

Our Lady of the Visitation Parish

14139 Seneca Road • Darnestown, Maryland 20874



First Sunday of Advent

November 27, 2016

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

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

Will Flaig (301) 869-2830

At-Large Member

Timothy J. Hahn, (301) 926-7980

President

Deacon Thaddeus Dmuchowski

Principal of Parish School

Michael Friel (301) 869-0940

Pastor, Ext. 109

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

Stewardship Council

Human Resources Committee

John Feeney, (301) 762-2116

Facilities Committee

Tony Glander, (301) 460-6404

Fiscal Management Committee

Nick Serenyi, (301) 556-2320

President

Stephen Staton, CPA, (240) 988-7818

Parish Manager, Ext. 103

Colleen Enos (301) 948-5536

Director of Faith Formation, Ext. 107

Michele Olewack, (301) 948-5536

Deacons

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

Parochial Vicar, Ext. 101

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



Liturgical Life

Readings for the Week of November 27, 2016

Monday:	Is 4:2-6/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4b, 4cd-5, 6-7, 8-9/Mt 8:5-11
Tuesday:	Is 11:1-10/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17/ Lk 10:21-24
Wednesday:	Rom 10:9-18/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11/ Mt 4:18-22
Thursday:	Is 26:1-6/Ps 118:1 and 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a/Mt 7:21, 24-27
Friday:	Is 29:17-24/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14/ Mt 9:27-31
Saturday:	Is 30:19-21, 23-26/Ps 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6/Mt. 9:35b-10:1, 5a, 6-8
Sunday:	Is 11:1-10/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17/ Rom 15:4-9/Mt 3:1-12

ADVENT WREATH: The season of Advent prepares us not only for Christmas/Epiphany, but also for a 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.

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 threefold 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 begins on Sunday, 27 November.

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. Hermartues Contractus, a monk of Reichenau (1013-1054) is believed to have composed both the words and the music. At Visitation Parish, a traditional Marian antiphon is sung during the presentation of the gifts.

CHRISTMAS MANGER: The national Christmas Tree at The Ellipse will be lit on Thursday, 01 December 2016. Our Lady of the Visitation Parish plans to set up our Christmas Manger scene for the weekend of **03-04 December** to reflect the spiritual side of Christmas and to balance the various secular traditions of tree lightings, shopping, etc. Of course the Infant Jesus will not be placed in the manger until Christmas Eve.

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT: 03-04 December: PRESIDERS:

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

THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION: 08 December is the patronal feast of the United States and is **always** a Holy Day of Obligation. Sacred Liturgy will be celebrated in the church on **07 December at 5:00 p.m.** and on **08 December at 12:00 noon and at 7:00 p.m.**

CHRISTMAS EVE PASSES are required for the 4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve liturgy. A request form was included with the newsletter and St. Nicholas Catalog mailed to all parishioners before Thanksgiving. If you did not receive the mailing, contact the parish office at (301) 948-5536.

Parish Life

ECCE QUAM BONUM: Last weekend, Markos Joseph McGrath celebrated **First Eucharist**.

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).

SAINTS/WINDOWS:

8 December, Immaculate Conception: In 1846, during the Sixth Plenary Council of Baltimore, the American Bishops placed the United States (upper panel) under the patronage of the Immaculate Conception. The first and mother cathedral of the United States is the

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Basilica of the Assumption of Mary in Baltimore, Maryland (lower panel).

12 December, Our Lady of Guadalupe: Mary appeared as an Aztec Princess to Juan Diego in 1531 in Mexico. Castilian roses bloomed miraculously and were used as proof of her appearance (lower panel). Her visitation prevented an impending war between the native peoples and the Spanish military. Mary has been declared patroness of all the Americas (upper panel).

PARISH EMBER DAYS: Responding to the Gospel and following Christian tradition, Visitation parishioners are encouraged to voluntarily set aside **Wednesday, Friday and Saturday, 14, 16 and 17 December 2016** as special days of fasting, prayer and works of charity.

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, 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, contact the parish office at molewack@olvp.org.

INFANT BAPTISMS: 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. Attendance during pregnancy is advised. We encourage Sponsors/Godparents, including parishioners who will be Sponsors/Godparents elsewhere, to attend this Baptism Preparation Class. For information and/or to register, contact the parish office at krooney@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.

MATRIMONY: 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).

PRAYER CHAIN: If you would like to have a special intention remembered in our prayers, please call the parish office at (301) 948-5536.

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.

Faith Formation for Life

SCRIPTURE STUDY: A study of the readings for the Second Sunday in Advent will be held on **Tuesday, 29 November 2016, at 10:00 a.m.** in the Barn.



CHRISTMAS PAGEANT: Parents, grandparents, siblings, invited guests and all parishioners are welcome to attend our annual Christmas Pageant on **Sunday, 18 December 2016 at 6:00 p.m. in the Church.** Please email Michele Olewack at molewack@olvp.org for more information.

FAITH FORMATION: If you would like information about our Faith Formation programs, please email molewack@olvp.org.

CATECHIST NEEDED FOR CHURCH SCHOOL: Beginning in January, an additional catechist will be needed for Sunday Church School during the 9:00 a.m. Mass. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Michele Olewack at (301) 948-5536 or email molewack@olvp.org.

Social Concerns

ADVENT FOOD COLLECTION FOR HEAD START: Grocery bags for our Head Start program will be distributed on **03-04 December 2016.** Bags are to be returned on the weekend of **10-11 December 2016.** Please be sure to include only non-perishable items in non-breakable containers.

RELIGIOUS RETIREMENT COLLECTION: Show your thanks for the senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests who made a positive difference in so many lives. This special collection on **10-11 December 2016** helps to provide medication, nursing care, and more for thousands of elderly religious. Please be generous to this national collection.

ADOPTED FAMILY COLLECTION FOR CHRISTMAS: The Adopted Family Christmas Collection will be held on **17-18 December 2016.** Please email olvpsocialconcerns@gmail.com to receive further information on how to donate.

THANKSGIVING COLLECTION: Thank you to all who donated to the collection for our sister parish in Haiti at the Thanksgiving Day liturgy.



ST. NICHOLAS CHRISTMAS 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(s) that specifies the gifts(s) you purchased from the charity. Orders must be received by **Monday, 19 December 2016.**

Human Resources



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR CHRISTMAS TREE SALES: Trees will be delivered and unloaded on **Thursday, 01 December**; sales will begin on **Friday, 02 December** and continue through **Sunday, 11 December**. Go to www.olvp.org and click on the link for **SignUpGenius**. It is easy to sign up and fun to help.

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED: The parish office will close at **noon on Thursday, 08 December 2016** in honor of the Immaculate Conception of Mary. Regular office hours are **Monday through Friday, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

Facilities

PARISH REPAIRS: If you see a needed repair around the parish, please send an email to parishoffice@olvp.org to report the problem so that we may have it fixed.

Finance

2015-2016 ANNUAL REPORT: Effective 7 November 2016, the Archdiocese has forgiven \$316,801 of parish debt. This debt (property/buildings) stems from the original establishment of the parish. The debt was forgiven in keeping with Pope Francis' Year of Mercy a time for the Catholic Church across the world to focus on forgiveness and healing in a special way. We are very grateful for the generosity of Cardinal Wuerl.

WHY FAITH DIRECT?: This fall, consider enrolling in eGiving through Faith Direct. Visit www.faithdirect.net and use our church code: **MD114** or pick up an enrollment form from the parish office.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

NOVEMBER

- 27 Sun** No Faith Formation
- 29 Tue** Scripture Study: 10:00 a.m., Barn
Faith Formation:
Grades K-5, 4:45 p.m., Founders Hall
- 30 Wed** Faith Formation:
Grades 1-5, 4:45 p.m., Founders Hall

DECEMBER

- 01 Thu** **Christmas Trees Delivered**
- 02 Fri** **Christmas Tree Sales Begin, 3:30 p.m.**
- 03 Sat** **Christmas Tree Sales, 8:00 a.m.—7:30 p.m.**
- 04 Sun** **Mortgage Retirement Collection**
Church School, 8:45 am, Church
Ages 3, 4, and 5 years old
Head Start Empty Food Bag Distribution
Christmas Tree Sales, 8:00 a.m.—7:30 p.m.
Faith Formation:
Grades 6, 7, 8, 6:30 p.m.
- 05 Mon** **Christmas Tree Sales, 3:30 p.m.—7:30 p.m.**
- 06 Tue** Scripture Study: 10:00 a.m., Barn
Christmas Tree Sales, 3:30 p.m.—7:30 p.m.
Faith Formation:
Grades K-5, 4:45 p.m., Founders Hall
- 07 Wed** **Christmas Tree Sales, 3:30 p.m.—7:30 p.m.**
Faith Formation:
Grades 1-5, 4:45 p.m., Founders Hall
Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception Liturgy: 5:00 p.m.
- 08 Thu** **Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception Liturgy, 12:00 noon and 7:00 p.m.**
Sodality: Rosary and refreshments after the noon mass
Office Closes at Noon
Christmas Tree Sales, 3:30 p.m.—7:30 p.m.
- 09 Fri** **Christmas Tree Sales, 3:30 p.m.—7:30 p.m.**
- 09 Sat** **Christmas Tree Sales, 8:00 a.m.—7:30 p.m.**
- 11 Sun** **Religious Retirement Collection**
Church School, 8:45 am, Church
Ages 3, 4, and 5 years old
Christmas Tree Sale Ends, 8:00 a.m.—7:30 p.m. or until sold out.
Head Start Food Bags Collected
Faith Formation:
Grades 6, 7, 8, 6:30 p.m.
High School, 6:30 p.m., Rectory
- 13 Tue** Scripture Study: 10:00 a.m., Barn
Faith Formation:
Grades K-5, 4:45 p.m., Founders Hall
- 14 Wed** **Ember Day: Voluntary Day of Penance**
Faith Formation:
Grades 1-5, 4:45 p.m., Founders Hall
- 16 Fri** **Ember Day: Voluntary Day of Penance**
- 17 Sat** **Ember Day: Voluntary Day of Penance**
- 18 Sun** **No Church School**
Adopted Family Collection
Christmas Pageant, 6:00 p.m., Church