

Our Lady of the Visitation Parish

14139 Seneca Road • Darnestown, Maryland 20874



Third Sunday of Advent

16 December 2018

Sacred Liturgy

Saturday • 5:00 p.m.

Sunday • 9:00 a.m. • 11:00 a.m.

14139 Seneca Road • Darnestown

Monday - Friday • 9:15 a.m.

Thomas More Chapel • Parish Barn • 14135 Seneca Road

Sacrament of Penance • Saturday • 4:00 p.m. • Or by request

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.

Pastoral Council

Vice-Chair

Deacon Thaddeus Dmuchowski

Liturgical Life Committee

Anita Stiger, (301) 869-8154

Parish Life Committee

Joseph Young, (301) 219-6897

Faith Formation For Life Committee

Robert McDonald, Ph.D. (301) 869-3366

Social Concerns Committee

Kathryn Sutton, (202) 739-5738

At-Large Member

William Bouley (240) 848-0532

At-Large Member

Vacant

Principal of Parish School

Michael Friel (301) 869-0940

Pastor

The Rev. Raymond L. Fecteau, S.T.B., D.Min.
rfecteau@olvp.org

Stewardship Council

Vice-Chair

Stephen Staton, CPA, (240) 988-7818

Human Resources Committee

John Feeney, (301) 762-2116

Facilities Committee

Tony Glander, (301) 460-6404

Fiscal Management Committee

Nick Serenyi, (301) 556-2320

Parish Manager

Colleen Enos (301) 948-5536

Director of Faith Formation

Michele Olewack, (301) 948-5536

Deacons

Robert Fischer, (301) 948-5536
Thaddeus Dmuchowski, (240) 678-3466

In Residence

The Rev. Mathew Punchayil, Ph.D.
matpunchayil@yahoo.com

Mailing Address

14135 Seneca Road, Darnestown, MD 20874

Phone: (301) 948-5536

Fax: (301) 948-7452

Email: parishoffice@olvp.org

Web Site: www.olvp.org

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

DECEMBER

- 16 Sun Church School, 9:00 a.m.
Sodality Mass and Meeting, 9:00 a.m.
Head Start Food Bags Collected
Christmas Pageant, 6:00 p.m.
Grades K-5, 6-8, and H.S.F.F.
- 18 Tue Scripture Study, 10:00 a.m., Barn
Faith Formation:
Grades K-5: 4:45p.m., Founders Hall
Advent Reflection, 7:00 p.m. Founders Hall
- 19 Wed Ember Day: Voluntary Day of Penance
- 21 Fri Ember Day: Voluntary Day of Penance
- 22 Sat Ember Day: Voluntary Day of Penance
- 23 Sun No Church School
No Faith Formation Classes
- 24 Mon Office Closes at Noon
Christmas Eve Masses:
Sacred Liturgy, 4:00, 7:00, & 10:00 p.m.
- 25 Tue Christmas Day
Sacred Liturgy, 11:00 a.m.
Office Closed
- 26 Wed Office Closed
- 30 Sun No Church School
No Faith Formation Classes
- 31 Mon Office Closes at Noon

JANUARY 2019

- 01 Tue Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
Sacred Liturgy, Noon, Church
No Faith Formation Classes
Office Closed
- 06 Sun Church School, 9:00 a.m.
Mortgage Collection
Faith Formation:
Grades 6, 7, 8: 6:30 p.m., Founders Hall
- 08 Tue Scripture Study, 10:00 a.m., Barn
Faith Formation:
Grades K-5: 4:45 p.m., Founders Hall
- 13 Sun Church School, 9:00 a.m.
Collection for Church Missions in U.S.
Baby Items Collection
Faith Formation:
Grades 6, 7, 8: 6:30 p.m., Founders Hall
- 15 Tue Scripture Study, 10:00 a.m., Barn
Faith Formation:
Grades K-5: 4:45 p.m., Founders Hall

SAVE THE DATE:

MAY

- 04 Sat NIH Concert, 7:00 p.m., Church

JUNE

- 01 Sat Confirmation, 2:00 p.m., Basilica



Social Concerns

RELIGIOUS RETIREMENT COLLECTION: Our parish donated \$1759.00 to this national collection.

ST. NICHOLAS CATALOG: Give a gift and help a charity of your choice by placing an order from the St. Nicholas Christmas Catalog inserted in today's bulletin. You will receive a card that specifies the gifts you purchased from the charity. Orders must be received by **Monday, 17 December 2018**.

ADVENT FOOD COLLECTION FOR HEAD START: Filled bags are to be returned **this weekend, 15-16 December 2018**. Please be sure to include only non-perishable items in non-breakable containers.

Liturgical Life

MARY, MOTHER OF GOD LITURGY: The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God is a holy day of opportunity. Mass will be celebrated at **Noon on Tuesday 01 January 2019** in the church.

Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord

Monday 24 December 2018 Presiders:

- 4:00 p.m. Fr. Raymond Fecteau
- 7:00 p.m. Fr. Mathew Punchayil
- 10:00 p.m. Fr. Raymond Fecteau

Tuesday 25 December 2018 Presiders:

- 11:00 a.m. Fr. Raymond Fecteau

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT: 22-23 December 2018, PRESIDERS:

- 5:00 p.m. Fr. Raymond Fecteau
- 9:00 a.m. Fr. Raymond Fecteau
- 11:00 a.m. Fr. Mathew Punchayil

ADVENT: The Advent Season is a four week period of preparation for the great feast of Christmas. It is a “mini-Lent” in the sense that it is a time for us to properly prepare ourselves by praying, by fasting, and by performing works of mercy. St. Bernard of Clairvaux reminds us that in Advent, we celebrate the three-fold coming of Christ: 1) Jesus came to us once in flesh and human frailty (Incarnation); 2) Jesus comes to us now in Sacred Word and Sacramental Mystery (Each Liturgical Year); 3) Jesus will come again in great glory and majesty (Second Coming). St. Bernard also reminds us that Advent is a most appropriate time to honor Mary—patroness of our Country, our Archdiocese and our Parish. Advent began on **Sunday 02 December 2018**.

Readings for the Week of 16 December 2018

Monday: Gn 49:2, 8-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17 [cf. 7]/Mt 1:1-17
 Tuesday: Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19 [cf. 7]/Mt 1:18-25
 Wednesday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17 [cf. 8]/Lk 1:5-25
 Thursday: Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6 [cf. 7c and 10b]/Lk 1:26-38
 Friday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21 [1a; 3a]/Lk 1:39-45
 Saturday: 1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd [cf. 1a]/Lk 1:46-56
 Sunday: Mi 5:1-4a/Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 [4]/Heb 10:5-10/Lk 1:39-45

LOVING MOTHER OF THE REDEEMER: One of the four traditional Marian antiphons, *Alma Redemptoris Mater*, is sung from the First Sunday of Advent until the end of the Christmas season. Hermanus Contractus, a monk of Reichenau (1013-1054) is believed to have composed both the words and the music. At Visitation Parish, the traditional Marian antiphon is sung during the presentation of the gifts.

CHRISTMAS MANGER: Our Lady of the Visitation Parish sets up our Christmas Manger scene early to reflect the spiritual side of Advent and to balance the various secular traditions of tree lightings, shopping, etc. The Infant Jesus will not be placed in our manger until Christmas Eve.

ADVENT WREATH: The season of Advent prepares us not only for Christmas/Epiphany, but also for the whole church year. The revised Roman ritual of 1989 states that four purple or four white candles may be used for the Advent wreath in the church or home. In our parish, we use an evergreen wreath, white candles and purple bows.

CHRISTMAS EVE PASSES are not required for the 4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve liturgy. However please be aware that you need to get here **EARLY**. The Fire Marshall reminds us that we must obey occupancy regulations.

IN/OUT OF FLU SEASON: No one is ever under an obligation to shake hands during the Sign of Peace (a statement of peace, bow or other gesture is appropriate) or to receive from the chalice. Christ is fully present in each species when the bread and wine have been consecrated into His Body and Blood. Anyone who is ill, or suspects he or she is ill, should refrain from receiving from the chalice out of good will. Also, he or she may wish to receive the host in the hand rather than by mouth. Common sense dictates that you remain at home, if feeling unwell.

Parish Life

PARISH NECROLOGY: On the anniversary of their death, please keep the following parishioners in your prayers: **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).

PARISH EMBER DAYS: Responding to the Gospel and following Church tradition, Visitation parishioners are encouraged to voluntarily set aside **Wednesday, Friday and Saturday, 19, 21, and 22 December 2018** as special days of fasting, prayer and works of charity.

INFANT BAPTISM CLASS: 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. 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.

ADVENT REFLECTION SERIES: Join Deacon Ted as he facilitates our final Advent Reflection on **Tuesday 18 December in Founders Hall from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.** The reflection will focus on the “New Beginning,” starting out on the right path with a review of prayer, devotions, and the Gospel of Luke which will be read all year on Sundays.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION: Following the policy of Donald Cardinal Wuerl, the Sacramental Programs for Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist and Penance are parish and family based. For youth, Con-

firmation is a three-year program that begins in the sixth grade; Eucharist/Penance is a two-year program that begins in the first grade. Throughout this period of preparation, children are to be participating in a formal religious education program in our parish or in a Catholic school. Registration in our parish Faith Formation Program is separate from registration in our Sacramental Preparation Program. For information, call the parish office, (301) 948-5536.

MATRIMONY POLICY: It is Archdiocesan and parish policy that 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 the Priest/Deacon.** Please email Father Raymond Fecteau (rfecteau@olvp.org), Father Mathew Punchayil (matpunchayil@yahoo.com), Deacon Ted Dmuchowski (thaddeus.dmuchowski@gmail.com) or Deacon Robert Fischer (olvpdeacon@gmail.com).

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 parish office to arrange for visitation and Communion in your home.

ALL HOSPITALS AND NURSING HOMES have Catholic Chaplains to care for Catholic patients and residents. On admission, be sure to notify the staff of your desire to receive the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick and/or the Sacrament of the Eucharist.

DO YOU WANT TO BECOME A CATHOLIC? If you have heard the call of God to become a Catholic, please call the parish office (301) 948-5536.

PRAYER CHAIN: If you would like to have a special intention remembered in our prayers, please email the parish office at parishoffice@olvp.org.

Faith Formation for Life

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT: Parents, grandparents, siblings, invited guests and all parishioners are welcome to attend our annual Christmas Pageant **tonight, 16 December 2018 at 6:00 p.m. in the Church.** Please email Michele Olewack at molewack@olvp.org for more information.

HIGH SCHOOL FAITH FORMATION: *Scripture and Snacks with Father Ray* will be held on **Sunday, 16 December 2018 beginning at 6:00 p.m.** in the church for the Christmas Pageant and concluding at the rectory.

SCRIPTURE STUDY: A study of the readings for the Fourth Sunday of Advent will be held on **Tuesday 18 December 2018 at 10:00 a.m.** in the Barn.

Finance

Re\$erve\$ FUND: To address the ongoing repairs and replacements needed for the church (e.g. update security), the barn (e.g. new phone system), and the rectory (e.g. update heat/AC system), a much needed budget line item has been added. For now and for the future, please make checks payable to OLVP, and please note: "Re\$erve\$ Fund" on the memo line.

WHY FAITH DIRECT?: In this season of Advent, we are continuously preparing ourselves for the celebration of Christ's birth. Why not help our own parish prepare for the coming new year by signing up with Faith Direct? By supporting Our Lady of the Visitation parish, both you and our parish can save some time and peace of mind this holiday season. Visit www.faithdirect.net and use our church code: **MD114.**

Human Resources

CHRISTMAS TREE SALES: Thank you to all those involved in the tree and wreath sales this year. This FUNraiser was a TREEmendous success. Thank you, also, to our parishioners who bought their trees and wreaths from us.

NEW PARISHIONERS: The following family recently joined our parish: Mr. & Mrs. Jacob Drannan.

PARISH OFFICE HOURS: The parish office will close at **noon on Monday 24 December 2018** and will **reopen on Thursday 27 December 2018** to celebrate the Christmas holiday. Regular office hours are **Monday through Friday, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

Facilities

INCLEMENT WEATHER: Parishioners are not obliged to physically attend Sunday Mass if dangerous travel or road conditions exist. Those who cannot safely attend Mass in person are encouraged to watch the Sunday TV Mass, which airs at 10:30 a.m. on CW50.

Liturgy on Sundays and on Holy Days of Obligation, including their vigils, is not cancelled because of weather. Weekday liturgy is held if there is a delay in the opening of schools. If schools are closed, there is no daily liturgy.

PARISH REPAIRS: 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 fix it.