

# Our Parish Visitor

## *Our Lady of the Visitation Parish Newsletter*

### HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

On 31 May 1991, the Feast of the Visitation, James Cardinal Hickey formally established the Parish of Our Lady of the Visitation. Cardinal Hickey chose the name for our parish to honor Mary and to commemorate one of the joyful mysteries of the Holy Rosary. His vision was to establish a smaller parish in this area to alleviate the growth in the larger neighboring parishes.

On 31 May 2001, the Feast of the Visitation, Theodore Cardinal McCarrick solemnly consecrated the Church of Our Lady of the Visitation. We were blessed to have Cardinal Hickey assist in the consecration.

This year, 31 May falls on a Sunday. On that date we begin our twenty-fifth year as a parish. With special permission from Donald Cardinal Wuerl, the prayers and readings at all weekend masses on 30-31 May 2015 will be those proper to the Feast of the Visitation. As part of our celebration, we will have a picnic on our church grounds (12 noon - 2 pm) and hold family bingo in Founders Hall (2-4 pm).

Special events will be celebrated throughout our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary year. An Ecumenical Evening Prayer Service and a Choral Concert are being considered. Our year-long celebration of our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary will conclude on the weekend of Pentecost Sunday, 14-15 May 2016.



### HOLY THURSDAY MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

7:00 p.m., 02 April 2015



### GOOD FRIDAY CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S PASSION

7:00 p.m., 03 April 2015



### THE EASTER VIGIL IN THE HOLY NIGHT

8:00 p.m., 04 April 2015

### EASTER SUNDAY

05 April 2015

7:00 a.m. – Sunrise Liturgy  
9:00 a.m. – Family Liturgy  
11:00 a.m. – Special Music

### SPRING "SPRUCE-UP" DAY

**Saturday, 28 March 2015**  
8:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Rain Date: 29 March 2015  
1:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

All parishioners are invited to help beautify the parish grounds before the celebration of Holy Week and Easter. Confirmation Candidates and their families are especially encouraged to volunteer.



To volunteer contact Tony Glander, Chair,  
Facilities Committee: (301) 460-6404.

### VACATION BIBLE CAMP

Go bananas for Son Treasure Island VBC! Want to explore a Caribbean Island with its glittering turquoise water, warm white sands and cool ocean breezes? Prepare to set sail on June 22-26, Monday-Friday, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm for Son Treasure Island VBS. Children will discover that God's love is forever!!!!!!!!!!!! Bible stories, lively songs, skits, crafts, games, limbo contest, dancing to the steel drums, karaoke and more. Children aged 3½ through 5<sup>th</sup> grade are welcome.

Registration fee is \$45.00 per child. See the Son Treasure Island display downstairs in the foyer of the church for registration forms. For more information, email [molewack@olvp.org](mailto:molewack@olvp.org).

## SODALITY

We are planning to have a Women's Tea on Sunday, April 26, immediately following the 11 a.m. mass in Founder's Hall. We invite all women of the parish to attend. Bring your mother, daughter, granddaughter, or a friend. Please watch for further information in the parish Sunday bulletin.

All women of the parish are invited to join the OLVP Sodality. We usually meet on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month in Founder's Hall at 10:10 a.m. between the 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. masses. We would love for you to join us.



### Veterans Safe Haven Home

A seed was planted several months ago when we discovered that a Veterans Administration (VA) Safe Haven house had been located right in our own backyard! This house and one in Silver Spring are run by the Montgomery County Coalition for the Homeless. Each house can accommodate six to seven veterans. The greatest need is for household items for the Vets when they move into their own apartment which the VA finds for them. They gave us a "wish" list and we took it from there. We solicited donations from the OLVP Men's Club/HNS, OLVP Faith Formation program, the NAM Knights of America, and Knights of Columbus. Eight laundry baskets along with eight storage boxes were lovingly prepared by a group of Sodality volunteers. Also donated were microwave ovens and blow-up mattresses. Several

members of our Men's Club/HNS and Knights of Columbus delivered everything on Sunday, February 22. The children in Faith Formation have donated canned goods which the Vets will be able to use right away.

We feel very blessed and also feel that our work was inspired by the Holy Spirit. It just came together so quickly and with such a spirit of enthusiasm among all who participated.

### Dorothy Day/Men's Shelter

Sodality has been providing dinner to approximately 20 women at the Dorothy Day Women's Shelter on Marinelli Street in Rockville, Maryland, on the third Thursday of the month. The staff at Dorothy Day even assists in helping us transport the dinner to the kitchen. They are most appreciative.

SignUpGenius is used for this activity. If you are interested, send your email address to Heidi Titus at [fourhappyclams@gmail.com](mailto:fourhappyclams@gmail.com), and she will make sure you are included in this most worthwhile effort.

We also provide and serve dinner to the Catholic Charities Chase Men's Shelter off Gude Drive in Rockville, Maryland. This occurs every other month. The men, approximately 35-40 of them, are so very grateful and thank us profusely when we serve them. We will bring them dinner at 5:30 p.m. and the serving lasts until approximately 7 p.m. Again, please email Heidi Titus to be included on SignUpGenius.

You come away feeling that you have genuinely helped in doing the charitable work the Lord has asked us to perform.

## IMPORTANT EVENTS



### CONFIRMATION AT THE SHRINE

Saturday, 09 May 2015  
2:00 p.m.

### ASCENSION

Sunday, 17 May 2015  
9:00 a.m. Family Liturgy



### PARISH FEAST DAY

Saturday, 30 May 2015

5:00 p.m. Liturgy

Sunday, 31 May 2015

9:00 a.m. Liturgy

Sunday, 31 May 2015

11:00 a.m. Liturgy

### PARISH PICNIC

Sunday, 31 May 2015

12:00 – 2:00 p.m.

Church Grounds

### FAMILY BINGO

Sunday, 31 May 2015

2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Founders Hall



### PENTECOST

Sunday, 24 May 2015  
9:00 a.m. Family Liturgy



### CORPUS CHRISTI

Sunday, 07 June 2015

9:00 a.m. Procession

## OUR CHURCH DESIGN

The Building Commission of the Archdiocese of Washington (ADW) wanted our church building placed close to the Barn and the Rectory. However, James Cardinal Hickey recommended it be located on the highest point of the 189 acre tract. He said it was to be "the Jewel of the property." Our church building was designed by the Kerns Group. After several meetings and several changes, the Building Commission of the Archdiocese approved our plans.

The plans were then submitted to the Liturgical Commission of the Archdiocese to review and approve the upper level, especially the worship space. Cardinal Hickey served as the chair of that Committee. The Committee approved the design and placement of all of our sacred furnishings at that one meeting.

The Cardinal asked that an area for hanging coats be added. He also stated that he was not sure he liked the dormers. Fr. Raymond Fecteau, the founding pastor, reminded the Cardinal that he, the Cardinal, spoke to him about building a "house to honor God and to honor Mary." Fr. Ray pointed out the centennial house that serves as the Rectory has dormers. Also, he noted, the Barn has dormers.

Cardinal Hickey agreed to the dormers if they were brought lower, and if the bell tower was raised higher. Both changes created a most dynamic silhouette of our church building.

Our present worship space was designed in keeping with all existing universal, national and local Church directives and policies.



## OUR CRUCIFIX

The placement of our crucifix is in accord with the policies of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and the Archdiocese of Washington. On Good Friday at our Celebration of the Lord's Passion, every parishioner is able to reverently approach and to individually venerate the crucifix that is visible at every liturgical celebration. Some touch the crucifix; some kiss the crucifix; some bow before the crucifix; and some genuflect before the crucifix.

"The Paschal Triduum is the heart of the liturgical year. When designing a church, the rites of the Triduum should be reviewed to insure that planning will provide space for the key elements of the Triduum...". (#81) "(On) Good Friday ... the entire assembly (is to) rise to venerate the cross or crucifix." (#83). The size and placement of our crucifix makes it visible anywhere in the nave, or in the gathering space, or outside on the porch entrance. Our crucifix is visible whether we are standing, sitting or kneeling.

"The cross with the image of Christ crucified is a reminder of Christ's paschal mystery. It draws us into the mystery of suffering and makes tangible our belief that our suffering when united with the passion and death of Christ leads to redemption. There should be a

crucifix positioned either on the altar or near it, and clearly visible to the people gathered there. Since a crucifix placed on the altar and large enough to be seen by the congregation might well obstruct the view of the action taking place on the altar, other alternatives may be appropriate. The crucifix may be suspended over the altar or affixed to the sanctuary wall." (#91)

## CHARITABLE GIVING

In 2014, parishioners generously donated a total of \$180,705 to the collections listed below.

### National Second Collections

Church Missions	
Church in Developing World	
Holy Land	
Catholic Relief Services	
Holy Father	
Catholic Communication	
Catholic University	
World Missions/	
Propagation of the Faith	
Retirement for Religious	
Peter's Pence	
Philippines Collection	\$ 25,859

**ADW Cardinal's Appeal** \$138,290

**ADW Priests Retirement** \$ 4,162

**Little Sisters of the Poor** \$ 1,891

### OLVP St. Nicholas Catalog

Sacred Heart Home	
So Others Might Eat	
St. Ann's	
Anugraha School – India	
Little Sisters of the Poor	\$ 6,050

### OLVP in Haiti

St. Nicholas Catalog	
Ash Wednesday	
Holy Thursday	
Thanksgiving	\$ 4,453





## FAITH FORMATION FOR LIFE

ADW Assessments for grades 3-8 will take place the week of March 22, 23 and 24. Parents and children in our parish Faith Formation program should be able to know how well they have learned the language, practices and general knowledge of their Roman Catholic faith tradition. An ongoing assessment also encourages life-long faith formation and identifies areas of growth needed for individuals, catechists, catechetical leaders and the programs themselves.

As noted by the Archdiocese of Washington Office of Catechesis, it is important to remember that no one graduates from religious education. In Faith Formation, one participates in a faith process that continues throughout life.

We are pleased to announce Sunday Church School will begin at the 9:00 a.m. Mass in September 2015 for Pre-K (ages 3 and 4) and Kindergarten (age 5). The *God Made Everything* series is an early childhood program designed to nurture and enrich the faith and spiritual lives of young children so that, at completion, children are ready to continue their faith journey into first grade and beyond.

Kindergarten children will also meet on Sunday morning. The *God Loves Us* Kindergarten curriculum explores God's love as

the children are introduced to God's goodness through words, actions, feeling, people, places, and things. Learning, growing, sharing, and celebrating provide the foundation for each chapter. Registration will begin this summer; check the bulletin for additional information in the coming months.

OLVP's 6<sup>th</sup> Annual *Sing Along the Christmas Story* Pageant was a huge success. We can honestly say that all in attendance felt the real true meaning of Christmas and the real reason for the season....Jesus of course! Our first Baby Jesus (Alex Webb 2009) graduated to the role of shepherd this year, along with the Kindergarten and 1<sup>st</sup> grade participants. We always rely on Divine Providence to pull it together and He has never let us down. God is good!

## OLVP MEN'S CLUB/HNS

The Holy Name Society (HNS) has a new name: OLVP Men's Club/HNS. The new name better denotes the three functions of the organization: support for the parish, social activities and spiritual activities. Our Men's Club/HNS will remain loyal to the principles and pledge of the National Organization of the HNS and, we will continue to attend the 9:00 a.m. mass on the second Sunday of the month. A brief meeting usually follows. We are always recruiting new members. Our group is open to all men and teenage boys of Visitation Parish. Our Men's Club/HNS takes part in sporting events, Bingo, Christmas tree sales, charitable acts, our annual picnic, poker, bowling, baseball, and an annual brunch! All interested parishioners should contact our president, Brian O'Sullivan ([TbirdBTO@aol.com](mailto:TbirdBTO@aol.com)).

## LITURGICAL MINISTERS SIGN UP GENIUS

The Liturgical Life Committee has begun to implement the use of a new program, SignUpGenius, as a tool for liturgical ministers to schedule their availability. The traditional means of volunteering will remain in place for those who prefer post card, telephone or email for scheduling.

A pilot was run for the Lenten and Easter schedules and was well received. We anticipate rolling out SignUpGenius live beginning in June 2015. At that time, liturgical ministers will begin to utilize a special email address that will be setup for correspondence related to liturgical life.

In the meantime, please call the parish office (301/948-5536) or email [pmease@olvp.org](mailto:pmease@olvp.org) and speak to Paulette Mease for questions related to scheduling.



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Look for more information in our  
weekly Parish Bulletin or on the Parish  
website  
[www.olvp.org](http://www.olvp.org)

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