

Our Lady of the Visitation Parish

14139 Seneca Road • Darnestown, Maryland 20874



TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

24 September 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 Hench, (301) 969-4963
jhench@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

September 2023

- 24 Sun** Mass: 9 am, 11 am, 5 pm
Nursery Available at 9 and 11 am Masses
Cardinal celebrates 11 am Mass and Blesses Stations of the Cross & Grotto
Faith Formation Begins:
 Atrium: 9 am and 11 am sessions
 Grades 6, 7 & 8: 9:45 am
Festival: 12 to 3 pm
No High School Youth Group
- 25 Mon** Mass, 12 Noon, Church
 Adoration: 11:00 am, Church
- 26 Tue** Mass, 8:30 am and 12 Noon, Church
 Adoration, 11:00 am, Church
Children's Choir, 4:15 pm, Church
Faith Formation:
Grades 1 - 5: 5:00 pm, Founders Hall
- 27 Wed** Mass, 12 Noon and 6:00 pm, Church
 Adoration, 11:00 am and 6:30 pm, Church
 Scripture Study, 7:30 pm, Founders Hall
- 28 Thu** Mass, 8:30 am and 12 Noon, Church
 No Adoration
- 29 Fri** Mass: 12 Noon and 6:00 pm, Church
 Adoration, 11:00 am and 6:30 pm
- 30 Sat** Men's Group, 7:30 am, Founders Hall
 Daily Mass, 9:00 am, Church
 Women's Group, 9:30 am, Founders Hall
 AA, 12 Noon, St. Anne's Room
 Vigil Mass, 5:00 pm, Church

October 2023

- 01 Sun** Mass: 9 am, 11 am, 5 pm Church
 Healing Mass, 2:00 pm, Church
 St. Martin's Food Pantry Collection
Blessing of Animals, 12:15 pm,
Lower Parking Lot
RCIA, 1:00 pm, Deacon Ted, Church
 H.S. Youth Group, 5:00 pm, Church

Liturgical Life

CARDINAL GREGORY: Cardinal Gregory will celebrate the 11:00 am Mass **today, Sunday, September 24th**, and bless the Stations of the Cross and Grotto.

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 and Friday evenings from 6:30 to 7:30 pm. There is no Adoration on Thursday.

Parish Life

R.I.P.: It is with sadness that we announce the death of **Greg Jordan**, father of Julia Jordan, and **Alfred Costello**, brother of Nancy (Paul) Goslin. We commend them and their families to God in our prayers.



Readings for the Week of September 24, 2023

- Monday:** Ezr 1:1-6/Ps 126:1b-2ab, 2cd-3, 4-5, 6/Lk 8:16-18
- Tuesday:** Ezr 6:7-8, 12b, 14-20/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4ab, 4cd-5/Lk 8:19-21
- Wednesday:** Ezr 9:5-9/Tb 13:2, 3-4a, 4befghn, 7-8/Lk 9:1-6
- Thursday:** Hg 1:1-8/Ps 149:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6a and 9b/Lk 9:7-9
- Friday:** Dn 7:9-10, 13-14 or Rv 12:7-12a/Ps 138:1-2ab, 2cde-3, 4-5/Jn 1:47-51
- Saturday:** Zec 2:5-9, 14-15a/Jer 31:10, 11-12ab, 13/Lk 9:43b-45
- Sunday:** Ez 18:25-28/Ps 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9, (6a)/Phil 2:1-11 or 2:1-5/Mt 21:28-32

PARISH NECROLOGY: On the anniversary of their deaths, please keep the following parishioners in your prayers: **Agnes F. Kelly** (2 September 2002), **Richard J. Gordon** (03 September 2012), **Harry T. Lackey, Jr.** (10 September 2002), **Vincent Burns** (10 September 1994), **Heidi Titus** (17 September 2021), **Andrew Garde** (22 September 1994), and **Mabel Rebecca Offutt** (30 September 2015).

OLVP FOR LIFE: Our beautiful Memorial Garden was blessed last month. It 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. Deadline for fall orders is **October 31st**. For more information and to order a plaque, go to: <https://olvp.org/olvp-for-life>.

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 will be offered on **October 22nd** 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.

WOMEN'S NIGHT OF REFLECTION: All women are invited to a Women's Night of Reflection on **October 10th** at 7:00 pm, beginning with prayer and Exposition of the

PASTOR'S PAGE

Thankfully, a common question here has been from non-Catholics, 'what do I need to do to become Catholic'? The answer is to join our RCIA program. We have a form on our website for people to join RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) and have received a few requests recently. Deacon Ted runs the year-long RCIA class for those who are unbaptized and unfamiliar with the teachings and practices of the Church. I run a few 10-week series usually for those who are baptized, married to a Catholic, and are familiar with the Church. Several people enjoyed the groups last year along with many Catholic parishioners who came to learn more about the faith or get a refresher.

I have used the same book for RCIA the past twenty years or so: "We Believe" by Oscar Lukefahr. It's excellent because it presents the core teachings of the Church in an elementary but substantial way. There are no tests in RCIA, but people read the book in order to be prepared for the discussions. They are each given a Catholic Bible as well as the Catechism of the Catholic Church. We discuss aspects of Catholic culture and go through many practices of the Church.

I present each topic as thoroughly as possible and with their questions in mind, so I don't typically get a lot of questions after the talk. My favorite discussion is on the Eucharist and the Mass. They might ask questions the following week because it takes time to process the huge information. We are dealing with mysteries, so the more we learn, the more questions we should have. If coming to a group like RCIA intimidates you, you can just order and read the "We Believe" book (or a similar book) and email me questions. The study of our Catholic faith even at a basic level is so fascinating!

May you know the peace of Christ,

Fr. Greg



Blessed Sacrament, at St. Andrew Apostle, Silver Spring. Fr. Mark Ivany, Director of Priest Vocations for the Archdiocese of Washington, will provide a reflection, "Mary, Mother of the Eucharist, Mother of Priests." Confessions available. No registration required. Email Lisa Longacre at lisalongacre@yahoo.com if you have questions.

RCIA: Are you interested in becoming Catholic this Fall? Or want to learn more about your Catholic faith? Father Greg will be leading Fall RCIA, a 10-week study of Catholic teachings and practices, on Tuesday evenings from 6:15-7:15 pm starting on **October 3**. Please contact him at gshaffer@olvp.org.

RESCUE PROJECT: The Rescue Project proclaims the Gospel in 9 video presentations followed by conversations in a group format held over eight weeks. All adults and high school teens are invited to join us on Mondays, starting on **October 2nd** through November 20th from 7 pm to 9 pm in Founder's Hall. For questions, call Diana Hurley at 240-353-9542 or email hurley05@verizon.net.

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS: On **Sunday, October 1st**, please bring your pets to the lower church parking lot after the noon Mass at **12:15 p.m.** so that they may receive a 'Blessing of the Animals,' in the tradition of St. Francis of Assisi, patron saint of animals. His feast is celebrated on October 4th.



BENEFIT FOR SHADY GROVE PREGNANCY CENTER: All parishioners are invited to attend Shady Grove Pregnancy Center's 40th Annual Banquet at 6:30 pm on Thursday, October 26, 2023 at the Rockville Hilton Hotel. OLVP will have our own table but you must **register** at the following link by **October 1**. <http://forms.gle/4WmvbBteB1mfkywy5> (Under 'Are you interested in hosting a table?' please select "No, because someone else is hosting my table." Any questions, contact OLVP for Life Chair, Alison Rascher at 240-832-4508.

40 DAYS FOR LIFE: **September 27-November 5:** Join OLVP on Tuesdays from 11am to 12pm at CARE Abortion Clinic, Wildwood Medical Ctr, 10401 Old Georgetown Road, Bethesda. To sign up, contact Alison Rascher at a.rascher@olvp.org.

PARISH BIBLE STUDY: Continuing on **Wednesday, September 27th at 7:30 pm**, Fr. Greg will offer the weekly Scripture Study to discuss the upcoming Sunday's readings.

MOVIE NIGHTS AT OLVP: Gather in Founders' Hall "Theater" on Monday, **September 25th** to watch *Saint Anthony: The Miracle Worker of Padua*. Plenty of seating is available or bring your sports chair if you'd like. Bring friends, family or neighbors to enjoy a free evening with movie & popcorn provided!

UPPER ROOM MEN'S GROUP: The Upper Room Men's Group invites all parish men to join "A Call to Faith and Fellowship." The Group meets every **Saturday**

at 7:30 am in Founder's Hall. For more information, please contact Peter Geiling, pgeiling67@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 (gshaffer@olvp.org)/Deacon Ted (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 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: **Lynn Meister, Nino, Olga, Viola Bradshaw, Cordelia Vogel, Joshua Watson, Christian, Laura, Bob, Damianus Christie, David Shoemaker, Ted, Robert Heath, Lonnie Luther, and Jose.**

Faith Formation for Life

YOUTH FAITH FORMATION: Information about the 2023-2024 school year may be found on our website www.olvp.org under the Faith Formation heading. Register now and check for current developments. If you are new to the parish, registration is on-going. If you would like information, please email Erin Clegg at eclegg@olvp.org.

Social Concerns

WORLD MISSION SUNDAY/PROPAGATION OF THE FAITH: Reminding us of Our Lord's commission to spread the Gospel to all nations, this second collection supports Church missions in more than 1,150 dioceses throughout Asia, Africa, the Pacific Islands, and remote regions of Latin America. This national collection will be taken on **October 21-22, 2023.**

ST. MARTIN'S FOOD PANTRY COLLECTION: Our monthly food collection will be held on Saturday, **September 30th** and Sunday, **October 1st**. Most needed items include: pasta sauce, pasta, dry unsweetened cereal, tuna/canned meat, mac & cheese, canned fruit, canned vegetables, 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 12:00 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.* Thank you for your generosity.

GABRIEL PROJECT: Want to put your pro-life beliefs into action? Women need to know, before they get pregnant, about the help that the Gabriel Project provides. You can help in several ways. Fall and winter, gently used or new maternity, infant, and children's clothes and shoes are all appreciated. Women volunteers are needed to assist client mothers. Men are needed to set up cribs or to pick up donations twice per month. Please visit

www.gpmoco.org for more information or contact Sarah Scherer at schererfamily6@gmail.com.

Human Resources

NEW PARISHIONERS: The following families have recently joined our parish: **Mrs. Natalie Cooper, Mr. & Mrs. Tommy Gladnick, and Mrs. Caroline Wiseman.**

NEW SEMINARIANS: OLVP extends a warm welcome to **Francis Hoa Nguyen** and **Joel Philip**, the two seminarians assigned to help us with our Faith Formation Programs this year.

CHILDREN'S CHOIR: We are excited to announce the start of the OLVP Children's Choir for singers in 3rd-8th grades! Rehearsals begin on **September 26th** and are held twice a month on Tuesdays from 4:15-5:00 pm. The Children's Choir sings at the monthly 9 am Children's Mass, Christmas Pageant, and 4pm Christmas Eve Mass. Please register your child online at www.olvp.org/childrens-choir. You may also contact Jyoti Hench at jhench@olvp.org.

ADULT CHOIR: The 11am choir invites singers in the parish to join us as we start up again this fall! The choir is open to adults and teens in 9th grade and above. We would especially love to grow our tenor and bass sections. Rehearsals are held every Tuesday, 6:30-7:30 pm, with an alternative daytime option available for those who need it. Please fill out the interest form at www.olvp.org/music or contact Jyoti Hench at jhench@olvp.org.

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

FAITH DIRECT: With the arrival of autumn, we'd like to invite you to join Faith Direct, our parish's electronic giving program. Getting started with eGiving is easy. Here are the ways to sign up. Visit faith.direct/MD114, or by texting **"ENROLL" to 301-701-3032**. You may also enroll by calling Faith Direct customer service at 866-507-8757. Our Church Code is **MD114**. **Thank you** for your continued support.

IRA CONTRIBUTIONS: Those who are over age 70 1/2 must take a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) from an IRA. Please consider a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) to support our Youth Center and Adoration Chapel. As one parishioner learned, QCD saves you from paying income taxes on the RMD amount and will not push you into a higher Medicare tax bracket.