

Our Parish Visitor

Our Lady of the Visitation Parish Newsletter

Christmas Mass Schedule

**Christmas Vigil
Monday, 24 December**

***4:00 p.m. – Church**

***Passes Needed**

7:00 p.m. – Church

11:00 p.m. - Church

Midnight Mass/Special Music

**Christmas Day
Tuesday, 25 December**

9:00 a.m. – Church

11:00 a.m. – Church

Family Liturgy



Christmas Pageant

Make your Christmas celebration more joyful and holy this year by attending the OLVP Christmas Pageant. Here's an opportunity to reflect on the true meaning of the Christmas season and the significance of the Birth of Our Lord. Students from Faith Formation and our parish school will participate.

**This special event will be held on:
Sunday, 16 December 2012
5:00 p.m.**

Please contact Michele Olewack at 301/948-5536 x107 or watch the bulletin for further details. Please join us.

Fr. Mathew - 40th Anniversary

On 20 October 2012, Fr. Mathew Punchayil, Parochial Vicar at Our Lady of the Visitation Parish, celebrated his 40th Anniversary of Ordination to the Priesthood. The event began with the 5:00 p.m. Sacred Liturgy concelebrated by Fr. Mathew with Fr. Evelio Menjivar, Parochial Vicar from the Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle in Washington D.C. At the end of mass, a special presentation was made by Mrs. Cecilia Fecteau, mother of our pastor, Fr. Ray. Mrs. Fecteau presented Fr. Mathew with a beautiful, framed Papal Blessing as a gift from the pastor and the parish.

A special reception was held in Founders Hall immediately following the mass. Many parishioners and friends attended. The event was planned by a committee representing the St. Monica Society, Sodality, Holy Name Society and Mary of Nazareth families from OLVP. The hall was decorated in blue in honor of the Blessed Mother.

Fr. Mathew was ordained in India on 21 October 1972. He came to this area in 2002 as Mission Director of the Syro-Malabar Community of Greater Washington and was assigned to Mother Seton Parish in Germantown, Maryland. In 2004, Father Mathew became the first parochial vicar at OLVP, while continuing to serve the Syro-Malabar community.

Advent

Advent celebrates three unique events: 1) Jesus came to us once in flesh and human frailty (Incarnation / Christmas); 2) Jesus comes to us now in sacred word and sacramental mystery (Epiphany / Liturgical Year); and 3) Jesus will come again in great glory and majesty (Second Coming / Parousia). Just as Lent is a special season to help us properly prepare to celebrate Easter, Advent is a special season to help us prepare to properly celebrate Christmas. Advent becomes an opportunity of grace and blessing for those who use it as a time for prayer, for fasting and for charitable works.

Christmas Tree Sale

Tree Sales

**Fri, 30 November to
Sun, 09 December**

Weekends:

8:30 a.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Weekdays:

4:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.



**Volunteers Needed
No Experience Needed**

The following families have graciously given their time to host sales on the weekdays: Quine, Miller, Young, Knights of Columbus, O'Sullivan, and Keegan. Please give them your support.

On the weekends, we ask that you invite your favorite teenager to work with you and then to enjoy a gourmet lunch and a wonderful few hours together during a very hectic season.

Calling All Cooks



We also NEED the wonderful COOKS in our parish to provide food for the workers on the weekends and also for them to sign up for a few hours serving in the kitchen.

**For information or
to volunteer contact:
Bill Connors
(301) 869-8203**

Confirmation

This year's Confirmation class will receive the special honor of being confirmed by the Archbishop of Washington, Donald Cardinal Wuerl, at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. This is a wonderful and rare opportunity for our Confirmands. Confirmation will be held on Saturday, 25 May 2013 at 2:00 p.m. Seating is unlimited.

Volunteer Opportunities

Confirmands and their families are encouraged to volunteer for the following parish activities:



Head Start Food Bag Distribution

Sat, 08 Dec 2012 – 5:00 p.m. mass
Sun, 09 Dec 2012 – 9:00 a.m. mass
Sun, 09 Dec 2012 – 11:00 a.m. mass

Cardinal's Appeal Collection

Sat, 02 Feb 2013 – 5:00 p.m. mass
Sun, 03 Feb 2013 - 9:00 a.m. mass
Sun, 03 Feb 2013 – 11:00 a.m. mass

The Lord's Table Soup Kitchen

St. Martin's Parish, Gaithersburg, MD
Thu, 31 Jan 2013 –3:00 pm to 5:00 pm
Thu, 30 May 2013–3:00 pm to 5:00 pm

To volunteer, contact Kathleen Rooney in the parish office at 301/948-5536 or email krooney@olvp.org.

Missionary Visit

On 10 and 11 November 2012, OLVP hosted Fr. Luis Ferney Lopez Jimenez of the Seminario Diocesano Nuestra Señora in the Diocese of Sonsón Rionegro, Colombia as part of the Missionary Cooperative Program of the Archdiocese of Washington. Each parish in the Archdiocese is asked to host a missionary once every three years.

Fr. Luis spoke at all three masses requesting financial help for the five seminaries and the 600 seminarians studying in his diocese. OLVP parishioners generously donated \$3,706 to Fr. Luis for his special missionary collection.

Volunteer Appreciation Party

Mark your calendars! Next year's Volunteer Appreciation Party will be held on Friday, 08 February 2013, 7:30 p.m. – 10:30 p.m. in Founders Hall. All parishioners who have volunteered in any capacity are invited to attend. Watch the bulletin for details.



Family Bingo

The Holy Name Society and the Sodality will jointly sponsor a family bingo on Sunday, 10 February 2013, from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. in Founders Hall. Watch the bulletin.

IMPORTANT DATES

December

- 01-02 First Sunday of Advent
07 Fri *Feast of the Immaculate Conception*, Sacred Liturgy, 7:00 p.m., Church
Patronal Feast of the USA
A Holyday of Obligation
08 Sat *Feast of the Immaculate Conception*, Sacred Liturgy, 10:00 a.m., Church
Patronal Feast of the USA
A Holyday of Obligation
16 Sun Christmas Pageant, 5:00 p.m.
24 Mon Parish Office Closed at noon
25 Tue Parish Office Closed
31 Mon Parish Office Closed at noon

January

- 01 Tue *Feast of Mary Mother of God*
Sacred Liturgy, 11:00 a.m.
Parish Office Closed
05-06 *Epiphany of the Lord*
9:00 a.m., Family Liturgy
Refreshments after mass

February

- 08 Fri Volunteer Appreciation Party,
7:30 p.m. – 10:30 p.m.,
Founders Hall
10 Sun Family Bingo, 2:00 p.m. -
4:00 p.m., Founders Hall

Archdiocesan Synod



On 08 June 2014 the Archdiocese of Washington will hold a Synod to assess the future direction of the local Church. In preparation for the Synod, input will be solicited and evaluated from many individuals within the local Church in five key areas: Worship, Education, Community, Service, and Stewardship / Administration.

The goal is to determine where the ministry of the Church is successful and areas where there is need for more attention to better carry forward the work of the Church. As part of this preparatory process, parish listening sessions will be held throughout the Archdiocese to provide the lay faithful an opportunity to provide input to the Synod.

OLVP has been selected as a location for parish listening sessions. Further details will be provided as plans for the listening sessions are finalized.

Year of Faith Plenary Indulgence

In honor of the 50th anniversary of the solemn opening of Vatican Council II, Pope Benedict XVI has declared a *Year of Faith* from 11 October 2012 until 24 November 2013.

The Vatican has announced that Pope Benedict XVI will grant a Plenary Indulgence during the *Year of Faith*.

All individual members of the faithful who are truly repentant, have duly received the Sacrament of Penance and Holy Communion and who pray for the intentions of the Supreme Pontiff may receive the Plenary Indulgence in remission of the temporal punishment for their sins.

For further details on what must be done to obtain this indulgence, please visit the Vatican website at www.vatican.va and search Apostolic Penitentiary Decree.



Franciscans

Saint Francis of Assisi (1181-1226) founded three Religious Orders: The First Order for the Friars (OFM), the Second Order for Poor Clare Sisters (OSC), and the Third Order for Secular People (SFO). Until then, the Church knew only two types of Religious Orders: Monks and Canons. Monks vow to live inside one monastery until death, while Canons lived a liturgical life inside of the Bishop's cathedral. Francis began the *Mendicant* movement, which meant that a friar (which means brother) lives wherever he is at the moment. They have nothing of their own, and move freely through the world. He chose the habit of the friar to be cut in the shape of a Tau cross; reminding the friar that he bears Christ at all times. Saint Francis of Assisi wrote his *Rule of Life* which received Papal Approval from Pope Honorius. The Rule of Life of the Order of Friars Minor was the last Rule of Life to be accepted by the Church, and thus the last-formed actual Religious Order. Even Saint Dominic, a contemporary of Francis, when founding his way of life (The Order of Preachers) had to adopt the Rule of Saint Augustine.

Within his own lifetime, Francis had over 30,000 friars following him. Franciscans struggled to understand their evolving community in light of the needs and times of the Church around them. Many believed the friars needed a strong commitment to education, and should live and minister inside the cities. Others felt the friar's life was to be one of contemplation and solitude, ministering to the urban poor but living outside the cities in hermitages and caves. Within a few hundred years these differences among the friars developed into three branches: 1) the Conventual Franciscans (OFM, Conv.) live in convents and study at the universities; 2) the Capuchin Franciscans (OFM, Cap.) maintain a more spiritual interpretation of Francis' rule of life; and 3) the Order of Friars Minor (OFM) is made up of an observant tradition that incorporates a diversity of Franciscan charisms and is the largest branch of the Franciscans.

Francis' founding of the Order of Friars Minor was a revolutionary breakthrough for Religious Life and remains unique even today. OFM's are not a Religious Order named after our founders (as is the Order of Saint Benedict, for example). OFM's are not a Religious Congregation founded for one particular work (like the Order of Preachers). OFM's are not a Religious Congregation founded around a particular spirituality (like the Adorers of the Precious Blood, etc.). Francis founded his order and defined it by being in *relationship*. OFM's are to be Brothers to each other and Brothers to all, and especially to those on the margins of society. Francis had a clear vision that God is the Father of all creation, and so because of that common Father, Francis could easily sing out "Brother Son" and "Sister Moon." – *Brother Ross, OFM*

New Coordinator Needed for the Adopt-A-Family Program

OLVP's longest running direct service program serves families identified through the Montgomery County Public School system as truly requiring assistance. Three times a year, our parish is provided with a list of specific items needed by the families. They are listed on individual slips which are distributed to families after Mass on the weekend. The following weekend, parishioners return their donated items. The volunteer then sorts and delivers the donations to one of the identified local schools. Working with the Adopted Family Program is a very rewarding way to bring assistance to struggling families in our near-by community.

The committee would like to identify new volunteers before the next collection in the spring. This would enable the current coordinator to walk them through the entire process. Please consider offering your skills to this very worthwhile program. *If you can coordinate or co-coordinate this program, please contact Marianne Beattie, Chair of the Social Concerns Committee at (301) 869-6898.*

Our Lady of the Visitation Parish
14135 Seneca Road
Darnestown, MD 20874

Phone: (301) 948-5536

Fax: (301) 948-7452

Email: parishoffice@olvp.org

Look for more information in our weekly Parish Bulletin or in the Parish website:
www.olvp.org

Fiscal Management

OLVP enjoys many blessings. Although we are a small parish, we are able to provide the pastoral ministry of two priests. Our parish has beautiful grounds and facilities.

The costs for room and board, salaries and benefits for our priests have increased. This past year required unbudgeted maintenance and repairs that have depleted the parish's reserves and placed a strain on meeting operating expenses.

New regulations required that the underground storage tank at the Parish Barn be removed and a new aboveground storage tank was installed. Many lights had to be repaired. The church needed to be repainted. Damaged roof tiles on the church needed to be replaced.

As we begin a new year, the Stewardship Council asks parishioners to consider increasing their contributions to our parish. Your generosity is greatly needed and appreciated.



Thank you to Denise Dombay Noznesky

The parish would like to thank Denise Dombay Noznesky for her six years of dedicated service as Chair of the Fiscal Management Committee of our Stewardship Council. In this capacity she helped guide the parish through difficult economic times. Her guidance and financial expertise have been great assets to the parish. We thank her for the many hours she has spent in working with the Council and OLVP staff and for preparing required budget reports to the Archdiocese and the annual budget report to parishioners.

Welcome to Stephen Staton

Stephen Staton has been appointed as the incoming Chair of the Fiscal Management Committee of our Stewardship Council. Mr. Staton's appointment is for a three year term beginning on 01 January 2013. The parish looks forward to his participation on the Council.

