

*Our Lady of the Visitation Parish*

14139 Seneca Road • Darnestown, Maryland 20874



## SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

10 December 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

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Web Site: [www.olvp.org](http://www.olvp.org)

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

### December 2023

- 10 Sun** Mass: 9 am (Children), 11 am, 5 pm, Church  
Nursery Available at 9 and 11 am Masses  
**Religious Retirement Collection**  
**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  
High School Youth Group, 5:00 pm, Church
- 11 Mon** Mass, 12 Noon, Church  
Adoration, 11:00 am, Church
- 12 Tue** Mass, 8:30 am and 12 Noon, Church  
Adoration, 11:00 am, Church  
Faith Formation:  
Grades 1-5: 5:00 pm, Founders Hall  
**OLVP for Life, 8:00 pm, St. Cecelia Rm.**  
**Men's Group Guest Speaker, 7 pm, Founders Hall**
- 13 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
- 14 Thu** Mass, 8:30 am and 12 Noon, Church  
No Adoration  
**Sodality Meeting, 7 pm, Founders Hall**
- 15 Fri** Mass: 12 Noon and 6:00 pm, Church  
Adoration, 11:00 am and 6:30 pm  
**St. Nicholas Catalogue Orders Due**  
**Polar Express Movie, 6 pm, Founders Hall**  
**Nativity Display, Founders Hall**
- 16 Sat** Men's Group, 7:30 am, Founders Hall  
Daily Mass, 9:00 am, Church  
Endow: 9:30 am, Founders Hall  
**Pageant Rehearsal, 10 am, Church**  
AA, 12 Noon, St. Anne's Room  
Vigil Mass, 5:00 pm, Church
- 17 Sun** Mass: 9 am, 11 am, 5 pm, Church  
Nursery Available at 9 and 11 am Masses  
**St. Martin's Food Pantry Collection**  
**Donuts after 9 and 11 am Masses**  
Faith Formation:  
Atrium: 9 am and 11 am sessions  
Grades 6, 7 & 8: 9:45 am  
**Baptism Class, 12:15 pm, Founders Hall**  
**Christmas Pageant, 6 pm, Church**

### Liturgical Life

**ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE:** Get sin-free! Join us for an Advent Penance Service on **Tuesday, December 19th** at 7 pm, and prepare for Christmas through the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Fr. Vincent will join Father Greg in offering confessions.

**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.



### Readings for the Week of December 10, 2023

- Monday:** Is 35:1-10/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14/Lk:17-26
- Tuesday:** Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/Jdt 13:18bcde, 19/Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47
- Wednesday:** Is 40:25-31/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8 and 10/Mt 11:28-30
- Thursday:** Is 41:13-20/Ps 145:1 and 9, 10-11, 12-13ab/Mt 11:11-15
- Friday:** Is 48:17-19/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6/Mt 11:16-19
- Saturday:** Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Ps 80:2ac and 3b, 15-16, 18-19/Mt 17:9a, 10-13
- Sunday:** Is 61:1-2a, 10-11/Lk 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54 (Is 61:10b)/1 Thes 5:16-24/Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

### 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).

**MARCH FOR LIFE:** Mark your calendars and join OLVP for Life on Friday, **January 19th, 2024** for the 51st Annual March for Life in Washington, DC. Let's fill OLVP's bus! A Mass for Life will be celebrated at OLVP at 9 am and the bus will leave at 10:00 am. Return to OLVP will be between 4 and 5 pm. The cost of the bus AND lunch will be \$50.00. Online registration will open soon.

**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

## PASTOR'S PAGE

Next Tuesday, December 19, we will have an Advent Penance Service at 7 pm in the church. Fr. Vincent will join me to offer individual confessions after a communal prayer service. As one parishioner said walking out of a past Service, "I am sin-free!" All it takes is one confession to be sin-free and to enjoy Christmas even more.

The Examination of Conscience below includes some pretty serious sins. And it could be sins that people have been carrying with them for years. One confession is all it takes to be forgiven and free of these sins!

Except for the days I will be on retreat (Dec 20 -22), I am available for God's Mercy through Reconciliation especially if you're not able to join us on the 19th.

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

1. Have I received Holy Communion in the state of mortal sin?
2. Have I used God's name irreverently (OMG, JC, e.g.)?
3. Have I deliberately missed Mass on a Sunday or Holy Day of Obligation without a serious reason (from the 3rd Commandment and "Precepts of the Church")?
4. Do I honor and respect my parents?
5. Have I had an abortion or encouraged an abortion? Have I abused drugs or alcohol?
6. Have I used artificial contraception or been sterilized? Have I used artificial conception (IVF, e.g.)? Have I engaged in sexual activity (outside of marriage)? Have I deliberately viewed pornographic magazines, videos, or internet websites? Have I masturbated?
7. Have I stolen or accepted stolen goods?
8. Have I lied? Have I gossiped?
9. Have I entertained impure thoughts?
10. Am I envious of the possessions, abilities, talents, beauty, or success of others?

## CAMPAIGN CORNER



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

As we approach the end of 2023, we invite you to make your pledge or gift to our Youth Center and Adoration Chapel. In addition to gifts by check and Faith Direct, OLVP accepts non-cash gifts such as appreciated stocks, IRA contributions, or grants from Donor-Advised Funds. Each and every gift makes an impact. Thank you for your generosity!

Class. Attendance during pregnancy is advised. For information and/or to register, call the parish office, (301) 948-5536.

**NATIVITY DISPLAY:** OLVP will once again display some of the Nativity Sets from the Sam and Carol Raines Collection in Founders Hall from **Friday, December 15th** through **Christmas**. The Raines' spent their lives collecting these beautiful nativity sets from around the world. Bring the family and come to enjoy this rare display.

**PARISH BIBLE STUDY:** Continuing on **Wednesday, December 13th at 7:30 pm**, Fr. Greg will offer the weekly Scripture Study to discuss the upcoming Sunday's readings.

**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](mailto:pgeiling67@gmail.com) for details.

**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](mailto: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](mailto:gshaffer@olvp.org))/Deacon Ted ([DeaconTed@olvp.org](mailto: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, Bob, Damianus Christie, David Shoemaker, Ted, Robert Heath, Jose, Sherie Crawford Shaffer, Judy, Valentine Andrade, William Parrish, Andre Aven-dano, Kathryn, Baby Parker Cantero, Monisha Stalin, Lisa Snevely, Mark Goralski, Judy Valentine Andrade & Family** and for **Griffin Snyder**.

## *Faith Formation for Life*

**YOUTH FAITH FORMATION:** Information about the 2023-2024 school year may be found on our website [www.olvp.org](http://www.olvp.org) under the Faith Formation heading.

**CHRISTMAS PAGEANT:** Parents, grandparents siblings, invited guests and all parishioners are welcome to attend our annual Christmas Pageant on **Sunday, December 17th** at 6:00 p.m. in the Church. Rehearsal is on Saturday, December 16 from 10 a.m. to Noon. Check [www.olvp.org](http://www.olvp.org) for information.



**THE POLAR EXPRESS MOVIE NIGHT:** Let us entertain your children while you make last-minute holiday preparations! We will serve pizza for dinner and keep them busy with plenty of holiday fun including Christmas crafts, activities, Christmas Bingo, cookie decorating and watching The Polar Express with hot chocolate. Kids are welcome to come dressed in pajamas. We will provide this opportunity on Friday, **December 15<sup>th</sup>** from 6 to 9 pm in Founders Hall for Youth 3 to 11 years old.

## *Social Concerns*

**ST. MARTIN'S FOOD PANTRY:** Our monthly food collection will be held on Saturday, **December 16th** and Sunday, **December 17th**. Most needed items include: canned soup, "meals in a can" (stew, canned pasta, chili, etc), canned fruit, pasta sauce, tuna/canned meat/canned fish, oatmeal/cereal, pasta, and canned beans. We also need: Similac Blue and Similac Orange baby formula, and/or domestic or foreign equivalents/substitutes, diapers numbers 1, 3 and 6, and baby wipes. Paper grocery bags (Wegmans or Trader Joe size) and plastic newspaper bags and plastic grocery bags are always needed.

**ST. NICHOLAS CHRISTMAS CATALOG:** Give a gift and help a charity of your choice by placing an order from the St. Nicholas Christmas Catalog, available on our website ([www.olvp.org](http://www.olvp.org)). Orders must be received by **Friday, December 15th**.



**RELIGIOUS RETIREMENT COLLECTION:** Show your thanks for the senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests who made a positive difference in so many lives. This collection, taken **today**, helps to provide medications, nursing care, and more for thousands of elderly religious. Please be generous to this national collection.

**GABRIEL PROJECT:** The Montgomery County Project Cluster has an **urgent need for Men Volunteers**. You can join one of four men's teams. The **Crib Team** assembles cribs; the **Transport Team** moves items between the north and south parts of the county; the **Shed Team** picks up donated items and takes them to a shed in Silver Spring; the **Money-Counting Team** counts and deposits change from Baby Bottle Collections throughout the county. Visit the website [www.gpmoco.org](http://www.gpmoco.org) for more information or contact Sarah Scherer at [schererfamily6@gmail.com](mailto:schererfamily6@gmail.com)

## *Human Resources*

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



**NEW PARISHIONERS:** The following families have recently joined our parish: **Ms. Kathleen Mills, and Mr. & Mrs. Ingmar Goldson.**

**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](http://www.olvp.org)

**PARISH OFFICE HOURS:** The Parish Office will be **closed** on Monday and Tuesday, **December 25 and 26**, for Christmas. 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*

**CHRISTMAS COLLECTION:** We are grateful to parishioners who make an extra donation to the parish at Christmas. Your donation is exempt from Archdiocesan assessment and is needed to keep our parish budget balanced.

**CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS:** To receive tax credit in 2024, your contributions must be dated December 31, 2023. If you are mailing a contribution, it must be received in the Parish Office on or before **Tuesday, January 2, 2024**.

**FAITH DIRECT:** During the Season of Advent please consider enrolling in *Faith Direct* to ensure your gifts of treasure to Our Lady of the Visitation Parish are received even if you may be out of town. To sign up, visit [faith.direct/MD114](http://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.