

Our Lady of the Visitation Parish

14139 Seneca Road • Darnestown, Maryland 20874



FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

19 March 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

MARCH 2023

- 19 Sun** Mass, 9:00 am, 11:00 am, 5:00 pm, Church
St. Martin's Food Pantry Collection
 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
- 20 Mon** Mass, 12 noon
 Adoration: 11 am, Church
- 21 Tue** Mass, 8:30 am, 12:00 Noon
 Adoration: 11:00 am, Church
 Faith Formation:
 Grades 1-5: 5-6:00 pm, Founders Hall
- 22 Wed** Mass, 12 Noon and 6 pm, Church
 Adoration, 11:00 am and 6:30 pm, Church
Parish Mission, 7 pm, Church
No Scripture Study
- 23 Thu** Mass: 8:30 am and 12 noon, Church
Parish Mission, 7 pm, Church
- 24 Fri** Mass: 12 noon and 6:00 pm, Church
 Stations of the Cross, 6:30 pm, Church
Parish Mission, 7 pm, Church
 Adoration: 11 am, 7:00 pm, Church
- 25 Sat** Daily Mass, 9:00 am, Church
 Women's Group, 9:30 am, Founders Hall
 AA, 12 Noon, St. Cecelia's Room
 Vigil Mass, 5:00 pm, Church
Volunteer Party, 6:00 pm, Founders Hall
- 26 Sun** Mass, 9:00 am, 11:00 am, 5:00 pm, Church
CRS Collection
 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

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** during the Parish Mission. There is no Eucharistic Adoration on Thursdays.

SCAPULAR BLESSING AND INVESTITURE: We will be handing out (up to 40) new Scapulars of Our Lady of Mount Carmel that will be blessed and invested (enrolled) during the **6 pm Mass on Friday, March 31**. You don't need to respond, just come forward when we begin the procedure during Mass.

ALTAR SERVERS NEEDED: Altar Servers assist the Priest in the procession, handling the Roman Missal for the prayers on the altar and assist with setting the chalices and ciborium on the altar. If you have made your First Communion and have not yet graduated from high school, we can use your help. Please contact Deacon Ted to arrange for training. DeaconTed@olvp.org or call the office to leave a message (301) 948-5536.



Readings for the Week of March 19, 2023

- Monday:** 2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29/Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22/Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a or Lk 2:41-51a
- Tuesday:** Ez 47:1-9, 12/Ps 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9/Jn 5:1-16
- Wednesday:** Is 49:8-15/Ps 145:8-9, 13cd-14, 17-18/Jn 5:17-30
- Thursday:** Ex 32:7-14/Ps 106:19-20, 21-22, 23/Jn 5:31-47
- Friday:** Wis 2:1a, 12-22/Ps 34:17-18, 19-20, 21 and 23/Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30
- Saturday:** Is 7:10-14; 8:10/Ps 40:7-8a, 8b-9, 10, 11/Heb 10:4-10/Lk 1:26-38
- Sunday:** Ez 37:12-14/Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8 (7)/Rom 8:8-11/Jn 11:1-45 or 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45

Parish Life

R.I.P.: It is with sadness that we announce the death of **Lolito Plasencia Escarro**, brother of **Maria (Andrew) Powell**. We commend him and his family in our prayers to God.

PARISH NECROLOGY: On the anniversary of their death, please keep the following parishioners in your prayers: **Carmen Rochester** (02 March 2021), **Paul Vincent Stack** (03 March 2018), **Victoria Ann Parks Martin** (04 March 2011), **Elizabeth Bonfils** (05 March 2008), **William Vanderhorst Brumby** (07 March 2011), **Patrick James McGinty** (08 March 2018), **Alex Martin** (16 March 2006), **Mario Marini** (17 March 2002), **Paul DiDuca** (17 March 2006), **Robert Majchrzak** (22 March 2010), **Sue Ann Baluta** (23 March 2003), **Mary Louise Mayer** (25 March 2013), **Eugenio Cantero** (25 March 2021), **Richard J. Marcinko** (29 March 1992), and **Alfred Alex Soltesz** (29 March 1996).

OLVP FOR LIFE: We are blessed to announce that our **Memorial Garden** construction is about to begin! Located near the Stations of the Cross, this memorial garden will be a special place where OLVP parents, family and friends can

PASTOR'S PAGE

Last weekend, I led a retreat for over twenty men and women from our Men's Group and Sodality, respectively. It was a powerful and fruitful weekend, thanks to the Holy Spirit. Our theme, "The Way of the Cross in families", was Lenten in nature and related to family issues: We addressed several family wounds that all people have experienced or are experiencing like death or illness, division, relationships, and generational sin. There were two hopes for the retreat: 1) that they (and their family through them) would experience healing, and 2) that we could introduce the "healing of families" ministry to all OLVP families in the future. I am excited to present that to you soon.

The question that is put to Christ in today's Gospel (The Man Born Blind, Jn 9:1-41) is about the man's family. "*Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?*". They are asking Him about generational sin. He doesn't say there's no such thing. And Scripture does provide examples of it. "*For I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, inflicting punishment for their fathers' wickedness on the children of those who hate me, down to the third and fourth generation*" (Exodus 20:5 and generational mercy in verse 6 "to the thousandth generation"). The doctrine on Original Sin and our inheritance of it is established as early as St. Paul's letter to the Romans: "all are under the domination of sin" (3:9) and "through the disobedience of one person the many were made sinner" (5:19).

The Lord's answer denies the question (like the question of today if someone is born with X or chooses it). Rather, He focuses on healing the blindness of the man. He is blind "so that the works of God might be made visible through him". And, then it happens. Christ heals him, thus making the works of God visible through him. This is the healing that those on the retreat received, and we hope that many at OLVP will experience as well. He can heal any and all wounds in families - physical, mental, and emotional. Let us be open to Christ making the works of God visible through us.



May you know the peace of Christ,

Fr. Greg

remember babies who died in the womb or at birth. Polished brass plaques to memorialize a baby may be purchased for \$450. Deadline for spring orders is **March 31st**. For more information and to order a plaque, go to: <https://olvp.org/olvp-for-life>.

VOLUNTEER PARTY: The Volunteer Party as been rescheduled for **Saturday, March 25, 2023** in Founders Hall from 6 to 9 pm. Please RSVP on the Parish website (olvp.org) or contact Tony Glander to register. tglander@olvp.org (301) 460-6404. We hope to see you for some great food and dancing!

OLVP PARISH MISSION FOR LENT: It's common and fruitful for a Catholic parish to have a "mission" to grow together during Lent, led by an outside priest or religious, with a particular theme or focus on one aspect of our life with Christ. Fr. Tom Morrow of the Archdiocese of Washington will be leading our Parish Mission from 7-8 pm on **March 22, 23, and 24** in the church. Our theme will be "Saints and Sacraments". Fr. Morrow is an excellent speaker and story-teller, especially about the saints. Please join us for one or all of the nights!

PARISH BIBLE STUDY: In lieu of the Parish Mission, we will **not have our session on March 22**. The next Scripture Study is scheduled for **Wednesday, March 29th at 7:30 pm**.

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, **April 23rd** at 12:15 pm 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.

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

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 office to arrange for visitation and Communion.

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, Donna, Terry, Elizabeth Bannerman, Antonio, Peteron, Francisca, Ana, Anabel and Angelo Abuzo, Cita Abugaa, Paploy, Samuel, Kristen Conrad, Kate, Sarah, Sandy Sachs, Alexia, Ted, Patricia Rossomondo Bulla, Lolito Plascencia Escarro and Family, Kate Tyrar and Family, and for Shashini Chameli Kumari Dehideniya.**

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

SHADY GROVE PREGNANCY CENTER: Ultra-sound Models Needed! Are you pregnant? Thinking of becoming pregnant? Please come for a free ultrasound during the week of Nurse Sonographer Training, **March 27—31**. Needed are women who are not pregnant, as well as pregnant women at every stage, for a limited OB/GYN ultrasound. Note: this is not a diagnostic sonogram to rule out pregnancy complications. You will receive a picture of your ultrasound and be entered into a raffle for an awesome gift card basket! Call 301-963-6223 to sign up!

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. Your support makes a difference.

LENTEN FOOD DRIVE FOR ST. MARTIN'S FOOD PANTRY: During this season of Lent, in our efforts to give alms, let us be generous with those in our community who are in need. **St. Martin's Food Pantry is serving an average of 275 families per week and they do not have enough donations at this time to meet this need.** Our collection will be held this weekend, **March 18 & 19**. Most needed items include: dry unsweetened cereal, mac & cheese, dry rice/beans, canned fruit, "meals in a can", pasta, pasta sauce, canned beans, canned soup, *Ensure* for adults, *Pediasure*, diapers (all sizes) & baby wipes. The

pantry could also use paper & 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 noon on Sunday. Donations will be picked up at noon to be delivered directly to the Food Pantry. **The Pantry needs our help so that they can help those in need.**

Human Resources

NEW PARISHIONERS: The following family recently joined our parish: **Mrs. Gabriela Brower.**

OLVP DIRECTORY: The new directory is available online. To view the directory, go to **members.InstantChurchDirectory.com** and follow the prompts under "Sign In" to "Create a login now." Please remember, you will need to use your email address **as listed in our directory** to create a log-in the first time you use the directory online and via the mobile app. There is also a free mobile app available for download at the Apple® App store in iTunes®, Google Play™ store and Amazon Fire App Store. Simply search for **"Instant Church Directory"** to get the download. If you need help or would like to submit your family's picture for the directory, please contact Tony Glander: tglander@olvp.org or (301) 460-6404.

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: As we approach Easter, we focus our daily activities on growing closer to Christ through an increase in prayer, fasting and almsgiving. May this extend into our lives beyond this liturgical season. Signing up with *Faith Direct* is a great way to focus on almsgiving throughout the year. It is a secure and convenient way to make a conscious decision about your financial support of our many wonderful ministries. Sign up today by visiting Faith Direct/MD114, or by texting **"ENROLL" to 301-701-3032**. You may enroll on-line at www.faithdirect.net or by calling Faith Direct customer service at 866-507-8757. Our Church Code is **MD114**. **Thank you** for your continued support of our parish family.