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.
Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Weekly Mass Schedule

**Monday**  
July 13  
7:30 AM  Dolly Tracewski (Anniv.) offered by John

**Tuesday**  
July 14  
7:30 AM  Lorenzetti Family

**Wednesday**  
July 15  
7:30 AM  Michael Sheruda and the Sheruda Family offered by Ann

**Thursday**  
July 16  
7:30 AM  Michael, Mary & Karol Piela offered by Al & Marie Piela

**Friday**  
July 17  
7:30 AM  Bernard Nelson (Anniv.), Edward J. Gliniecki, Sr., Thomas Owens St. (Anniv.) offered by family

**Saturday**  
July 18  

**Sunday**  
July 19  
8:00 AM  Edward, Veronica, Francis, Bernard & Antoinette Filipski offered by Edward & Beverly and family  
10:30 AM  Living and deceased members of our parish

**SUNDAY MASS**  
Is now being celebrated at 8:00 a.m. and will be celebrated at 10:30 a.m. beginning July 12th. See the next page for more details!

**COMING SOON**  
Live Streaming the Mass  
As soon as we are able to get the technical and mechanical details taken care of we will begin to live stream Masses. More information to follow.

**KEEP UP**  
with everything that is going on in the parish by visiting our website www.vbvm.org and our facebook page, Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church. They are both being updated as new changes take place.

**CALLING ALL GRADUATES!**  
We are preparing for our salute to our parish graduates. If you or someone in your family has graduated from high school, technical school, college or graduate school, please let us know. Simply e-mail vbvm@comcast.net, mail or drop the following information in the white box outside the parish office:

Name of Graduate:  
Name of School:  
Degree Earned:

All information must be received no later than August 3rd to make the submission deadline.
SUNDAY MASS

8:00 A.M. NOW AVAILABLE
10:30 A.M. BEGINNING JULY 12

We are happy to welcome a limited number of people to Mass on Sunday at 8:00 a.m. The church doors will be open at 7:15. On July 12, we will open the 10:30 Mass to the parish. The church will open for this Mass at 9:45 a.m.

Please enter the church by using the 2 far front doors only (the center doors will be for exit only).

Seating is limited due to social distancing requirements and YOU MUST REGISTER ONLINE at the parish website. Each individual name must be registered (i.e. mom, dad and 2 children must each be listed individually).

 Masks are required in church and you must sit as directed in designated seats, beginning in the large sections in the center of the church. (The side aisles will be used only as needed.)

Please sanitize your hands at the entrance and deposit any offerings in the baskets located there, since no collection can be taken up during the Mass.

A single communion line will form in each side aisle with everyone exiting the church down the center aisle only. Please lower your mask as you approach the communion station. Everyone is kindly but strongly urged to receive in the hand. If you insist on taking communion on the tongue you must wait until the end and only approach Monsignor Pratico. Please remain seated so that others are not waiting for you to get in line.

Everyone should register to attend a Mass on our website www.vbvm.org. Please ask a relative, friend or neighbor to help you with this if you do not have access to the website. The procedure is very simple and very easy to use. Those who are helping as a mugger (hospitality) or a scrubber (sanitizer) are asked to indicate your availability for a particular Mass by registering in the space provided at the bottom of the registration page.

A Saturday vigil Mass at 4:00 p.m. will be delayed until August after we have celebrated First Communion and Confirmation during the month of July. Please note that this Mass will sometimes be cancelled when a wedding is scheduled on a particular Saturday.

Thank you for your patience and cooperation as we do our best to provide a safe and healthy environment for the weekend Masses.

Please be mindful that the Sunday obligation (one of the precepts of the Church) has been suspended for the time being by the Bishop. Those who are feeling ill or at high risk due to a medical condition or age are asked not to plan on attending Mass at this time.

Monsignor Pratico
Thank you to our Troop 21 scouts and leaders for their tremendous help in clearing brush and cleaning up the old cemetery. They did a great job and their hard work is truly appreciated! God bless you!
FOCUS ON THE GOOD

When I was a child, my mother had a set of sculptures resembling three human heads. One head had hands over the ears, one had hands over the eyes, and one had hands over the mouth. Of course, they depicted the phrase, “Hear no evil; see no evil; speak no evil.” I have seen these images repeated many times since then, usually as the monkey heads from a Japanese proverb, which would have probably seemed a little less creepy to me when I was a small child. Apparently, there is no consensus about the full meaning or certain origin of these three images nor the phrase. At the very least, it causes us to reflect on the need to avoid evil and look for the good in things.

As I have lived my life, I have come to believe there are more people who live their lives in a contrary manner to these images. It is not that they seek evil, but it is as if they “see no good, hear no good, and speak no good.” Gossiping is the way they pass the time, and they always seem to find the negative in people and situations. Being a good steward certainly means that we do not seek evil, but more than that, it means that we see the abundance of good things all around us. These gifts of God are big and little, profound and ordinary. By seeing the world in this way, we begin to change our personalities and our overall disposition. We always need to follow a new proverb: see all the good, hear all the good, and speak about the good. Amen.

—Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

WHY DO CATHOLICS BAPTIZE BABIES?

For adults who want to be baptized, the celebration only takes place after a long, guided, and thoughtful process through the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. This is also true for many Protestant Christians, who are baptized later in life, often after a personal, transforming religious experience. So, it seems fair to ask why our Catholic tradition includes infant baptism. After all, if we make adults who want to become Catholic wait months and even years as they grow in their understanding of Christ and his teachings, why should babies — who “do nothing” — be baptized?

Our custom of infant baptism dates back to the earliest days of the Church, when St. Paul baptized entire households, including, we presume, children (see Acts 16:15, 33; 18:8). That had become common practice by the second century. When Christianity was legalized 200 years later, infant baptism became the normal practice throughout the Church.

We recognize that in Baptism, we are given the grace to overcome original sin — the human tendency to choose ourselves and our own wills over God — and to become members of the Church. This is the gift we give to infants in Baptism.

In its essence, the baptism of infants also reminds us adult Christians that the gift of salvation and membership in the Church (i.e., the Body of Christ) is God’s initiative. It is freely offered to us, regardless of where we might be in life’s journey. Salvation isn’t something we earn. Instead, we see that Baptism is the beginning of a lifelong process of growing into the kind of disciples that Jesus wants us to be.

To learn more, see the “Catechism of the Catholic Church” (no. 1250-1252 and 1262-1270).
GOSPEL MEDITATION
ENCourage DEEPER UNDERstanding OF SCRIPTURE

Using the best seeds doesn’t always guarantee the best plants. An older Italian gentleman straight from Italy gave me these amazing tomato seeds that he claimed produced the best tomatoes ever grown. Without doubt, the fruit he shared with me was a testament to that fact. These tomatoes were amazing! I couldn’t wait until the next growing season to plant these seeds and harvest my own tomatoes. The whole experiment ended up a failure. I did everything the gentleman said, but my fruit didn’t even come close. What happened? At first I was perplexed, then some years later the light dawned. The problem wasn’t the seeds, it was the soil!

You cannot sow seeds in any old place and in a haphazard way and expect them to be at their best. It doesn’t work that way. Planting the seeds is the easiest part. Preparing the soil is the challenge. Tilling, mulching, enriching, and building up the nutrients are all required for good fruit. Then after the seeds are planted, more care is required in order to maintain that healthy, nutrient rich environment for those seeds to sprout, grow, and flourish. God happily sows the seeds of His Word.

What do we do with them? If we expect to be a passive bystander and have good fruit magically grow, we are mistaken. Bearing the good fruit of God’s Word requires preparation and work. We have to cultivate the soil of our lives so that those seeds can find a proper home. This one thing alone takes a great deal of patience, time, and effort. What kind of preparation have we put into our lives so that we can be a recipient of God’s seed? It takes a great deal of soul-searching and ego-checking to properly prepare. God is the ever faithful and persistent sower. If the seeds do not bear fruit the first time, God will come back time and again, giving it another try.

If we have created a suitable bed for sowing, then once the seed is sown, we must properly maintain them. What is our maintenance plan for the seeds of God’s Word? We need not only a source for water but a watering schedule. We need to weed, aerate the soil, nurture the young plants, protect them, and provide proper nutrients. What does our spiritual maintenance plan look like? If we have done all things well, imagine what the seeds of God’s Word could produce in us!

“The seed sown among thorns is the one who hears the word, but then worldly anxiety and the lure of riches choke the word and it bears no fruit. But the seed sown on rich soil is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields a hundred or sixty or thirtyfold.”

- Mt 13:22-23


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JULY 12, 2020