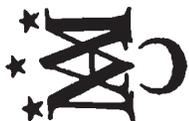


Our Lady of the Visitation Parish

14139 Seneca Road • Darnestown, Maryland 20874



Fourth Sunday of Advent

20 December 2020

Sacred Liturgy

Saturday - 4:30 p.m.

Sunday - 10:30 a.m.

Weekdays - 12 Noon

14139 Seneca Road • Darnestown

Sacrament of Penance - Thursday 5:00 - 6:00 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

Betty Foley, (240) 383-9146

Faith Formation For Life Committee

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

Social Concerns Committee

Liesel Flaig, (301) 869-2830

At-Large Member

William Bouley, (240) 848-0532

At-Large Member

Vacant

Principal of Parish School

Michael Friel, (301) 869-0940

Stewardship Council

Vice-Chair

Stephen Staton, CPA, (240) 988-7818

Human Resources Committee

John Feeny, (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
cenos@olvp.org

Youth Faith Formation

Erin Clegg, (301) 385-4920
eclegg@olvp.org

Pastor

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

Deacon

Thaddeus Dmuchowski, (240) 678-3466

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

WEEKDAY MASS - Noon, Church
SATURDAY MASS - 4:30 p.m., Church
SUNDAY MASS - 10:30 a.m., Church

If you are not receiving *Flocknotes*,
please call the parish office.
301-948-5535

SUNDAY TV MASS

Antenna Users 10:30 a.m. on CW50

Comcast Users Channel 23

Verizon Users Channel 3

RCN Users: Channel 15

**Live Mass Noon on Sunday at Basilica of the
National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception
@ <https://www.nationalshrine.org>**

View Anytime <https://adw.org/tvmas>

Liturgical Life

SUNDAY: Please go to the [ADW.org](https://adw.org) website for a list of live streaming Masses and prayers.

DRIVE-IN ADORATION: There is now Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at our **Church, 24/7**. The monstrance is placed in the window of the apse of the church (south side of the church). Park on the lower level of the church. You are asked to remain in your car with the engine turned off.



DRIVE-UP CONFESSION: On **Thursday** evenings between **5:00 and 6:00 p.m.** until further notice, Father Ray will be available for confessions **inside the Gathering Space with social distancing, wearing masks, and a portable screen.** Park on the upper level of the church. If someone is going to confession, remain in your car with the engine off, and then approach when that penitent has returned to his/her vehicle. If you wish to schedule confession another day or time, contact Fr. Ray directly: rfecteau@olvp.org.



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 29 November 2020**.

COVID-19: The Archdiocese of Washington’s website is being updated regularly with information for the faithful. Please keep abreast of all Archdiocesan resources by checking adw.org/coronavirus.

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. Hermannus 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.

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.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Readings for the Week of 20 December 2020

Monday:	Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21 [1a; 3a]/Lk 1:39-45
Tuesday:	1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd]/Lk 1:46-56
Wednesday:	Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14 [cf. Lk 21:28]/Lk 1:57-66
Thursday:	2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29 [2]/Lk 1:67-79
Friday:	
Vigil:	Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29 [2a]/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25.
Day:	Is 52:7-10/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 [3c]/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or Jn 1:1-5, 9-14
Saturday:	Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and 17 [6]/Mt 10:17-22
Sunday:	Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 [cf. 1] or Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9 [7a, 8a]/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 or Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19/Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22, 39-40

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).

“NOTRE DAME DE L’ESCALLIER”: A statue to honor Mary has been placed near the stairway leading up to our church. It is a replica of a French statue commonly found on walkways and in gardens. It was blessed during Mass on the First Sunday of Advent. The prayer of blessing asks that special graces be granted to all who pray before this sacred image. Advent is a most proper time to honor Mary.

FLOCKNOTE: As recommended by Wilton Cardinal Gregory, Our Lady of the Visitation Parish is using *Flocknote* to communicate quickly and efficiently with the parish membership. This application is paid for by the Archdiocese of Washington and nearly all parishes are using it during the pandemic restrictions. To function as intended, *Flocknote* is based on the Parish Office having up-to-date email addresses for the members. To receive a copy, please email cenos@olvp.org

LIGHT A VOTIVE CANDLE: While the Social Distancing Restrictions are in place, we invite parishioners to mail in requests for a **three-day votive candle** to be lit by Father Ray and placed in the St. Michael Chapel in his residence. Father Ray will pray for your intentions. A donation of \$5.00 per candle is asked. Your request should include your name, the intention, and a check (\$5.00) made out to Our Lady of the Visitation Parish.

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. 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.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION: Following the policy of the Archdiocese of Washington, the Sacramental Programs for Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist and Penance are parish and family based. For youth, Confirmation 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 a Priest/Deacon.** Please email Father Raymond Fecteau (rfecteau@olvp.org), or Deacon Ted Dmuchowski (thaddeus.dmuchowski@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

YOUTH FAITH FORMATION: The OLVP Youth Faith Formation Program is now in **virtual-only sessions**. Church School for our Pre-K through Kindergarteners meets virtually on **Sundays** from **9 to 10 a.m.** **After today**, classes will resume on **Sunday 03 January 2021**. Our Elementary School 1st graders through 5th graders meet virtually on **Tuesdays** from **5 to 6 p.m.** Classes will meet on **Tuesday 22 December 2020** and will resume on **05 January 2021**. Our Middle School students will meet virtually on **Sunday 20 December 2020** from **6:30 to 7:30 p.m.** and will resume on **03 January 2021**. Our High School Students will meet on **Sunday 20 December 2020**. Class will resume on **Sunday 03 January** from **6:30 to 7:30 p.m.** To register, please contact Erin Clegg, eclegg@olvp.org.

Social Concerns

THANK YOU to all those parishioners who contributed to the national collection for Religious Retirement.

THANK YOU, also, to those who donated gifts to the Adopted Family Christmas Collection. In this year especially, your gifts made the holiday special for these families.

URGENT VIRTUAL DRIVE FOR THE GABRIEL PROJECT THIS CHRISTMAS SEASON: The Gabriel Project Cluster of Montgomery County is an all-volunteer nonprofit organization that assists low income pregnant women and their children. During the pandemic and economic crisis, the need for the Gabriel Project's services has grown tremendously while typical sources of support are greatly reduced. Please remember the Gabriel Project's client mothers and the babies and children they serve as you make your Christmas purchases and plan your year-end giving. You can help provide critically needed material resources by purchasing essential items like baby gear, diapers, and clothing through the Gabriel Project's Amazon List. For more information about the Gabriel Project and to support our efforts, please visit the website at www.gpmoco.org and look for the link for the Gabriel Project's Amazon Charity List at the top of the home page.

ST. MARTIN'S FOOD PANTRY COLLECTION: The Social Concerns Committee is sponsoring our next monthly collection for St. Martin's Food Pantry today, **Saturday 19 December 2020 at 5:00 p.m. and on Sunday 20 December 2020 at 11:00 a.m.** Collection cars will be on the lower level of the parish parking lot. The

Pantry is in need of canned fruit, dry unsweetened cereal, canned soup, cookies, crackers, mac & cheese, pasta, pasta sauce, dry soup/ramen, canned vegetables, meals in a can, *Ensure* for adults, and baby formula, especially *Similac 2*.

Human Resources

PARISH OFFICE HOLIDAY HOURS: The office will close at **noon** on Christmas Eve, **24 December** and will reopen on **Monday 28 December**. Regular office hours are Monday through Friday between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

DEPRESSED: If you or someone you know needs help, call **1-800-273-8255 (TALK)**. The number is staffed 24 hours a day. You can also text HOME to 741-741 for free, 24-hour support from the Crisis Text Line.

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

THANK YOU: We wish to extend our very sincere **thanks** to all those parishioners who faithfully mail their Offertory Contributions as well as to those who are using **Faith Direct**. By doing so, you enable our parish to pay the bills during the pandemic. With Faith Direct there is no cost to you and the program provides a great benefit to our parish. **Please enroll online at www.faithdirect.net. Our Church Code is MD114.**

2020 CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS: To receive tax credit for 2020, your contributions **must** be received in the parish office on or before **Monday 04 January 2021** to be credited to your contribution statement.

CHRISTMAS GIFT: 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 help balance our parish budget.

OFFERTORY COLLECTION: If you are not using Faith Direct please **mail your Offertory Envelopes to the parish office at 14135 Seneca Road in Darnestown, MD 20874.**

OUTDOOR LIGHTING UPGRADE: Volunteers have completed upgrading the parking lot lighting for our church. Newer and more efficient LED bulbs replace old and/or non-functioning units. We have begun to replace the fluorescent lights with LEDs in the Barn. **Thank you** to those parishioners who have contributed their time, talent or treasure.