

Our Lady of the Visitation Parish

14139 Seneca Road • Darnestown, Maryland 20874



Second Sunday of Advent

05 December 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
Deaconted@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
juliajordan@olvp.org

Parish Manager

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

Mailing Address

14139 Seneca Road, Darnestown, MD 20874

Phone: (301) 948-5536
Fax: (240) 780-5134

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

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

DECEMBER 2021

05 Sun	Mass, 9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m., 5:00 p.m., Church Healing Mass, 2:00 p.m., Church Faith Formation: Pre-K, K: 9 a.m., Church Christmas Tree Sales, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Grades 6, 7, 8: 6 p.m. Fdrs. Hall H.S. Youth Group, 6 p.m., Pavilion
06 Mon	Adoration, 11:00 a.m., Church Mass, 12 Noon, 6:00 p.m., Church Tree Sales: 3:30 p.m.—7:30 p.m.
07 Tue	Mass, 8:30 a.m., 12 Noon, Church Adoration, 11:00 a.m., Church Tree Sales, 3:30 p.m.—7:30 p.m. Faith Formation: Grades 1-5: 4:45 p.m., Fdrs. Hall Vigil Mass, 6:00 p.m., Church Shawl Ministry, 6:45 p.m., Fdrs. Hall
08 Wed	Immaculate Conception of Mary Parish Office Closed Adoration, 11:00 a.m. and 6:30 p.m., Church Mass, 12 Noon, 6:00 p.m., Church Bible Study, 7:30 p.m., Fdrs. Hall Tree Sales: 3:30 p.m.—7:30 p.m.
09 Thu	Mass, 8:30 a.m., 12 Noon, Church Adoration, 11:00 a.m., Church Tree Sales, 3:30 p.m.—7:30 p.m.
10 Fri	Mass, 12 Noon, 6:00 p.m., Church Adoration, 11:00 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. Church Tree Sales, 3:30 p.m.—7:30 p.m.
11 Sat.	Mass, 9:00 a.m. Sodality Meeting, 9:30 a.m., Fdrs. Hall Baptism Class, 10:00 a.m., Fdrs. Hall Vigil Mass: 6:00 p.m. Tree Sales, 9:00 a.m.—8:00 p.m.
12 Sun.	Mass, 9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m., 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 Final Day of 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 began on **Sunday, November 28, 2021.**



Readings for the Week of December 5, 2021

Monday:	Is 35:1-10/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14 [cf. Is 35:4f]/Lk 5:17-26
Tuesday:	Is 40:1-11/Ps 96:1-2, 3 and 10ac, 11-12, 13 [cf. Is 40:10ab]/Mt 18:12-14
Wednesday:	Gn 3:9-15, 20/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4 [1]/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38
Thursday:	Is 41:13-20/Ps 145:1 and 9, 10-11, 12-13ab [8]/Mt 11:11-15
Friday:	Is 48:17-19/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6 [cf. Jn 8:12]/Mt 11:16-19
Saturday:	Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Ps 80:2ac and 3b, 15-16, 18-19 [4]/Mt 17:9a, 10-13
Sunday:	Zep 3:14-18a/Is 12:2-3, 4, 5-6 [6]/Phil 4:4-7/Lk 3:10-18

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-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 20th, **Logan Matthew Nash** celebrated **Baptism** and on November 26th, **Vincent Henry Royals** 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),

PASTOR'S PAGE

Christmas trees! We are excited and grateful to have them this year to sell again. What is the meaning and history of the Christmas tree? An article from www.catholicexchange.com explains:

Legend holds that St. Boniface was the first to co-opt the tradition (of Christmas trees) for Christianity in the 8th century. He was attempting to convert the Druids who worshiped oak trees as the symbol of their idol. He instead offered the balsam fir tree, using its triangular shape to describe the Trinity and the fact that his evergreen boughs pointed to heaven, as a symbol of God.

...Christmas trees, like most Christmas traditions other than Church services, were adopted late in America. The Puritans frowned on all such "pagan" traditions. In 1659, the General Court of Massachusetts made any observance of Christmas other than a church service a penal offense. It wasn't until an influx of German and Irish immigrants came in the 19th century that the Puritan legacy was undermined. In 1846, Queen Victoria and Prince Albert (who was German) were pictured in the London News standing with their children around a Christmas tree. As a result, the popularity of Christmas trees soared, both in England and in America. By 1920, the custom was almost universal.

While the Christmas tree tradition may have begun as a more secular tradition, today we can firmly claim the symbol as a Christian one. Many families bless their trees and as www.catholiceducation.org points out, the symbol of a tree has deep roots in our faith. "We are reminded that our first parents were not allowed to eat from one tree, and that Christ paid the great price for our redemption by hanging on a tree". In addition, the evergreen boughs and the lights that decorate them do remind us that Christ is the light of the world and that His light is everlasting. He has come to bring joy and light into our dark world.

May you know the peace of Christ, *Fr. Greg*



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).

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.

PARISH BIBLE STUDY: Beginning on Wednesday, **December 8th at 7:30 pm**, Fr. Greg will offer a weekly Scripture Study session to discuss the upcoming Sunday's readings.

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

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 (Deaconated@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

RELIGIOUS RETIREMENT COLLECTION: Show your thanks for the senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests who made a positive difference in so many lives. This collection, taken up on **11/12 December**, helps to provide medications, nursing care, and more for thousands of elderly religious. Please be generous to this national collection.

ADVENT ADOPTED FAMILY COLLECTION 2021: Please consider donating a new item to a child or parent from the four families that OLVP has "adopted" this year. Visit www.olvp.org to view the SignUpGenius or **stop by the tree** at the back of the church to see how you may be able to support these families in our community. Drop-off donations the weekend of **December 18th/19th**, before or after Masses, directly to the delivery car or to the alcove in the lower level of the church. Thank you for your generosity!

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). 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. Brian Robertson, Mrs. Amita DeSouza, and Ms. Cissy Ann Hansen.**

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR CHRISTMAS TREE SALES: Sales have begun and continue through **Sunday, 12 December.** 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: The parish office will be closed on Wednesday, December 8th for the Feast of The Immaculate Conception of Mary. Regular office hours are Monday through Friday between 8:00 am and 4:00 pm.

Facilities

PARISH WISH LIST: From time to time, we will alert parishioners about items needed to keep our parish running smoothly. Currently, we are looking for two working refrigerators. If you can help, please email Tony Glander, tglander@olvp.org or call the parish office.

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**.