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.
Sixth Sunday of Easter
Weekly Mass Schedule

Monday May 18
Mother’s Day Intentions

Tuesday May 19
Mother’s Day Intentions

Wednesday May 20
Mary, Rosemary & Walter Pezanowski and John Keim

Thursday May 21 The Ascension of the Lord
Living & deceased members of our parish

Friday May 22
Alfred & Genevieve Borusiewicz and Eugenia Mellow offered by Al

Saturday May 23
Mary R. Bomba offered by Bomba & Angeloni Families

Sunday May 24
Living and deceased members of our parish

In Memoriam

Sanctuary Light
Pearl & George Goreschak offered by Sharon

Altar Candles
Mary, Rosemary & Walter Pezanowski and John Keim

Bread & Wine
John & Sophie Glenn, Rudolph & Bernice Noldy, Frank Padula, John & Pat Glenn, Mary & Joseph Drobish offered by Theresa & Bill Noldy & Sophie Padula

Steeple Lights
Mark Brosky offered by Rachel Pilch Rossi

Banns of Marriage
Matthew DeAngelo & Kaeleigh Schaepe

Prayer During A Health Crisis

Compassionate and Loving Father,
In the face of confusion and concern impart to us the calm of your presence.
In You allow us to find hope and healing.
Be with those who serve the sick and give them Your caring hands.
Be with those who lead and give them Your Spirit of wisdom.
Be with those who have fallen ill and give them Your comforting heart.
Wrap your arms around our world and hold us in your love.
Allow us at this time of trial to then serve as instruments of that love to all we meet.
We ask this in Your Name.
Amen.
WHAT TO EXPECT CONTINUED FROM LAST WEEK...

Last week’s bulletin contained an insert provided by the diocese entitled “Planning for the Future: What to Expect When Public Masses Resume.” Since four of the eleven counties which comprise our diocese are now in the yellow phase, we have been given some more concrete information about this. Apparently, the state guidelines will only allow 25 people to attend “public” Masses in the yellow phase. Please note that this number includes the priest celebrant of the Mass and any other liturgical or musical ministers who may participate.

Since such a relatively small number of people will be able to attend a Mass, whether on Sunday or a weekday, each parish will have to devise some way of regulating attendance with some sort of a reservation system that will be fair and equitable. Easily said but not so easy to devise or implement. We will try to come up with a simple and fair way to do so.

We do not know when the governor will move Lackawanna County from the current red status to the yellow phase. In order to be ready for this change, as small as it may be, we will make the seating changes and designations now to continue opening the church for private prayer while still in the red phase but ready to go to yellow when allowed. To that end, all of the seating in the side aisles will be unavailable. Seating for 10 people will be available in several pews at the rear of the church in both central aisles. This is the number indicated while still in the red phase. Once we go to the yellow phase, we will move the open pews forward to accommodate 24 people.

Since funerals, weddings, first communion, and confirmation may be scheduled in the yellow phase (however, again, with only 25 people allowed in the entire church), seating will be available for these events only in the 2 areas in the front of the church, again on the center aisle.

Signage and restrictive barriers will plainly indicate what areas will be open, whether for daily visits, “public” Sunday or weekday Masses, or special Masses for specified groups.

Please be clear that these restrictions are necessary since the church MUST BE SANITIZED AND DISINFECTED EACH DAY.

Because we will be subjected to such a severe limitation for the resumption of public Masses, soon we will begin to livestream a Sunday Mass. But first, adjustments must be made to our sound system and other provisions must be made for video broadcast. The church building needs to be connected to the internet with Wi-Fi. Livestreaming will also allow other family members and friends to witness first communion, confirmation, and, perhaps, weddings and even funerals.

Continued on next page...
Thank you so much for your patience and cooperation. Wouldn’t we all like everything to be back to normal, a normal that we all took for granted? But, despite everything else, remember, we are a people of faith! Despite our discouragement, even in our darkest moments, in isolation and uncertainty, in economic or emotional distress, even in sickness and suffering, we can make ours the words found in Psalm 18:30:

\[
\begin{align*}
&\text{You O Lord are my lamp}, \\
&\text{My God who lighten my darkness}, \\
&\text{With you I can break through any barrier}, \\
&\text{With my God I can scale any wall}.
\end{align*}
\]

In this month of May, Mary’s month, which concludes every year with the Feast of the Visitation on May 31st, let us continue to invoke the intercession of our Lady, health of the sick and comfort of the afflicted. Let us pray for those afflicted with this virus, especially those gravely ill, their health providers and all those working in public health to contain the spread of the virus and all those scientists and researchers who seek to discover an effective treatment and vaccine to protect us all.

"Tonight before falling asleep 
think about when we will return to the street. 
When we hug again, 
when all the shopping together will seem like a party. 
Let’s think about when the coffees will return to the bar, 
the small talk, the photos close to each other. 
We think about when it will be all a memory 
but normalcy will seem an unexpected and beautiful gift. 
We will love everything that has so far seemed futile to us. 
Every second will be precious. 
Swims at the sea, the sun until late, 
sunsets, toasts, laughter. 
We will go back to laughing together. 
Strength and courage. 
See you soon! "

\textit{Pope Francis}
GOSPEL MEDITATION
ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

We hope for many things: passing an exam, finding our true love, securing sustainable work, or surviving an illness. We often seek to have God be a part of what we hope for and desire, almost trying to convince Him that our agenda is what is ultimately important. While our particular hopes may appear to be what needs to be achieved in order for us to be happy, they really are not. Our lesser, more personal hopes can distract us from true hope.

When God became a human being, a powerful message was sent: all that is authentically human is found in the divine. As the human Jesus lived and died in order to show us that He truly is the universal Christ, we have to keep our sight focused on our eternal truth and destiny and who we truly are. We have to be careful when we allow our earthly concerns to distract us. True hope is found when we place our trust in Christ’s promises and don’t rely on our own strength. True hope focuses on striving toward the fulfillment of God’s promises and not simply on achieving what we think we need in this life. Hope always travels with two friends — faith and love. In this trio of virtues, we find the very presence of God born in every human being. These are God’s greatest gifts, and they lead us to the fullness of His presence.

As with faith and love, we cannot see hope with just our human eyes. We don’t carry this virtue within us to use solely for our own personal agenda. Hope is not something that simply comes with the human package. As with faith and love, hope is a gift that is given to us to draw us closer to our eternal truth. Faith, hope, and love are signs that there is something far greater going on in us and something greater to persevere in obtaining. The true divine gift of hope is what will endure any hardship we encounter, especially those that will come from authentically living the Gospel. With all that is happening in our lives, in our church, and in the world, what is the reason for our hope? Ask God for the fortitude to see His eternal gift as the reason we get up in the morning and do the things we do.

“On that day you will realize that I am in my Father and you are in me and I in you. Whoever has my commandments and observes them is the one who loves me. And whoever loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and reveal myself to him.”

- Jn 14:20-21


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MAY 17, 2020
CALCULATING LOVE

Have you ever Googled the word “love”? If you did, you may have come across something called the Love Calculator. It is a website where you can supply two names, and the percentage chance of a successful relationship is calculated. Curious, I entered my name and my wife’s. Twenty percent! I hope my wife doesn’t read this!

I then decided to add my name and God. A whopping thirteen percent! Then for the last attempt, I put in my name and Jesus. A very disappointing zero percent! Am I that unlovable? Of course, then I read the small print at the bottom of the page: “Please note that this site has no serious intention whatsoever.” Shocking!

The truth is, the modern world increasingly seems to have no real idea what love is or how to determine when love is real. That makes the seemingly simple words of Jesus about loving God and your neighbor very complex indeed. How can you love God with your all your heart, soul, and mind when you have no idea what the act of loving means? And then, what constitutes loving a neighbor? To make it more complicated, Jesus commands you to love them like you love yourself. I bet you can agree with me that there are a lot of people out there who do not even come close to loving themselves. Knowing what love is in modern times is just not that easy. How is a well-meaning person able to find out the true meaning of love?

You don’t know what true love is? I think you do. Turn your eyes to that crucifix hanging in your church, home, or office. The answer was given over 2,000 years ago, and the image remains for the entire world to see.

—Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

I HAVE BEEN GOING TO MASS FOR YEARS AND HAVE ALWAYS WONDERED: WHY DO WE MAKE THE THREE SIGNS OF THE CROSS BEFORE THE GOSPEL?

Certainly, many people go to Mass or other devotions, doing and saying things out of habit or reverence and not really understanding the reasons behind some of these things. But everything we do has a meaning or purpose that helps us to worship better, proclaim our beliefs, or focus the attention of the people on something that has a greater importance or significance. A review of the meaning of various gestures and practices can help us have a deeper appreciation for what we do.

There is a little prayer that goes with the three crosses before the Gospel: “May the words of the Holy Gospel be on my mind, on my lips and in my heart.” In standing to hear the Gospel, we acknowledge that Jesus is present, and the words of the Gospel are addressed to us. All of the gestures and special postures we adopt before the Gospel are intended to help us prepare for hearing the Word as well as act on it. The incense, the Alleluia, the deacon or priest, and the special dialogue and announcement that introduces the Gospel help us focus our attention on the Good News we are about to hear. The three signs of the cross show our desire and good intention to hear and live the Gospel.

MAY 17, 2020
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