

Our Lady of the Visitation Parish

14139 Seneca Road • Darnestown, Maryland 20874



FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

27 November 2022

Sacred Liturgy

Saturday – 5:00 pm

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

Monday, 12 Noon

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 3:30-4:30 p.m.
After Weekday and Sunday Masses
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 corporal 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

Director of Music

Dr. Jyoti Hensch, (301) 969-4963
jhensch@olvp.org

Director of Religious Education

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

Parish Manager

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

Mailing Address

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Phone: (301) 948-5536

Fax: (240) 780-5134

Email: parishoffice@olvp.org

Web Site: www.olvp.org

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

NOVEMBER 2022

- 27 Sun Mass, 9:00 am, 11:00 am, 5:00 pm, Church
Cross-Fit: 12:15 pm, Founders Hall
No Faith Formation
Pancake Dinner, 5:30 pm Founders Hall
No High School Youth Group
- 28 Mon Mass, 12:00 Noon, Church
Adoration: 11:00 am
- 29 Tue Mass, 8:30 am, 12:00 Noon
Adoration: 11:00 am
Faith Formation:
Grades 1-5: 5 - 6:00 p.m., Founders Hall
- 30 Wed Mass, 12 Noon and 6:00 pm, Church
Adoration, 11:00 am and 6:30 pm
Scripture Study, 7:30 pm, Fdrs. Hall

DECEMBER 2022

- 01 Thu Mass, 8:30 am, 12:00 Noon
- 02 Fri Mass, 12 Noon and 6:00 pm, Church
Adoration: 11:00 am and 6:30 pm, Church
Christmas Tree Sales, 3:30-7:30 pm
- 03 Sat Daily Mass, 9:00 am, Church
Sodality, 9:30 am, Founders Hall
Christmas Tree Sales, 9am—8:00 pm
AA, 12 Noon, St. Anne’s Room
Poinsettia Pick-Up, 1-2 pm, Fdrs. Hall
Vigil Mass, 5:00 pm, Church
- 04 Sun Mass, 9:00 am, 11:00 am, 5:00 pm, Church
Poinsettia Pick-Up, 10-11 am, Fdrs. Hall
Healing Mass, 2:00 pm, Church
Faith Formation:
CGS: 9 to 10 am, Atrium. Pre-school, K
Grades 6-8: 9:45 to 10:45 am, Church
Cross-Fit: 12:15 pm, Founders Hall

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 27, 2022.**

MASS SETTINGS: You may have noticed that we sang a different Mass setting at this weekend’s Masses. A Mass setting is a musical arrangement of the words of specific parts of the Mass. We will be using different Mass settings throughout the liturgical year as a way to more deeply experience the changes from season to season. **During Advent,** we will be singing the **Mass of Creation**, found at B in the *Breaking Bread* hymnal. We will sing this Mass setting again during Lent. The Glory to God is not sung during



Readings for the Week of November 27, 2022

- Monday: Is 4:2-6/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4b, 4cd-5, 6-7, 8-9/Mt 8:5-11
- Tuesday: Is 11:1-10/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17/Lk 10:21-24
- Wednesday: Rom 10:9-18/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11/Mt 4:18-22
- Thursday: Is 26:1-6/Ps 118:1 and 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a/Mt 7:21, 24-27
- Friday: Is 29:17-24/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14/Mt 9:27-31
- Saturday: Is 30:19-21, 23-26/Ps 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6/Mt 9:35—10:1, 5a, 6-8
- Sunday: Is 11:1-10/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17/Rom 15:4-9/Mt 3:1-12

these seasons. During the Christmas and Easter seasons, we will sing the Mass of Spirit and Grace, found at #924-932 in the *Breaking Bread* hymnal. When we return to Ordinary Time, we will return to singing the Mass of Renewal, found at #875-883 in the *Breaking Bread* hymnal. This is the Mass setting that we sang throughout this past summer and early fall. “*He who sings prays twice.*” -St. Augustine

Parish Life

ECCE QUAM BONUM: On November 12, **Brigid Philomena Walsh** celebrated Baptism.

PARISH NECROLOGY: On the anniversary of their deaths, please keep the following parishioners in your prayers: **Alice Huff-Fones** (27 November 2001), **the Rev. Walter L. Lawrence** (28 November 2007), and **Edward William Saunders** (30 November 2017), **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 Advent! Culturally, we are preparing to celebrate Christmas, but as the reflection below tells us, there is more going on during these weeks in the Church. Hopefully these thoughts by Father Rosendo Urrabazo, C.M.F., (uscatholic.org) help us to enter into this holy season.

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

...In today's gospel reading, Jesus talks of his second coming and tells us to be vigilant at all times and to pray. So Advent has a double meaning. We celebrate the birth of Christ, and we wait in hope for his return at the end of time.

As a child, I remember asking my father if he thought that the end of the world would come soon. He told me, "Don't you worry about the end of the world, worry about when you die. That is the end of the world for you."

I have since learned that we are called to give an account of our life every day. In the seminary, we had an evening exercise called "the examination of conscience." We were asked to review the activities of our day in light of the commandments. I still find this an excellent time to thank God for the day's blessings and ask for ways to improve.

God's incarnation, or presence in Jesus, is a beautiful mystery to contemplate at this time of the year. Jesus's experience of God, his unity with the Creator, is part of the message he wanted to share with all of us, not just in words but in our own experience. Jesus invites us to experience that oneness, that unity of spirit, he had with God.

He saw this divine spark in the people he met. It did not matter if they were male or female, Jew or Gentile; all have God in them and are worthy of love and respect. In India, Hindus greet each other with the expression "Namaste." I am told that means "the God in me greets the God in you." Advent is a time to celebrate in a particular way the God present in each of us. Celebrating Christmas is also a reminder of God's presence in each of us and in all of creation.

Maybe the stores and commercials have got it right to some extent. It is all about the gift; not what we buy for one another; rather how we acknowledge one another as gifts from God. We are called to give ourselves to others as Jesus has done and continues to do through us and all people of goodwill.

To be vigilant and to pray means to be aware of the gifts all around us, and be that gift for others. So with the psalmist, we pray: "To you O Lord, I lift up my soul. Your ways, O Lord, make known to me; teach me your paths."

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 scheduled for Sunday, **December 18th** at 12:00 noon in Founders Hall. 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.

OLVP FOR LIFE: WALK WITH MARY! All are invited to join in the archdiocesan celebration of the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe on Saturday, **December 10th!!** Each year, we honor Our Lady through a pilgrimage through the streets of Washington, D.C. Pilgrimage begins at 11 am at the Shrine of the Sacred Heart and concludes at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the immaculate Conception, where together we pray the Rosary at 1 pm and celebrate Mass at 2 pm. For more information, go to: <https://adw.org/media-events/walk-with-Mary/>

AA MEETING: On **Saturday, December 3rd** at Noon, an open AA meeting will be held in the St. Anne room. The name of the group is Trusted Servants. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Bernadette at (301) 928-5870.

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

"CROSS-FIT SERIES": Fr. Greg will lead a series of talks on suffering based on Hebrews 12:7, "*...endure your trials as 'discipline'*". The fourth session of the series will be held in Founders Hall today, Sunday, **November 27th**, from 12:15 to 1:00 pm. The series will finish on December 18th. Come and get spiritually fit!

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.

PRAYER REQUESTS: Prayer is powerful! If you would like to have our community pray for yourself or for someone else, please enter your request on our website: <https://www.olvp.org/prayer-request>. If you mark the request 'public', we will list it on the website and in the bulletin. Fr. Greg will pray for those requests marked 'private'. Please pray for: **Michael Keller, Jack, Sandy, Claudia, Karen, Myrna Gloriani, Amanda Consuelo Ramos, Kate, Vince Orgoven, Lorraine, Steve, Jackie, Joseph, Maureen, Philip, Cheri, Julian and Rita-Ann.**

Faith Formation for Life

SMALL GROUPS AND BIBLE STUDIES STARTING THIS ADVENT! As part of our Adult Faith Formation, we invite you to join a men's or women's small group or Bible Study led by pairs of OLVP parishioners. They have been in small groups or Bible Studies for the past year and are equipped with resources to lead groups. If you have not already been invited by them and are interested in joining a group, please submit your name to Cheryl at chw@olvp.org. The groups will meet in parishioners' homes, and we will match you with a group in your neighborhood, if possible. Your leaders will contact you with info and invite you to join. Any question in general, please email Fr. Greg at gshaffer@olvp.org.

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT: Parents, grandparents siblings, invited guests and all parishioners are welcome to attend our annual Christmas Pageant on **Sunday, December 18th at 6:30 p.m.** in the Church. Rehearsal is on Saturday, December 17 from 9 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Check www.olvp.org for information.



Social Concerns

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

4 Season Giving Tree is a non-profit organization started by Lauren Laimon, a parishioner at OLVP. The organization's mission is, "...Fulfilling the immediate needs of disadvantaged families throughout the year through new and upcycled donations from the local community." OLVP has an opportunity to support Lauren's organization by getting involved and/or donating. Please visit www.4seasongivingtree.org to see how you can help. Click on "Programs" to read about the various opportunities to help families in our local community and click on "Volunteer" to learn more ways to help with this program.

ADVENT ADOPTED FAMILY COLLECTION 2022!

Please join us in supporting our adopted families this Advent Season! There is NO SignUp-Genius for this collection. Instead, stop by the Christmas Tree in the Gathering Space and select an ornament containing the details of the requested item for the family members. Donated gifts must be NEW and UNwrapped in a bag and can be dropped off under the tree with the corresponding ornament attached to



the bag by **December 11th**. During this Advent Season of spiritual preparation for Christmas, let us share our blessings with these families in our community. The Social Concerns Committee.

Human Resources

NEW PARISHIONERS: The following families have recently joined our parish: **Mr. & Mrs. Homan Arabshahi, Mr. & Mrs. Lee Wells, and Mrs. Dora Berman.**

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

POINSETTIA FUNDRAISER: OLVP will be selling gorgeous poinsettias for holiday decorating and gifting – 7 inch pots containing 7 -11 blooms for only \$25.00 a pot. Pre-order online from November 20th to the 27th at www.olvp.org. Plan to pick up your order on Saturday, **December 3rd** from noon to 1 pm or on Sunday, **December 4th** from 10 to 11 am. Sponsored by our Sodality, all proceeds go to the parish. For more information, contact Cris Carr (301) 526-4106.



CHRISTMAS CRAFT SHOP: A group of OLVP ladies will be selling hand made Christmas items on the weekends of the Christmas Tree Sales. If any parishioners would like to donate any of their hand made items to the fundraiser, please call Dettie Stack at (301) 840-8049.

NATIVITY DISPLAY: Our parish will once again display some of the Nativity Sets from the Sam and Carol Raines Collection in Founders Hall from Friday, **December 16th** through Sunday, **December 18th**, 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. The Raines' spent their lives collecting nativities from around the world. Bring the family and come to enjoy this rare display.

CHRISTMAS ELVES NEEDED! Please consider volunteering during our Parish's biggest fundraiser, the annual OLVP Tree Sale! We need helpers to work on the tree lot, to donate one or more food items to feed the sales crew, and to assist in the Christmas Kitchen. It's easy to volunteer: go to OLVP.org, scroll down to 'Tree Sales,' and follow the links for sign-ups. Thank you!



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

Facilities

PARISH REPAIR: If you see a needed repair around the parish, please call the office at (301) 948-5336 and report the problem so that we may get it fixed.

Finance

BEQUESTS AND WILLS: Please consider OLVP in your estate planning. A meeting with an estate planning attorney and one sentence in your will can help our parish ministries be there for your children and grandchildren!

FAITH DIRECT: Please consider setting up recurring donations or a one-time gift through Faith Direct. Just text **"Enroll"** to **301-701-3032**, or enroll on-line at www.faithdirect.net. Our Church Code is **MD114**.