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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](http://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 school. Use the Scott Road entrance.

**New members are welcome !**

## SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

## Weekly Mass Schedule

<b>Monday</b>	<b>April 28</b>
7:30 AM	Angeline & Thomas Pratico
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>April 29</b>
7:30 AM	Suzette Borusiewicz (6th Anniv.) offered by husband, Alfred Borusiewicz
5:00 PM	Confirmation with Bishop Bambara
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>April 30</b>
7:30 AM	Jean Morgan offered by Bob & Deb Gradziul
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>May 1</b>
7:30 AM	Daniel Mol, Sr. offered by Steven & Janeen Nieratko
<b>Friday</b>	<b>May 2</b>
7:30 AM	Cochrane, Kalinoski, Kula, & Perko Families offered by Donna & Paul Kalinoski
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>May 3</b>
10:00 AM	First Holy Communion Mass
4:00 PM	Stephen J. Vavrick (15th Anniv.) offered by wife, Adrienne & children
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>May 4</b>
8:00 AM	Living and deceased members of our parish
10:30 AM	Wanda Lucas, Henry & Ann Jaskulski & deceased members of our family offered by Michael & Carol Jaskulski, Alicia & Joseph Acker

## IN MEMORIAM

## Sanctuary Candle

Vincent, Anna, Jean, Patricia, Francis, Stanley, Chester, Joseph, Edward, Leonard, & Henry Jacukowicz offered by Toni

## Bread &amp; Wine

Ski & Jessica Dzwieleski offered by wife & sister

## Steeple Lights

Jones & Anuszewski Families Offered by Mal & Carol Jones

## ONLINE GIVING

Go to [www.vbvm.org](http://www.vbvm.org)  
Click on the **DONATE** tab ,Click on **GIVE NOW**  
**YOUR SUPPORT IS GREATLY**



## Parish News

**On Tuesday, April 29, Bishop Bambara will confirm seventeen students from our parish during a mass celebrated at 5:00PM. The following Saturday, May 3, fourteen children from our parish will receive First Holy Communion during a mass celebrated at 10:00AM. Please keep these children and their families in your prayers as they continue their faithful journeys.**



## CEMETERY RULES

In order to keep our cemeteries in good condition, and for the safety of our caretakers and visitors, we are strictly enforcing the parishes long standing rules.

The only items allowed on graves are American flags in bronze military holders and traditional (metal or plastic) votive candle holders.

No glass. Place close to headstone.

No statues or decorative items of any kind are allowed on or around headstones.

Live flowers may be planted in front of headstones in an area 12 inches from the front and not extending past the width of headstone. Mulch is allowed. No bushes, shrubs, borders or stones are allowed.

Artificial flowers must be in pots with at least 6" of the pot showing above ground. This is to avoid weed whacker lines from getting caught in the flower wire, which can be very hazardous. Artificial flowers may be placed on top of headstones.

## MAUSOLEUM RULES

Contact the parish office for flower vases, photos and veterans markers. No unapproved items may be placed on crypts.

Nothing may be placed in the mulch around the mausoleum with the exception of American flags in Bronze military holders and traditional votive candles as noted above.



## (PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

**Mini Reflection:** It does sound unbelievable, the story of the Resurrection. But lots of things are unbelievable. That doesn't mean they're not true. Take Thomas' example: stay close to the people you trust. Be willing to recognize Jesus when he's in front of you.

### **Wonder, Don't Wander**

My daughter recently asked me if it's okay to "wonder if all the Jesus stuff is true."

I wasn't surprised by her question. I've expected it, in fact. If you're raising a child to be a critical thinker, you don't want them to accept everything you tell them simply because it comes from your lips. I have promised my children that I will always give them the truth about God. But that's all I can do — give it to them. Whether or not they accept it, ultimately, is their own choice.

"I know it's true," she told me. "But sometimes it just all sounds so...unbelievable."

She's not wrong. It *does* sound unbelievable that an all-powerful God could create us for no reason other than sheer love, that He could be generous enough to give us free will to accept that love, that he could be merciful enough not to destroy us when we reject that love, and finally that he could be faithful enough in that love to become flesh and die in order to save us from the consequences of our own poor choices.

But lots of things are unbelievable. That doesn't mean they're not true.

When Jesus says, "Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed," he isn't calling Thomas a fool for questioning something that sounds a little outrageous. He's just highlighting the fact that Thomas is afforded a luxury that none of the Christians born after him, my daughter included, will have: he gets to see proof with his own eyes.

I told my daughter it's fine to wonder — just don't wander. Take Thomas' example. Stay close to the people you trust. Return to the warmth of the upper room. Be willing to recognize Jesus when he's in front of you. Never be afraid to believe.

— Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

## Why do we do that?

### Catholic Life Explained

#### Question:

If Jesus destroyed sin, why are sins still with us?

#### Answer:

We are the children of God, heirs of the Father's work, which is life. The struggle is between good and evil and the greatest weapon of evil is death. It is final — the end of hope and all possibility of change. Jesus must destroy death so that life, eternal life, might be possible. That is why Jesus dies: to take on sin's weapon and destroy it by his resurrection. It was not to satisfy God's sense of justice, but to meet sin on its own terms and defeat it.

Since we are heirs and coworkers with God, ours is the struggle with the remnants of evil, its last desperate attempt to overcome good. Like Jesus, we are about the Father's business in our daily life, carrying the message of salvation to everyone. We are strengthened in our struggle and come to realize the great gift of life with which we are graced. It is our hope that one day we will rejoice with the Father in a job well done!

**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 26th....9 AM - 12 Noon....**

**Registration due by May 26th**

**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 and 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 [debrenieck@aol.com](mailto:debrenieck@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: May 3 & 17**

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 [vvnepa@gmail.com](mailto:vvnepa@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!



## 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](http://www.bingo.vbvm.org)**

## 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](https://www.dioceseofscranton.org) or contact Bridget  
Guarnieri (570-207-2213 x 1133) or  
[familylife@dioceseofscranton.org](mailto:familylife@dioceseofscranton.org).




#### 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.

## MINISTRY MASS SCHEDULE for May 3 & 4

	<u>4:00 PM</u>	<u>8:00 AM</u>	<u>10:30 AM</u>
EM 1	Carole Paswinski	Rosemary Yankovich	Bill Michlowski
EM 2	Amanda Schwenk		
L	Ray Schwenk	Elle Lilik	Brittany Cole
AS 1	Matthew Schwenk		Nicholas Fischer
AS 2	Zachary Schwenk		Jessica Jurkiewicz



**OUR BULLETIN IS PRINTED AT NO COST TO THE PARISH.  
OUR BULLETIN ADVERTISERS COVER ALL EXPENSES WITH THEIR ADS.  
WE THANK THEM AND ENCOURAGE YOU TO SUPPORT THEIR BUSINESSES.**

### Thank You

Thank you so much to all who attended the March 2 tea, especially those who hosted, assisted, and contributed in any way. The free will offering totaled \$325, of which \$125 was donated to St. Mary's, and \$200 of which was donated to Providence Pregnancy Center / Casa de Maria.

### Catholic Home Missions Appeal

Support the Catholic Home Missions Appeal today! Nearly 40% of the dioceses in the United States and its current and former territories are considered mission territories because they are unable to fund essential pastoral activities for 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. Find more information at [www.usccb.org/home-missions](http://www.usccb.org/home-missions).



**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**

### DIOCESE OF SCRANTON MAINTENANCE 1 POSITION

The Diocese of Scranton is looking for a dependable and experienced individual to perform general maintenance duties and responsibilities primarily at the Chancery Building and Diocesan Pastoral Center located in downtown Scranton. A basic knowledge of electrical, plumbing, carpentry, HVAC, and fire systems is required. Seasonal responsibilities include grass cutting, landscaping and snow removal. This is a full-time position with a competitive benefit package and the salary will commensurate with experience.

Interested candidates are encouraged to visit the Diocese of Scranton website at [www.dioceseofscranton.org](http://www.dioceseofscranton.org) to review the full job description. Applicants are asked to send a complete resume with a minimum of three (3) references by April 30, 2025 to:

James Burke  
Diocesan Secretary for Human Resources  
300 Wyoming Ave. Scranton Pa. 18503  
Or email to [Jim-Burke@dioceseofscranton.org](mailto:Jim-Burke@dioceseofscranton.org)  
EOE

### 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

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