> Sarah & James Loftus
<b>Tuesday</b> 7:30 PM	<b>April 22</b> Gloria Gowisnok (2nd Anniv.) offered by Joseph & Dorothy Kauczka
<b>Wednesday</b> 7:30 AM	<b>April 23</b> Vincent, Anna, Jean, Patricia, Francis, Stanley, Chester, Joseph, Edward, Leonard & Henry Jacukowicz offered by Toni
<b>Thursday</b> 7:30 AM	<b>April 24</b> Geraldine Miskowski offered by family
<b>Friday</b> 7:30 AM	<b>April 25</b> Daniel Mol, Sr. (1st Anniv.) offered by wife Mary Ellen & children
<b>Saturday</b> 4:00 PM	<b>April 26</b> Michael & Blanch Vislosky offered by daughters
<b>Sunday</b> 8:00 AM	<b>April 27</b> Living and deceased members of our parish
10:30 AM	Romayne & Joe Wallo offered by children & grandchildren



The hosts of heaven exult and sing aloud in mighty triumph!  
 Let the earth be glad as glory alights and night reigns no more.  
 Let the Church rejoice at the victory of her Lord and Master,  
 Who paid the debt of Adam,  
 Who frees those doomed to die,  
 Who heals the broken-hearted and bind up their wounds,  
 Who forgives the sinner and raises up the lowly,  
 Who destroys death forever,  
 Whose Kingdom shall have no end.  
 God our Father, eternal is your love for us!  
 Christ the Son, in victory you reign!  
 Holy Spirit, set the Easter fire ablaze in our hearts.  
 Together you live and reign and ransom your people,  
 one God forever and ever.  
 Amen.

**THE PASCHAL CANDLE:**



This year's Paschal Candle has been donated in loving memory of Stanley & Marie Michalik and the deceased members of the Michalik, Szywka, Nole & Bielawski Families by Karen Wallo.

A new Paschal candle is blessed and lit every year at Easter, and is used throughout the Paschal (Easter) season and then throughout the year on special occasions, such as baptisms and funerals.

The lighting of the Paschal candle is one of the most solemn moments of the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday. On Holy Thursday the entire church is darkened by extinguishing all candles. This represents the darkness of a world without God. At the opening of the Easter Vigil a "new fire" is lit and blessed. The Paschal candle is the first candle to be lit with a flame from this sacred fire, representing the light of Christ coming into the world. This represents the risen Christ, as a symbol of light (life) dispelling darkness (death).

The Paschal candle is also lit during baptisms to signify the Holy Spirit and fire that John the Baptist promised to those who were baptized in Christ. It is also lit and placed near the casket during funeral services to signify the hope of the resurrection into which Christians are baptized.

**IN MEMORIAM**

**Sanctuary Candle**

Jim Kanton  
 offered by wife, children & grandchildren

**Altar Candles**

Jim Kanton  
 offered by wife, children & grandchildren

**Bread & Wine**

Patricia Kobierecki  
 offered by Walter

**Steeple Lights**

Patricia Kobierecki  
 offered by Walter



## (PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

**Mini Reflection:** Everybody's trying to find God. They may not admit it. They may not even know it. But the search defines them, and it defines us.

### The Search

Everybody's trying to find God. They may not admit it. They may not even know it. They may talk around it, shy away from saying the name, both to others and to themselves: *God*. But I know for a fact that every person who was ever born into this world spent their lives searching for Him - somewhere, somehow, even if the only place they thought to look was in money or drugs.

It's a comforting fact, really — a reminder of how alike we all are. Catholic, Jewish, Muslim, atheist, rich, poor, Black, white. When it comes right down to it, the history of humanity is a never-ending Easter morning scene that plays in perpetuity. The sorrow, the shock, the confusion. Again and again, as each newborn baby opens his eyes, the search begins anew. *Where did he go? What has happened? Where can I find him?*

Catechesis isn't enough. Even those who learn about Jesus Christ, who accept his word, hang hesitantly outside the tomb, afraid to go in. Jesus' best friend — the disciple whom he loved — ran faster than Peter, so desperate he was to find his Lord. But when he got to the tomb and saw it empty, he got spooked. He froze.

Sometimes, we expect God to be right where we left Him — in a certain parish, with a certain priest, in a certain relationship, at a certain job. We show up, and we're heartbroken to see that our expectations have been turned upside down. *He's left us*, we think dejectedly, but we're wrong.

There is no one who has been abandoned by God. There are only those who stop looking for Him.

Don't let the empty tombs define you. It's the search that defines you

— Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

## Catholic Life Explained Question:

How do I discern if a call to do something big is really from God?

## Answer:

Each day we face plenty of decisions about following God: whether or not to pray, how to treat people, and how to prioritize our time. Sometimes there can be something much more significant we discern: a vocational call, a promotion at work that requires a move, or a new ministry position at church. In addition to a pro-con list or a cost-benefit analysis, here are a few things to prayerfully consider and to talk over with trusted individuals.

*Does it conform to God's will revealed in the Church?* God doesn't call us to do something that contradicts the moral law. *Will it encourage spiritual growth?* Sometimes we need to choose between multiple good options. Consider the personal impact on you and others you are responsible for, like family. Other times we might be invited to do good for others, but when we assess our other life commitments, we see that saying yes to this would actually impede our prior responsibilities in the long run. *Does the call seem consistent?* This isn't to say that God won't do something new. Even so, consider if the call is consistent with your gifts and abilities. Can you see a "through-line" so to speak, with how your experiences have led you to this point? *Do others confirm it?* Share your reflections with trusted, insightful confidantes. Have they seen the same things you have, or are they bringing up new points to consider? Humbly add their relevant points to your considerations. *Don't forget your gut.* After you've carefully considered everything in your mind, don't neglect your instincts. Does your heart say yes or no?

**VISITATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY PARISH  
DICKSON CITY.....(570) 489-2091**

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

**Held at the Parish Center, 625 Dundaff St., Dickson City**

**June 23rd – June 26<sup>th</sup>....9 AM – 12 Noon....**

**Registration due by May 26<sup>th</sup>**

**Return to the Parish Office at 1090 Carmalt St., Dickson City, PA 18519**

**MAGNIFIED: DISCOVERING THE BIGNESS OF  
GOD IN THE SMALLEST THINGS!**

**Ages 4-10 Welcome**



**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**Current Grade** \_\_\_\_\_ **Age** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent Name(s)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent Contact #** \_\_\_\_\_

**Alternate #** \_\_\_\_\_

**Allergies? Yes / No If yes, please list** \_\_\_\_\_

**Medical Conditions/Learning Disability that we need to be aware of? Yes / No**

**Explain.....** \_\_\_\_\_

I understand that reasonable precautions will be taken to safeguard the health and well-being of the participants in this VBS and I will be notified as soon as possible in the event of an emergency. In the case of sickness or an accident, I authorize and consent the VBS Team, or other associated volunteers of the VBS program to obtain medical care from a licensed physician, hospital, or medical clinic for my son/daughter in the event that myself or other legal guardian cannot be reached. I hereby do release and forever discharge this Diocese of Scranton, Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church, Staff and the VBS Parish Team from all manners of actions, claims which I or the child named above shall or may have for any reason, arising during my child's attendance of the VBS.

Unless other written instruction is submitted, I also consent to allowing my child's image to be recorded, either by photograph or video, and used during the VBS week or for future advertisement of Parish VBS programs. Any other use will require your further consent.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Parent/Guardian Signature**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

**Questions to: Jill Lennon at [dobrenieck@aol.com](mailto:dobrenieck@aol.com)**

**PARISH SOCIAL CONCERNS OUTREACH**

We continue to collect new unopened baby items for *Saint Joseph's Center* and new nonperishable, not expired food items for the *Valley Village of Volunteers Food Pantry.*

**VALLEY VILLAGE OF VOLUNTEERS**

**FOOD PANTRY**

is part of the Weinberg Northeast Regional Food Bank located at The Dickson City Community Building, 2 Eagle Lane, Dickson City, PA

**Food is distributed 11:00 am to 12 Noon every other Saturday. Upcoming dates: April 19**

First come, first served, until all food is distributed.

Primarily for the Mid Valley Area (Dickson City, Olyphant & Throop) but everyone is welcome!

**VOLUNTEERS PLEASE ARRIVE BY 10:00 AM**

<https://www.facebook.com/ValleyVillageVolunteers>  
Message on Facebook or email [vvvnepa@gmail.com](mailto:vvvnepa@gmail.com) if you have questions.

**ST. JOSEPH'S CENTER IS IN NEED OF**

New or gently-used Boys and Girls Clothing, Newborn through sizes 10-/12; Diapers size newborn, 1, 5, & 6; Baby Wash, Pacifiers, Bottles, Bibs, etc..., New Diaper Bags.

Please place your items in the collection bins in the vestibule. Thank you for your willingness to help families in need!

**2025 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 2025 to a Diocesan Wedding Anniversary Mass on **Sunday, June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025**. The event includes a 2:30 PM mass at the Cathedral of Saint Peter followed by a light reception. The registration deadline for this event is **May 11, 2025**. 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).

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

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**ST. MARY'S  
MONDAY NIGHT BINGO**

Doors open at 5:00 pm

Early Bird begins at 6:30 pm

Regular Games immediately following

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Kitchen opens at 5:30 PM

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**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 at Scott St. entrance***

**MINISTRY MASS SCHEDULE for April 26 & 27**

	<u>4:00 PM</u>	<u>8:00 AM</u>	<u>10:30 AM</u>
EM 1	Debbie Smith	Judi Wiktor	Dayle Dobroski
EM 2	Jennifer Hegedus		
L	Robert Hegedus	Jim Killian	Pat Borden
AS 1	Gavin Hegedus		Blaise Kobierecki
AS 2			Frank Jaskulski



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**Christ the King PARISH**

**PILGRIMAGE TO PHILADELPHIA**

Saturday, May 10, 2025  
 8:00am: bus departs St. Thomas Aquinas Church




**Overview:**


During the 2025 Jubilee Year, our parish is taking a pilgrimage trip to the city of Philadelphia:

- the only colony where Catholicism was publicly practiced & tolerated;
- where religious freedom was enshrined in the U.S. Constitution;
- from which the first Catholic parish in Archbald was established by Bishop John Neumann in 1858.

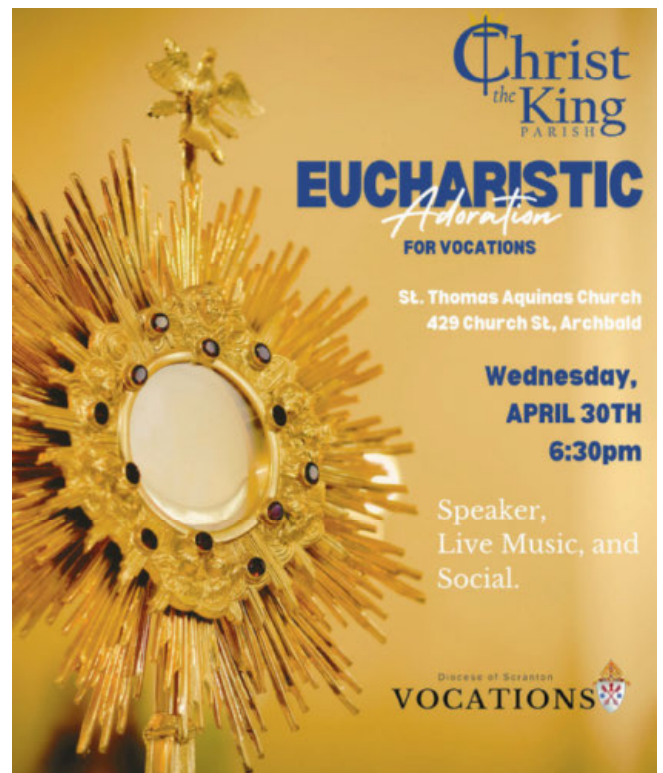
**Our Itinerary:**

 **Historic Philadelphia**  
 Independence Hall

 **Catholic Shrines**  
 Ss. Peter and Paul Cathedral  
 St. Katherine Drexel Shrine  
 St. John Neumann Shrine

 **Cost:**  
**\$30 per person/**  
 includes motor coach transportation and snacks; meals not included.

**SPACE IS LIMITED! TO RESERVE YOUR SPOT, CALL : 570-876-1701**  
 Expenses partially covered by Diocese of Scranton Faith Formation Grant.



**Christ the King PARISH**

**EUCCHARISTIC Adoration**  
 FOR VOCATIONS

St. Thomas Aquinas Church  
 429 Church St., Archbald

**Wednesday, APRIL 30TH**  
**6:30pm**

Speaker,  
 Live Music, and  
 Social.

Diocese of Scranton  
**VOCATIONS**



*Hallelujah!*

**He has risen!**

**Dickson City Civic Center  
 Spring Craft and Vendor Fair  
 Saturday, April 26th**

11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

We invite you to join us to shop!  
 Visit our Facebook page or call (570) 383-1813 for more information. Sellers have already been confirmed for this event.

**MARYWOOD CHAMBER SINGERS CONCERT**

The Chamber Singers of Marywood University under the direction of Dr. Rick Hoffenberg will present a Spring Concert at St. John the Evangelist R.C. Church, 35 William Street in Pittston, on **Sunday, April 27 at 3:00 PM**. The Marywood University Chamber Singers have established themselves as one of the premier college choirs in Northeastern Pennsylvania. In 2022, they were one of six choirs across the country to win awards in their division of The American Prize in Choral Performance. They were also invited to be the featured choir at the National Meeting of the Assoc. of Catholic Colleges and Universities in Washington, DC. Their Spring 2025 concert program includes music by Lasso, Łukaszewski, Ešenvalds, Elgar, Lauridsen, William Henry Harris, Christopher Harris, and Kevin Puts, as well as a set of vocal jazz.

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