

Our Lady of the Visitation Parish

14139 Seneca Road • Darnestown, Maryland 20874



Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

19 September 2021

Sacred Liturgy

Saturday – 5:00 pm

Sunday – 9:00 am, 11:00 am, and 5:00 pm

Monday, 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 3:00-4:30 p.m.
After Weekday and Sunday Masses
Mon., 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

Youth Faith Formation

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

Youth Minister

Julia Jordan, (240) 750-5104
julijordan@olvp.org

Parish Manager

Colleen Enos, (301) 948-5536
cenos@olvp.org

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

SEPTEMBER 2021

- 19 Sun Mass, 9 a.m., 11 a.m., 5 p.m., Church
RCIA, 12 Noon, Founders Hall
 High School Youth Group, 6 p.m., Pavilion
 St. Martin's Food Pantry Collection
- 20 Mon Adoration, 11 a.m., Church
 Mass, 12 Noon, 6 p.m., Church
- 21 Tue Mass, 8:30 a.m., 12 Noon, Church
 Adoration, 11 a.m., Church
- 22 Wed Adoration, 11 a.m., Church
 Mass, 12 Noon, 6 p.m., Church
 Adoration, 6:30 pm Church
- 23 Thu Mass, 8:30 a.m., 12 Noon, Church
 Adoration, 11 a.m., Church
- 24 Fri Adoration, 11 a.m., Church
 Mass, 12 Noon, 6 p.m., Church
 Adoration, 6:30 p.m., Church
- 25 Sat Weekday Mass: 9 a.m., Church
 Baptism Prep. Class: 10 a.m., Fdrs. Hall
 Vigil Mass: 5 p.m., Church
- 26 Sun Mass, 9 a.m., 11 a.m., 5 p.m., Church
Faith Formation:
Pre K, K, 1: 9:00 a.m. Church
Grades 6, 7, 8: 6 p.m. Fdrs. Hall

Parish Festival: Noon to 3 p.m., Parish Grounds

- High School Youth Group, 6 p.m., Pavilion
- 27 Mon Adoration, 11 a.m., Church
 Mass, 12 Noon, 6 p.m., Church
- 28 Tue Mass, 8:30 a.m., 12 Noon, Church
 Adoration, 11 am, Church
 Faith Formation:
Grades 1-6: 4:45 p.m., Fdrs. Hall
- 29 Wed Adoration, 11 a.m., Church
 Mass, 12 Noon, 6 p.m., Church
 Adoration, 6:30 p.m., Church
- 30 Thu Mass, 8:30 a.m., 12 Noon, Church
 Adoration, 11 a.m., Church

OCTOBER 2021

- 01 Fri Adoration, 11 a.m., Church
 Mass, 12 Noon, 6 p.m., Church
 Adoration, 6:30 p.m., Church
- 02 Sat Weekday Mass: 9 a.m., Church
 Vigil Mass: 5 p.m., Church

Liturgical Life



ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT: Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will take place in the church on **weekdays**, Monday through Friday, from **11:00 am to Noon** and on **Wednesday and Friday evenings from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.**



Readings for the Week of 19 September 2021

- Monday: Ezr 1:1-6/Ps 126:1b-2ab, 2cd-3, 4-5, 6 [3]/Lk 8:16-18
- Tuesday: Eph 4:1-7, 11-13/Ps 19:2-3, 4-5 [5]/Mt 9:9-13
- Wednesday: Ezr 9:5-9/Tb 13:2, 3-4a, 4befghn, 7-8 [1b]/Lk 9:1-6
- Thursday: Hg 1:1-8/Ps 149:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6a and 9b [cf. 4a]/Lk 9:7-9
- Friday: Hg 2:1-9/Ps 43:1, 2, 3, 4 [5]/Lk 9:18-22
- Saturday: Zec 2:5-9, 14-15a/Jer 31:10, 11-12ab, 13 [cf. 10d]/Lk 9:43b-45
- Sunday: Nm 11:25-29/Ps 19:8, 10, 12-13, 14 [9a]/Jas 5:1-6/Mk 9:38-43, 45, 47-48

Parish Life

PARISH NECROLOGY: On the anniversaries of their death, please keep the following parishioners in your prayers: **Agnes F. Kelly** (2 September 2002), **Richard J. Gordon** (03 September 2012), **Harry T. Lackey, Jr.** (10 September 2002), **Vincent Burns** (10 September 1994), **Andrew Garde** (22 September 1994), and **Mabel Rebecca Offutt** (30 September 2015).



BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS: On **Sunday Oct 3rd, 2021** please bring your pets to the lower church parking lot after the noon Mass at **12:15 p.m.** so they may receive a 'Blessing of the Animals,' in the tradition of St. Francis of Assisi, patron saint of animals. His feast is celebrated on 04 October.

PASTOR'S PAGE

“The Son of Man is to be handed over to men and they will kill him, and three days after his death the Son of Man will rise.”

Normally I preach on the theme of the Sunday readings, but the theme today is on suffering so I thought it would be more appropriate to write about it here. The type of suffering that the readings address is that which comes from the sins of others. That’s not usually the kind of suffering that people question because people can see why it happens. And yet, this is the suffering that is described in today’s Gospel because men caused Jesus’s Passion and death.

What people often question is the suffering that has no apparent cause. They recognize that God didn’t cause things like a hurricane or the death of a child or COVID. But, they ask why did He allow it? There is a short answer and there is a long answer. Neither answer is complete because the Church herself says that suffering is ultimately a mystery. But I look forward to tackling the long answer with you in time whether privately or publicly.

The short answer is sin. The prophet Jeremiah arrived at the short answer in chapter 14 of his Book in the Old Testament. “We recognize our wickedness, LORD, the guilt of our ancestors: we have sinned against you” (v. 20). This was right after he asked the Lord why He was allowing the terrible suffering of his people. The Catechism of the Catholic Church says that all suffering is a result of sin; it’s either our sin, the sin of others, or Original Sin. God gave us free will and respects our freedom so much that He allows us to choose sin and experience the effects of it (e.g., suffering). We really are free to choose good or evil.



Much more to say on this...

May you know the peace of Christ,

Fr. Greg

SAINTS/WINDOWS: 29 September, Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael, Archangels - The three archangel windows in the bell tower depict St. Michael, patron of police and pilots (upper); St. Gabriel, patron of mothers (middle); and St. Raphael, patron of medicine and healing (lower).

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 **Saturday 25 September** at 10:00 a.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.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR ADULTS: Are you or someone you know, thinking about becoming Catholic? Is there a restlessness that you would like to understand? OLVP will be offering the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (**RCIA**) this fall. There will be an initial coffee and donut reception after the 11:00am Mass **today, Sunday, September 19, 2021** in the church hall. Please bring your questions, or call Deacon Ted at (240) 678-3466.

OLVP 9TH—12TH GRADERS: The OLVP Youth Group meets every Sunday from 6 to 7:30 pm starting in the Pavilion next to the barn. It is proving to be a ton of fun and a great way to meet fellow High School students in the parish. Please join us!



CARE PACKAGES FOR OLVP COLLEGE STUDENTS: The parish would like to send a box of goodies to each of our college students so that they have OLVP love with them. Parents, send the name and school address of your son or daughter to cenos@olvp.org.

SHAWL MINISTRY: Did you know that OLVP has a Shawl Ministry? This group of dedicated individuals has worked behind the scenes at our parish for many years – knitting shawls and lap rugs that are distributed to parishioners who become ill or hospitalized. These hand-made items provide a tangible source of comfort to people who may feel isolated by their situation and serve to quietly remind them that OLVP is praying for their recovery. The group is in need of new members to carry on this fine tradition. If you have yarn, some time, and a desire to share compassion with the sick, please call Cindy Kokinda 240-477-7513 or email kokinda@comcast.net.

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 be-

gins 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.

FLOCKNOTE: Our Lady of the Visitation Parish is using *Flocknote* to communicate quickly and efficiently with the parish membership. 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.

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 Greg Shaffer (gshaffer@olvp.org), or Deacon Ted Dmuchowski (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 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. Feel free to call Fr. Greg (240) 463-9960, as well.

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

CATECHETICAL SUNDAY: Today, the Church celebrates Catechetical Sunday, and it is an opportunity for all of us to rededicate ourselves to the mission of being a witness to the Gospel and handing-on faith as a community.

2021-2022 FAITH FORMATION: Faith Formation sessions will begin on **Sunday 26 September**. Pre-K and Kindergarten sessions will be held from 9 to 10 am. and sessions for Grades 6, 7, and 8 will be held from 6 to 7:30 p.m.. Classes for children in Grades 2 through 5 will begin on **Tuesday September 28** from 4:45 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Registration is open. Please email Erin Clegg at eclegg@olvp.org.

Social Concerns

WORLD MISSION SUNDAY/PROPAGATION OF THE FAITH: Reminding us of Our Lord's commission to spread the Gospel to all nations, this second collection supports Church missions in more than 1,150 dioceses throughout Asia, Africa, the Pacific Islands, and remote regions of Latin America. Your generosity makes it possible for local priests and religious in desperate need, to bring the light of Christ to families and children living in the darkest of circumstances. This national collection will be taken on the weekend of **23-24 October 2021**.

ST. MARTIN'S FOOD PANTRY COLLECTION: The Social Concerns Committee is sponsoring our monthly collection for St. Martin's Food Pantry on **this weekend, Saturday and Sunday, September 18 and 19, before and after Masses.** Needed items include: canned soup, pasta sauce, "meals in a can", dry unsweetened cereal, canned fruit, diapers (sizes newborn, 2, & 6), *Similac Blue* Formula, *PediaSure*, *Ensure*, and Baby Wipes. Items may be placed in the alcove in the lower level of the church outside Founders Hall.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES LEGAL NETWORK counsels and provides legal representation to low-income and poor residents throughout the Archdiocese of Washington, D.C. and relies heavily on volunteer lawyers to fulfill its mission. If you are a lawyer in active status who wants to make a real difference in the lives of families and individuals struggling in our community, please reach out to Dan Collopy at (301) 615-0949 or daniel.collopy@cc-dc.org to discuss how you can help.

Human Resources

HOW TO JOIN OUR PARISH: A warm welcome to Our Lady of the Visitation Catholic Church! Registration forms are available in the blue folders 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 10:00 am and 4:00 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: As you are crossing things off of your back-to-school list with the arrival of autumn, please consider making the switch to eGiving? Enroll on-line at www.faithdirect.net. Our Church Code is **MD114**. We sincerely appreciate your support.