

The Church of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Saint Mary's Square, 1090 Carmalt Street, Dickson City, PA 18519
Phone: 570-489-2091 ~ Fax: 570-489-0349 ~ Email: vbvm@comcast.net ~ Website: www.vbvm.org

OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Friday: 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

PARISH STAFF

Msgr. Patrick J. Pratico, J.C.D., Pastor
Msgr. Stanley Piorkowski, Pastor Emeritus
Rev. Joseph Rusin, Senior Priest
Rev. Walter F. Skiba, Weekend Celebrant
Karen Wallo, Administrative Assistant
Mary Kay Carpenter, Bookkeeper
Robert Manento, Director of Liturgical Music
Marie Piela, D.R.E. & Director of R.C.I.A.

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.

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday Vigil: 4:00 p.m., Sunday: 8:00, 9:30 & 11:00 a.m.
Weekdays: 7:30 a.m., Saturday: 8:00 a.m.
Holy Days: Vigil 5:30 p.m., 7:30 a.m., 11:00 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.

SACRAMENTS

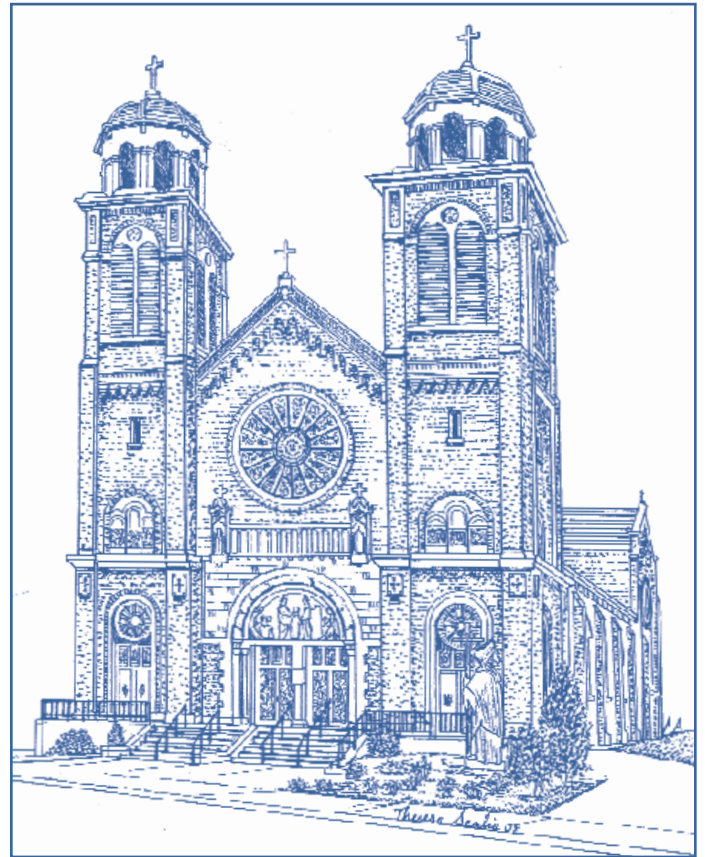
Reconciliation: Saturday 9:00 a.m., First Thursday at 4:30 p.m., and other times by request.

Baptism: Second Sunday of the month at 12:00 p.m.
Call the parish office to make arrangements.

Marriage: Arrangements must be made at least six months in advance by registered parishioners.

Visitation of the Sick/Homebound: Monday & Tuesday Before First Friday. 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.



Serving God's People since 1892

NEW MEMBERS

New members are most welcome. Call the Parish office to register. Parishioners moving out of the parish are asked to notify the office.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (CCD)

Grade 1 to 8 - Sundays 10:30 to 11:45 a.m.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

LaSalle Academy Primary Campus Pre-K - 3
LaSalle Academy Main Campus grades 4 - 8
Mrs. Helen Murphy, Principal
Call (570) 489-0061 (Primary) or 489-2010 (Main)
Holy Cross High School grades 9 - 12
Mr. Ben Tolerico, Principal
Call (570) 346-7541

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mass Intentions

Monday February 20
 7:30 AM Cecelia Panasevich by St. Mary's Choir
Tuesday February 21
 7:30 AM Edward Kolenda by Bob & Debbie Graziul & family
Wednesday February 22 – **Ash Wednesday**
 7:30 AM Philomena Yashinski by family
 11:00 AM Vicki Yurkovic by Kay & William Yurkovic
 4:00 PM Prayer Service with ashes
 7:00 PM Chester Kobierecki by nieces & nephews
Thursday February 23
 7:30 AM In honor of Jesus suffering at Mount Olive
Friday February 24
 7:30 AM Edward Sherbinko by family
Saturday February 25
 8:00 AM Michael Shields by Betty Shields
 4:00 PM Bill & Rose Bilinski, Anna Kalinowski & Ryan Stets by Bill & Cathy Bilinski
Sunday February 26
 8:00 AM Mass for the People
 9:30 AM Our recently deceased parishioners
 11:00 AM Stanley & Rita Bednarek by Joan & Jack Scannella



SANCTUARY CANDLE: The Sanctuary candle for this week is donated in loving memory of Helen Owens by husband.

ALTAR BREAD & WINE: The altar bread & wine for this weekend has been donated in loving memory of Helen Owens by husband.

YOUR GIFT TO YOUR PARISH:

Sunday Offerings: 1/12/2012: \$6,108.85



PARISH ROSARY Join us in praying the Rosary weekday mornings following the 7:30 a.m. Mass. **HOLY HOUR** the first Saturday of the month from 7:00 to 8:00 a.m.

BINGO EVERY MONDAY!!!
\$1,200.00 JACKPOT!
 Admission package includes 29 Games with a prize of \$100.00 per game, specials have \$150.00 in prizes.
 Doors open at 4:30.
 Early Bird at 6:40 p.m. Regular game at 7:00 p.m.
 Kitchen opens at 4:30. Homemade Pizza available after 7:30 p.m. Price is \$10.00.

LENT BEGINS THIS WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22ND

~ **FAST AND ABSTINENCE REGULATIONS** ~

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of fast and abstinence.

The **Fridays of Lent** are days of abstinence.

All the faithful who have reached the age of 14 are obliged by the law of abstinence. **On a day of abstinence no meat may be eaten by anyone obliged by this law.**

All the faithful from the age of 18 up to the beginning of their 60th year are obliged by the law to fast. **On a day of fast, those obliged by this law may eat but one full meal and two partial meals unless dispensed or excused.**



STATIONS OF THE CROSS will be held each Friday during Lent at 7:00 p.m. Join us as we pray and reflect on Christ's journey to the cross and crucifixion.



LENTEN VESPERS AND BENEDICTION

Parish Lenten Scripture Reflection Series
 With Deacon Jan Mroz
 February 29, March 7, 14, & 21
 at 7:00 p.m. in the church.

The program will consist of evening prayer with a homily reflecting on the scriptures used during lent. The homilies will be presented in a manner that will assist the faithful in becoming more familiar with Bishop Bambera's Pastoral Letter, *Wounded and Loved, Regathering the Scattered*. The service will conclude with benediction. All are encouraged to attend!

NEW VESTMENTS

New white Chasuble and Dalmatic vestments have been ordered for use on Easter and during the Easter Season as well as for Christmas. If anyone is interested in donating one or both items please contact Msgr. Pratico for details.



IN OBSERVANCE OF PRESIDENT'S DAY THE PARISH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20TH

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

St. Mary's Visitation Parish

Roast Beef Dinner

Saturday, March 24, 2012

12:00 Noon to 7:00 p.m.

In the school cafeteria.

Eat in or take out.

Dinner includes homemade
Roast Beef, Potatoes, Vegetable,
Salad, Dessert and beverages.



Adult tickets are \$9.00 in advance and \$10.00 at the door. Children 10 and under \$6.00.

A limited number of tickets will be sold at the door so get your tickets early!

BASKET RAFFLE DONATIONS NEEDED A basket raffle will be held in conjunction with our parish roast beef dinner. Monetary value of the baskets should be in the \$20-\$25 range or more if you desire. Completed baskets can be dropped off at the rectory office during regular business hours or at the school cafeteria on Saturday, March 24th (the morning of the dinner) between 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.

BAKE SALE ITEMS NEEDED We are asking for donations of baked goods for the bake sale which will be held during the dinner.

Please bring your baked goods to the school between 9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. Your donation will be appreciated!

DINNER VOLUNTEERS NEEDED Help is needed for our upcoming roast beef dinner. If you would like to offer assistance with set up, kitchen prep work, serving, clean up, etc. please call the parish office at 489-2091 or e-mail vbvm@comcast.net. Students in need of service hours are welcome to help.

IN ORDER TO BETTER SERVE our parishioners who are in need of special prayers due to serious illness, upcoming surgery, personal difficulties, etc...we have in place a prayer chain. It is not necessary for you to give details of the reason you are requesting prayers if you do not wish to do so. If you are in need of prayers or know someone who is, you may contact the parish office at 489-



2091 or via the parish e-mail vbvm@comcast.net to submit your prayer request.

ANYONE WISHING TO BE A PARTICIPANT of the prayer chain ministry, by praying for those in need, is asked to call the parish office at 489-2091 or e-mail us at vbvm@comcast.net. This is a wonderful way to help right from the comfort of your home. At one time or another we all need prayers, take time to pray for others.

HOSPITAL VISITS/PASTORAL CARE OF THE SICK
Msgr. Pratico visits the area hospitals each Friday and Deacon Jan Mroz visits on Wednesdays, both are happy to visit with our parishioners. Upon admission to a hospital (including hospice) please be sure to list St. Mary's Visitation Church as your parish if you wish a clergy visit. Due to federal privacy laws enacted a number of years ago, the parish cannot obtain information regarding your admittance to the hospital unless you inform the hospital which parish you are a member of. Otherwise we have no way of knowing you are there. We also encourage you to have a relative contact the parish office if you wish a clergy visit. **Please notify us at any time of the seriously ill, hospitalized or those needing anointing.**

HOMEBOUND/NURSING HOME VISITS

If you or someone you know would like to be added to our monthly list of homebound parishioners or those who are in nursing homes, assisted living or rehabilitation facilities please call the parish office.

ASH WEDNESDAY MINISTRY SCHEDULE – FEBRUARY 22

	11:00 AM	4:00 PM	7:00 PM
ALTAR SERVERS	n/a n/a n/a	n/a n/a n/a	K. Kobylanski M. Kobylanski N. Kobylanski
EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS	J. Goyne C. Jaskulski	J. Scoblick A. Piela	C. Kelechowa C. Kelechowa
LECTORS	n/a n/a S. Harris n/a	n/a n/a E. Bartish n/a	R. Retchko D. Smith E. Lilik C. Repecki

MINISTRY MASS SCHEDULE FOR FEBRUARY 25 & 26

	4:00	8:00	9:30	11:00
ALTAR SERVERS	M. Fischer J. Lennon Server Needed	J. Baron A. Feduchak A. Hine	S. MacCallum W. MacCallum J. Zarnowski	M. Kobierecki M. Kobierecki Server Needed
EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS	A.M. Bitsko V. Butkiewicz J. Goyne P. Pomager R. Retchko	C. Jaskulski E. Lilik G. Morgan D. Mroz	E. Bartish B. Michlowski C. Paswinski J. Scoblick	D. Cravath K. Lewis A. Piela Minister Needed
LECTORS	R. Pomager M.A. Smith	R. Kopa Lector Needed	P. Borden J. Jones	S. Klassner S. Klassner

NEIGHBORING PARISH, DIOCESAN, AND COMMUNITY EVENTS

THE DICKSON CITY CRIME WATCH meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 21st, at 7:00 PM at the ambulance building on Eagle Lane. DC Police Chief Will Bilinski will be the speaker. All residents are welcome and asked to attend.

LaSALLE ACADEMY CHEESEBALL SALE on Wednesday, February 22, 2012. The cost is \$6.00 and includes 3 cheeseballs, tossed salad, roll w/butter. Dinners can be picked up at the school from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. or at Liuzzo's Deli in Carbondale from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.. Tickets can be purchased at the Jessup campus 489-2010, Dickson City Campus 489-0061 or Liuzzo's Deli 282-1234. All orders are due by Thursday, February 16th.

BOY SCOUT TROOP 34, Jessup, PA is holding their 18th Annual Spaghetti and Meatballs Dinner on Sunday, February 19th at St. James Church, 605 Church Street, Jessup PA. Take out's will be available beginning at 11 am with sit down dinner service beginning at Noon and running through 4:30 pm. Ticket prices are Adults-\$8, Children 4 to 9-\$4, Children under 4-free. Tickets can be purchased at the door or from any member of Troop 34. For more information please contact Kristen at (570) 479-2213 or KristenLBV@aol.com. Thank you for your support.

ST. MARY'S CHURCH, WAYMART is having a Cash Bingo on Saturday, February 25, 2012 at 6:00 PM. Doors open at 5:30 PM. It will be held in the church hall at 242 Carbondale Road, Waymart. The admission is \$15.00. Jackpot is \$500.00 with many \$50.00 & \$150.00 prizes. Food & Beverages will be available for purchase.

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTER OF HOLY COMMUNION TRAINING The next opportunity for the training of Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion will be held at the following site: Diocesan Center, Scranton, Feb. 27, March 12, 26 (Mondays) 6:00 - 8:30 p.m. If you are interested and would like to take part in this training session, please inform your parish office.

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY MASS To Be Celebrated June 3
If you and your spouse, or a couple you know, will be celebrating a 25th or 50th wedding anniversary in 2012, contact your parish office to register for the annual Wedding Anniversary Mass with Bishop Bambara on Sunday, June 3 at 2:30 p.m. in St. Peter's Cathedral. Participants will receive a commemorative certificate and have the opportunity to pose for a photo with the Bishop while enjoying a light reception. The deadline March 15.

VIRTUS: PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN FOR ADULTS PROGRAM Interested in supporting and protecting our children's future? Then please consider attending the diocesan-sponsored VIRTUS: Protecting God's Children for Adults Program. This training session is required for all adult volunteers who work a minimum of 20 hours or more per year with children.

During the three-hour training, a facilitator, who will teach you the tools and show you the resources to maintain a safe environment for all children, will incorporate techniques in a discussion format to help you recognize the warning signs of child sexual abuse and how to respond to it appropriately and effectively.

Please consider joining your community on Tuesday, February 21, at Mary, Mother of God Parish, Scranton, to take part in this vital program to help safeguard our most vulnerable and precious gifts: our children. The session details are listed below and also on our website. Thank you for your cooperation and your willingness to protect all our children and to keep them safe.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2012 at MARY, MOTHER OF GOD PARISH, SCRANTON from 6:30-9:30 P.M. Please call the parish office, 342-4881, to register and for directions.

COMPASSIONATE CARE HOSPICE is seeking compassionate, caring volunteers to be friendly patient visitors. Certified pet therapy and music therapy volunteers, as well as licensed Reiki and massage practitioners are also needed. Training is provided by the volunteer coordinator. Time commitment varies according to your schedule and person's under age 18 must be accompanied by an adult when volunteering. For more information contact Anita Guzek at 570-346-2241.

CHORAL SOCIETY SCHEDULES LENTEN CONCERTS

In a 63 year tradition of inspiring prayer and meditation through music, the Catholic Choral Society will present Lenten Concerts on March 4th in Wilkes-Barre and on March 11th in Pittston.

The first concert on March 4th will be held at St. Andrew Parish, 316 Parrish St., Wilkes-Barre, PA. on Sunday afternoon, at 3 PM.

The second concert will be presented at St. John the Evangelist Parish, 35 William Street, Pittston on Sunday, March 11th at 2:30 PM.

Both concerts are open to the public free of charge. Further information may be obtained by calling 570-587-2753 and also at www.catholicchoralsociety.org.

The Church's position on the matter of abortion is unambiguous. The child in his or her mother's womb is a human life which must be protected. Abortion, which is the destruction of an innocent unborn child, is contrary to God's will, for the value and dignity of human life must be protected from conception to natural death. The Church ... must be committed to offering help and support to women and couples tempted to seek an abortion, while remaining close to those who have had this tragic experience and helping them to grow in respect for life. She acknowledges the courage of governments that have legislated against the culture of death – of which abortion is a dramatic expression – in favour of the culture of life.



Why doesn't Lent start on a Sunday?

SHUTTERSTOCK

Q Why do we still celebrate Ash Wednesday on a Wednesday? We've moved Ascension Thursday to the following Sunday. Why not this too?

Margaret


Dear Margaret,

Easter is celebrated on the first Sunday after the first full moon after the vernal equinox (first day of spring). *Lent*, derived from a word meaning "spring," refers to the forty-day penitential season determined each year by counting backward from the date of Easter. "Lent lasts from Ash Wednesday to the Mass of the Lord's Supper exclusive" (General Norms for the Liturgical Year and Calendar, 28; Pope Paul VI, 1969). The six Sundays in Lent are excluded from the count, since each represents a "mini-Easter."

While some rites calculate the days of Lent differently, in Western Christianity Lent was transferred to a Wednesday to align the number of days of Lent to the forty days Jesus fasted in the wilderness (see Matthew 4:1–2).

Ash Wednesday is a day of fasting and abstinence that begins a period of prayer, penance, and almsgiving in preparation for Easter, but it's never been a holy day of obligation. An obligatory holy day like the Ascension can be transferred to a Sunday, "the primordial holy day of obligation" in the universal Church, only by the national conferences of bishops "with the prior approval of the Apostolic See" (*Code of Canon Law*, 1246).

BYRON MILLER, CSSR | sundaybulletins@liguori.org

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Monday

February 20

Weekday



Jas 3:13–18 • Mk 9:14–29

Tuesday

February 21

Weekday



Jas 4:1–10 • Mk 9:30–37

Wednesday

February 22

Ash Wednesday



Jl 2:12–18

2 Cor 5:20—6:2

Mt 6:1–6, 16–18

Thursday

February 23

Lenten Weekday



Dt 30:15–20 • Lk 9:22–25

Friday

February 24

Lenten Weekday



Is 58:1–9a

Mt 9:14–15

Saturday

February 25

Lenten Weekday



Is 58:9b–14

Lk 5:27–32

Sunday

February 26

First Sunday of Lent



Gn 9:8–15

1 Pt 3:18–22

Mk 1:12–15

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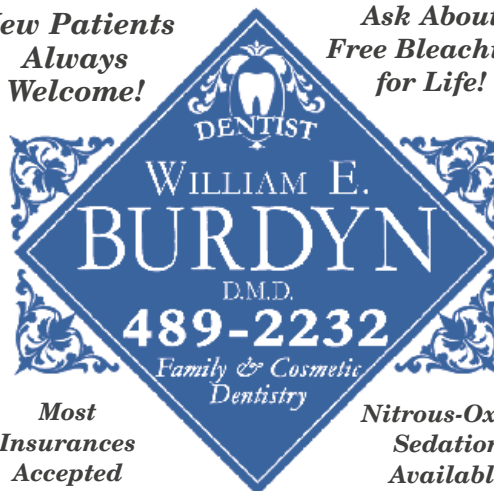
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