

*Our Lady of the Visitation Parish*

14139 Seneca Road • Darnestown, Maryland 20874



## THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

17 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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Email: [parishoffice@olvp.org](mailto:parishoffice@olvp.org)  
Web Site: [www.olvp.org](http://www.olvp.org)

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

### December 2023

- 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**
- 18 Mon** Mass, 12 Noon, Church  
Adoration, 11:00 am, Church
- 19 Tue** Mass, 8:30 am and 12 Noon, Church  
Adoration, 11:00 am, Church  
**Children's Choir, 4:15 p.m., Church**  
**No Faith Formation**  
**Penance Service, 7:00 pm, Church**
- 20 Wed** Mass, 12 Noon, Church  
No Adoration  
No Scripture Study
- 21 Thu** Mass, 12 Noon, Church  
No Adoration
- 22 Fri** Mass: 12 Noon, Church  
No Adoration
- 23 Sat** Men's Group, 7:30 am, Founders Hall  
Daily Mass, 9:00 am, Church  
Women's Group, 9:30 am, St. Cecelia Room  
AA, 12 Noon, St. Anne's Room  
Vigil Mass, 5:00 pm, Church
- 24 Sun** Mass: 9 am, 11 am, Church  
Nursery Available at 9 and 11 am Masses  
**No Faith Formation**



## Christmas Liturgy Schedule

### Christmas Eve

Sunday, December 24

**4:00 pm – Church—Children's Choir**

**7:00 pm – Church – Guest Musicians**

No 10:00 pm Mass

### Christmas Day

Monday, 25 December

No Confessions

**11:00 a.m. – Church – Adult Choir**

No 5:00 pm Mass

## 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.



## Readings for the Week of December 17, 2023

- Monday:** Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19/Mt 1:18-25
- Tuesday:** Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17/Lk 1:5-25
- Wednesday:** Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6/Lk 1:26-38
- Thursday:** Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21/Lk 1:39-45
- Friday:** 1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd/Lk 1:46-56
- Saturday:** Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14/Lk 1:57-66
- Sunday:** 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29 (2a)/Rom 16:25-27/Lk 1:26-38

## ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT:

This week, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will take place in the church on Monday and Tuesday at 11:00 a.m. There is no Adoration on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

## Parish Life

**ECCE QUAM BONUM:** Last weekend, **Emma Charlotte Pham** celebrated First Eucharist and **Chloe Helena Womack** celebrated Baptism and First Eucharist.

**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).

**WEDDING ANNIVERSARY MASS:** This year Bishop Evelio Menjivar-Ayala will celebrate the Annual Wedding Anniversary Mass to Celebrate the Vocation of Marriage on Saturday, February 10, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. This celebration is to highlight the witness to the Catholic vocation of marriage and the beauty of God's plan for mar-

## PASTOR'S PAGE

A major thank you to all who participated in this year's Christmas tree sale. What a couple of weekends! First, thanks to all of the many volunteers who helped sell and load trees on the cars, decorate and sell the wreaths, run the beautiful Christmas Shop, and prepare food and drink in the hall for ten consecutive days. Second, we are grateful to all who purchased trees and wreaths. This event has historically been our main annual fundraiser. With a capital campaign surrounding this year's sale, it was critical to raise funds for parish operations. Thanks be to God, it did very well for the parish. As He usually does, God provided in abundance!

The atmosphere is special and festive the days and nights during the tree sale. Our men greet people with delight, helping them to select and load up their trees. Our women joyfully and carefully craft beautiful designs on the wreaths. And, the helpers in the "Christmas kitchen" prepare amazingly tasty and plentiful foods. Our lower level and outside is replete with Christmas cheer. It is simply a spectacular experience!

The sale of Christmas trees and wreaths, Christmas collections, and end-of-the-year contributions help us significantly to meet our daily, operational expenses. These contributions are down this year because many parish families are giving generously and beautifully to Our Lady's Next Step campaign in addition to their usual offertory contributions. Some parishioners have responded to my personal request to help with specific contributions for repairs and improvements to our facilities as well as community programs and events. So, for those who have given or will give in December to the campaign or operational expenses, I thank you. We are filled with great hope and excitement because God is providing in abundance through you for our many needs now in Advent, and will continue during Christmas and in the new year.

May you know the peace of Christ,

*Fr Greg*

## CAMPAIGN CORNER



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

As 2023 draws to a close, please be sure to make your pledge or gift to the Campaign. We are appreciative of every family's support and generosity according to their means.

"For it is by giving that we receive." -St. Francis of Assisi

ried life. Couples must register with the parish office to attend the Mass and/or to receive a certificate in honor of their anniversary year by **Friday, January 26th, 2024.**

**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 **January 21st** 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.

**OLVP SUPPORT GROUP FOR PARENTS:** Parents with children dealing with struggles in their lives including physical illness, mental illness, addiction, incarceration, family, academic stress, etc. are invited for discussion, resource sharing (books, videos, etc.), occasional speakers and prayer every month beginning on Saturday, January 20, 2024, from 11-12 noon in Founders Hall.

**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 on Tuesdays. The next guest speaker is Deacon Joe on Tuesday, **January 2nd at 7:00 pm.** Contact Peter Geiling, pgeiling67@gmail.com for details.

**PARISH BIBLE STUDY:** The next Scripture Study session will be on **Wednesday, December 27th** at 7:30 pm. **There is no session this week.**

**NATIVITY DISPLAY:** OLVP will once again display some of the Nativity Sets from the Sam and Carol Raines Collection in Founders Hall, now 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.

**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. 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](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 Avendano, Kathryn, Baby Parker Cantero, Monisha Stalin, Lisa Snevely, Mark Goralski, Judy Valentine Andrade & Family, Griffin Snyder, and Nolan Davidson.**

### *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. Faith Formation Sessions will resume on **Tuesday, January 9th, 2024.**

### *Social Concerns*


**THANK YOU** to all those who contributed to the national Religious Retirement Collection.

**ST. MARTIN'S FOOD PANTRY:** Our monthly food collection is **this weekend, December 16 and 17.** 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. They 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.



**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.