

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)



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*V. The Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary.
R. And she conceived of the Holy Spirit.*

*Hail Mary,
full of grace.
The Lord is with thee.*

December 1, 2024

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)

HOPE

Be vigilant at all times...

Lk 21:36

Parish Staff Contact Info.

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Music Ministry
Michael Adams
madams@hbgdiocese.org

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

The Mass During Advent – No Glory to God?...No Christmas Songs at Church?!

We have now come to the beginning of a new year in the Catholic Church as the first Sunday of Advent is always the first day of the new church year for Catholics. Happy New Year! The entire Church year is structured to follow a certain narrative flow and direction. We see this most clearly in the Scripture readings every Sunday as well as in the prayers at Mass on every Sunday as well.

For example, the entire Church year in a sense follows Jesus' life:

- First of all, the season of Advent is a four-week span of time before Christmas where we prepare for the *coming* of Jesus into the world when He is born on Christmas day (the Latin word *adventus* literally means *coming*).
- After Jesus is born, we celebrate his presentation in the Temple and his Baptism followed by a span of time (symbolizing him growing up and starting his public ministry) before we enter the Lenten season.
- Lent is a special time of preparation before the celebration of Easter, and it brings us into a deep reflection and experience of Jesus' suffering and death as well as His Resurrection from the dead on Easter day!
- We then celebrate his Resurrection for 50 days throughout the Easter season until he Ascends into heaven and sends the Holy Spirit down to earth to create the Church on this earth at the feast of Pentecost.
- The final stretch of time in the Church year (which we just finished through last summer and this fall... called *Ordinary Time*) is about living out the faith in the new reality of the Church and preparing for the end of our lives and the end of all things in Christ.

Therefore, to help us enter into this season of Advent, the Church does a couple practical things with the prayers at Mass as well as with other symbols and the specific choices for Sunday readings as well. For example, during Advent, you will notice that we do not sing the song towards the beginning of Mass that we normally sing every single weekend called *the Glory to God in the Highest*. This beautiful and ancient hymn is based off of a number of different moments in salvation history (and found in the Bible), but especially has a lot of parallels and just quotes from the events surrounding Jesus' miraculous birth into this world at Christmas. *Glory to God in the Highest* is what the angels are singing out in the fields surrounding the shepherds who are then inspired to go meet the newborn child Jesus, who is revealed to be the Christ or anointed King of God's chosen people. The Catholic Church asks us not to sing this joyful song at Mass during Advent *for the purpose* of helping us remember and better prepare for the joy of Jesus coming into the world at Christmas. What do we need to do in our lives to prepare to receive Jesus Christ more fully as our savior, our King, our friend, and our God?

One last question that I do get somewhat often around this time of year is in regard to Christmas songs during the Advent season and leading up to the celebration of Christmas. For example, "Fr. Ben, why can't we play our favorite Christmas songs when the radio stations have already been playing them for the last couple of weeks?! I really love those songs!!" That is a great question and a good desire, but it is missing the point of the entire Advent season. If you celebrate your birthday every single day of the year, most people will be bored of celebrating their birthday, and the actual day on which you were born will lose its meaning and significance. Singing joyful songs about the beauty and reality of Christmas, as far as about Jesus being born and giving all human beings hope of eternal life, should be a sacred event that needs to be preserved for a celebration type experience. If we deny ourselves, singing some joyful songs for a few weeks in order to help us prepare and reflect on the infinite God becoming man at Christmas, then we can even more fully and truly rejoice in CHRISTmas and rest in his love for us.

CALLING ALL BAKERS ...



The Ladies Auxiliary bake sale will be held the weekend of Dec. 21st & 22nd after all Masses in the church lobby!

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. 20th between 5:00pm 7:00pm. Please contact Ana at 717-532-2250 for more info.



The Word of God Alive:

Discussing the Readings with your children.

Happy New Year! Today, the Church begins a new liturgical year and a new liturgical season, Advent. The new liturgical year begins on the first Sunday of Advent, four Sundays before Christmas.

When you invite someone to your home, what do you do to get ready?

Advent is a time to get ready for Jesus' coming. Getting ready for Jesus involves preparing our hearts. We need to make room in our hearts and our lives for Jesus.

What can we do to make room in our lives and our hearts for Jesus?

We make room in our hearts and lives for Jesus when we pray, go to Mass, read our Bible and show love and kindness to people. When we live as followers of Jesus, we are more aware of Jesus' presence in our lives. Taking time to pray every day is like talking to your best friend. The more you talk to Jesus in prayer, the closer you will feel to him. In today's Gospel, Jesus warns, "Beware that your hearts do not become drowsy."

What does drowsy mean? How does your heart become drowsy?



Make time for Jesus

Jesus knows that we can become readily distracted from prayer and from living as followers of him. These weeks of Advent remind us that we need to have balance in our lives and make time for Jesus every day.

Living our Faith:

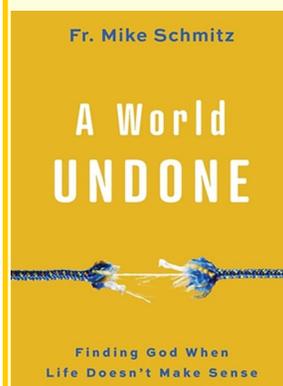
What is one thing you will do this week to make time for Jesus?

Parish Ministry Contact Info.

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Book of the Month

November and December 2024

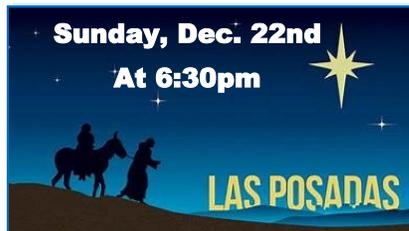


The Book of the Month for both November and December of 2024 will be ***A World UNDONE: Finding God When Life Doesn't Make Sense*** by Fr. Mike Schmitz. This book is definitely the shortest book we've ever had for Book of the Month here at Our Lady of the Visitation, but it should not be underestimated 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.

Sunday, Dec. 22nd

At 6:30pm



Las Posada is a celebration reenacting Joseph's search for an inn where Mary could give birth to baby Jesus! It includes a procession, song, refreshments and lots of happy fun. La Posada is being held at Our Lady of the Visitation on **Sunday, December 22nd beginning at 6:30pm.** Come and be a part of this wonderful tradition. This is a family activity. Please sign up in the back of church so we can prepare enough refreshments. Thank you!

STAY AWAKE

LUKE 21:36

"Be vigilant at all times and pray that you have the strength to escape the tribulations that are imminent and to stand before the Son of Man." (Luke 21:36) God calls us to be watchful and alert to His voice. Is He calling you to the priesthood or consecrated life? Be open and vigilant in prayer and talk to your priest or reach out to Father Joshua Weaver, Vocation Director, at (717) 657-4804 or email him at frjweaver@hbgdiocese.org.

Advent Penance Service

TUESDAY,
DECEMBER 10TH
STARTING AT 6:30PM

Prepare the way for the Lord

Christmas Party

Parish Christmas Party Dec. 15th!

All members of the parish are invited to attend the annual Parish Christmas Party on Sunday, **December 15th from 4:00-6:00 p.m.** in the church social hall. The event is an opportunity for all members of the parish community to gather for fellowship in anticipation of Christmas. The evening will include pizza and other snacks, crafts for the children, and a special visit from St. Nick. All children who attend will receive a gift and have an opportunity to have their picture with Santa. Bring your cameras!

All are welcome! There is a suggested donation of \$5 per family. Donations can be made at the event. In order to allow for food preparations, please RSVP via the sign up sheet in the back of the church, **please sign up by Sunday, December 8th.**

This parish event is sponsored by the Knights of Columbus and the Ladies Auxiliary.

**Please join us on
Sunday, Dec. 22nd
for our Religious
Education Christmas
Program.
The program will
start at 10:00am in
the church.**

2025

The 2025 Parish Calendars are here! Please pick up your calendar in the lobby of the church. Please take **one** per family. Thank you.

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.

MARCH FOR LIFE

The 2025 National March for Life will take place on Friday, January 24, 2025, on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. The March is an inspiring, peaceful, vibrant, and joy-filled rally of women, men, and young people from across the country. Together we gather to celebrate life. More information can be found at <https://www.hbgdiocese.org/event/march-for-life/>.

Submit Your Recipes



polifka.t@yahoo.com

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 if you have any questions.

SOLEMNITY
OF THE

*Immaculate
Conception*

MASS TIMES:
MONDAY DEC. 9TH
8:30AM & 6:30PM

**THIS IS NOT A HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION, BUT
YOU ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND TO GIVE
DUE HONOR TO OUR BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**



**Knights of Columbus &
The Ladies Auxiliary**



The next KofC meeting is **Thursday, December 5th 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, December 4th 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, December 14th 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 Dec. 7th.**



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.

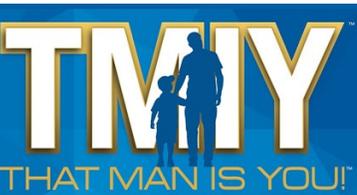


Interested in Becoming Catholic ?

Please join us for the next RCIA meeting on **Tuesday, December 3rd** from 7pm-8:15pm in the social hall. All are welcome to attend!



Attention Ladies
Advent By Candlelight
Sunday, Dec. 8, 2024 5 to 7 pm.
For more information and/or to volunteer as a hostess contact Mary Poffenbarger 301-639-3297 or missmary@lockfarm.net



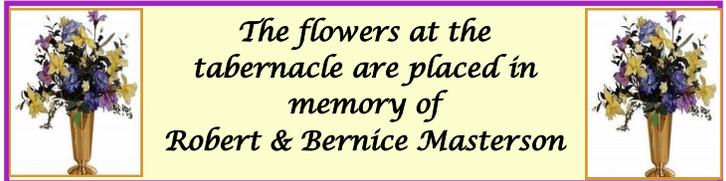
For All Men 18 Years or Older SCHEDULE:

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

Next meeting will be **Saturday, Dec. 7th** in the social hall.

Mass Intentions

Saturday, 9:00am 5:00pm	November 30 NO PUBLIC MASS In Memory of Robert & Bernice Masterson
Sunday, 8:00am 11:00am	December 1 In Memory of The Stewart-Gelas Family People of the Parish
Monday, 9:00pm	December 2 Private Intentions
Tuesday, 8:30am	December 3 Intentions of Pat Emmons
Wednesday, 6:30pm	December 4 In Memory of Mary Hare
Thursday, 8:30am	December 5 Intentions of Leo Kauffman
Friday, 8:30am	December 6 Intentions of Geri Bazner
Saturday, 9:00am 5:00pm	December 7 In Memory of Berthold Wendeln People of the Parish
Sunday, 8:00am 11:00am	December 8 In Memory of Bud & Marie Miller In Memory of Daniel Barnett



*The flowers at the
tabernacle are placed in
memory of
Robert & Bernice Masterson*



There will be no Coffee Hour on Sunday, December 1st. If you would like to host coffee hour please sign up in the church lobby.



The next choir practice will be **Wednesday, December 4th** from 7:15pm-8:30pm.



The gift sharing Angel Tree is in the church lobby 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 22, so they can be delivered that day. **HELP WILL ALSO BE NEEDED ON December 22 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.