

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

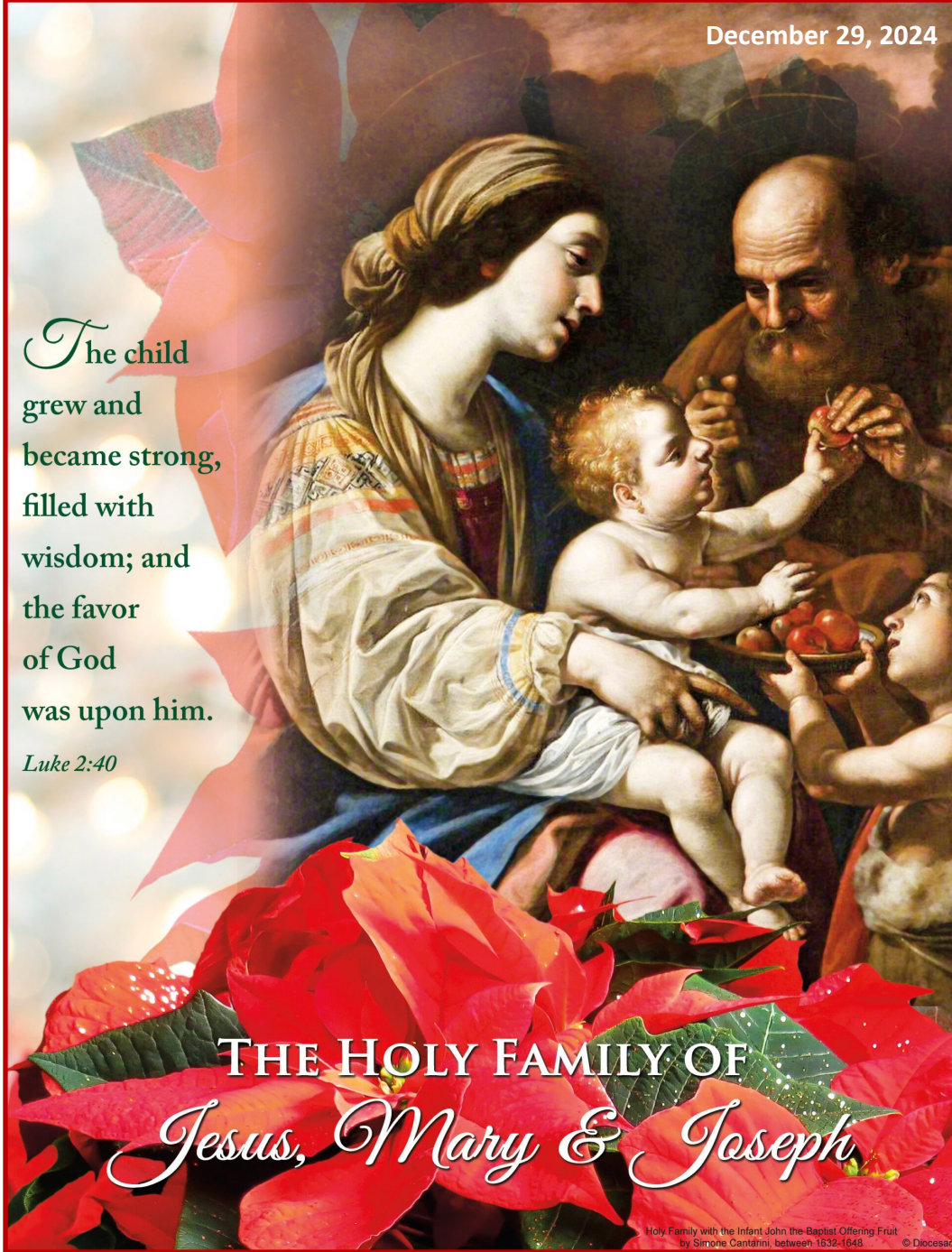
Weekend Masses: Saturday 5 pm, Sunday 8 :00 am and 11:00 am
Daily Mass: Tuesday, Thursday & Friday 8:30 am, Wednesday 6:30 pm
First Saturday of the Month..9:00 am

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

December 29, 2024

The child
grew and
became strong,
filled with
wisdom; and
the favor
of God
was upon him.

Luke 2:40



THE HOLY FAMILY OF
Jesus, Mary & Joseph

Holy Family with the Infant John the Baptist Offering Fruit
by Simone Cantanini, between 1632-1648 © 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)

Blessed

are those who fear the Lord
and walk in his ways.

Parish Staff Contact Info.

Associate Director of CCM
John Klarmann
jtklarmann@ship.edu
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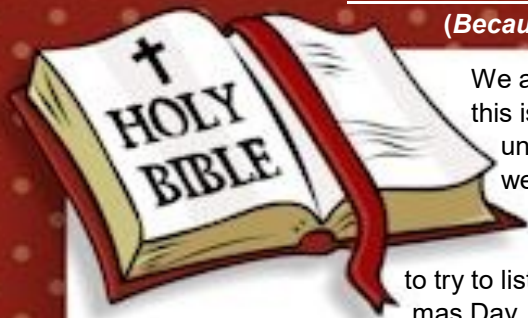
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Church...(717) 532-2912 Campus...(717) 477-1244 Emergency...(717) 323-2679
Office Hours Monday-Thursday 9:00 am—4:00 pm Closed Holy Days & Holidays

**GOING DEEPER – Understanding Active Participation - The Catholic Mass is True!
(Because it is from the Church ...and not from us... Thank God!)**



We are in the final countdown of bulletin articles on the Catholic Mass, and this is number three of five articles that I am writing to finish this journey of understanding and most fully participating in each Mass we attend. Last weekend, I focused in on **active participation** and how it is about **our internal prayers** and not simply our visible ministries that matter most to God. God's Word is speaking at every Mass, and our goal is to try to listen internally and receive His Word and His Love in our souls. On Christmas Day, I then reflected on how the many symbols, movements, smells, and sounds can actually help us to pray internally and with all that we are, during each and every Mass. The overarching point and purpose for both of these articles is that our goal at Mass is for every person to **"be drawn day by day into ever more perfect union with God"** (*Sacrosanctum Concilium* par. 48). Therefore, I have been really encouraging every person to open their hearts, minds, and souls to God speaking at each and every Mass. He speaks through the Bible, through the priest, through the various physical symbols, through the prayers of the Mass, and through Holy Communion. Today, I want to talk about a seemingly every simple topic, but it is very important in our modern world to clarify and understand this concept. We believe that the Catholic Mass is true. Not just true for me, or for you, but it is true in reality and therefore true for every person on this planet. The truth of the Mass does not come from each individual Catholic priest; the truth of the Mass does not come from the particular holiness of each unique person attending; the truth of the Mass actually comes from the CATHOLIC CHURCH itself.

This means that we believe as Catholics that Jesus not only gave us the early Christians to witness to his life and spread the Gospel to the corners of the world, but Jesus actually instituted a Church that was meant to preserve, teach, and spread the truth of the faith around the earth. Without trying to fully explain the theological concept of the Catholic Church's Magisterium (teaching authority), the bottom line is that we believe Jesus did not want to leave us on our own to simply argue or disagree about the essence of the Catholic Mass and how to worship Christ most fully every Sunday. When you reflect on this truth, it is actually beautiful in so many various ways. I will just mention two things to reflect on in this regard. First, when people were first developing the rules to the great game of basketball, someone had to suggest the idea of dribbling a ball on the ground. I'm sure some other people didn't want to bother with the idea of dribbling a basketball. They might've said something like, "why are we wasting time dribbling a ball?...what a waste?!" However, now that this is an established rule for this particular game, most people understand the art and skill of dribbling a basketball, and they enter into this aspect of the sport as fully as possible, which helps them become the best player they can be and score as much as they can to help their team. The same can be said of the rubrics and guidelines that the Catholic Church gives for each Catholic Mass. You may not want to or fully understand – why we say each particular prayer, or why we have to stand, sit, or kneel, or why we have to hit our chest with a closed fist three times while asking God to forgive our sins...however, if you just do your best to follow the rubrics/guidelines AND ask questions to learn why each part of the Mass exists, you will grow more and more in your understanding and practice of the Mass in order to enter it most fully with your hearts as well!!!

As a priest, it is so beautiful that it is not up to me each weekend to create Sunday worship from my own subjective authority as a human being (*for example, creating every prayer from scratch, creating every Scripture from scratch, every teaching from my opinion, and every movement from my personal choice*). I have the Catholic Church. We have the prayers of the Mass, and the truth of the Mass from the Catholic Church. The Catholic Church has been given the authority from Jesus to pass down through the ages the prayers of the Mass. We know the prayers consecrate the Eucharist, holy communion, into Jesus' very body, blood, soul, and divinity every single Sunday. That is true, and this helps with us every single part of the Mass to see the specific prayer, the specific movement, or the specific symbol as coming from Jesus and therefore coming from Jesus Himself. We can then receive each thing at Mass as a very holy moment or event or word, and we see the beauty and the power of truth there as well. It is true because it is from Jesus, and therefore, it will be powerful and effective in communicating His grace to us every single time we come to a Catholic Mass.

On January 22, 1973, the Supreme Court legalized abortion throughout the United States in its companion decisions Roe v. Wade and Doe v. Bolton. Since that time, millions of children have lost their lives, and millions of women and families have been wounded by abortion.

On June 24, 2022, the Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization decision overturned Roe v. Wade, and we praise God for the great opportunity state and federal legislators now have to protect pre-born children. While this decision ended the nearly fifty-year nationwide regime of abortion on demand, now state and federal laws, in many instances, are still hostile to pre-born children.

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://](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0A4BADAC29A2FECF8-53120974-eucharistic)

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



Thank you to everyone who supported the 2024 Matthew 25 collection with their financial gifts and spiritual support. Because of the remarkable support from the faithful, more than \$375,000 in donations have been collected by

the Diocese! Our parish retains 25% of what was given by our parishioners to use for food, clothing, and shelter needs here at the parish. The remainder is awarded to community organizations throughout the Diocese to be used for their efforts to eliminate hunger, provide clothing for those in need, and offer shelter to those who face homelessness. To learn more about the collection or to make a gift to the Matthew 25 collection, please go to <https://www.hbgdiocese.org/giving/matthew25/>.

Fr. Mike Schmitz

A World UNDONE

Finding God When Life Doesn't Make Sense

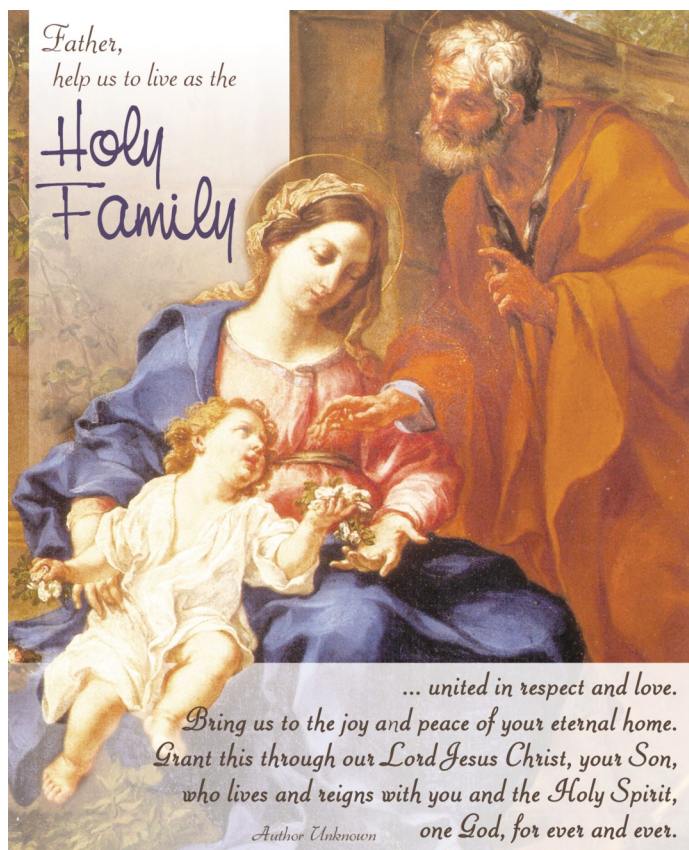
Book of the Month

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.



Father,
help us to live as the

Holy
Family

... united in respect and love.

Bring us to the joy and peace of your eternal home.
Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

Author Unknown



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.



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.



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

"Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" (Luke 2:49) The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph serves as a model of love, faith, and obedience. Just as Jesus was guided by His Father's will, so too can we be guided in our marriages by God's love. Reflect on how your family life mirrors the faith and devotion of the Holy Family. Strengthen your commitment to each other by nurturing a deeper relationship with God. Talk to your priest or reach out to Father Joshua Weaver, Vocation Director, at (717) 657-4804 or email him at frjweaver@hbgdiocese.org.



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Prayer Shawl Ministry

The Harrisburg Diocesan Council of Catholic Women Prayer Shawl Retreat will be held Saturday, January 18 at Saint Catherine Laboure Parish, Harrisburg, from 9:30 - 2:30.

Join us as we pray, knit, crochet and enjoy fellowship! We will again work on a special Community Service Project as we pray the Rosary. Beginners welcome.

Cost is \$14. Choose your Honey Baked Ham boxed lunch when you register at harrisburgdiocesancw.com and click on Prayer Shawl Retreat by Monday, January 13. Contact Kathy Kokoski at 717-448-8899 with any questions.



of the church. Thank you.

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



choice, please visit olvshippensburg.weshareonline.org.

If you would like to give to the Sunday collection online either with an individual gift or with a recurring donation of your



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



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. 11th 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,

8:30am

6:30pm

Wednesday,

8:30am

8:00pm

Thursday,

8:30am

Friday,

8:30am

Saturday,

9:00am

5:00pm

Sunday,

8:00am

11:00am

December 28

NO MASS OR CONFESSION

Intentions of the Chronister Family

December 29

People of the Parish

In Memory of the Lutz Family

December 30

NO MASS OR CONFESSION

December 31

Intentions of Olivia Ransbottom

People of the Parish

January 1

Intentions of the Bannon Family

People of the Parish

January 2

In Memory of Leonard Joy

January 3

In Memory of Charlotte Anderson

January 4

Special Intentions

People of the Parish

January 5

In Memory of the Stewart-Gelas Family

In Memory of Edna Spisak



The flowers at the tabernacle are placed in honor of the families of Our Lady of the Visitation Parish.



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/>.