

Our Lady of the Visitation Parish

14139 Seneca Road • Darnestown, Maryland 20874



Third Sunday Of Advent

15 December 2019

Sacred Liturgy

Saturday • 5:00 p.m.

Sunday • 9:00 a.m. • 11:00 a.m.

14139 Seneca Road • Darnestown

M/ T/ W/ F • 9:15 a.m.

Thomas More Chapel • Parish Barn • 14135 Seneca Road

Sacrament of Penance • Saturday • 4:00—4:30 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

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 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

Youth Faith Formation

Erin Clegg, (301) 385-4920

Deacons

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

Weekend Help

The Dominican Fathers (O.P.) of Nigeria

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

- 15 Sun Faith Formation:
Pre K, K, 1: 9:00 a.m., Church
Grades 6, 7, 8: 6:30 p.m., Fdrs. Hall
Head Start Food Bags Collected
Tree Sale, 9:00 a.m. to Sold Out
Christmas Pageant I, 10:00 a.m., Church
- 17 Tue Scripture Study, 10:00 a.m., Barn
Faith Formation:
Grades 2,3,4,5: 4:45 p.m., Fdrs. Hall
- 18 Wed **Ember Day: Voluntary Day of Penance**
Advent Reflection: 7:00 p.m., Barn
- 19 Thu **Sodality Rosary, 7:00 p.m., Barn**
- 20 Fri **Ember Day: Voluntary Day of Penance**
- 21 Sat **Ember Day: Voluntary Day of Penance**
- 22 Sun **Sodality Mass & Meeting, 9:00 a.m.**
No Faith Formation
- 24 Tue **Christmas Eve—No Scripture Study**
Parish Office Closes at Noon
No Faith Formation
Masses: 4:00, 7:00, 10:00 p.m., Church
- 25 Wed **Christmas Day—Office Closed**
Mass: 11:00 a.m., Church
Office Closed
- 26 Thu **Office Closed**
- 27 Fri **Office Closes at Noon**
- 29 Sun **No Faith Formation**
- 30 Mon **Mass in Chapel at 9:15 a.m.**
Office Closes at Noon
- 31 Tue **Mass in Chapel at 9:15 a.m.**
Scripture Study, 10:00 a.m., Barn
Office Closes at Noon

JANUARY 2020

- 01 Wed **Mary, Mother of God**
Mass: 12:00 Noon, Church
Parish Office Closed
- 02 Thu **Office Closes at Noon**
- 03 Fri **Office Closes at Noon**
- 05 Sun **Epiphany of The Lord**
Collection for the Archdiocese of Military Services
Faith Formation:
Pre K, K, 1: 9:00 a.m., Church
Grades 6, 7, 8: 6:30 p.m., Fdrs. Hall
- 07 Tue Scripture Study, 10:00 a.m., Barn
Faith Formation:
Grades 2,3,4,5: 4:45 p.m., Fdrs. Hall
- 12 Sun **Baptism of the Lord**
Faith Formation:
Pre K, K, 1: 9:00 a.m., Church
Grades 6, 7, 8: 6:30 p.m., Fdrs. Hall
High School: 6:30 p.m., Rectory
Christmas Pageant II, 10:00 a.m., Church



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 01 December 2019.

Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord

Tuesday 24 December 2019 Presiders:

- 4:00 p.m. Fr. Raymond Fecteau
7:00 p.m. Fr. Dominic, O.P.
10:00 p.m. Fr. Raymond Fecteau

Wednesday 25 December 2019 Presiders:

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

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT: 22 December 2019, Presiders:

- 5:00 p.m. Father Dominic, O.P.**
9:00 a.m. Father Dominic, O.P.
11:00 a.m. Father Raymond Fecteau

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.

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 **Wednesday 01 January 2020** in the church.

Readings for the Week of 15 December 2019

| | |
|------------|---|
| Monday: | Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a/Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9 [4]/Mt 21:23-27 |
| Tuesday: | Gn 49:2, 8-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17 [cf. 7]/Mt 1:1-17 |
| Wednesday: | Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19 [cf. 7]/Mt 1:18-25 |
| Thursday: | Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17 [cf. 8]/Lk 1:5-25 |
| Friday: | Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6 [cf. 7c and 10b]/Lk 1:26-38 |
| Saturday: | Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21 [1a; 3a]/Lk 1:39-45 |
| Sunday: | Is 7:10-14/ Ps 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 [7c, 10b]/Rom 1:1-7/Mt 1:18-24 |

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, a 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.

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

R.I.P.: It is with sadness that we announce the death of the **Rev. Julio Alvarez-Garcia**, retired priest of the Archdiocese of Washington. We commend him and his family in our prayers to God.

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 Zanella** (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, 18, 20, and 21 December 2019** as special days of fasting, prayer and works of charity.

ADVENT REFLECTION SERIES: Deacon Ted will continue to facilitate Advent Reflections for all interested parishioners on **Wednesday 18 December 2019** in the Parish Barn from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

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.

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), 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.

Faith Formation for Life

SCRIPTURE STUDY: A study of the readings for the Fourth Sunday of Advent will be held on **Tuesday 17 December 2019** at 10:00 a.m. in the Barn.

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT: This year our children's Christmas Pageant will be split into two parts and will primarily include our church school children. The first part of the pageant will follow the 9:00 a.m. Mass today, **Sunday 15 December 2019**. All are welcome and encouraged to attend! The second part of the pageant will follow the 9:00 a.m. Mass on **Sunday 12 January 2020** with refreshments afterwards in Founders Hall. Please come help us celebrate the reason for the season. If you have any questions, please contact parishoffice@olvp.org.



Social Concerns

RECENT COLLECTIONS: Our parish donated \$2,035.00 to the Retired Religious Collection taken last weekend and \$ 429.00 to the Haiti Collection taken on Thanksgiving Eve. Thank you.

THANK YOU to all those families who donated to the Adopted Family 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, 16 December 2019**.

ADVENT FOOD COLLECTION FOR HEAD START: Grocery bags for our Head Start program are to be returned this weekend, **14-15 December 2019**. Please be sure to include only non-perishable items in non-breakable containers.

Finance

CHRISTMAS COLLECTION: We are grateful to parishioners who make extra donations to the parish at Christmas. At Christmas and at Easter two separate collections are taken in order to balance our parish budget. **We really need your help!**

TAKE THE NEXT STEP: We wish to extend our heartfelt thanks to all those parishioners who have pledged to participate in the Take the Next Step program. We also thank those who have increased their Offertory donations to help tackle our need to meet expenses. If you have not yet done so, please thoughtfully

reflect on the amount that you give to sustain parish operations, and consider giving a bit more. We depend on your support.

WHY FAITH DIRECT?: During the Season of Advent please consider enrolling in *Faith Direct* to ensure your gifts of treasure to Our Lady of the Visitation Parish are received even if you may be out of town. Go online to faith.direct/MD114 to support our parish.

Human Resources

CHRISTMAS TREE SALES AND KITCHEN HELP: Trees will be on sale through today, **Sunday 15 December** or until they sell out.

NEW PARISHIONERS: The following family has recently joined our parish: **Ms. Betty Ann McCarthy**.

SAFE ENVIRONMENT AND CHILD PROTECTION TRAINING: The Archdiocese of Washington and our parish are committed to keeping all individuals safe and to bring healing to those harmed. Those parishioners and staff who work with children and vulnerable individuals are required to be fingerprinted and complete a criminal background check, fill out and sign current application forms for volunteer services (or employment if staff), and complete VIRTUS training and become VIRTUS certified prior to beginning service. Those who received training and were certified more than 5 years ago are required to be re-certified. Please watch the parish bulletin for information on training and certification opportunities.

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

- Tues. 24 Dec. Office Closes at Noon**
- Wed. 25 Dec. Office Closed all Day**
- Thu. 26 Dec. Office Closed all Day**
- Fri. 27 Dec. Office Closes at Noon**
- Mon. 30 Dec. Office Closes at Noon**
- Tues. 31 Dec. Office Closes at Noon**

Regular office hours are Monday through Friday, 10:00 a.m. to 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

PARKING LOT REPAIRS: After several years of pot holes and patches, it has finally become necessary to dig up the bedding and properly pave multiple areas in our parking lot. This necessary repair will cost \$10,000. Any help you can provide is especially appreciated.