

Our Lady of the Visitation Parish

14139 Seneca Road • Darnestown, Maryland 20874



FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

26 February 2023

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

FEBRUARY 2023

26 Sun Mass, 9:00 am, 11:00 am, 5:00 pm, Church
Faith Formation:
CGS: 9 to 10 am, Atrium, Pre-school, K
Grades 6-8: 9:45 to 10:45 am, Church
High School Youth Group: 5:00 pm, Church

27 Mon Mass, 12 noon
Adoration: 11 am, Church

28 Tue Mass, 8:30 am, 12:00 Noon
Adoration: 11:00 am
Faith Formation:
Grades 1-5: 5-6:00 pm, Founders Hall

MARCH 2023

01 Wed Mass, 12 Noon and 6 pm, Church
Adoration, 11:00 am and 6:30 pm
Scripture Study, 7:30 pm, Fdrs. Hall

02 Thu Mass: 8:30 am and 12 noon, Church

03 Fri Mass: 12 noon and 6:00 pm, Church
Stations of the Cross, 6:30 pm
Adoration: 11 am, 7:00 pm, Church

04 Sat Daily Mass, 9:00 am, Church
Sodality, 9:30 am, Founders Hall
AA, 12 Noon, St. Anne's Room
Vigil Mass, 5:00 pm, Church

05 Sun Mass, 9:00 am, 11:00 am, 5:00 pm, Church
Healing Mass, 2:00 pm, Church
Faith Formation:
CGS: 9 to 10 am, Atrium, Pre-school, K
Grades 6 and 8: 9:45 to 10:45 am, Church
High School Youth Group: 5:00 pm, Church
Grade 7 Confirmation Study Session II, 6:00 pm, Founders Hall

Liturgical Life

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT: This week, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will take place in the church on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 11 am to noon, and on Wednesday evening from 6:30 to 7:30 pm. Adoration will be on **Friday evening from 7:00 to 8:00 pm** after Stations of the Cross at 6:30 pm. There is no Eucharistic Adoration on Thursdays.

MASS SETTING: During **Lent**, we are singing the **Mass of Creation**, found at 885-888 in the *Breaking Bread* hymnal. The Glory to God is not sung during Lent.

LENT: The Lenten season has a double character, namely, to prepare both prospective Catholics and parishioners to celebrate the paschal mystery. The prospective Catholics, both with the Rite of Election and Scrutinies, and by catechesis, are prepared for the celebration of the sacraments of Christian initiation; the parishioners, ever more attentive to the word of God and prayer, prepare themselves by penance for the renewal of their baptismal promises. Lent runs from **Ash Wednesday (22 February 2023) until the beginning of the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday (06 April 2023).**

FAST AND ABSTINENCE: Abstinence from meat is to be observed by all Catholics 14 years old and older on



Readings for the Week of February 26, 2023

Monday: Lv 19:1-2, 11-18/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15/Mt 25:31-46

Tuesday: Is 55:10-11/Ps 34:4-5, 6-7, 16-17, 18-19/Mt 6:7-15

Wednesday: Jon 3:1-10/Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19/Lk 11:29-32

Thursday: Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25/Ps 138:1-2ab, 2cde-3, 7c-8/Mt 7:7-12

Friday: Ez 18:21-28/Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 507a, 7bc-8/Mt 5:20-26

Saturday: Dt 26:16-19/Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8/Mt 5:43-48

Sunday: Gn 12:1-4a/Ps 33:4-5, 18-19, 20, 22 (22)/2 Tm 1:8b-10/Mt 17:1-9

all Fridays of Lent. This obligation prohibits the eating of meat, but not eggs, milk products, or condiments of any kind, even though made from animal fat. Fasting means limiting oneself to one full meal on a given fast day. Catholics who are 18 years of age but not yet 59 are obliged to fast and abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday and on **Good Friday, April 7, 2023.** Self-imposed observance of fasting on all weekdays of Lent is strongly recommended.

Parish Life

ECCE QUAM BONUM: Last weekend, **Henry Roger Clark** celebrated Baptism.

PARISH NECROLOGY: On the anniversary of their death, please keep the following parishioners in your prayers: **Joan Gossett** (02 February 2018), **Jerome John Podojil** (04 February 1997), **Julianne Copenhaver** (05 February 1999), **Claudia Hughes** (07 February 1999), **Frederick William Whalen** (09 February 1998), **Joseph E. Gaffney** (13 February 1996), **Daniel Stack O'Connor** (16 February 2015), **Paul Emile Fecteau** (18 February 2016), and **Luco Fierro** (26 February 2015).

PASTOR'S PAGE

At Youth Group last Sunday night, we watched a video on Lent by "Catholic Central". The hosts explained that Lent comes from the Anglo-Saxon word, "lencten", which means spring. Spring is a time when the days lengthen. So, Lent is a time for our spiritual lives to lengthen and grow. Our group discussed Lenten practices under the heading of the three disciplines: prayer, fasting, and alms giving. An alm is "a material good given to the poor as an act of charity", the video noted. Our discussion ended with a question from me which invited them to give alms.

I told them that the Super Bowl squares were a fundraiser for our "youth program" which means their Youth Group. Thanks to the dozens of parishioners and friends of the parish who participated in the squares, we raised \$3,000. The question to our teens was, do you want to keep this for our group (which we could definitely use for our weekly dinners and other expenses) or send it to the youth in Haiti at our sister parish?

The situation in Haiti with the revolution the past several months has been horrific. There is crime and violence all around the pastor, families, and teachers at Notre Dame de la Visitation. School has remained in session mainly for the children to eat. A parish in Baltimore is sending money to Notre Dame for the children's meals and has asked us to contribute to the salaries of the teachers (about \$946 a month at the current, weak exchange rate of the goud). Two weeks ago, I wired \$1,355 to Fr. Andre at Notre Dame which was the remaining amount of our parish's collection (around \$9,000) for Haiti last year. My estimated guess is that the total of \$4,355 will pay the teachers now through the end of this school year.

Our teens answered my question quickly and unanimously: send the money to Haiti...!

May you know the peace of Christ,

Fr. Greg



BEREAVEMENT MINISTRY: *"Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted" (Matthew 5:4)* Mindful of Christ's Beatitude and aware that the loss of a loved one is one of life's most painful and difficult experiences, Father Greg has initiated plans for a Bereavement Ministry program at OLVP. The purpose of the program is to provide parishioners who have lost a loved one the comfort, support, and help they need to navigate through a difficult time. To learn more about the Bereavement Ministry and how you can help, please contact Father Greg at gshaffer@olvp.org or Elizabeth Verzariu at e.verzariu@gmail.com.

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 **today, Sunday, March 12th at 12:15pm** 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.

KOC BASKETBALL: Bring your best game to the 13th annual Knights of Columbus 3-on-3 half-court basketball tournament on Saturday, **March 4th**, at 1 pm at Poolesville Baptist Church, 17550 West Willard Road in Poolesville. Open to female and male players ages 6 to 99, the tournament's youth and adult divisions ensure lots of on-court action from start to finish. Entry fee is one non-perishable food item per player, donated to WUMCO Helps, a food bank that serves our community. For more information, contact David Bivans, dnlbivans34@verizon.net.

PARISH BIBLE STUDY: Continuing on **Wednesday, March 3rd at 7:30 pm**, Fr. Greg will offer the weekly Scripture Study session to discuss the upcoming Sunday's readings.

40 DAYS FOR LIFE: Join OLVP on **Wednesdays from 1pm to 2 pm throughout Lent** (February 22 - April 2) to pray outside LeRoy Carhart's abortion clinic, Wildwood Medical Center, 10401 Old Georgetown Road, Bethesda, MD. We stand on the public sidewalk along the white picket fence facing Old Georgetown Road. 40 Days for Life is an internationally coordinated 40-day campaign that aims to end abortion locally through prayer and fasting, community outreach, and a peaceful all-day vigil in front of abortion businesses. www.40daysforlife.com/bethesda

OLVP FOR LIFE: Our Memorial Garden construction will begin soon! This memorial garden is a special place where OLVP parents, family and friends can remember babies who died in the womb or at birth. Polished brass plaques to memorialize a baby may be purchased for \$450. For more information and to order a plaque, go to: <https://olvp.org/olvp-for-life>.

AOH: Proud to be Irish and Catholic? Need to be part of something special? Embrace your Faith, Heritage, Culture, History, Dance and Music in the Ancient Order of Hibernians. Join the nation's oldest and largest Irish Catholic Fraternal organization. Email aoh.washdc@gmail.com

MATRIMONY POLICY: 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.

PRAYER REQUESTS: If you would like to have our community pray for yourself or for someone else, please enter your request on our website: <http://www.olvp.org/prayer-request>. Please pray for: **Ted Bany, Jack, Sang Sang & Family, Viola Bradshaw, Sabah, Sandy, Kate, Donna, Terry, Elizabeth Bannerman, Antonio, Peter-ton, Francisca, Ana, Anabel and Angelo Abuzo, Cita Abugaa, Paploy, Samuel, and Kristen Conrad.**

Faith Formation for Life

VACATION BIBLE CAMP: OLVP will launch our Stellar VBS June 19 thru 23, from 9 am to noon, with youth from 4 years old to rising 5th graders. Middle/High School youth and adults are needed to help as well. Register on-line at www.olvp.org. Contact Erin Clegg (eclegg@olvp.org) to volunteer.

SMALL BIBLE STUDY GROUPS: As part of our Adult Faith Formation, we invite you to join a men's or women's small group for Bible Study led by pairs of OLVP parishioners. **If you have not already been invited and are interested in joining a group, please submit your name to Cheryl at chw@olvp.org.**

Social Concerns

CRS: The Catholic Relief Services Collection will be taken in our parish on **March 25-26, 2023.** If you prefer, you may go to www.crs.org and login to the Donor Portal. The funds from the collection help provide food to the hungry, welcome and support to displaced refugees, and invaluable life skills to those seeking a better life. Please give generously to this Archdiocesan collection.



THE LORD'S TABLE (TLT) SOUP KITCHEN: TLT serves hot meals (soup, main dish, salad, bread, dessert)

every Monday through Friday at 3:30 pm at Epworth United Methodist Church at 9008 Rosemont Avenue in Gaithersburg. OLVP and many other groups provide volunteers for this important ministry. Volunteers may work in two shifts. From 1-3pm, a team prepares the meal. From 3-5pm, a team serves and cleans the kitchen. The Lord's Table staff of kitchen coordinators sets the menu and provides guidance/instruction to volunteers. TLT is an approved MCPS volunteer organization. High school students may help serve, and middle schoolers may help serve provided that they have an adult with them. Students can receive SSL hours for serving and clean-up. **Interested in becoming part of this ministry either as a substitute or a monthly crew member?** Please email parishioner Sue Rambo at smmahn@aol.com.

THANK YOU to all our thoughtful donors of needed items for the St. Martin's Food Pantry. Without your faithful help, many of our neighbors would not have access to items they need to survive.

2023 ANNUAL APPEAL: The Annual Appeal supports critical services and ministries of the Church in an effective and meaningful way and supports ministries larger than any parish or agency. Parishioners are encouraged to contribute by check, credit card, phone, through Faith Direct or other forms of payment. Please read more at <https://adw.org/ways-to-give/annual-appeal/> and thank you for your support.

Human Resources

NEW PARISHIONERS: The following families recently joined our parish: **Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Powell, and Mr. & Mrs. Carlos Hernandez Jr.**

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 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. Our Church Code is **MD114**.