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.
Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Weekly Mass Schedule

**Monday**  
July 20  
7:30 AM  Jeffrey Walter Krucar (Anniv.) offered by family

**Tuesday**  
July 21  
7:30 AM  Fritz & Irene Kozlosky, Sharon Hall and all deceased members of the Kozlosky, Kerzaya & Hall Families offered by Cathie Kozlosky Bianchi

**Wednesday**  
July 22  
7:30 AM  Raymond Buraczewski offered by children

**Thursday**  
July 23  
7:30 AM  Mary & Stanley Retchko and the Retchko & Killian Families

**Friday**  
July 24  
7:30 AM  Marta Kurilla offered by husband Allen and children Helmut, Erika, Karin & Thomas

**Saturday**  
July 25  
Frank & Helen Mazur, Tony Astolfi offered by The Mazur & Astolfi Families

**Sunday**  
July 26  
8:00 AM  Living and deceased members of our parish

10:30 AM  Emil Litak and the deceased members of the Litak, Stec & Bieniesz Families

In Memoriam

**Sanctuary Light**  
Richard Woodyatt, Anna, John, Stella & Jack Malewich, Clare & Chester Jezierski, Bret Nalesnik and Barbara Clarke offered by Maryanne Woodyatt

**Bread & Wine**  
Deceased members of the Dominick Ceresko Family offered by wife & children

**Steeple Lights**  
Stephen Vavrick offered by wife & children

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SUNDAY MASS  
Is now being celebrated at 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

We plan to resume the 4:00 PM Saturday Mass on August 8th.

PLEASE NOTE that while the obligation to attend Mass is suspended the 4:00 PM Saturday Mass may not be celebrated due to a Wedding or some other circumstance.  
The 4:00 PM Saturday Mass will not be celebrated on:  
September 26th, October 10th and December 12th

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Our tentative date for Bingo to resume is Monday, August 3rd!  
As always, Volunteers are needed!

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LIVE STREAMING THE MASS ON OUR PARISH FACEBOOK PAGE

This weekend we began livestreaming with our First Holy Communion Mass.  
We will livestream the Confirmation Mass next Saturday at 10:00 a.m. and the 8:00 a.m. Mass on Sundays.

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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, and Degree Earned

All information must be received no later than August 3rd to make the submission deadline.
SUNDAY MASS 8:00 A.M. Has Resumed  
10:30 A.M. Has Resumed  
SATURDAY MASS 4:00 P.M. Resumes August 8th

We are happy to welcome a limited number of people to Weekend Mass. The church doors will be open 45 minutes prior to the beginning of Mass.

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 top of the registration page.

The Saturday vigil Mass at 4:00 p.m. will begin August 8th. 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
GOSPEL MEDITATION
ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

Grace and sin, belief and unbelief, good and evil all exist together. While we wrestle with these two dimensions of reality inwardly, they are also witnessed in the actions and words of others. Many, all too often, beat themselves up because of their sin. We are also all too quick to pass judgment on others whom we perceive to be in error and walking down a wrong path. God does not make rash judgments, nor should we. Patience is the order of the day as is an understanding that God is ultimately the caller of the shots.

Our faith tells us that while God allows the wheat and the weeds to coexist, the wheat will always triumph. As long as we can cultivate even a little faith and a small measure of desire for God, He can produce abundant blessings and good things. Even when the weeds seem to have triumphed, there still may be a small measure of faith remaining that can be cultivated and grown. It doesn’t take much! Unless a person totally allows the weeds to reign, there is always to be found at least a small measure of faith, good, light, and love. With even this small portion, God can produce abundant growth.

Admittedly, it is easy to give into the weeds, and they grow very quickly. Any gardener knows this to be true. Sometimes, the weeds even seem more attractive and vibrant. Dealing with weeds can quickly become a losing battle, and they can look healthier and grow faster than the very plants we are trying to protect. It’s easy to give into them and let them win. While God will deal with all things in due time, we are responsible for keeping things in check in the short term. It is our task to keep our eyes fixed on God’s presence and mercy. We are asked to avoid judgment. And, it is not our responsibility to deal with the weeds in someone else’s garden, only our own. One garden is enough responsibility for anyone.

Weeds have power. We have to realize this. While they can appear attractive and healthy, they can quickly choke us off from God’s presence. Our task is one of maintenance and cultivating a desire for God. Even the smallest kernel of faith can grow into something wonderful. In God’s time, the eternal harvest will come, and we will no longer have to worry about the weeds.

“He replied, ‘No, if you pull up the weeds you might uproot the wheat along with them. Let them grow together until harvest; then at harvest time I will say to the harvesters, “First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles for burning; but gather the wheat into my barn.” ’” - Mt 13:29-30

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS
Local businesses and sponsors that advertise on bulletins need you now more than ever before. Please encourage and remind others to show their support during this time.

JULY 19, 2020
DO WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE

A friend recently confided in me that although he prayed frequently each day and was involved heavily in his parish, he did not sense much fruit coming from it all and was left feeling unsatisfied. I assured him he was not alone. I told him of a deceased pastor of mine who had spoken frequently about being in this type of situation. Even as a priest, he knew all too well of how we can feel like we are simply going through the motions. It is precisely at those times that continuing to pray and practicing good stewardship is most important, because it would be easier to simply take a break and risk never coming back. He liked to say, “Do the drill,” meaning just do what needs to be done.

We are all called to be mature disciples who answer the call of Jesus Christ regardless of the cost. We cannot choose when and where the call will come. We cannot schedule our stewardship in a way that is always most convenient for us. Even when the fruits of our faithful efforts seem hidden from us, we hold to the promise that we are never called to give of ourselves for nothing. God is working through us and in us. No matter how dry the land may seem, seeds are being planted to yield a harvest greater than we can ever realize. Stay strong and do the drill!

—Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

WHY DO CATHOLICS EAT FISH ON FRIDAY?

Answer: For centuries, meatless Fridays were the norm for Catholics throughout the world. Friday was chosen because that was the day on which Jesus died, and Christians wanted to find a way to honor that day with special prayers and acts of penance and self-denial. The practice of abstaining from meat on Fridays — under pain of sin — grew out of that desire, and it became an official part of Church teaching until the time of the Second Vatican Council.

In the 1960s, there was a shift in the Church’s thinking, in large part because there was a recognition that differences in cultures and economic realities meant that eating or not eating meat had different meanings for different peoples. For example, in cultures that were largely dependent on seafood or a vegetarian diet, abstaining from meat was no sacrifice at all. While in other places, eating fish and other kinds of seafood was actually something rare and special and not a sacrifice. This was all part of a basic reflection on “why we do what we do” among the Church’s pastors.

Today, Catholics throughout the world are still instructed to abstain from meat on the Fridays of Lent. The bishops of some countries, such as in England and Wales, ask Catholics to abstain from meat every Friday, continuing the older tradition. The Bishops of the United States have taken a slightly different approach, encouraging Catholics to honor Friday as a special day by abstaining from meat every Friday or by taking on some other work of penance or charity for the sake of others.

Regardless of what we choose to do, the real value in all of this is to see a reflection of Good Friday in each Friday, to remember the self-giving love of Jesus, and to honor that love through some sort of sacrifice or act of mercy.
SUNDAY’S READINGS

FIRST READING:
For your might is the source of justice; your mastery over all things makes you lenient to all. (Wis 12:16)

PSALM:
Lord, you are good and forgiving. (Ps 86)

SECOND READING:
And the one who searches hearts knows what is the intention of the Spirit, because it intercedes for the holy ones according to God’s will. (Rom 8:27)

GOSPEL:
“Let them grow together until harvest; then at harvest time I will say to the harvesters, “First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles for burning; but gather the wheat into my barn.”” (Mt 13:30b)

Never get tired of doing little things for others. Sometimes those little things occupy the biggest part of their hearts.

—ST. THERESA OF LISIEUX

OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF JULY 19, 2020
Sunday: 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Monday: St. Apollinaris, Bishop and Martyr
Tuesday: St. Lawrence of Brindisi, Priest and Doctor of the Church
Wednesday: St. Mary Magdalene
Thursday: St. Bridget, Religious
Friday: St. Sharbel Makhluf, Priest
Saturday: St. James, Apostle
Next Sunday: 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

REFLECT

FIRST READING
The Jewish sage speaks of God as master of all who judges us with clemency and governs us with leniency. What are some areas of your life that make you grateful for a merciful God?

SECOND READING
Paul teaches the Christians in Rome that the Spirit helps us “to pray as we ought.” When do you find yourself most at prayer?

GOSPEL READING
We hear today a series of parables describing aspects of the kingdom of heaven: the parable of the weeds among the wheat, the parable of the mustard seed, and the parable of the yeast. What do you think makes Jesus’ parables such an effective method for teaching about the mystery of the kingdom of heaven?

16TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Recognize JESUS