

Our Lady of the Visitation Parish

14139 Seneca Road • Darnestown, Maryland 20874



THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

31 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

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

December 2023

31 Sun Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph
Mass: 9:00 am, 11:00 am, 5:00 pm, Church
No Nursery Today
No Faith Formation
New Year's Eve Party, 9:00 pm, Church and Founders Hall

January 2024

01 Mon Mass, 12:00 Noon, Church
Office Closed

02 Tue Mass, 8:30 am and 12 Noon, Church
Adoration, 11:00 am, Church
Office Closed
No Faith Formation

03 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

04 Thu Mass, 8:30 am and 12 Noon, Church
No Adoration

05 Fri Mass: 12 Noon and 6:00 pm, Church
Adoration, 11:00 am and 6:30 pm, Church

06 Sat Men's Group, 7:30 am, Founders Hall
Daily Mass, 9:00 am, Church
Sodality, 9:30 am, Founders Hall
AA, 12 Noon, St. Anne's Room
Vigil Mass, 5:00 pm, Church

07 Sun **Epiphany of the Lord**
Mass: 9:00 am, 11:00 am, 5:00 pm, Church
Nursery Available at 9 and 11 am Masses
Donuts after 9 and 11 am Masses
Healing Mass, 2:00 pm, Church
Faith Formation:
Atrium: 9 am and 11 am sessions
Grades 6, 7 & 8: 9:45 am
High School Youth Group, 5:00 pm, Church



Readings for the Week of December 31, 2023

Monday: Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 (2a)/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21

Tuesday: 1 Jn 2:22-28/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/Jn 1:19-28

Wednesday: 1 Jn 2:29—3:6/Ps 98:1, 3cd-4, 5-6/Jn 1:29-34

Thursday: 1 Jn 3:7-10/Ps 98:1, 7-8, 9/Jn 1:35-42

Friday: 1 Jn 3:11-21/Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5/Jn 1:43-51

Saturday: 1 Jn 5:5-13/Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20/Mk 1:7-11 or Lk 3:23-38 or 3:23, 31-34, 36, 38

Sunday: Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 (see 11)/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12

Parish Life

ECCE QUAM BONUM: Last week, **Charlotte Royals**, **Chloe Helena Womack**, and **Anastasia Soleil Cauffman** celebrated Baptism. **Emma Charlotte Pham** and **Chloe Helena Womack** celebrated Holy 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 married 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**.

Liturgical Life

CHRISTMAS SEASON: Next to the yearly celebration of the Paschal Mystery, the Church holds most sacred the memorial of Christ's birth and early manifestations. This is the purpose of the Christmas season. The Christmas season extends from Christmas Eve through the **Baptism of the Lord, Monday, January 8, 2024**.



THANK YOU to our liturgical ministers for their generous commitment during this Christmas season; to the cantors, accompanists, and adult and children's choirs for their inspiring music; and to those who generously helped decorate the church and set up the manger.

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT: This week, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will take place in the church on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday at 11:00 am and on Wednesday and Friday at 6:30 pm. There is no Adoration on Monday and Thursday.

PASTOR'S PAGE

Merry Christmas from our parish family to your family! For this feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, below is part of an address (1964) by St. Paul VI, pope. This comes from the Office of Readings (Liturgy of the Hours) on this Feast.

Christ is born!

Fr. Greg

"Nazareth is a kind of school where we may begin to discover what Christ's life was like and even to understand his Gospel. Here we can observe and ponder the simple appeal of the way God's Son came to be known, profound yet full of hidden meaning. And gradually we may even learn to imitate him... How I would like to return to my childhood and attend the simple yet profound school that is Nazareth!

...How wonderful to be close to Mary, learning again the lesson of the true meaning of life, learning again God's truths. But here we are only on pilgrimage. Time presses and I must set aside my desire to stay and carry on my education in the Gospel, for that education is never finished. But I cannot leave without recalling, briefly and in passing; some thoughts I take with me from Nazareth.

First, we learn from its silence. If only we could once again appreciate its great value. We need this wonderful state of mind, beset as we are by the cacophony of strident protests and conflicting claims so characteristic of these turbulent times. The silence of Nazareth should teach us how to meditate in peace and quiet, to reflect on the deeply spiritual, and to be open to the voice of God's inner wisdom and the counsel of his true teachers. Nazareth can teach us the value of study and preparation, of meditation, of a well-ordered personal spiritual life, and of silent prayer that is known only to God.

Second, we learn about family life. May Nazareth serve as a model of what the family should be. May it show us the family's holy and enduring character and exemplify its basic function in society: a community of love and sharing, beautiful for the problems it poses and the rewards it brings, in sum, the perfect setting for rearing children—and for this there is no substitute..."

CAMPAIGN CORNER



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

We continue to reach out to every parish family to ask for your financial support of our campaign as your means allow. Please visit OLVP's website for more information and to make your commitment. Every gift brings us closer to our goal. God bless you for your generosity!

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 1:15 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.

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. Register online under OLVP.org; Ministries; OLVP for Life.

PARISH BIBLE STUDY: The next Scripture Study session will be on **Wednesday, January 3rd** at 7:30 pm. 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.

NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY AT OLVP: From 9 pm to 12 midnight on Sunday, **December 31st** we will celebrate the New Year with Adoration and confessions in the church and a party in Founders Hall. Contact Fr. Greg if you are interested. Bring your own food and drink. Start the New Year with Jesus and a clean slate!



NATIVITY DISPLAY: OLVP will display a Bethlehem Village Scene from the Sam and Carol Raines Collection in Founders Hall, now through January 7th. The Raines' spent their lives collecting beautiful nativity sets from around the world. Bring the family and enjoy an interactive portion of the display. Also, buy a raffle ticket for a full 12 piece Nativity set for your own collection!

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 or-

dered 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)/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, Bob, Damianus Christie, David Shoemaker, Ted, Robert Heath, Jose, Sherie Crawford Shaffer, 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 under the Faith Formation heading. Faith Formation Sessions will resume on **Tuesday, January 9th, 2024.**

Social Concerns



THANK YOU



Thank you to all those who faithfully contributed to our monthly food collection for St. Martin's **Food Pantry.**

The **Coat Drive** (& winter clothing) to support residents in recovery at the Avery Road Addiction Treatment Center was a wonderful success! Many, many gently used coats & clothing items were donated from OLVP parishioners. With gratitude for your generosity from the Social Concerns Committee.

A heartfelt thank you to all parishioners who responded to our Advent **Adopted Family** Collection. We achieved our goal of meeting 100% of their needs thanks to your generosity! Linkages to Learning is most grateful. Please keep our 3 adopted families in your prayers; your donations will brighten their Christmas! The Social Concerns Committee thanks you for your gifts to these families in need.

GABRIEL PROJECT: There is still an **urgent need for Men Volunteers.** You can join one of four men's teams. The **Crib Assembly Team;** the **Transport Team;** 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. Visit the website www.gpmoco.org for more information or contact Sarah Scherer at schererfamily6@gmail.com

Human Resources

NEW PARISHIONERS: The following families recently joined our parish: **Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Rickert, Mr. & Mrs. Christopher Miller** and **Mr. & Mrs. Charles Davidson.**

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: The Parish Office will be **closed** on Monday and Tuesday, **January 1 and 2**, for the New Year's holiday. 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: 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, 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.