

Our Lady of the Visitation Parish

14139 Seneca Road • Darnestown, Maryland 20874



Third Sunday of Advent

December 11, 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

Vice-Chair

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

Vice-Chair

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 December 11, 2016

Monday:	Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/(Ps) Jdt 13:18bc, 19/Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47 or 707-712
Tuesday:	Zep 3:1-2, 9-13/Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-18, 19, 23/Mt 21:28-32 see 692: 2 Cor 10:17-11:2/Mt 25:1-13
Wednesday:	Is 45:6b-8, 18, 21b-25/Ps 85:9-14/Lk 7:18b-23 see 693: 1 Cor 2:1-10a/Lk 14:25-33
Thursday:	Is 54:1-10/Ps 30:2, 4-6, 11-13/Lk 7:24-30
Friday:	Is 56:1-3a, 6-8/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 7-8/Jn 5:33-35
Saturday:	Gn 49:2, 8-10/Ps 72:3-4, 7-8, 17/Mt 1:1-17
Sunday:	Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-6/Rom 1:1-7/Mt 1:18-24

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 began 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 was lit on Thursday, 01 December 2016. Our Lady of the Visitation Parish 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.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT: 17-18 December: PRESIDERS:

5:00 p.m. Fr. Mathew PUNCHAYIL/Deacon Bob
9:00 a.m. Fr. Mathew PUNCHAYIL
11:00 a.m. Fr. Raymond FECTEAU

CHRISTMAS EVE PASSES are required for the **4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve liturgy**. Tickets have been mailed. If you are not able to use your requested tickets, please contact the parish office at (301) 948-5536 to return them as soon as possible.

Feast of the Nativity of the Lord

Saturday, 24 December 2016, Presiders:

4:00 p.m. Fr. Raymond FECTEAU (**Passes Needed**)
7:00 p.m. Fr. Mathew PUNCHAYIL
10:00 p.m. Fr. Raymond FECTEAU (**Midnight Mass**)

Sunday, 25 December 2016, Presiders:

9:00 a.m. Fr. Mathew PUNCHAYIL
11:00 a.m. Fr. Raymond FECTEAU (**Family Liturgy**)

MARY, MOTHER OF GOD LITURGY: The *Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God* will be celebrated at the regularly scheduled weekend Masses on 31 December 2016 and 01 January 2017.

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**

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

(20 December 2011), **Nicholas Toran** (27 December 1993), and **Matthew Todd Wolff** (27 December 1997).

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 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.

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. **The next Baptism class will be held on Saturday, 17 December 2016 at 10:00 a.m. at the church.** For information and/or to register, contact the parish office at krooney@olvp.org.

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.

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 at (rfecteau@olvp.org), Father Mathew Punchayil at (matpunchayil@yahoo.com), Deacon Ted Dmuchowski at (thaddeus.dmuchowski@gmail.com) or Deacon Robert Fischer at (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 Fourth Sunday in Advent will be held on **Tuesday, 13 December 2016, at 10:00 a.m.** in the Barn.

HIGH SCHOOL FAITH FORMATION: *Scripture and Snacks with Father Ray* will be held on **Sunday, 11 December 2016** at 6:30 p.m. in the rectory.



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.

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@olp.org.

Social Concerns

ADVENT FOOD COLLECTION FOR HEAD START: Thank you to all parishioners who donated items to our Head Start food collection. Your generosity will make Christmas merrier for some of our neediest neighbors.

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 olvp-socialconcerns@gmail.com to receive further information on how to donate.



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



THANK YOU to all those involved in the tree and wreath sale this year. This FUNraiser was a TREE-mendous success. Thank you, also, to our parishioners who bought their trees and wreaths from us.

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED: The parish office will be closed **at noon on Friday, 23 December 2016** to celebrate the Nativity of the Lord and will reopen at 10:00 a.m. on **Tuesday, 27 December 2016**.

SNOW POLICY: Liturgy on Sundays and on Holy Days of Obligation, including vigils, is not cancelled because of weather. The parish office is open if there is a delay in the opening of schools; the office is closed if schools are closed. Daily liturgy is held if there is a delay in the opening of schools. If schools are closed there is no daily liturgy.

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

WHY FAITH DIRECT?: In this season of Advent, we are continuously preparing ourselves for the celebration of Christ's birth. Why not help OLVP prepare for the coming new year by signing up with Faith Direct? Please pick up an enrollment form from the parish office or enroll online at www.faithdirect.net. Our church code: **MD114**.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

DECEMBER

- 11 Sun Religious Retirement Collection
Christmas Tree Sale Ends, 8:00 a.m.—
7:30 p.m. or until sold out.**
Church School, 8:45 am, Church
Ages 3, 4, and 5 years old
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**
- 20 Tue Scripture Study: 10:00 a.m., Barn
No Faith Formation Sessions**
- 21 Wed No Faith Formation Sessions**
- 24 Sat Christmas Eve
Sacred Liturgy, 4:00 p.m., Passes Needed
Sacred Liturgy, 7:00 p.m., 10:00 p.m.**
- 25 Sun No Church School
Christmas Day
Sacred Liturgy, 9:00 a.m. and
11:00 a.m., Family Liturgy
No Faith Formation Sessions**
- 26 Mon Office Closed**
- 27 Tue Scripture Study: 10:00 a.m., Barn
No Faith Formation Sessions**
- 28 Wed No Faith Formation Sessions**
- 30 Fri Office will close at Noon**
- 31 Sat Mary, Mother of God
Sacred Liturgy, 5:00 p.m., Church**

JANUARY

- 01 Sun No Church School
Mary, Mother of God
Sacred Liturgy: 9:00 and 11:00 am, Church**
- 02 Mon Office Closed**
- 03 Tue Scripture Study: 10:00 a.m., Barn
No Faith Formation Sessions
Knights of Columbus, 7:00 p.m., Barn**
- 04 Wed No Faith Formation Sessions**
- 08 Sun Church School, Ages 3, 4, 5: 9:00 a.m.
Epiphany of the Lord
Mortgage Collection
Family Liturgy, 9:00 a.m.
Men's Club: 9:00 a.m. Mass and Meeting
Faith Formation:
High School: 6:30 p.m., Rectory
Grades 6, 7, 8: 6:30 p.m., Founders Hall**