

*Our Lady of the Visitation Parish*

14139 Seneca Road • Darnestown, Maryland 20874



## SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

04 December 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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Web Site: [www.olvp.org](http://www.olvp.org)

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

DECEMBER 2022

4	Sun	Mass, 9:00 am, 11:00 am, 2:00 pm and 5:00 pm, Church <b>Poinsettia Pick-Up, 10-11 am, Fdrs. Hall</b> <b>Healing Mass, 2:00 pm, Church</b> 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 <b>Christmas Tree Sales, 9 am to 8 pm</b>
05	Mon	Mass, 12:00 Noon, Church Adoration: 11:00 am <b>Christmas Tree Sales, 4 pm to 8 pm</b>
06	Tue	Mass, 8:30 am, 12:00 Noon Adoration: 11:00 am Faith Formation: Grades 1-5: 5 - 6:00 p.m., Founders Hall <b>Christmas Tree Sales, 4 pm to 8 pm</b>
07	Wed	Mass, 12 Noon, Church <b>Holy Day Vigil Mass, 6 pm, Church</b> Adoration, 11:00 am and 6:30 pm Scripture Study, 7:30 pm, Fdrs. Hall <b>Christmas Tree Sales, 4 pm to 8 pm</b>
08	Thu	<b>Immaculate Conception of the BVM</b> <b>Masses: 8:30 am and 12 noon, Church</b> Office Closed <b>Christmas Tree Sales, 4 pm to 8 pm</b>
09	Fri	Mass, 12 Noon and 6:00 pm, Church Adoration: 11:00 am and 6:30 pm, Church <b>Christmas Tree Sales, 4 pm to 8:00 pm</b>
10	Sat	Daily Mass, 9:00 am, Church Sodality, 9:30 am, Founders Hall <b>Christmas Tree Sales, 9 am to 8:00 pm</b> AA, 12 Noon, St. Anne's Room <b>Poinsettia Pick-Up, 1-2 pm, Fdrs. Hall</b>
11	Sun	Vigil Mass, 5:00 pm, Church Mass, 9:00 am, 11:00 am, 5:00 pm, Church <b>9 am Children's Mass</b> <b>Retired Religious Collection</b> <b>Poinsettia Pick-Up, 10-11 am, Fdrs. Hall</b> 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



Readings for the Week of December 4, 2022

Monday:	Is 35:1-10/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14/Lk 5:17-26
Tuesday:	Is 40:1-11/Ps 96:1-2, 3 and 10ac, 11-12, 13/Mt 18:12-14
Wednesday:	Is 40:25-31/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8 and 10/Mt 11:28-30
Thursday:	Gn 3:9-15, 20/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38
Friday:	Is 48:17-19/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6/Mt 11:16-19
Saturday:	Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Ps 80:2ac and 3b, 15-16, 18-19/Mt 17:9a, 10-13
Sunday:	Is 35:1-6a, 10/Ps 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10/Jas 5:7-10/Mt 11:2-11

in the *Breaking Bread* hymnal. We will sing this Mass setting again during Lent. The Glory to God is not sung during 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

*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. Advent began on **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

*Parish Life*

**R.I.P.:** It is with sadness that we announce the death of **Sheila Renee Shukla**, parishioner. We commend her and her family in our prayers to God.

**PARISH NECROLOGY:** On the anniversary of their deaths, 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

What exactly are we supposed to be doing during Advent? This is a question some may have because it's not as well known or clearly defined as Lent. Advent means "coming to" which relates to the Lord's Coming. We know that Advent leads to Christmas so it must be all about how the Lord came to us 2,000 years ago. This is actually only part of Advent. The other part is preparing or staying "awake" for the Lord's Second Coming. This might clarify a bit what Advent should be for us.

Advent is like how we prepare for a special guest coming for dinner: a nice meal and make sure the house is clean and in order. When I was growing up, a Dominican brother would come to our house about once a month. He came early! Sometimes, he would even arrive before I got home from school at 3 o'clock or so. To have Brother Fabian over for dinner meant everything had to be in order in the house the night before. It was even more like Christ's return because we didn't know the hour Brother would arrive.

During Advent, then, we get our house (soul) in order. If it's a major mess that requires a professional cleaning, then come to me or another priest for Confession before Christmas. Or, maybe this is a conversation of spiritual direction or guidance to get back on track with prayer. If it's some minor dusting or straightening, then ask God to help you grow in one of the virtues (e.g., faith, hope, charity, prudence, fortitude, justice, temperance, chastity, patience, meekness, humility, generosity). We probably know what we need to clean up (with God's help), but Advent reminds us of what that is and the need to do it.

We enjoy the experience with the house guest anyway but especially in our cleaned-up home. It is always worth the effort. The same is true for Advent. If we clean up our soul in just one way during this holy season preparing for Christ's Coming, then we can enjoy celebrating Christmas even more.

May you know the peace of Christ,

Fr. Greg



**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 Saturday, **December 17th** 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 10th** 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, December 7th 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, **December 4th**, 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](mailto:gshaffer@olvp.org)), or Deacon Ted Dmichowski ([DeaconTed@olvp.org](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://www.olvp.org) for information.



**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 **10/11 December**, helps to provide medications, nursing care, and more for thousands of elderly religious. Please be generous to this national 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](http://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.

**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](http://www.olvp.org)). Orders must be received by **Friday, December 16th**.



**ADVENT ADOPTED FAMILY COLLECTION 2022!** Please remember to drop off your donated gifts, NEW and Unwrapped, in a bag with the corresponding ornament attached, under the tree in the Gathering Space by **December 11th**. This is an opportunity to share our blessings with other families in our community.

**Human Resources**

**NEW PARISHIONERS:** The following families have recently joined our parish: **Mr. & Mrs. Robert Randall, Ms. Rita M. Reardon, Mr. & Mrs. Jeffrey Adams, and Mr. & Mrs. Matt Brodd.**

**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](http://www.olvp.org)

**POINSETTIA FUNDRAISER:** OLVP is selling gorgeous poinsettias for holiday decorating for only \$25.00 a pot. Plan to pick up your order this weekend, Saturday, **December 3rd** from noon to 1 pm or 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:** Please stop by our Christmas Craft Shop on the weekends of the Christmas Tree Sales (December 3-4 and 10-11), to find some unique, hand-made gift items. Proceeds will go to our parish.



**NATIVITY DISPLAY:** OLVP 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.

**PARISH OFFICE HOURS:** The Parish Office will be closed on **Thursday, December 8th** to honor the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. 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) 948-5536 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](http://www.faithdirect.net). Our Church Code is **MD114**.