

Our Lady of the Visitation Parish

14139 Seneca Road • Darnestown, Maryland 20874



OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE

26 November 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

November 2023

- 26 Sun** Mass: 9 am, 11 am, 5 pm, Church
Nursery Available at 9 and 11 am Masses
No Faith Formation
No High School Youth Group
Last Day for Poinsettia Orders
- 27 Mon** Mass, 12 Noon, Church
Adoration, 11:00 am, Church
- 28 Tue** Mass, 8:30 am and 12 Noon, Church
Adoration, 11:00 am, Church
Faith Formation:
Grades 1-5: 5:00 pm, Founders Hall
Pancake Supper, 6:00 pm, Founders Hall
- 29 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
- 30 Thu** Mass, 8:30 am and 12 Noon, Church
No Adoration

December 2023

- 01 Fri** Mass: 12 Noon and 6:00 pm, Church
Adoration, 11:00 am and 6:30 pm
Christmas Tree Sales, 4:00 to 8:00 pm
Poinsettia Pick-Up: 6:00 to 8:00 pm
- 02 Sat** Men's Group, 7:30 am, Founders Hall
Daily Mass, 9:00 am, Church
Sodality: 9:30 am, Founders Hall
Christmas Tree Sales, 9:00 am to 8:00 pm
AA, 12 Noon, St. Anne's Room
Poinsettia Pick-Up: 12 Noon to 2:00 pm
Vigil Mass, 5:00 pm, Church
- 03 Sun** Mass: 9 am, 11 am, 5 pm, Church
Nursery Available at 9 and 11 am Masses
Healing Mass, 2:00 pm, Church
Christmas Tree Sales, 9:00 am to 8:00 pm
Faith Formation:
Atrium: 9 am and 11 am sessions
Grades 6, 7 & 8: 9:45 am
Poinsettia Pick-Up: 6:00 to 8:00 pm
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 and Friday evenings from 6:30 to 7:30 pm. There is no Adoration on Thursday.

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. St. Bernard of Clairvaux reminds us that in Advent, we celebrate the three-fold coming of Christ: 1) Jesus came to us once in flesh and human frailty (Incarnation); 2) Jesus comes to us now in Sacred Word and Sacramental Mystery (Each Liturgical Year); 3) Jesus will come again in great glory and majesty (Second Coming). St. Bernard also



Readings for the Week of November 26, 2023

- Monday:** Dn 1:1-6, 8-20/Dn 3:52, 53, 54, 55, 56/Lk 21:1-4
- Tuesday:** Dn 2:31-45/Dn 3:57, 58, 59, 60, 61/Lk 21:5-11
- Wednesday:** Dn 5:1-6, 13-14, 16-17, 23-28/Dn 3:62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67/Lk 21:12-19
- Thursday:** Rom 10:9-18/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11/Mt 4:18-22
- Friday:** Dn 7:2-14/Dn 3:75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81/Lk 21:29-33
- Saturday:** Dn 7:15-27/Dn 3:82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87/Lk 21:34-36
- Sunday:** Is 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7/Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 (4)/1 Cor 1:3-9/Mk 13:33-37

reminds us that Advent is a most appropriate time to honor Mary—patroness of our Country, our Archdiocese and our Parish. Advent begins on **Sunday, December 3rd, 2023.**

Parish Life

REQUIESCANT IN PACE: Throughout the month of November you are asked to pray for the repose of the souls of all the faithful departed.

PARISH NECROLOGY: On the anniversary of their deaths, please keep the following parishioners in your prayers: **Joseph Parran** (02 November 2002), **Elizabeth Susan Paré** (03 November 2014), **Roberta Lucille Connors** (03 November 2018), **Mark Andrew Dowjat** (07 November 2006), **Richard Manfredo** (07 November 2016), **Edna Walters** (08 November 1999), **Donna Stagon** (11 November 2002), **William Anthony Sturm** (11 November 2005), **Marc Anthony Cocozzella** (12 November 2007), **Shirley Poss** (14 November 2020), **Clara Victoria Nunzio** (15 November 2014), **Mary Critz** (19 November 2004), **Emma Jean Yagesh** (20 November 2007), **Stephen Graham Arapian** (20 November 2017), **Barbara Zolkiewicz** (21 November 2020), **Marlene Gillespie** (23 November 2020), **Sheila Renee Shukla** (26 November 2022), **Alice Huff-Fones** (27 November 2001), **the Rev. Walter L. Lawrence** (28 November 2007), and **Edward William Saunders** (30 November 2017).

PASTOR'S PAGE

The Archdiocese sent us priests a "Synthesis report from the recently completed first session of the XVI Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops." You might have been following the Synod in the news in October. The little bit that I saw in the secular media about the Synod was misleading, so it's important for all of us to use Catholic media (straight from the Vatican like below is best) to get the real story. I've read through the report, and here are the highlights I thought would be of interest to you:

...Churches all over the world have expressed a clear request that the active contribution of women would be recognized and valued, and that their pastoral leadership increase in all areas of the Church's life and mission. In order to give better expression to the gifts and charisms of all and to be more responsive to pastoral needs, how can the Church include more women in existing roles and ministries? If new ministries are required, who should discern these, at what levels and in what ways? Different positions have been expressed regarding women's access to the diaconal ministry. For some, this step would be unacceptable because they consider it a discontinuity with Tradition. For others, however, opening access for women to the diaconate would restore the practice of the Early Church. Others still, discern it as an appropriate and necessary response to the signs of the times, faithful to the Tradition, and one that would find an echo in the hearts of many who seek new energy and vitality in the Church. Some express concern that the request speaks of a worrying anthropological confusion, which, if granted, would marry the Church to the spirit of the age...

Different opinions have been expressed about priestly celibacy. Its value is appreciated by all as richly prophetic and a profound witness to Christ; some ask, however, whether its appropriateness, theologically, for priestly ministry should necessarily translate into a disciplinary obligation in the Latin Church, above all in ecclesial and cultural contexts that make it more difficult. This discussion is not new but requires further consideration...

May you know the peace of Christ.

Fr. Greg

CAMPAIGN CORNER



Watch this corner for updates on Our Lady's Next Step Campaign!

While attending a recent event, the following Confirmation students surprised and impressed us when they chose to donate gifts in their names to the Youth Center and Adoration Chapel: Marcella W., Sydney L., Virginia M., Annaelle A., Patrick C., Leni F., Kristen J., T.J. K., and Finn D. We are so blessed to have youth in our parish so invested in our future and willing to make their own sacrifices to see it become a reality.

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 **December 17th** 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.

UPPER ROOM MEN'S GROUP: The Upper Room Men's Group meets regularly every **Saturday at 7:30 am** in Founders Hall. All men of the parish are invited. In addition, the group is hosting a monthly speaker series at **7:00 pm** on the **second Tuesday of each month**. The next men's speaker series meeting will be on Tuesday, **December 12th**. Contact Peter Geiling, pgeiling67@gmail.com. for details.

ST. ANN'S OPEN HOUSE: Cardinal Gregory and Sister Mary Bader welcome you to experience the true meaning of giving at the annual St. Ann's Center for Children, Youth and Families' Christmas Open House on Sunday, **December 3rd** from 1 to 3pm. St. Ann's offers single mothers the opportunity to pursue educational, professional and personal goals while living with their children in a nurturing environment. Come to their Hyattsville home for an inspiring afternoon. Details and RSVP: <https://www.stanns.org/events/2023/12/st-anns-centers-christmas-open-house-december-3-2023>

PARISH BIBLE STUDY: Continuing on **Wednesday, November 29th at 7:30 pm**, Fr. Greg will offer the weekly Scripture Study to discuss the upcoming Sunday's readings.

PANCAKE DINNER: Visitation Parish is having a Pancake Dinner on Tuesday, **November 28th** from 5:30 to 7:00 pm (following Faith Formation Classes) in Founders Hall. It is a great way to kick-off Advent and is free to all! Come join us. Contact Tony Glander (301) 460-6404 or tglander@olvp.org. if you have questions or to sign up to volunteer.

OLVP FOR LIFE HATS & SCARVES: Show your parish pride and support OLVP for Life by purchasing a winter hat or scarf! These beautiful tri-color hats and scarves have two shades of blue with white and feature our Marian logo and OLVP lettering. Hats may be ordered with or without a pom pom. Limited quantity available so get yours now. Look for the OLVP for Life table at the Christmas Tree Sales, order online through your Faith Direct account under Events, or drop by the Parish Office. You may also contact Alison Rascher at a.rascher@olvp.org to order directly.

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: **Nino, Olga, Viola Bradshaw, Cordelia Vogel, Joshua Watson, Christian, Laura, Bob, Damianus Christie, David Shoemaker, Ted, Robert Heath, Lonnie Luther, Jose, Sherie Crawford Shaffer, MaryAnne, Judy, Valentine Andrade, William Parrish, Andre Avendano, Kathryn, and Baby Parker Cantero.**

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. If you would like more information, please email Erin Clegg at eclegg@olvp.org.

Social Concerns

THANK YOU to all those parishioners who donated to our monthly food collection for St. Martin's Food Pantry.

ADVENT ADOPTED FAMILY COLLECTION 2023: Please help us support our adopted families this Advent Season! There is NO SignUpGenius for this collection. Simply stop by the Christmas Tree in the Gathering Space, select an ornament (which has all of the information needed to purchase a NEW gift for a family member) and drop off your gift (UNwrapped) under the tree by December 10th. During this Advent Season of spiritual preparation for Christmas, consider giving to these families in our community. Blessings from The Social Concerns Committee.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED to sort clothing at the Interfaith Works Clothing Center. OLVP has a team that volunteers monthly on a Friday from 2:00 to 4:00 pm, and they could use some helpers. Interfaith Works supports Montgomery County residents in providing clothing and other goods to those in need as they advocate for an end to poverty. Please consider helping us to support them. Contact Liesel Flaig flaig@verizon.net.

Human Resources

NEW PARISHIONERS: The following families have recently joined our parish: **Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Fisher, Mrs. Nancy Dillman, and Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas Schmitz.**

CRAFTERS WANTED!! The OLVP Craft Shop will be selling handmade Christmas items during the Christmas Tree Sales. If any parishioners would like to donate any of their hand-made craft items to the fundraiser, contact Dettie Stack at dettiestack@icloud.com or call 301-840-8049.

POINSETTIA FUNDRAISER: OLVP is selling gorgeous poinsettias for holiday decorating and gifting – 7-inch pots containing 7 -11 blooms for only \$25.00 a pot. Pre-order online by **today, November 26th** at www.olvp.org. Plan to pick up your order on Friday, December 1st from 6 pm to 8 pm, Saturday, December 2nd from noon to 2 pm or on Sunday, December 3rd between 9 and 11 am. Sponsored by our Sodality, all proceeds go to the parish. For more information, contact Cris Carr (301) 526-4106.

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.

SAVE THE DATES: Our Christmas Trees will be on sale again this year. Reserve the following dates to volunteer to help and to purchase your tree: Thursday, **November 30th** to unload the truck of fresh trees, and Friday, **December 1st** thru Sunday, **December 10th** to purchase a tree on Sale while supplies last.



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: Why not make a change this fall in the way you support OLVP? This season, rich in the symbolism of harvest and sowing, offers a beautiful reminder: your acts of generosity reverberate, touching countless lives. Sign up with eGiving through Faith Direct. Making either one-time or automatic contributions through Faith Direct will also save valuable time for both you and our parish staff. To sign up, visit faith.direct/MD114, or text **"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 CHARITABLE DISTRIBUTIONS: For those who are age 70 1/2 or older, please consider a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) from your IRA to support our Youth Center and Adoration Chapel. For those who are age 73 and older, the QCD can count towards your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) for the year. As one parishioner learned, QCDs save you from paying income taxes on that amount and will not push you into a higher Medicare tax bracket. If you have any questions, please call the office.

GIVING TUESDAY: Please support our parish on Tuesday, **November 28th** by participating in #iGive Catholic. Click the link on our website to learn more.

