

Our Lady of the Visitation Parish

14139 Seneca Road • Darnestown, Maryland 20874



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

18 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

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 2022

- 18 Sun** Mass, 9:00 am, 11:00 am, 5:00 pm, Church
St. Martin's Food Pantry Collection
Raines Creche Collection, Founders Hall
 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
- 19 Mon** Mass, 12:00 Noon, Church
 Adoration: 11:00 am
- 20 Tue** Mass, 8:30 am, 12:00 Noon
 Adoration: 11:00 am
 Faith Formation:
 Grades 1-5: 5 - 6:00 p.m., Founders Hall
Parish Penance Service, 7:00 pm, Church
- 21 Wed** Mass, 12 Noon and 6 pm, Church
 Adoration, 11:00 am and 6:30 pm
 Scripture Study, 7:30 pm, Fdrs. Hall
- 22 Thu** Mass: 8:30 am and 12 noon, Church
- 23 Fri** Mass, 12 Noon and 6:00 pm, Church
 Adoration: 11:00 am and 6:30 pm, Church
Office Closes at Noon
- 24 Sat** Daily Mass, 9:00 am, Church
 AA, 12 Noon, St. Anne's Room
Vigil Mass, 4 pm Children's Mass, 7 pm,
10 pm, Church
- 25 Sun** Mass, 11 am, Church
- 26 Mon** Mass, 12 Noon
Office Closed



Liturgical Life

HEALING MASS: Fr. Greg will celebrate Mass with Healing Prayers at **2:00 p.m. in the church on Sunday, January 8, 2023.** This is a schedule change. There will not be a healing Mass on January 1, New Year's Day.



MUSIC AT CHRISTMAS MASSES: Our musicians are getting ready to sing and play with joy at the birth of Our Savior this Christmas! At the **10 pm Mass on Christmas Eve**, music will be provided by members of the Salon Orchestra of Washington. At the **4 pm Children's Mass on Christmas Eve, 7 pm Mass on Christmas Eve, and 11 am Mass on Christmas Day**, music will be provided by our talented team of OLVP music ministers. "Glory to the newborn King!"

ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE: Get sin-free! Join us for an Advent Penance Service on **Tuesday, December 20th** at 7 pm, and prepare for Christmas through the Sacrament of Reconciliation. One priest will join Father Greg in offering confessions.



Readings for the Week of December 18, 2022

- Monday:** Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17/
 Lk 1:5-25
- Tuesday:** Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6/Lk 1:26-38
- Wednesday:** Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33:2-3, 11-12,
 20-21/Lk 1:39-45
- Thursday:** 1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd/Lk
 1:46-56
- Friday:** Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14/
 Lk 1:57-66
- Saturday:**
 Morning: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27
 and 29/Lk 1:67-79
 Vigil: Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29 (2a)/Acts
 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25 Night:
 Is 9:1-6/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13/Ti 2:11-14/
 Lk 2:1-14
- Sunday:** Is 62:11-12/Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12/Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15
 -20 Day: Is 52:7-10/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 [3]/
 Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14

MASS SETTING: During Advent, we will sing the **Mass of Creation**, found at B in the *Breaking Bread* hymnal. 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 the Christmas Season we will sing the Mass of Spirit and Grace, found at #924-932 in the *Breaking Bread* hymnal. "He who sings prays twice." - *St. Augustine*

Parish Life

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

The following short reflection about today's Gospel comes from Bishop Barron (wordonfire.org).

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

Friends, today's Gospel presents John the Baptist as a revolutionary.

Advent is best understood as a preparation for a revolution. The liturgical readings for this time of the year—focusing on Isaiah, John the Baptist, Mary, and Jesus—positively crackle with energy and electricity. When we seek to understand them on their own terms and in the context of the time in which they were written, we discover their revolutionary power.

Around the year 30, an alarming figure appeared in the Judean desert, wearing animal skins and eating locusts and wild honey; and his theme hearkened back to the prophet Isaiah: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths." John the Baptist was telling his listeners to make ready for the arrival of the God of Israel as a conquering King who would, once again, overthrow the oppressors of his people.

And the revolution arrived in the person of a young Galilean rabbi, whose message was simple and unambiguous: "Repent, for the kingdom of God is at hand." Jesus was saying that the new King has arrived, and he's begun his work; so, change your lives and come under his lordship.

MARCH FOR LIFE: Join OLVP For Life on Friday **January 20, 2023** for the 50th annual March for Life as we celebrate the overturn of Roe v. Wade. Let's fill OLVP's bus! A Mass for Life will be celebrated at OLVP at 9 am and the bus will leave at 10 am. Return to OLVP will be between 4 and 5 pm. The cost of the bus AND lunch will be \$50.00. **NEW THIS YEAR:** Purchase an OLVP for Life reversible scarf online for \$20.00. Register on the OLVP website now!

NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY AT OLVP from 9 pm to 12 midnight on **Saturday, December 31**. Adoration and confessions in the church and party in Founders Hall. Contact Fr. Greg if interested. Bring your own food and drink. Start the New Year with Jesus and a clean slate!!

PARISH BIBLE STUDY: Continuing on **Wednesday, December 21st at 7:30 pm**, Fr. Greg will offer the weekly Scripture Study session to discuss the upcoming Sunday's readings.

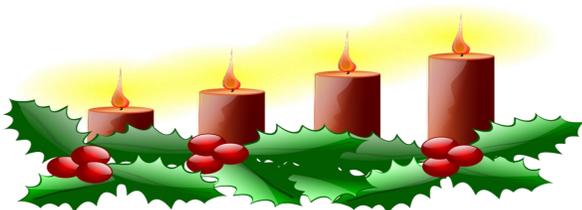
"CROSS-FIT SERIES": Fr. Greg will lead a series of talks on suffering based on Hebrews 12:7, "...endure your trials as 'discipline'". The final session of the series will be held in Founders Hall today, Sunday, **December 18th**, from 12:15 to 1:00 pm. The series will finish on December 18th. Come and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

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. 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.

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 (Deaconed@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, Rita-Ann, Linda, Anil, Jay, and Anna Jean Mercanti.**

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 **TODAY - Sunday, December 18th** at 6:00 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

RELIGIOUS RETIREMENT COLLECTION: Thank you to those parishioners who donated to this national collection.

ADVENT ADOPTED FAMILY COLLECTION 2022! Thank you to everyone who so generously donated to this collection. Many families will have a happy Christmas because of your efforts,

ST. MARTIN'S FOOD PANTRY: Our monthly food collection is happening this weekend, **Saturday, December 17th** and **Sunday, December 18th**. Most needed items include: meals in a can (stew, chili, etc.), pasta sauce, dry unsweetened cereal, canned beans, pasta, canned soup, Ensure for adults, Pediasure, diapers (all sizes) & baby wipes. The pantry could also use paper and plastic grocery bags as well as egg cartons (12 egg size). Items may be placed in the alcove in the lower level of the church outside Founders Hall by 12 noon on Sunday. Donations will be picked up at noon to be delivered directly to the Food Pantry. **Please consider donating.** St. Martin's is serving an average of 220 families weekly and are expecting to serve about 400 families during the Christmas Season. **PLEASE HELP MEET THEIR NEEDS!**



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.

Human Resources

NEW PARISHIONERS: The following families have recently joined our parish: **Mr. & Mrs. Seth Sasser** and **Mr. & Mrs. Paul Goslin.**

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

CHRISTMAS TREE SALES: Thank you to all those involved in the tree, wreath, and craft shop sales this year. These FUNraisers were a TREEmendous success. Thank you, also, to our parishioners who bought their trees from us.

PARISH OFFICE HOURS: The Parish Office will be closed at noon on Friday, **December 23rd** and will re-open on Tuesday, **December 27th**. 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

CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS: To receive credit in 2022, your contributions must be dated December 31, 2022. If you are mailing a contribution, it must be received in the Parish Office on or before **Tuesday, January 3, 2023.**

CHRISTMAS COLLECTION: We are grateful to parishioners who make extra donations to the parish at Christmas.

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.**