

Our Lady of the Visitation Catholic Church

Our Mission: To Proclaim the Kingdom of God for the Salvation of Souls

Sunday, December 12, 2021

305 N. Prince St.
Shippensburg, PA 17257-1321
www.olvshippensburg.org

You Tube-Shippensburg Catholic

Church(717) 532-2912
Campus(717) 477-1244
Fax.....(717) 532-3905

Office Hours

Monday-Thursday9:00 am—4:00 pm

Pastor and Campus Minister

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Donna Bonitz
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Knights of Columbus

Mike Connor
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Greeter Ministry

John Thornton
johnnie7746@gmail.com(508) 868-5640

Weekend Masses

Saturday 5:00 pm
Sunday 8:00 am and 11:00 am

Daily Mass

Tuesday, Thursday & Friday 8:30 am
Wednesday6:30 pm
First Saturday of the Month 9:00 am

Reconciliation

Saturdays 3:30 pm – 4:30 pm
First Friday of the Month 7:30 am – 8:20 am
First Saturday of the Month 8:00 am – 8:45 am

Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament

First Friday of the Month 7:30 am – 8:30 am

Religious Education

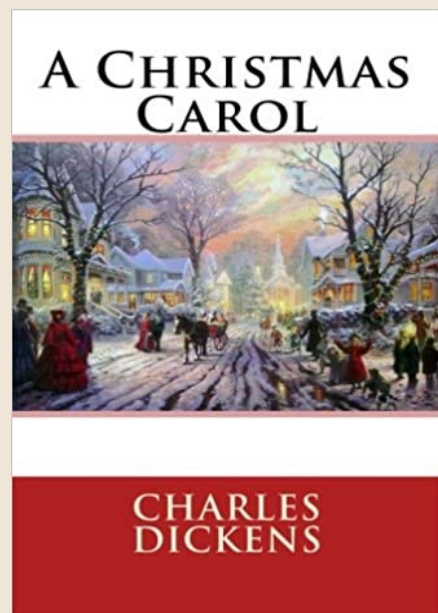
Sundays 9:30 am – 10:45am



BOOK OF THE MONTH
NOVEMBER & DECEMBER

For the months of November and December, we will be switching lanes a bit and reading a somewhat well-known fiction novel *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens! You may remember the basic story or the movie illustrations of this Christmas classic, but we will be especially reflecting on the spiritual reflections, significance, and depth found in this story. It is a very short book overall, so I encourage you to take your time when reading it and think about how different interactions between the characters

might lead to a greater understanding or perspective of how we are currently living our relationship with God or with others. Of course, this is an enjoyable read as well based on Dicken's style and the flow of the story, even though it is a bit more serious of a novel than, for example, the Muppets movie illustration. Just one practical note: **any version you purchase** should work well, so you don't have to purchase the same exact version as shown in our picture. We will be discussing this book on Wednesday, January 5th at 7:00 pm in the social hall, and I hope you will consider joining us! God Bless you.



Saturday, December 11

8:00pm In Memory of Robert Francis Benhart

Sunday, December 12

8:00am People of the Parish

11:00am In Memory of Janice Illo

Tuesday, December 14

8:30am Intentions of Tara Porter

Wednesday, December 15

6:30pm In Memory of Father Gerry Lytle

Thursday, December 16

8:30am In Memory of Father Tom Hemler

Friday, December 17

8:30am Intentions of Father John Doyle

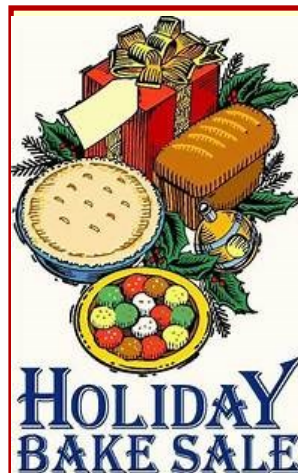
Saturday, December 18

5:00pm In Memory of James Johnson

Sunday, December 19

8:00am In Memory of the Stewart & Gelas Family

11:00am People of the Parish



CALLING ALL BAKERS & CRAFTERS!

The Ladies Auxiliary bake sale will be held next weekend, Dec. 18th and 19th after all Masses in the lobby of the church! If you would like to donate any baked goods, holiday plates or crafts that you've made, please bring them to the Social Hall kitchen on Friday, Dec. 17th at 5:00. Mark your calendars for this event! Please contact Ana at 717-532-2250 for more info.



Congratulations to Rachel DeFlumeri & Dr. Andy Carey who will be received into full communion with the Catholic Church on Sunday, December 12th at the 11am Mass!! We pray that the Spirit of God will continue to guide and strengthen them as they move forward with their spiritual journey.



The Corpus Christi Knights of Columbus is generously sponsoring a Deluxe Chartered Bus for us to travel to the March for Life in

Washington, DC on Friday, Jan. 21st, 2021. This is a free event, we only ask for your ongoing prayers for the protection of unborn babies. Please consider attending. We never know how our presence and prayers can positively influence those observing. If you wish to attend with us, please e-mail me back with your name, e-mail address and phone # of the phone you will be using in Washington (in case we get separated) Please bring your own snacks, food and beverages for the day. Jean Griffith (717) 360-6620 mugs60@hotmail.com

Stayed tuned for future details because we will also be having probably Mass, adoration, and a viewing of the March for Life on Jan. 21st here at our parish. We'll let you know!!

WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS WEEK!

Saturday, Dec. 11th—"Youth Ministry" 6-8pm - (Grade 6-12)

Please meet in the social hall. Please bring a friend!

Wednesday, Dec. 15th—"Adoration" 9am -6:30pm

"Confession" 5:30pm-6:20pm, "Penance Service" 7:00pm

Saturday, Dec. 18th—Run with a Priest" (or bike, or walk).

Meet outside of the social hall entrance at 10am

Sunday, Dec. 19th—Religious Ed. Christmas Program 10am

Sat. Dec. 18th & Dec. 19th—Ladies Aux. Bake Sale after all the Masses this weekend.



Join us for...

Ladies Bible Study

Walking with Purpose Women's Bible Study is coming to OLV!!

This 6 week Bible Study is for any woman who wants to let God reshape how you see and

experience intentional relationships, heal past friendship wounds, and cultivate lasting bonds.

When: Beginning January 2022—Tuesdays, 7-8:30 pm

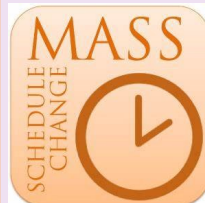
Where: Mary's Kitchen

How: Please sign up in the lobby of the Church

Cost: \$20 + S & H (book purchased through Walking with Purpose)

<https://shop.walkingwithpurpose.com/collections/study-guides/products/reclaiming-friendship-bible-study>. Books are presently backordered. If you sign-up for the study now or know you plan to attend, order your book now so it arrives in time for the study.

The first two lessons are available for download on the site in case your book does not arrive in time for the first study date.

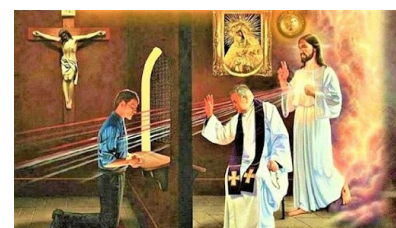


Daily Mass Change and Advent Adoration on Wednesdays!

We have moved our Wednesday daily mass from the old time of 8:30 am to an evening mass at 6:30 pm. This will allow people who work or also any students to more easily attend

at least one daily mass during the week. Morning Prayer will be at 8:30 am Wednesday mornings. Fr. Ben will also hear confessions from 5:30—6:20 pm on Wednesdays!

In addition, during the Advent season this year, we are going to try to have adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on Wednesdays from 9:00 am—6:30 pm, as well as from 7:00—8:00 pm after the daily mass in the evening. This will simply take place in the main church, and I invite you to sign up for 30 min time slots in the back of the church! Come and experience Christ's love in silent prayer before the Eucharist!!



On **Wednesday, December 15th at 7:00 pm** in the Main Church, we will be celebrating our **Advent Penance Service**. After a very short prayer service, there will be six total priests (including Fr. Ben) helping out to hear Confessions. There is nothing better than experiencing Christ's mercy in the Sacrament of Confession! Guides for Examinations of Conscience and the prayers will also be provided when you arrive.



The gift sharing Angel Tree in the church lobby is for anyone who would like to purchase gifts for needy children in our area. We have a large number of families with children that need help with Christmas. Information regarding age, gender, sizes, and gift ideas are on the angels. Please bring your WRAPPED GIFTS WITH ANGELS ATTACHED SECURELY to church and put them near the tree. Gifts may be placed in the church lobby anytime, but must be received by 12 noon on Sunday, December 19, so they can be delivered that day. HELP WILL ALSO BE NEEDED ON December 19 at 12 noon to sort and deliver gifts. If you have any questions or would like to help sort and deliver gifts, contact Bob or Sue Kiley at 717-423-6297.



Knights of Columbus & The Ladies Auxiliary

The next KOC meeting will be Thursday, January 6th at 7pm in the parish hall.

For more information contact Mike Connor at mconnor2001@gmail.com or 717-530-5165.

The next Ladies Aux. meeting will be Tuesday, January 4th at 7pm in the parish hall.

For more information regarding the Ladies Aux. contact Donna Bonitz at 717-860-4909 or ddbbonitz@gmail.com.

December 4-5, 2021

Weekend Collection:	\$4,709.00
Building Improvements:	345.00
Parish Youth Education:	95.00
Social Outreach:	240.00
Votives/Donuts	48.55
Matthew 25:	100.00
Christmas Flowers:	740.00
Immaculate Conception:	135.00
Retirement for Religious:	115.00
Solemnity of Mary:	20.00
Christmas	135.00
TOTAL INCOME:	\$6,682.55

Online giving made easy! Please visit the following link:

<https://olvshippensburg.weshareonline.org>

Holy Day or Holiday?!

Understanding Holy Days of Obligation in the Catholic Church

In light of this current holiday season, where most of our nation greatly enjoyed Thanksgiving and is already looking forward to Christmas and New Years , I wanted to write a quick article both explaining the idea of Holy Days of Obligation in our Catholic Faith as well as try to clear up any confusion about this year's upcoming Mass schedule! Now there are many Catholics who are very familiar with the idea of ***Holy Days of Obligation***, but this is meant to be so much more than just another day that Catholics are required to come to Mass (even though the requirement is real!...more on that in a bit). The origin of the word *holiday* comes from the Old English word *haligdaeg* (*halig* = holy, *daeg* = day) or Holy Day. When most of our nation in the U.S.A. hears that it will be a holiday weekend, our first thought is very commonly to think about a big party or a some sort of fun event or get-away that we can enjoy. **This celebration is not a bad thing, but traditionally any *haligdaegs* in the Catholic Faith would be celebrated with the same enthusiasm while also incorporating God and the church family as a part of this celebration.** This is because *halidaegs* were always an extension of the central Holy-Day in our faith, Sunday, the Lord's Day, and the New Sabbath Day, the Day of Resurrection! From the very beginning of the Church, Jesus' Last Supper meal was understood as a fulfillment of both the Jewish Passover and the Jewish Sabbath. Therefore, our new Passover, Easter Sunday, when Jesus rose from the dead, also became our new Sabbath, the Sunday Eucharist or Sunday Mass. In other words, every Sunday is meant to be a celebration of Easter and Jesus' Resurrection. Holy Days were simply an additional extension of this celebration, and they can end up either on particular days of the week (like the Ascension of Jesus, which is on Thursday after the 6th Sunday of Easter) or particular days of the year (such as December 8th and the Immaculate Conception of Mary). Overall, the main point is that, yes, we are following the commandment to keep holy the Sabbath Day (and ultimately most weeks, the minimum requirement is to spend 1 hr in praise and worship of God...not bad considering His love and life will make us happy and fulfilled for eternity!), but we are also called on by the Church to celebrate Jesus' Resurrection and our salvation on 6 other days during the year. These are the six Holy Days of Obligation, but they should really be thought of as the Holy Days of Celebration! Here is a calendar to help you!

- | | |
|---|--|
| • January 1 – Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God | • November 1 – All Saints' Day |
| • The Ascension of Our Lord – Observed on the Thursday after the sixth Sunday of Easter | • December 8 – The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary (2021—6:30 pm Dec. 7th, 8:30 am & 6:30 pm) |
| • August 15 – The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary | • December 25 – Christmas, The Nativity of Our Lord |

Now the Catholic Church understands that we no longer live in a Catholic culture, which might give days off work for these Holy Days, and the Church is trying its best to help those that are heavily burdened by true busyness. Therefore, in the U.S. three of these six days, **Jan. 1, Aug. 15, and Nov. 1**, are not official requirements **when they fall on a Saturday or a Monday** (but the faithful are still encouraged to come to Mass and to celebrate!). However, December 8th and December 25th are always Holy Days of Obligation even on Saturdays and Mondays, which brings us to this year's Mass schedule at OLV, which is bit confusing due to the Saturdays. Long story short, here is how you fulfill the obligation this year (**come Dec. 8th!**):

- **FIRST**— Attend one Christmas Mass; Dec. 24th & 25th (5pm, 8pm, midnight {all Friday night}, or 10am Sat.),
- **SECOND**— Attend one Mass on Holy Family Sunday; Dec. 26th (8am, 11 am, or 1 pm....Christmas is too important, so we can't do a Sat. vigil; this is why I added a 1:00 pm Sunday Mass this year),
- **THIRD**— Attend one Mass on Epiphany Sunday; Jan 1st & 2nd (5pm Sat, or, 8am or 11 am Sun).
 - January 1st the feast of Mary is on a Sat., so it is not an official requirement this year, but please come if you can!!

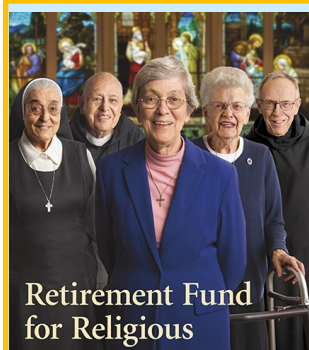
God Bless you, and take care. - Fr. Ben (*if you'd like even more practical details and background, just ask!*)



Catholic Charities Come and See Appeal

Because of the continuing challenges with the coronavirus pandemic, there will not be an in-person Catholic

Charities Come and See Dinner this year. However, your support of this appeal is still very much needed. Donations to the Come and See Appeal raise important financial support for the Catholic Charities Homes for Healing - Evergreen House (for women recovering from addiction), Interfaith Shelter for Homeless Families, and Lourdeshouse Maternity Home. Secured online contributions can be made via the www.cchbg.org website. For more information, contact Christopher Meehan, Catholic Charities Director of Development, at cmeehan@cchbg.org or 717-657-4804 ext 284. Thank you for your consideration and generosity!



Help aging religious.

Elderly Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests have offered their lives in service to others—educating the young, comforting the sick, and ministering to the less fortunate. Today, many are frail and need assistance. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious helps furnish medications, nursing care, and more.

Retirement Fund for Religious



Donations Needed for Interfaith Shelter for Homeless Families

Interfaith Shelter for Homeless Families (a Catholic Charities residential

program in suburban Harrisburg) is in need of laundry detergent, disposable masks, body/hand lotion, conditioner, and copy paper. Donations can be placed in the box in the back of the church. Thank you for your generosity!

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: Christ's Heart Exposed for us

Every Wednesday during this Advent Season, we are trying out something very close to my heart and my conversion, which is to have all day Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. There was an adoration chapel open 24/7 on my college campus, and I powerfully experienced Jesus' love many times in the silence of that chapel while praying before the Eucharist exposed before me in the beautiful monstrance. We have our very own monstrance, and I'd really like to encourage each of every one of you to come and to pray in silence before our Lord in this way.

The climax of the Mass every Sunday is when the priest says the prayers of consecration, and it is Jesus Christ Himself who says those words and also transforms the bread and wine into His very own Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity for our sake. This Eucharist, Jesus' real presence among us, is also reserved in our Tabernacle every day of the year. During Adoration, the Eucharist is exposed to us in a particular way, and His Divine Love has a powerful opportunity to speak into our lives and our hearts if we place ourselves before Him. Please consider either signing up for a half-hour slot or more, or at least stopping in one Wednesday this Advent in order to place yourself before His presence and His love. God Bless you. - Fr. Ben.



Shippensburg Community Resource Coalition

AmeriCorps VISTA, an organization on campus has asked our parish to be part of the Hounds Pack. Hounds Pack sends a backpack of food home for the weekend for needy families. Last year they provided over 100 packs each week. We are being asked to supply ONLY child friendly canned soups like chicken noodle and tomato, although they will accept any canned soups. There will be a container back by the confessional, next to the food bank container. They also can use volunteer help. It is usually one or two days a week for about 1-1/2 hours. Any questions, please call Bobbi Staver 717-816-5309. Thank you for your generosity.



Today... I Choose to Rejoice!

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Philippians 4:4

Do you rejoice in the Lord? Is He asking you to consider a vocation as a priest or deacon?

Call Father Jonathan Sawicki (717) 657-4804, or write: jsawicki@hbgdiocese.org.



SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Please join us on Sunday, December 19th for our Religious Education Christmas Program. The program will start at 10:00am in the church. Our students will present to you the story of the first Advent & Christmas.

You won't want to miss it!