

Our Lady of the Visitation Parish

14139 Seneca Road • Darnestown, Maryland 20874



FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

04 February 2024

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

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Email: parishoffice@olvp.org
Web Site: www.olvp.org

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

February 2024

04 Sun	Mass: 9:00 am, 11:00 am, 5:00 pm, Church Healing Mass: 2:00 pm, Church Nursery Available at 9 and 11 am Masses Super Bowl Sub Orders Due Today Faith Formation: Atrium: 9 am and 11 am sessions Grades 6, 7 & 8: 9:45 am Beach Bingo, 12 Noon, Founders Hall High School Youth Group, 5:00 pm, Church
05 Mon	Mass, 12 Noon, Church Adoration, 11:00 am, Church
06 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 RCIA, 6:15 pm, Founders Hall
07 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
08 Thu	Mass, 8:30 am and 12 Noon, Church No Adoration Come & See Mtg, 7:00 pm, Founders Hall
09 Fri	Mass: 12 Noon and 6:00 pm, Church Adoration, 11:00 am and 6:30 pm, Church
10 Sat	Men's Group, 7:30 am, Founders Hall Daily Mass, 9:00 am, Church Endow, 9:30 am, Founders Hall AA, 12 Noon, St. Anne's Room Vigil Mass, 5:00 pm, Church
11 Sun	Mass: 9:00 am (Children) 11:00 am, 5:00 pm, Church Nursery Available at 9 and 11 am Masses Faith Formation: Atrium: 9 am and 11 am sessions Grades 6, 7 & 8: 9:45 am High School Youth Group, 5:00 pm, Church

Liturgical Life

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT:

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will take place in the church on **weekdays**, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, from 11:00 am to Noon and on Wednesday and Friday evenings from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. There is no Eucharistic Adoration on Thursdays.

30 FOR 30 LENTEN ADORATION: Join us for Lenten Adoration and spend time with the Blessed Sacrament. Please review the available slots on our website under Volunteer Links and sign up. We need two Adoration volunteers on Fridays during Lent from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm for 30 minute blocks. Thank you!

CHILDREN'S MASS: Our next **Children's Mass** will be on **February 11th at 9:00 a.m.** We will invite the children present to gather in the sanctuary so as to include them in our celebration in a special way.



Readings for the Week of February 4th, 2024

Monday:	1 Kgs 8:1-7, 9-13/Ps 132:6-7, 8-10/Mk 6:53-56
Tuesday:	1 Kgs 8:22-23, 27-30/Ps 84:3, 4, 5 and 10, 11/Mk 7:1-13
Wednesday:	1 Kgs 10:1-10/Ps 37:5-6, 30-31, 39-40/Mk 7:14-23
Thursday:	1 Kgs 11:4-13/Ps 106:3-4, 35-36, 37 and 40/Mk 7:24-30
Friday:	1 Kgs 11:29-32; 12:19/Ps 81:10-11ab, 12-13, 14-15/Mk 7:31-37
Saturday:	1 Kgs 12:26-32; 13:33-34/Ps 106:6-7ab, 19-20, 21-22/Mk 8:1-10
Sunday:	Lv 13:1-2, 44-46/Ps 32:1-2, 5, 11 (7)/1 Cor 10:31—11:1/Mk 1:40-45

Parish Life

PARISH NECROLOGY: On the anniversary of their deaths, please keep the following parishioners in your prayers: **Joan Gossett** (02 February 2018), **Jerome John Podojil** (04 February 1997), **Julianne Copenhaver** (05 February 1999), **Claudia Hughes** (07 February 1999), **Frederick William Whalen** (09 February 1998), **Joseph E. Gaffney** (13 February 1996), **Daniel Stack O'Connor** (16 February 2015), **Paul Emile Fecteau** (18 February 2016), **Betty Ann McCarthy** (25 February 2023) and **Luco Fierro** (26 February 2015).

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 is scheduled for **February 18th** at 1:15 p.m. 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.

EUCCHARISTIC MIRACLES (BLESSED CARLOS ACUTIS): Please come downstairs to Founders Hall after one of the Mass on the First Sunday of Lent, **February 17-18**, to visit an exhibit of Eucharistic Miracles put together by Blessed Carlos Acutis. Carlos Acutis, a model of holiness in a digital age, was a Catholic teenager from Italy born in 1991, who died in 2006 and was beatified in 2020. He was an avid gamer, computer programmer, and soccer player who loved the Eucharist. The exhibit showcases his

PASTOR'S PAGE

Job spoke, saying: Is not man's life on earth a drudgery?...So I have been assigned months of misery, and troubled nights have been allotted to me... My days are swifter than a weaver's shuttle; they come to an end without hope. Remember that my life is like the wind; I shall not see happiness again.

These words of Job from today's first reading (Job 7: 1-7) resonate when we are in deep suffering. Here are some excerpts about Job from Pope St. John Paul II in his excellent Apostolic Letter, *Salvifici Doloris* (On the Christian Meaning of Human Suffering), 1984.

(Job's) suffering is the suffering of someone who is innocent and it must be accepted as a mystery, which the individual is unable to penetrate completely by his own intelligence...

While it is true that suffering has a meaning as punishment, when it is connected with a fault, *it is not true that all suffering is a consequence of a fault and has the nature of a punishment.* The figure of the just man Job is a special proof of this in the Old Testament. Revelation, which is the word of God himself, with complete frankness presents the problem of the suffering of an innocent man: suffering without guilt... And if the Lord consents to test Job with suffering, he does it *to demonstrate the latter's righteousness.* The suffering has the nature of a test.

The Book of Job is not the last word on this subject in Revelation. In a certain way it is a foretelling of the Passion of Christ. But already in itself it is *sufficient argument* why the answer to the question about the meaning of suffering is not to be unservedly linked to the moral order, based on justice alone.

The Book of Job poses in an extremely acute way the question of the "why" of suffering; it also shows that suffering strikes the innocent, but it does not yet give the solution to the problem...

May you know the peace of Christ.

Fr. Greg

CAMPAIGN CORNER



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

We are so blessed that Our Lady's Next Step Campaign has exceeded \$1.5 Million. God bless you for your generosity and supporting this extraordinary initiative. We encourage every parish family to prayerfully consider a gift or pledge today.

work gathering information about Eucharistic miracles over the centuries. Students in the Mary of Nazareth Service Club will be available to answer questions. Don't miss this opportunity!

PANCAKE DINNER: Join us on Tuesday, **February 13th** at 6 pm in Founders Hall as we usher in Lent with a Pancake Dinner following Faith Formation classes! We'll be serving up free pancakes, bacon, fruit, etc. All are welcome!

SUPER BOWL 2024: OLVP will be hosting a Super Bowl Party in Founders Hall on Sunday, **February 11th** at 6 pm. We will provide subs, pizzas and soft drinks. Feel free to bring a side dish or dessert! We will also be hosting the **Super Bowl Square** contest! It is a fundraiser for OLVP youth programs. For more information and to select your squares go to <https://superbowlpoolsite.com/contest/515145?p=OLVP> To pay for your square(s), you can bring cash or check to the office or give directly to Fr. Greg. If using a credit card this year go to <https://square.link/N4g4zsta>

NOTE: You CANNOT pay on the site where you select the squares!! If it asks you for a credit card, you have clicked on an ad!! For any questions or concerns, contact Tony Glander (301) 460-6404 or tglander@olvp.org

COME AND SEE: Do you enjoy helping others and serving your Church? Do you want to learn more about the faith? Our parish will be hosting the Archdiocese of Washington Diaconate Office on Thursday, **February 8th** at 7 pm. All men in the parish between the ages of 30 and 60 are invited to come and learn more about who Deacons are and what they do. Please join us. Any questions can be addressed by Deacon Ted (240) 678-3466.

PARISH BIBLE STUDY: The next Scripture Study session will be on **Wednesday, February 7th** at 7:30 pm. in Founders Hall.

SUPER BOWL ITALIAN SUBS: The Knights of Columbus are once again offering their Super Bowl deal of Italian Subs for \$7.00 each (Veggie Subs are available as well) ordered by **TODAY, Sunday, February 4th** and picked up after Saturday/Sunday Masses on February 10th/11th. To place your order, call Tom Moschella (240) 988-1599, moschellat@gmail.com or Dave Bivans (301) 977-4734, dnlbivans34@verizon.net or Steve Waechter (240-620-2476, stephenwaechter@yahoo.com

BINGO!! Escape the cold with our BEACH THEMED event! Pre-Lenten Bingo will be **TODAY, Sunday, February 4th**, from 12 noon to 2 pm. OLVP will supply pizza for sale, free beverages, and Bingo prizes! Bingo cards covering all games are \$3. **Please bring a snack to share.** All ages come and enjoy "the surf", the laughter, and the community spirit of OLVP!! ~ Hosted by Sodality.

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 hosts a monthly speaker series on Tuesdays. The February date will be announced soon. Contact Peter Geiling, 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! 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.

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, Nolan Davidson, Claudia, Sean and Cameron.**

Faith Formation for Life

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL: Scuba VBS is coming soon to OLVP! Register at <https://olvp.org/summer-2024-vbs> by **June 1st!** We'll be offering an amazing underseas adventure with Scuba VBS at OLVP June 17th-21st from 9-12 Noon for ages 3 through 5th grade. Together, we'll experience the ever-flowing, never-ending love of God and be immersed in the Word and discover what living water is really all about. The cost is \$150 per youth including a camper shirt plus a daily snack/drink. Families with more than one child registering can use SCUBA25 to receive \$25 off their registration. Interested VBS volunteers (8th grade and older) can reach out to Erin Clegg at eclegg@olvp.org.

YOUTH FAITH FORMATION: Information about the 2023-2024 school year may be found on our website www.olvp.org under the Faith Formation heading.



Social Concerns

2024 ANNUAL CATHOLIC SERVICES APPEAL: The theme for 2024 is "United in Purpose," serving as a poignant reminder that together, in the spirit of Christ, we can enable the charitable works of our Church through its many ministries and services." Please make a pledge or donate to the in-pew collection to be taken on **February 11th, 2024.**

FOOD COLLECTION...now supporting Western Upper Montgomery County Help (WUMCO Help) in Poolesville & Gaithersburg Cares Hub in Gaithersburg. This month's collection will be held on **February 24th – 25th**. Please leave your donations in the alcove area (lower level of the church) by 5:30 pm on Sunday of the collection weekend. **All non-perishable food items are appreciated. MOST NEEDED this month... CEREAL, DRIED BLACK OR PINTO BEANS, COFFEE (GROUND), WHITE RICE, OIL (OLIVE, CANOLA OR ANY VEGETABLE OIL) & SUGAR (BAG).** The Social Concerns Committee is thankful for your generosity & support of our monthly food collections.



Human Resources

NEW PARISHIONERS: The following families recently joined our parish: Mr. & Mrs. Douglas Brisbane and Mr. & Mrs. Kevan Miller.

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: 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. 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.