

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)

Christ is Born



*For a child is born to us, a son is given to us; upon his shoulder dominion rests.
They name him Wonder-Counselor, God-Hero,
Father-Forever, Prince of Peace.*

Isaiah 9:5

Website-www.olvshippensburg.org **You Tube**- Shippensburg Catholic Church..(717) 532-2912 Campus..(717) 477-1244 Emergency..(717) 323-2679

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

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)

LET US
ADORE HIM
Christ the Lord

Parish Staff Contact Info.

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GOING DEEPER – Understanding Active Participation – The Bells, Smells, Movement & Symbols (*Do we worship w/everything we have?!*)

Merry Christmas!! On behalf of our entire parish here in Shippensburg, I want to wish everyone that comes to Our Lady of the Visitation Catholic Church (OLV) a blessed Christmas celebration. This bulletin article is based off of a series of articles I have written over this past year of time here at OLV, and it is because the Catholic Church in the United States of America has been in the midst of a Eucharistic Revival. We are in the middle of the 3rd year and final year of this revival, and over these last five bulletin articles (including the one from this past weekend), my goal is to summarize and emphasize what I think are the most important truths and approaches to understanding and getting the most out of the Catholic Mass. Last weekend, we really zoomed in on the concept of **active participation** and how it is primarily about our **internal listening** to God's word at Mass {rather than about us doing things or ministries at Mass}. The Church teaches this in part because the entire goal of every Catholic Mass (as well as the entire goal of our faith as followers of Christ) is to "**be drawn day by day into ever more perfect union with God**" (*Sacrosanctum Concilium* par. 48).

Today, my main encouragement for you all is to zoom out and try to understand the role of all the smells, sounds, visual symbols, movements, and mini rituals within the Catholic Mass. For example, at every single Catholic Sunday Mass, the faithful are supposed to technically bow during the recitation of the ancient Creed or Profession of Faith, and specifically just bow during the words about God becoming incarnate as a man on this earth. On Christmas, because this is the day when the world visibly sees Jesus for the first time outside of the womb of the blessed virgin Mary, we are actually asked to do more and instead to genuflect or bow on one knee during this prayer and part of the Creed. This might seem a bit strange to visitors, but *the entire purpose* of this genuflection is **to help us think and pray internally about this most amazing and beautiful truth and mystery of our faith**. If I am asked to move my body in a physical way, it can either distract me **OR** it can remind me to pray and talk to God internally about ...why are we doing this action? ...maybe the church is asking me to bring my knee to touch the physical ground, in order to awaken my heart, and to remember that the infinite God becoming a man in the person of Jesus Christ is an incredible act of love and humility for our sake!! God doesn't need to come to this earth. God doesn't need to come down out of heaven. He is perfectly happy already. Therefore, the physical movement is meant to help me think about and pray about the meaning of this great truth and God's love for me that is present right now in this moment and trying to break through our hardened hearts.

Overall, this one example is meant to help us realize that **all the symbols, visible images, sounds, smells, and movements** during each and every Catholic Mass have this same purpose. Every time we stand, sit, bow, or kneel; every time we smell incense or see the priests robes/vestments or see statues of saints, angels, or of Jesus the crucifix; every time we hit our chest in a three-fold instance; every time we do the sign of the cross or we cross our minds, lips, and hearts with our thumb before the Gospel; every time we hear the bells ringing or sing the music of the liturgy/Mass; every time we do any movement, see any visible symbol or image, hear any sound, smell any incense, or encounter any symbolic ritual in any way --- we can simply pause. Ask the question in our hearts – what is the deeper meaning? How is God speaking to me through this physical symbol? ...we can worship God with our physical bodies at every Catholic Mass, and all these symbols can lead me to hear His Word in my soul.





THE DIOCESE OF HARRISBURG



RAISE THE SAILS



AS OF 12/17/24
PLEGGED FOR 24-25

\$70,000



EVERY GIFT HELPS US
"RAISE THE SAILS"
SO WE CAN SEND
FOCUS ON MISSION AT
SHIPPENSBURG
UNIVERSITY

We did it! Thank you for helping us reach our 24'-25' fundraising goal!

Update for FOCUS at SHIP & our 25'-26' plans

First, we want to thank you for your support of this partnership with FOCUS on our campus. We have seen great fruits early on with 19 students actively involved in 1-1 mentorship (discipleship) with our missionaries as they learn to be leaders on campus. 7 Bible studies with 58 students participating (2 bible studies led by students). Then in January 2nd-5th we will bring 24 students from SHIP to a Catholic Conference called "SEEK25". We are so blessed by your prayers and financial giving. Thank you! Because of your great generosity we are able to get a head start on our fundraising for the next academic year. Currently we have raised just over \$10,000 toward our goal of \$70,000 for next year. We would love to share more about this wonderful initiative with you and have you join our mission partner team. Please prayerfully consider if God is inviting you to join our team financially or in prayer.

If you have any questions please speak with Fr. Ben or John Klarmann. (catholic@ship.edu / 717-477-1244)

HOW TO GIVE & HELP KEEP FOCUS TO SHIPPENSBURG UNIV.

✓ Checks can be addressed to **Diocese of Harrisburg with "Shippensburg FOCUS"** in memo*:
Office of CLEV
Diocese of Harrisburg
4800 Union Deposit Rd.
Harrisburg, PA 17111-3710

✓ Give online using QR code OR use the link below:

linktr.ee/ccm_ship



What is FOCUS?

FOCUS (Fellowship of Catholic University Students) is the leading global Catholic outreach organization for college students. FOCUS was founded in 1998 at Benedictine College by Curtis Martin.

Through bible studies, mentorships, conferences, mission trips, and partnerships with priests, bishops, and parishes, FOCUS missionaries walk alongside students in their faith journey, inspiring and equipping them for a lifetime of Christ-centered evangelization and discipleship.

FOCUS sends teams of missionaries (four on average) to encounter people in friendship, inviting them into a personal relationship with Christ and accompanying them as they pursue lives of virtue and excellence.

Please utilize the "Faith In Our Future" forms to submit your check. Checks with forms can be mailed to the diocese or dropped in the collection box at OLV.

Holy Day of Obligation



Solemnity of Mary
Mass Times
December 31st
6:30pm
January 1st
8:30am & 8:00pm

And the Word became flesh
and dwelt among us...

John 1:14

"The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us." (John 1:14) The birth of Jesus calls us to consider how we can bring His presence into the world. Could He be calling you to a vocation that brings the light of Christ to others? Talk to your priest or reach out to Father Joshua Weaver, Vocation Director, at (717) 657-4804 or email him at frjweaver@hbgdiocese.org.



Thank you to everyone who donated Christmas flowers this year.

The envelopes and personal dedications are placed by the Tabernacle to be remembered at all Masses this Christmas season.

AN INVITATION TO COME AND SEE



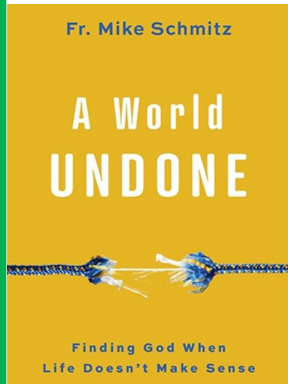
Becoming Catholic

A Journey of Faith

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!

Book of the Month— November & December



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. 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.




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**
Following the 11am Mass.

Potluck Sunday



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.