

Our Lady of the Visitation Parish

14139 Seneca Road • Darnestown, Maryland 20874



FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

18 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

Phone: (301) 948-5536
Fax: (240) 780-5134

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

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

February 2024

18 Sun	Mass: 9:00 am, 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 Baptism Class, 1:15 pm, Founders Hall Bl. Carlos Acutis Exhibit, Founders Hall High School Youth Group, 5:00 pm, Church
19 Mon	Office Closed, President's Day Mass: 10:00 am, Church No Adoration
20 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 Men's Group Speaker Series: 7:30 pm, Founders Hall
21 Wed	Mass: 12 Noon and 6:00 pm, Church Adoration, 11:00 am and 6:30 pm, Church Scripture Study: 7:30 p.m., Founders Hall
22 Thu	Mass, 8:30 am and 12 Noon, Church No Adoration
23 Fri	Mass: 12 Noon and 6:00 pm, Church Adoration, 10:00 am thru 6:00 pm, Church Stations of the Cross, 6:30 pm, Church Adoration: 7:00 pm, Church
24 Sat	Men's Group, 7:30 am, Founders Hall Daily Mass, 9:00 am, Church Women's Group, 9:30 am, Founders Hall AA, 12 Noon, St. Anne's Room Vigil Mass, 5:00 pm, Church
25 Sun	Mass: 9:00 am, 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 WUMCO Help Food Collection High School Youth Group, 5:00 pm, Church

Liturgical Life

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT:

Regular Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will take place in the church on Tuesday from 11:00 am to Noon, and on Wednesday from 11:00 am to Noon and 6:30 to 7:30 pm. **30 for 30 Lenten Adoration** will take place on **Friday from 10 am to 6:00 pm** and after Stations of the Cross at 6:30 pm. This week there is no Eucharistic Adoration on Monday or on Thursday. **Note:** Please review the available slots on our website under Volunteer Links to sign up for **30 minute blocks on Friday Adoration**.

LENT: The Lenten season has a double character, namely, to prepare both prospective Catholics and parishioners to celebrate the paschal mystery. The prospective Catholics, both with the Rite of Election and Scrutinies, and by catechesis, are prepared for the celebration of the sacraments of Christian initiation; the parishioners, ever more attentive



Readings for the Week of February 18th, 2024

Monday:	Lv 19:1-2, 11-18/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15/Mt 25:31-46
Tuesday:	Is 55:10-11/Ps 34:4-5, 6-7, 16-17, 18-19/Mt 6:7-15
Wednesday:	Jon 3:1-10/Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19/Lk 11:29-32
Thursday:	1 Pt 5:1-4/Ps 23:1-3a, 4, 5, 6/Mt 16:13-19
Friday:	Ez 18:21-28/Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-7a, 7bc-8/Mt 5:20-26
Saturday:	Dt 26:16-19/Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8/Mt 5:43-48
Sunday:	Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18/Ps 116:10, 15, 16-17, 18-19 (116:9)/Rom 8:31b-34/Mk 9:2-10

to the word of God and prayer, prepare themselves by penance for the renewal of their baptismal promises. Lent continues **until the beginning of the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday (28 March 2024).**

FAST AND ABSTINENCE: Abstinence from meat is to be observed by all Catholics 14 years old and older on **all Fridays of Lent**. Fasting means limiting oneself to one full meal on a given fast day. Catholics who are 18 years of age but not yet 59 are obliged to fast and abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday and on **Good Friday, March 29, 2024**. Self-imposed observance of fasting on all weekdays of Lent is strongly recommended.

Parish Life

R.I.P.: It is with sadness that we announce the death of **Nancy Tauber** (William). We commend her and her family in our prayers to God.

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).

PASTOR'S PAGE

The 5 Wounds of Christ Heal the 5 Wounds of Original Sin

For each of the five Sundays of Lent before Palm Sunday, I will offer a meditation on the "the beauty and efficacy of the Wounds of Christ Crucified and Risen" as found on opusangelorum.org. The five wounds of Christ are 1) side (heart), 2) right hand, 3) left hand, 4) right foot, and 5) left foot.

May you know the peace of Christ,

Fr Greg

Death and suffering entered the world by (Original) sin (cf. Sir 40,9; Rom 5,12); sin and death were remedied on the Cross by Christ's suffering and death, by His most Sacred wounds, by the shedding of His precious Blood. The damage caused by Original Sin was fivefold; the principal wounds of Christ are five. There is a correspondence here, and this invites us to offer up to the Father the blood and wounds of Christ to purify our blood and heal the several wounds of our soul. To Christ we pray, "Passion of Christ, my comfort be. O good Jesus, listen to me. In Thy wound, I fain would hide, never to be parted from Thy side."

What then are the five wounds of Original Sin? First, death to the soul through the loss of sanctifying grace, and consequently in due time to the body. Second, darkness in the intellect. Third, malice — an inclination to evil — in the will. Fourth, sensuality (disordered desires) in the concupiscible appetite. And fifth, irritability and aggression in the irascible appetite.

Original Sin Brought Death

The death of the soul is reflected in the death of the body (heart). Death occurs when the soul, the life principle of the body, is separated from the body. Supernaturally, God is the life-principle of the soul by sanctifying grace. Accordingly, Original Sin struck a deadly blow to grace, thus driving God out of His paradise, the soul. This, in turn, lead to the death of man's body, since man's immortality in God's covenant with Adam was a grace dependent upon Adam's fidelity to the covenant. It came down to this: in the measure that man lovingly and faithfully clings to God, the life-principle of his soul, God grants that man's body cling inseparably (immortally) to his soul. Thus, the divineness of sin caused death. To restore our life, Christ accepted death; He allowed His Heart to be pierced on the Cross, so that "from His wounded side (Heart) from which blood and water flowed, and whence the sacraments of the Church issue forth, all men are invited to draw water (life giving grace) from the springs of salvation" (Preface of the Sacred Heart)...

CAMPAIGN CORNER



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

\$1.5 M and counting, thanks be to God. We are appreciative of every family's support and generosity according to their means. Please join with your fellow parishioners as we make our Youth Center and Adoration Chapel a reality. See our website for campaign updates and to make your pledge.

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

OLVP SUPPORT GROUP FOR PARENTS (Lifeline): 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 on Saturday, **March 16th** from 11-12 noon in Founders Hall.

OLVP PARISH MISSION FOR LENT ON "HOPE." It's common and fruitful for a Catholic parish to have a "mission" during Lent to grow together with a particular theme or focus of one aspect of our life with Christ. Janet Scanlan will be assisting Fr. Greg with talks on "Hope" during our Parish Mission from 7-8 pm on **March 12, 13, and 14** in the church. Mrs. Scanlan is a respected Catholic spiritual leader and speaker who inspires faith in her words and example and helped to start OLVP's women's group, "Endow." Please join us for one or all of the nights!

PARISH LENTEN RETREAT: Please join us for an onsite parish retreat on Saturday, **March 9th** from 9 am to 3 pm. The theme is "Suffering in Grace." We will start with Mass at 9 am and we will offer talks by Fr. Vincent and Deacon Ted. The cost is \$20 per person which includes meals.

PARISH BIBLE STUDY: The next Scripture Study session will be on **Wednesday, February 21st** at 7:30 pm. in Founders Hall.

POST CANA: The Washington DC Post Cana for widows and widowers is hosting a *Half Day of Lenten Reflection* on Tuesday, **February 20th** from 11 am to 2 pm at Our Lady of Grace Church in Leisure World in Silver Spring. Fr. John MacFarlane is the guest speaker.

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 OLVP Men's Speakers series is hosting Kevin Warne, Georgetown University Men's Lacrosse Coach, on Tuesday, **February 20th** at 7:30 pm. He will be presenting on the Virtue of Perseverance. Contact Peter Geiling, pgeiling67@gmail.com for details.

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 **today, 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 Masses **this weekend, 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 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!

40 DAYS FOR LIFE: Join OLVP on Tuesdays in Lent through March 24th from 11 am to 12 noon to pray outside 966 Hungerford Drive #24 Rockville, MD. We stand on the public sidewalk. Go to www.olvp.org or <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0545ABAC23A2FA7olvpforlife#/> to learn more and sign up to join us. 40 Days for Life is an internationally coordinated 40-day campaign that aims to end abortion locally through prayer and fasting, community outreach, and a peaceful all-day vigil in front of abortion businesses.

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, Cameron, Eva Macak and Crystal Vines.**

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 Annual Appeal supports critical services and ministries of the Church in an effective and meaningful way and supports ministries larger than any parish or agency. Parishioners are encouraged to contribute by check, credit card, phone, through Faith Direct or other forms of payment. Thank you for your support.

FOOD COLLECTION...now supporting Western Upper Montgomery County Help (WUMCO Help). 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. Michael Jamison and Mr. Scott Mingione.

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 is closed on Monday, **February 19th** to celebrate Presidents' Day. 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.

