

Our Lady of the Visitation Parish

14139 Seneca Road • Darnestown, Maryland 20874



First Sunday of Advent

28 November 2021

Sacred Liturgy

Saturday – 5:00 pm

Sunday – 9:00 am, 11:00 am, and 5:00 pm

Monday, Wednesday, and Friday

12 Noon and 6:00 pm

Tuesday and Thursday

8:30 am and 12 Noon

Saturday

9:00 am

Sacrament of Penance: Saturday from 3:00-4:30 p.m.
After Weekday and Sunday Masses
Mon., Wed., Fri. 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Anointing of the Sick / Emergencies

In case of an emergency and immediate need of a priest,
please call **240-463-9960**.

VISION STATEMENT

“Guided by the Light of Christ, we are building a vibrant, welcoming community
of *fellowship, grace, love* of God and one another.”

MARY

We honor Mary as our mother in faith and pattern of holiness in daily life.

CHARISM

The name of our parish reminds us to make the
corporate and spiritual works of mercy a personal priority.

STEWARDSHIP

We accept our responsibility to properly use the time, talent and treasure God has
entrusted to us: as graced individuals, as a gifted parish, and as a blessed nation.

MINISTRY

We are called by our baptism to worship the Father, to build community in the Spirit,
to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ, and to serve all those in need.

TRADITION

We are proud to live our Christian faith as members of the Roman Catholic Church
and as a parish of the Archdiocese of Washington.

Pastor

Fr. Greg Shaffer
gshaffer@olvp.org
(240) 463-9960

Deacon

Thaddeus Dmuchowski, (240) 678-3466
Deaconated@olvp.org

Principal of Parish School

Michael Friel, (301) 869-0940

Youth Faith Formation

Erin Clegg, (240) 240-2114
eclegg@olvp.org

Youth Minister

Julia Jordan, (240) 750-5104
julijordan@olvp.org

Parish Manager

Colleen Enos, (301) 948-5536
cenos@olvp.org

Mailing Address

14139 Seneca Road, Darnestown, MD 20874

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Email: parishoffice@olvp.org
Web Site: www.olvp.org

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

NOVEMBER 2021

- 28 Sun Mass, 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m., Church
5:00 p.m., Church
Faith Formation:
Pre-K, K: 9 a.m., Church
Grades 6, 7, 8: 6 p.m. Fdrs. Hall
H.S. Youth Group, 6 p.m., Pavilion
- 29 Mon Adoration, 11 a.m., Church
Mass, 12 Noon, 6 p.m., Church
- 30 Tue Mass, 8:30 a.m., 12 Noon, Church
Adoration, 11 am, Church
Faith Formation:
Grades 1-5: 4:45 p.m., Fdrs. Hall

DECEMBER 2021

- 01 Wed Adoration, 11 a.m., Church
Mass, 12 Noon, 6 p.m., Church
Adoration, 6:30 p.m., Church
Bible Study: 7:30 p.m., Founders Hall
- 02 Thu Mass, 8:30 a.m., 12 Noon, Church
Adoration, 11:00 a.m., Church
Christmas Tree Delivery
- 03 Fri Adoration, 11:00 a.m., Church
Mass, 12 Noon, 6 p.m., Church
Adoration, 6:30 p.m., Church
Christmas Tree Sales: 3:30 to 7:30 p.m.
- 04 Sat Weekday Mass, 9:00 a.m.
Vigil Mass, 5:00 p.m., Church
Christmas Tree Sales, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.
- 05 Sun Mass, 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m., Church
5:00 p.m., Church
Faith Formation:
Pre-K, K: 9 a.m., Church
Christmas Tree Sales, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Liturgical Life

ADVENT: The Advent Season is a four week period of preparation for the great feast of Christmas. It is a “mini-Lent” in the sense that it is a time for us to properly prepare ourselves by praying, by fasting, and by performing works of mercy. St. Bernard of Clairvaux reminds us that in Advent, we celebrate the three-fold coming of Christ: 1) Jesus came to us once in flesh and human frailty (Incarnation); 2) Jesus comes to us now in Sacred Word and Sacramental Mystery (Each Liturgical Year); 3) Jesus will come again in great glory and majesty (Second Coming). St. Bernard also reminds us that Advent is a most appropriate time to honor Mary—patroness of our Country, our Archdiocese and our Parish. Advent begins today, **Sunday, November 28, 2021.**

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT: Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will take place in the church on **weekdays**, Monday through Friday, from **11:00 am to Noon** and on **Wednesday and Friday evenings from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.**

SAINTS/WINDOWS: **8 December, Immaculate Conception:** In 1846, during the Sixth Plenary Council of Baltimore, the American Bishops placed the United



Readings for the Week of 28 November 2021

- Monday: Is 2:1-5/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4b, 4cd-5, 6-7, 8-9/Mt 8:5-11
- Tuesday: Rom 10:9-18/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11 [10]/Mt 4:18-22
- Wednesday: Is 25:6-10a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 [6cd]/Mt 15:29-37
- Thursday: Is 26:1-6/Ps 118:1 and 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a [26a]/Mt 7:21, 24-27
- Friday: Is 29:17-24/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14 [1a]/Mt 9:27-31
- Saturday: Is 30:19-21, 23-26/Ps 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 [cf. Is 30:18d]/Mt 9:35—10:1, 5a, 6
- Sunday: Bar 5:1-9/Ps 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6 [3]/Phil 1:4-6, 8-11/Lk 3:1-6

States (upper panel) under the patronage of the Immaculate Conception. The first and mother cathedral of the United States is the Basilica of the Assumption of Mary in Baltimore, (lower panel).

Parish Life

ECCE QUAM BONUM: On November 14, **Caleb Alexander, Luke Michael, and Gabriel Roland Hill** celebrated **Baptism.**

PARISH NECROLOGY: On the anniversary of their death, please keep the following parishioners in your prayers: **Anne Allera** (2 December 2020), **Nicanor Aquino** (3 December 2005), **Winifred Donnellan** (4 December 1991), **Stefano Zanello** (7 December 2010), **Filomena Picciano** (08 December 1993), **Mary Palko** (13 December 2015), **Steven Pindell** (18 December 1994), **Anna Giattino** (20 December 2011), **Nicholas Toran** (27 December 1993), and **Matthew Todd Wolff** (27 December 1997).

PASTOR'S PAGE

Happy 1st Sunday of Advent! We know this is as a season of preparation that concludes with Christmas. And, Christmas celebrates the 1st coming of Christ. But, we believe that Christ will come again, so Advent is about preparing for His 2nd coming. This all might confuse us - "which coming of Christ are we focusing on in Advent?" It's okay to have that thought which I seem to have every year. The main point is to focus on the amazing reality of Christ coming into the world. The Old Testament readings at Mass during Advent take us back to the hundreds and hundreds of years that people were waiting for the Christ. This should help us to appreciate the Incarnation (the Word becomes flesh) and that we live in A.D. But, we are waiting, too. We are awaiting the Lord's return. Advent is the season that prepares us in the present time to be ready for the future coming of Christ.

We change the liturgical colors in Advent to violet (purple). Violet is a color of penance. Penance is a vital part of the Christian life because it helps us move away from sin. It's a great way to honor the coming of the Lord who came the first time so that we "sin no more". When He returns, will He find us trying to move away from sin? With penance in mind, we can approach Advent like we do Lent: give up one food or drink that we enjoy. Going without dessert or soda until Christmas might not seem like a big way to move away from sin in general, but it's a start in saying no to sinful appetites and desires. It's a small but solid way to prepare "the way of the Lord".

The main thing I'd ask you to do this Advent is attend our Parish Penance Service on Tuesday, December 21, 7 pm, in the church. Another priest will join me in offering the Sacrament of Penance (Confession / Reconciliation). Just like Confession before Communion, it's the best way to prepare for the Lord's coming.

May you know the peace of Christ,

Fr Greg



NATIVITY DISPLAY: Our parish is very fortunate to be able to display the Sam and Carol Raines Collection of 1,100 nativity sets in Founders Hall from Sunday, **December 19** through Wednesday, **December 22nd**. The Raines' spent their lives collecting nativities from around the world. Bring the family and come to enjoy this rare display.

PARISH EMBER DAYS: Responding to the Gospel and following Church tradition, Visitation parishioners are encouraged to voluntarily set aside **Wednesday, Friday and Saturday, 15, 17, and 18 December 2021** as special days of fasting, prayer and works of charity.

DRIVE-IN MOVIE NIGHT: Join us for a festive holiday drive-in movie on **Saturday, December 18th** (Home Alone) in the OLVP Parking Lot. There will be shows starting at 6 and 8:15 pm. Pizza, popcorn and treats will be sold from Founders Hall. Register with Eventbrite ahead of time. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/olvp-fun-drive-in-movie-night-tickets-1933654244057>. Hope to see you there. Please share the link with others in our parish and surrounding community!

INFANT BAPTISM: Parents presenting their children for Baptism must be registered in our parish and are required to attend a Baptism Preparation Class prior to scheduling the Baptism. The next class is on Saturday, **December 11th** at 10:00 am in the lower level of the church. We encourage Sponsors/Godparents, including parishioners who will be Sponsors/Godparents elsewhere, to attend this Baptism Preparation Class. Attendance during pregnancy is advised. For information and/or to register, call the parish office, (301) 948-5536.

SHAWL MINISTRY MEETING: The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, **December 7** at 6:45 pm in Founders Hall. Contact Cindy Kokinda if you are interested in knitting or if you know someone who could benefit from receiving a shawl/lapghan.

PARISH BIBLE STUDY: Beginning on Wednesday, **December 1st at 7:30 pm**, Fr. Greg will offer a weekly Scripture Study session to discuss the upcoming Sunday's readings.

MUSICIANS WANTED: The 5:00 p.m. Sunday Liturgy is in need of experienced musicians, especially, a drummer/percussionist, a bass player, and a keyboard player. If you or someone you know might be interested, contact Ed Becker: ed@edbeckermusic.org (703) 969-2385.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORERS NEEDED: Please text your email address to 240-353-9542 or email John and Diana at hurley05@verizon.net to receive a SignUpGenius link if you are interested in committing to spending time before the Lord in regular weekly adoration or just one time on any given date.

FLOCKNOTE: To receive timely communications from our parish, we need up-to-date email addresses for the members. Notify cenos@olvp.org if your email is new.

MATRIMONY POLICY: It is Archdiocesan and parish policy that couples seeking to be married in the Church are to make arrangements with a Priest or Deacon a minimum of six months prior to setting a wedding date. **Do not plan the reception until you meet with a Priest/Deacon.** Please email Father Greg Shaffer (gshaffer@olvp.org), or Deacon Ted Dmuchowski (DeaconTed@olvp.org).

ANointing OF THE SICK: If you are planning to undergo major surgery, please notify our parish office. If illness or age prevent you from attending Mass, call the parish office to arrange for visitation and Communion in your home.

ALL HOSPITALS AND NURSING HOMES have Catholic Chaplains to care for Catholic patients and residents. On admission, be sure to notify the staff of your desire to receive the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick and/or the Sacrament of the Eucharist. Feel free to call Fr. Greg (240) 463-9960, as well.

Faith Formation for Life

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT: Parents, grandparents siblings, invited guests and all parishioners are welcome to attend our annual Christmas Pageant on **Sunday, December 19th at 6:30 p.m.** in the Church. Rehearsal is on Saturday, December 18 from 10 a.m. to Noon. Please check www.olvp.org for information.

2021-2022 FAITH FORMATION: Faith Formation sessions will continue on **Sundays** for Pre-K and Kindergarten from 9 to 10 a.m. and for Grades 6, 7, and 8 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. in the lower level of the church. Children in Grades 1 through 5 will continue to meet on **Tuesdays** from 4:45 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., also in the lower level of the church.

Social Concerns

ST. MARTIN'S FOOD PANTRY COLLECTION: Thank you to all those parishioners who donated much needed items to the November collection.

ST. NICHOLAS CHRISTMAS CATALOG: Give a gift and help a charity of your choice by placing an order from the St. Nicholas Christmas Catalog, available on our website (www.olvp.org). You will receive a card that specifies the gifts you purchased from the charity. Orders must be received by **Friday, December 17th.**



GABRIEL PROJECT: The project is in dire need of gifts and essential items for the families in crisis pregnancies that they serve. Choose from options on the Amazon wish list at www.gpmoco.org. Or contact Natalie Rae at natalieanneray@gmail.com if you have questions.

Human Resources

NEW PARISHIONERS: The following families have recently joined our parish: **Mr. & Mrs. Dan Waugh** and **Mr. & Mrs. Gabriel Petrucci.**

POINSETTIA FUNDRAISER: Please see the enclosed Pre-Sale Order Form for Poinsettias. Order by mail, drop-off, or after Masses. Payment is by check to OLVP, with "poinsettia" written on the memo line, or by cash. All orders are due by today, **November 28th**, and picked up at OLVP on the first weekend of the tree sales (December 4/5). All proceeds will benefit the parish.

CHRISTMAS KITCHEN: The Christmas kitchen will be opening soon! Please consider helping feed the tree sales crew by taking a slot as a kitchen volunteer and/or donating a food item on the weekends of **December 4/5** or December 11/12 (if needed). See the bulletin flyer for details and SignUpGenius links, also available on our website. Feel free to contact Barb Moschella with questions at barbwm18@gmail.com.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR CHRISTMAS TREE SALES: Set-up of the lot will be on **Saturday, 20 November**; trees will be delivered and unloaded on **Thursday, 02 December**; sales will begin on **Friday, 03 December** and continue through **Sunday, 12 December**. There are opportunities for everyone. This is fun, plain and simple! All ages may participate. If you would like to be a part of this annual event, go to <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050844ada62ba75-2020>. It is easy and you will see right away which of your friends have already planned to help. Don't miss out on the Christmas fun! Plan to sign-up today.

HOW TO JOIN OUR PARISH: A warm welcome to Our Lady of the Visitation Catholic Church! Registration forms are available on the shelf in the vestibule of the church or you may register online at: www.olvp.org

PARISH OFFICE HOURS: Regular office hours are Monday through Friday between 8:00 am and 4:00 pm.

Facilities

PARISH REPAIR: If you see a needed repair around the parish, please call the office at (301) 948-5536 and report the problem so that we may get it fixed.

Finance

FAITH DIRECT: With no added cost to you and great benefit for our parish, please consider enrolling in e-giving. Easier than ever, just text **"Enroll"** to **301-701-3032**, or enroll on-line at www.faithdirect.net. Our Church Code is **MD114**.