

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)

December 22, 2024



V. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.

*R. That we may be made worthy
of the promises of Christ.*

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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)*

**LORD, MAKE US TURN
TO YOU;
LET US SEE YOUR FACE
AND WE SHALL
BE SAVED.**

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Office Hours Monday-Thursday 9:00 am—4:00 pm Closed Holy Days & Holidays

GOING DEEPER – Understanding Active Participation -

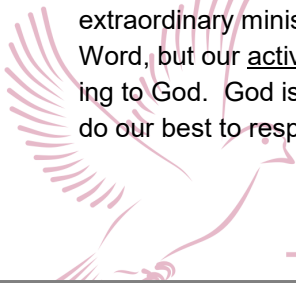
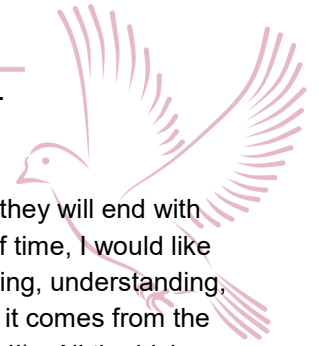
The Catholic Mass SPEAKS...Do we listen?

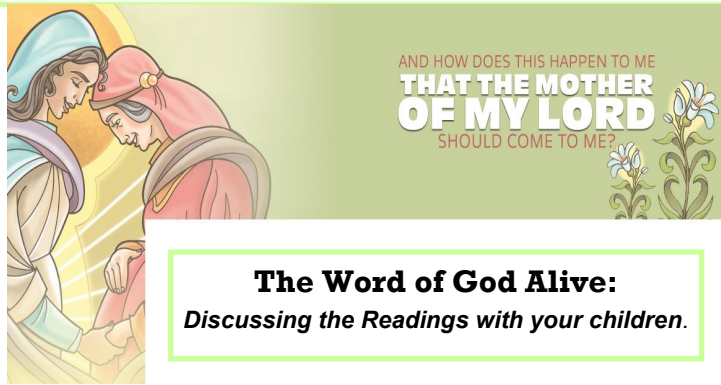
I'm going to write up at least 5 more bulletin articles on the Catholic Mass, and they will end with the January 4th and 5th weekend. After over 50 different articles over the last year plus of time, I would like to simply encourage you all with what I think is the most important concept for approaching, understanding, and participating in the Catholic Mass. This concept is called **active participation**, and it comes from the ecumenical council in the 1960s, which was called the Second Vatican Council (Vatican II). All the bishops of world met for a few years in the early 1960s in order to try to help the entire Catholic Church live the faith to the fullest in the midst of the modern world. This council was not about doctrinal changes (*long story short, but that is not possible*), but rather a pastoral approach to help everyone around the world live this true faith and follow Christ in the fullest possible way. One visible aspect of the Catholic Church that was modified during this council was the language and ritual flow of the Catholic Mass. Instead of every Mass being in the Latin language, now the Catholic Mass was celebrated in the local language of the area. Once again, long story short, but many prayers and symbols were modified or reduced in a certain sense, but there are still so many symbols, actions, and prayers that come from the early Catholic church and throughout the ages of living and understanding Jesus present with us at this most solemn celebration.

My encouragement for you today in trying to live **active participation** when you come to Mass, is simply based off the words from the one of the central documents from Vatican II. The Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy document teaches that all people *"through a good understanding of the rites and prayers they should take part in the sacred action conscious of what they are doing, with devotion and full collaboration"* (par. 48). Immediately after this sentence in this document, the church explains that full collaboration does not mean DOING MORE THINGS at Mass. Rather, this is primarily an internal collaboration with God's word in Scripture as well as the very love and sacrifice of Jesus for us that becomes present in Holy Communion. The entire purpose of the Mass is for all people to **"be drawn day by day into ever more perfect union with God"** (par. 48).

In other words, God is showing up at every single Catholic Mass in a very powerful way. God speaks at Mass, and if we try our best to listen internally to His Word, we will grow in our relationship with God and this *every more perfect union* with God that He desires for us. God wants to speak HIS WORD into your heart. Sometimes He will speak through His Word in the Bible (*hopefully the priest is helping to foster this encounter with God's word during His homily*). Sometimes God will speak through the prayers of the Mass. Sometimes through the symbols, movements, smells, or sounds {more on this at the Christmas bulletin article!}. Sometimes God will speak powerfully through the reception of Holy Communion. God shows up every single time at each Catholic Mass, and our job is to actively participate from our hearts and souls with His Word.

Therefore, if someone asks you, do you **actively participate** at Mass? The wrong answer would be --- well, I only actively participate when I help out by lecturing, or ushering, or singing, or as an extraordinary minister. No!! Of course, those ministries are beautiful ways to help others encounter God's Word, but our active participation is primarily about our internal listening and our internal prayer and offering to God. God is speaking every single Mass. Our job is simply to try to listen. To receive. And then to do our best to respond with our hearts and then how we live out our day-to-day lives.





The Word of God Alive:
Discussing the Readings with your children.

Today's Gospel from Luke, begins with the story about Elizabeth and Zechariah. They do not have any children and are now too old to have any. An angel appears to Zechariah and tells him that his prayers have been answered and that he and Elizabeth are going to have a son. The angel explains that the son's name will be John.

About six months later, an angel appears to Mary and announces that she will give birth to a child and his name will be Jesus. Jesus will be the son of God. Then the angel shares with Mary that Elizabeth is also expecting a child. Mary trusts God and says yes to God's plan.

This is where the Gospel we hear today begins. After discovering that she is going to be a mother of the Son of God, Mary hurries to visit her cousin Elizabeth. The moment that Elizabeth greets Mary, the baby in her womb leaps for joy and she is filled with the Holy Spirit. When Mary sees that her cousin is pregnant as the angel told her, Mary knows that the angel was truthful, and that God's plan will be fulfilled.

God also gives us the gift of his son. Like Mary, we can trust that God will give us what we need. It might be courage, understanding, knowing right from wrong or another gift God knows we need.

Living our Faith: How will you welcome Jesus in your heart? How are you preparing for him to come?



Please join us on Monday, December 23rd to help decorate the church for Christmas. We will begin at 9am. Everyone is welcome! Please sign up in the lobby of the church.

Fr. Mike Schmitz

Book of the Month
November and December 2024

A World UNDONE

Finding God When Life Doesn't Make Sense

The Book of the Month for both November and December of 2024 will be ***A World UNDONE: Finding God When Life Doesn't Make Sense*** by Fr. Mike Schmitz. This book is definitely the shortest book we've ever had for Book of the Month here at Our Lady of the Visitation, but it should not be underestimated in value in its lowly 64 pages of length. Fr. Mike Schmitz, who has become very popular through his online YouTube videos and longer talks at retreats or conferences, delivers an insightful and meaning-filled little book that will not only make you think and pray, but packs a punch of raw honesty about our faith and the hard questions we need to grapple with every day. Please consider joining others in our parish in either reading this book over these two months as we approach the end of the Church year (the liturgical year) as well as during the beginning of the next Church year with Advent and heading into Christmas. You will have to purchase the book online yourself for these two months, and if you can't read it for any reason, please still 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 you.

THE SOLEMN INAUGURAL OPENING OF THE 2025 JUBILEE YEAR

DECEMBER 29, 2024 @ 3:00 PM

CATHEDRAL PARISH OF SAINT PATRICK
 HARRISBURG



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

Submit Your Recipes



Please submit a couple of your family favorite recipes for the 75th Anniversary cookbook, please put the category, your name and phone number. Please put the recipe in the box in the back of the church or submit to tiprecipe@yahoo.com. Please contact Tammy Polifka at polifka.t@yahoo.com for more info.

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

"I was sick and you visited me..."

—Matthew 25:36 NKJV

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

SUNDAY MORNING COFFEE

Please join us for our next coffee hour on Sun. Dec. 22nd in Mary's Kitchen after the 8am Mass.



THE LADIES AUXILIARY BAKE SALE IS TODAY IN THE LOBBY OF THE CHURCH AFTER ALL THE MASSES!

Fourth Sunday

"Behold, the virgin shall be with child and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means "God is with us."

Matthew 1:23



"Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled." (Luke 1:45)

Like Mary, you are called to trust in God's plan for your life. If you feel that God is asking you to serve as a priest or religious brother or sister, believe in His promise and follow with courage. Talk to your priest or reach out to Father Joshua Weaver, Vocation Director, at (717) 657-4804 or email him at frjweaver@hbgdiocese.org.



Altar Flowers

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.



Solemnity of Mary

Mass Times

December 31st
6:30pm

January 1st
8:30am & 8:00pm

Dec. 14-15 2024 (in pew)

Weekend Collection:	\$4,487.00
Building Improvements:	\$250.00
Christmas:	\$470.00
Parish Youth Education:	\$20.00
Social Outreach:	\$140.00
Christmas Flowers:	\$150.00
Immaculate Conception:	\$41.00
Retirement for Religious:	\$110.00
Votives/Donut Hour	\$34.50
TOTAL INCOME:	\$5,702.50



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.



Knights of Columbus & The Ladies Auxiliary



The next KofC meeting is **Thursday, January 2nd 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, January 8th 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.

CHURCH

Potluck

There will be no Potluck in December.

The next potluck will be January 19th

Immediately following the 11am Mass. Please bring a dish to share. Water, juice & coffee will be provided!

YOUTH GROUP News

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.

Feel free to invite your friends!!



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. **The next run will be Saturday Jan. 18th**



All are welcome to join us in the social hall after the 8:30am Mass on **Thursday mornings**. Join us for coffee, snacks, and good conversation.



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!



The next choir practice will be

Wednesday, January 8th
from 7:15pm-9pm.



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. 4th in the social hall.

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.

Mass Intentions

Saturday,
9:00am
5:00pm

Sunday,
8:00am
11:00am

Monday,
9:00pm

Tuesday,
5:00pm
8:00pm

Midnight
Wednesday,
10:00am

Thursday,
8:30am

Friday,
8:30am

Saturday,
9:00am
5:00pm

Sunday,
8:00am
11:00am

December 21

NO MASS OR CONFESSION

People of the Parish

December 22

In Memory of Thomas Sutch

In Memory of Levi Maciejewski

December 23

NO MASS

December 24

In Memory of Dolores Stern

People of the Parish

In Memory of the Dechene Family

December 25

In Memory of Ann & Vinny Scalavino

December 26

Intentions of the Rice Family

December 27

Intentions of the Sekula Family

December 28

NO MASS OR CONFESSION

Intentions of the Chronister Family

December 29

People of the Parish

In Memory of the Lutz Family

Christmas Masses



TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24TH

5:00PM, 8:00PM AND MIDNIGHT

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25TH

10:00AM



The flowers at the tabernacle are placed in memory of the Stewart-Gelas family



The 2025 National March for Life will take place on Friday, January 24, 2025, on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. Together we gather to celebrate life. More information can be found at <https://www.hbgdiocese.org/event/march-for-life/>.