

Our Lady of the Visitation Catholic Church

305 N. Prince St. Shippensburg, PA 17257-1321
Pastor and Campus Minister—Rev. Ben Dunkelberger—frbdunkelberger@hbgdiocese.org

Weekend Masses: Saturday 5 pm, Sunday 8 :00 am and 11:00 am
Daily Mass: Tuesday, Thursday & Friday 8:30 am, Wednesday 6:30 pm
First Saturday of the Month..9:00 am

(Only During the College Fall and Spring semesters: Weekday Mass: Mon. 9PM & every Sat. 9AM)

Epiphany of the Lord

January 5, 2025



*Where is the newborn king of the Jews?
We saw his star at its rising
and have come to do him homage.*

Matthew 2:2

© Diocesan

Rosary:

Tuesday—Friday 8:00am

Morning Prayer:

Wednesday..... 8:30am

Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament:

1st Fri. of the Month...

7:30am –8:20 am

Fridays.....9:00am—7:00 pm

Wednesdays...5:30pm-6:20pm

Reconciliation

Saturdays.....3:30– 4:30 pm

Wednesdays.....5:30- 6:20 pm

1st Fri. of the Month....

7:30–8:20 am

1st Sat. of the Month....

8:00–8:45 am

*(Only During the College Fall and Spring semesters: **Sacrament of***

Penance: Mon. 8:30PM- 8:50PM & every Sat. 8-8:50AM)

“We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage.”



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GOING DEEPER – Understanding Active Participation -

The Catholic Mass is not about me! (*It's communal; it is in giving that we receive*)

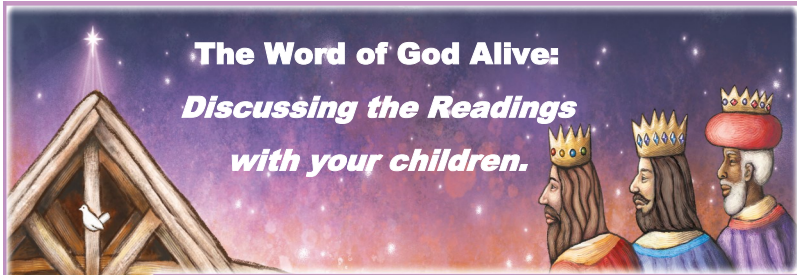
As we come to the last bulletin article of this series on understanding the Catholic Mass (inspired by the 3-year Eucharistic Revival of the Catholic Church in the U.S.A.), the last article is quite fittingly about how the Mass is always communal, which means that it is not about YOU! It is certainly not about me! And that is something each and everyone of us should say when we come through the door of the church every single weekend; “Lord, help me remember that my attendance and my participation during this Mass is NOT ABOUT ME, but rather, it is about others.” It is about what we can give rather than about what we can get. What can you give to God? What can you give to other people through God’s grace? Those are the most important questions when we come to Mass.

All of us have grown up in a very individualistic world where most of our lives are naturally focused on our own wants, needs, desires, dreams, and hopes. Most of us are not horrible, terrible people in this sense, but we do need to check ourselves very dramatically at times to ask God, “how can I make my life more about YOU and less about me?” Mass is a perfect example of this problem and the potential solution that God offers to us. When a lot of people come to Mass, we all tend to focus on what part of this worship or celebration could be better to allow me to have a better experience? For example, we might say, “I wish the music would be better in this way or in that way,” or we might say, “I wish the temperature was more comfortable” or “I wish the preaching was better” or “I wish these people didn’t distract me so much!” or “I wish the church had more decorations in this way or in that way.” The list truly goes on and on forever. The point I’m trying to make here, is that yes, of course, all of us should be striving to make every Catholic Mass as beautiful, and as devout, and as prayerful, and as insightful, and as peaceful as possible. However, our mindset should be focused on two things – what can I actually control? And more importantly, what can I do for God and for other people when I’m here?!

When people ask me, as a Catholic priest, a question about, “why does the Catholic Church still believe that Catholics need to be at Mass every single Sunday?” (***other than health or weather emergencies*), I usually begin with this exact point. Yes, it is true that “Keep Holy the Sabbath Day” is a commandment and is referring to attending Mass each and every Sunday, but on a very personal level, I usually appeal to this aspect of our faith where we are focused on giving to others rather than just getting for ourselves. If God is going to bring us to be with Him in heaven forever, and we are going to be perfectly happy and fulfilled forever in simply being with God and loving Him and worshipping Him in that sense, THEN wouldn’t it make sense that at least once a week, we come to give Him that love and that worship and that glory that He deserves? And to give to others as far as the Body of Christ around the world as well as our local part of the Church, at least once a week? **The beauty of this truth is that when we give to God what He deserves, then God returns what we try our best to give back in an overflowing gift to us of His grace and His very Divine Life. When we make the Mass NOT about ourselves, then we can finally begin to receive that God is primary actor in our hearts at Mass.** God is the primary actor in our souls when we hear the Scripture readings and the homily. God is the primary actor in our minds when we sing, or pray, or worship Him. When we pray for the people sitting near us or try to say hi to them and meet them after Mass is over, when we pray for the church and the entire world throughout the Mass, and when we offer our entire lives to God as a sacrificial prayer, THEN we can realize that God is trying to break through our hardened hearts and give us His peace, His joy, and His grace. May we thank God that He calls us at least once a week to make something NOT about ourselves, and may we thank Him to loving us so much at the Catholic Mass, that our reception of His Word, Jesus Christ, can transform us and change us from the inside out to worship God in all that we do and all that are throughout our lives as we prepare for heaven.

Catholic Kid's Corner

"Let the little children come to me." Mt. 9:14



Today we celebrate the feast of Epiphany. Epiphany means manifestation or a sign of God's presence. When we have an epiphany, we understand or see something from a new perspective.

What do we celebrate on Epiphany?

Who are the Magi?

You may think of the Magi as the Three Kings, but the Gospel never mentions kings. The Magi were probably scholars, or wise men, who studied stars. The likely served a king who counted on them for information and predictions.

How many Magi were there?

The Gospel does not tell us how many. Most nativity scenes have three magi. This idea came from the fact the three gifts were offered to the baby Jesus.

The Magi regularly studied the stars. This time, the extraordinary star they saw in the sky caused them to leave home and follow the star. The star settled over the place where Jesus was born. The Magi were strangers, people from another country, yet Mary and Joseph welcomed them. The Magi honored Jesus and offered gifts to him.

Like Mary and Joseph, we can share Jesus with others. We do this both by words and actions. We can share stories about Jesus. We share Jesus when we are kind, generous, loving and welcoming. You could be like the star the Magi followed and lead others to Jesus.

Living or Faith: Do two things this week to share Jesus with others.

Epiphany of the Lord

The Epiphany of the Lord

O	T	R	E	A	S	U	R	E	S	K
X	Q	A	Z	J	L	G	F	C	U	O
I	N	Q	U	I	R	E	I	W	Z	A
I	N	U	N	Q	X	G	R	T	S	P
D	C	V	Q	P	A	G	L	T	P	R
R	U	S	X	M	H	E	R	O	D	O
E	S	N	E	W	B	O	R	N	O	P
A	O	V	E	R	J	O	Y	E	D	H
M	S	S	H	E	P	H	E	R	D	E
H	O	M	A	G	E	B	R	Z	P	T
M	J	O	P	U	N	F	C	U	I	J

Magi Newborn Homage Inquire Prophet
Herod Shepherd Overjoyed Treasures Dream

Epiphany, Mt 2:1-12

Three wise men were searching for Jesus. They traveled from very far away to meet him. They followed a star and finally found him in Bethlehem. They adored him and gave him special gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. **What gift would you like to give to Jesus this year?**

Epiphany



Shippensburg Community Resource Coalition

Christ Among Neighbors (CAN): CAN has been helping Shippensburg residents with emergency financial needs for over 20 years. Volunteers are needed on Wednesday afternoon or Saturday morning. Visit our website or call us to learn more. Suzanne Hildabrand 717-377-8316; www.christamongneighbors.com.

Hound Packs: We will continue to collect only soup. **Please place the soup only in the food bank container outside of the confessional.**

Shippensburg Produce Outreach (SPO): SPO is in need of helpers on Tuesdays. **We are no longer collecting egg cartons.** SPO is located on South Penn St in building next to the Lutheran Church.

Thanks for your support in these missions for the community. Any questions call or text Bobbi Staver 717-816-5309

In all dioceses of the United States, January 22 (or January 23, when January 22 falls on a Sunday) is to be observed as a particular day of prayer for the full restoration of the legal guarantee of the right to life and of penance for violations to the dignity of the human person committed through acts of abortion.



A time of Eucharistic Adoration will be offered on Wednesday, January 22, 2025, at the Cathedral of Saint Patrick (212 State St., Harrisburg). This is an opportunity to pray for an end to abortion and for the dignity and sanctity of human life. The schedule is:

12:00 pm - Holy Mass with Exposition
 12:30-5:30 pm - Eucharistic Adoration
 5:30 pm – Benediction

All are invited to spend time with Jesus Christ in Eucharistic Adoration. Please consider signing up for one-hour (or more) at: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0A4BADAC29A2FECF8-53120974-eucharistic>

For questions or to sign up via email, please contact Marianne Weltmer at mweltmer@hbgdiocese.org or 717-657-4804, ext. 322. Thank you.

AN INVITATION TO COME AND SEE



Interested in Becoming Catholic ?

Please join us for the next RCIA meeting on **Tuesday, January 7th** from 7pm-8:15pm in the social hall.

All are welcome to attend!

Fr. Mike Schmitz

A World UNDONE



Finding God When Life Doesn't Make Sense

Book of the Month

November and December 2024

Everyone is invited (even if you didn't read the book) to come to our discussion meeting, which will be held on **Wednesday, January 8th from 7:30 – 8:30 pm** in the social hall. I will do my best to summarize my favorite parts and try to help everyone engage in some good discussion into the room as well. Thank you again, and God Bless

Ushers & Greeters Ministry

Helping You Make The Connection

If you are interested in being an Usher please contact Joe Cretella at pjcretella1@gmail.com or call (717) 377-1480.

For anyone interested in becoming a Greeter please email John Thornton at johnnie7746@gmail.com or call (508) 868-5640

Please join us for our next coffee hour on Sun. Jan. 5th in Mary's Kitchen after the 8am Mass. If you would like to host coffee hour please sign up in the lobby of the church. Thank you.



Dec.21-22, 2024 (in pew)

Weekend Collection:	\$2,998.00
Building Improvements:	\$140.00
Christmas:	\$140.00
Parish Youth Education:	\$152.00
Social Outreach:	\$5.00
Immaculate Conception:	\$20.00
Votives/Donut Hour	\$64.00
TOTAL INCOME:	\$3,519.00



If you would like to give to the Sunday collection online either with an individual gift or with a recurring donation of your choice, please visit olvshippensburg.weshareonline.org.

HOMEBOUND MINISTRY

If you or someone you know would like a visit from our Homebound Ministry team please contact John Bonitz at jbonitz@comcast.net or call (717) 262-3614



Knights of Columbus & The Ladies Auxiliary



The next KofC meeting is **Thursday, February 6th at 7 pm** in the parish hall. Please see Pat Shay at 732--319-6132 for more information on the KOC.

The next Ladies Auxiliary meeting is **Wednesday, February 5th at 2pm** in the social hall.

For more info. on the Ladies Aux. please contact Donna Bonitz at 717-860-4909 or ddbonitz@gmail.com.



All students in grades 6-12 are invited to our next Youth Group Meeting on **Saturday January 11th from 6-8pm** in the social hall. **Bring your friends!**

The next potluck will be **Sunday Jan. 19th**

Potluck Sunday

Following the
11am Mass.

Please bring own place settings and a dish to share. Water, juice & coffee will be provided.



Run with a Priest! (...or walk or bike!)

Every 1st & 3rd Saturday we will meet outside the social hall around 9:45am. Take a short run (walk or bike) on the Rails to Trails.



For All Men 18 Years or Older
SCHEDULE:

7:00am Breakfast
7:30am Presentation (Video)
8:00am Small Group
8:30am Closing Prayer and Dismissal

Next meeting will be **Sat. Jan. 11th** in the social hall.



The next choir practice will be **Wednesday, January 8th** from 7:15pm-9pm.

Mass Intentions

Saturday, 9:00am 5:00pm	January 4 Special Intentions People of the Parish
Sunday, 8:00am 11:00am	January 5 In Memory of the Stewart-Gelas Family In Memory of Edna Spisak
Monday, 9:00pm	January 6 NO MASS OR CONFESSION
Tuesday, 8:30am	January 7 Intentions of Father Ben Dunkelberger
Wednesday, 6:30pm	January 8 In Memory of Dolores Stern
Thursday, 8:30am	January 9 In Memory of Robert Solder Sr.
Friday, 8:30am	January 10 Intentions of Pat Emmons
Saturday, 9:00am 5:00pm	January 11 NO MASS OF CONFESSION People of the Parish
Sunday, 8:00am 11:00am	January 12 Intentions of Victoria Scalavino In Memory of Joseph A. Klimek



The flowers at the tabernacle are placed in Memory of Ed Huffner.



You may sign up for a weekend to have flowers placed at the tabernacle in honor or in memory of someone. The flowers cost 40.00. The flowers will be ordered and delivered from Fishers Florist. The sign up sheet is in the lobby of the church. Envelopes are provided near the sign up sheet for payment that you may put in the collection bin. Please contact Sue German at 717-816-0552 with questions.



All are welcome to join us in the social hall after the 8:30am Mass on Thursday mornings.



If you would like to be part of a prayer group to help the Poor Souls in Purgatory through prayer, please call Michelle at 717-552-7252.