

Our Parish Visitor

Our Lady of the Visitation Parish Newsletter

The New Edition of the Roman Missal

The Roman Missal is used for all liturgical celebrations. The Third Edition of the Roman Missal will be introduced on the First Sunday of Advent 2011. The translation used will be more faithful both to the original Latin text of the Mass and to the original Greek text of sacred scripture.

I remember when the Mass was in Latin. In the name of the people, a server would offer prayers and make responses to the priest. I regularly served at Mass on Sundays and weekdays at St. Jude's in Rockville. I still can hear Monsignor Lauriola say: "Dominus vobiscum - The Lord be with you." And I remember responding: "Et cum spiritu tuo - And with your spirit." This simple exchange expresses that the Holy Spirit is present in everyone who is baptized. It also reminds us that it is the Holy Spirit who leads each of us in prayer, through the Son, to the Father.

Before communion we now say: "Lord I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word and I shall be healed." Now we will repeat what the centurion said to Jesus as recorded in the Gospel of St. Luke: "Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed." Other translations follow the principle of corresponding more closely to the original language of the scriptures.

The revised Roman Missal also emphasizes the need for periods of silence throughout the liturgy. At Visitation Parish, it is already the custom. The Missal also emphasizes the importance of the Liturgy of the Word. Again, the prayerful pace and the quality of our readers at OLVP help us experience the presence of God whenever his Word is properly and powerfully proclaimed. - Fr. Ray

HOLY WEEK SERVICES



HOLY THURSDAY MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

21 APRIL 2011, 6:00 p.m.



GOOD FRIDAY CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S PASSION

22 APRIL 2011, 7:00 p.m.



HOLY SATURDAY THE EASTER VIGIL

23 APRIL 2011, 8:00 p.m.

EASTER SUNDAY

24 APRIL 2011

7:00 a.m. - Sunrise Liturgy
9:00 a.m. - Family Liturgy
11:00 a.m. - Sacred Liturgy

Haiti Update Dr. Mortel to Visit

Deacon Rodrigue Mortel, MD is Director of the Missions Office of the Archdiocese of Baltimore and the Haiti Outreach Project. He will speak at all masses the weekend of 14-15 May 2011. He will share with parishioners his firsthand account of the many challenges being faced by our sister parish in Gonaives, Haiti. Dr. Mortel will speak on behalf of the new pastor at Our Lady of the Visitation Parish, Msgr. Venel Suffard, offering Msgr. Suffard's vision and explaining the current needs of his parish. Fr. Effener, the former pastor, is spending a year in France continuing his studies.

Please mark your calendar to hear Dr. Mortel speak about our sister parish one year after the devastating earthquake and its effect on the people of Gonaives. Light refreshments will be served in Founders Hall following the 9:00 a.m. mass for those who would like to meet Dr. Mortel and talk with him about his ministry through the Baltimore Haiti Project.

OLVP conducts collections for our sister parish in Haiti four times a year: through the St. Nicholas Catalog each Advent, and through the collections on Ash Wednesday, Holy Thursday and Thanksgiving. Because collections are taken on these other dates, a special collection will not be taken during Dr. Mortel's visit.

*Fr. Mathew, Deacon Bob,
our parish staff and I
extend our best wishes for a
prayerful Holy Week and
the joy of a blessed Easter
Season. - Fr. Ray*

Mayfest

The parish is not planning to have a Mayfest this year. Our sense is that interest in the event by the parish community has waned and as a result it has become increasingly difficult to get new ideas and parishioners willing to take an active role in implementing them. If this is an event you would like to see us continue to hold in future years, whether it be in the fall as it was initially or in the spring as it has been more recently, please let Fr. Ray or myself (301/977-9223) know your ideas.

We would especially like to thank the many parishioners who have supported the festivals, but especially the core group who have served as chairs of the various activities, most of whom have been actively involved for many years. Our successes in fundraising, around \$100,000 since inception, and as a parish community social event could not have been achieved without your help.
– *John Theis*

Church Painting and Barn Maintenance

In honor of the 10th anniversary of the dedication of Our Lady of the Visitation's church and in honor of the parish's 20th anniversary, the Stewardship Council has started taking bids to paint the church's interior this summer. The church's painting will be the first part of an overall plan to improve and maintain our parish facilities and property. This is an expensive project that will require the expertise of professional painters and scaffolding left in the church over several weeks.

The Stewardship Council has also started taking bids to replace the siding and gutters on the parish office. The significant deterioration of the current siding has caused water damage to the facility. Repairs and replacement are scheduled for this fall.

The Stewardship Council and Fr. Ray have decided to solicit assistance from parishioners to help defray these significant costs. More information will be provided through the bulletin as the parish nears its 20th anniversary celebration.

We want to thank you for your continued help and support in maintaining our beautiful property. *Mike Lerche, Stewardship Council Chair*



Parish Manager Retires

Following the 5:00 p.m. mass on 26 February 2011, the parish offered its thanks to Jean O'Connor, Parish Manager, at a special retirement reception. Jean is the first OLVP employee to retire. She served for 16 years from 1994 through 2010. On behalf of the parish, Fr. Ray presented Jean with a beautifully engraved crystal vase and thanked her for her many years of dedicated service from the parish's early years until its 20th anniversary year. The Chair of the Pastoral Council, Ann Dodelin; the Chair of the Stewardship Council, Mike Lerche; the President of the Holy Name Society, Brian O'Sullivan; and the Prefect of the Sodality, Shelia Bouley; each personally thanked Jean for the special qualities she brought to the job. She especially helped with the Christmas Tree sales, Christmas Craft Shoppe, the Mayfest and maintenance of the parish facilities. Many parishioners and members of Jean's family attended the reception and wished her well.

New Staff

New Parish Manager: On Tuesday, 18 January 2011, Colleen Enos rejoined the OLVP staff as the new Parish Manager. Colleen returns to the staff of Visitation Parish after serving six years at St. Francis of Assisi. Colleen is a member of Our Lady of the Visitation Parish and previously served on staff as Fr. Ray's secretary.

New Bookkeeper: After many years of dedicated service, OLVP's part-time bookkeeper, Marcia Montanio, resigned from the parish staff to seek full time employment. Marcia assisted Fr. Ray and the Stewardship Council in meticulously preparing and maintaining its budget each year. The parish wishes Marcia well in her new endeavors.

OLVP's new bookkeeper is Kora Perrin. Kora worked previously at Marriott in their tax department. Kora and her family are members of the parish and her children attend Mary of Nazareth, our parish school.

Pastoral Council At Large Youth Member

The council would like to thank Andrew Brown for serving as the At-Large Youth Representative on the Pastoral Council for the past three years. He will graduate from Good Counsel High School this spring and attend St. Joseph's University in Philadelphia. Andrew was an effective member of the council often providing insightful observations of parish activities and the viewpoint of the younger members of the congregation. Best wishes are offered to Andrew as he moves on to the next phase of his education.

Fr. Ray has appointed Anthony Gonzalez as the new At-Large Youth Representative on the Council. Anthony will begin his three year term on 31 May 2011. He currently attends Richard Montgomery High School, serves in a leadership role in Boy Scouts, is an altar server and is an active member of the parish's High School Faith Formation group.

Third Grade Assessment

Changes are being made in the Archdiocese of Washington (ADW) Faith Formation Program Curriculum. The objectives are to better evaluate learning achievement, to educate catechists, and to standardize programs. Certification of catechists will become more important. OLVP is already implementing some of the changes. In the fall, OLVP will measure learning in the third grade and, eventually, in all grades K-12. OLVP is already using *Finding God*, a textbook that meets the new ADW requirements. Students in Catholic schools and in parish Faith Formation programs will now follow the same curriculum. Additional information will be available as the program is developed.

Vacation Bible Camp

"PANDAMANIA", a totally Catholic VBC, is now accepting registrations. Two sessions will be held: June 20 to 24 and June 27 to July 1. Both will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the church. The registration fee for parishioners is \$100/per week. The registration fee for non-parishioners is \$120/per week. This is an adventure of a lifetime! Come join the fun by contacting Michele Olewack in the parish office at (301) 948-5536 x107.



Sodality Welcomes New Members

The Sodality held its installation of new members at a special mass on Thursday, 24 March 2011, the vigil of the Feast of the Annunciation. When you join the Sodality, you always remain a member and can participate as much or as little as your life allows. All women in the parish are encouraged to join. The Sodality is devoted to the Blessed Mother and celebrates all Marian Feast Days, including Mary's Birthday and the Feast of the Assumption. The Sodality assists with parish events such as bingo, kitchen help at the Christmas Tree Sales and the parish picnic. We also do charity work that supports women and girls such as baking for the Little Sisters of the Poor, collecting toiletries for the Dorothy Day Program and collecting church dresses for students in Kenya in cooperation with Mothers for Others. We host inspirational events including a fall reflection on gratitude, a discussion of women in the Bible and our upcoming Lenten Retreat.

I want to remind women of the story of The Visitation. Elizabeth was a lot older than Mary, who was just a teenager when the Archangel Gabriel visited and told her she was carrying the Son of God. Yet Mary hurried to tell Elizabeth her miraculous news and the two supported each other as Elizabeth gave birth to John the Baptist and Mary realized her role with God. The women of Sodality are like Mary and Elizabeth, always supportive of one another. We welcome each other warmly, visit, eat and work together and return to our homes looking forward to the next time.

I invite all women of the parish to join our Lenten Retreat (members and non-members) that will be held on 09 April 2011 at 12:45 p.m. at the church. It will include Lenten reflections and confession. It will end with Mass and procession to the Chapel to continue Forty Hours Devotion. For more information on the retreat or Sodality, please contact me, the Sodality Prefect, at wbouley@comcast.net or (240) 632-9720. *Shelia Bouley*

Spring "Spruce-Up" Day

Saturday, 09 April 2011
8:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
(Rain date: 10 April 2011)
(1:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.)

Parishioners are needed to help with our annual spring cleaning of the parish grounds. Confirmation students and their families are especially encouraged to volunteer. All parishioners and children are encouraged to help weed, mulch, sweep and other tasks that will help our parish grounds look its best for the spring and summer.

Individuals should bring their own work gloves and small gardening tools and should dress for the weather. Come make our parish grounds look beautiful for the celebration of our 20th Anniversary!

For further information, please contact Brian Dougherty, Chair, Facilities Committee: 301-963-2916.

IMPORTANT EVENTS

Confirmation
Sunday, 22 May 2011
2:00 p.m.

Our Lady of the Visitation
Feast Day
Sacred Liturgy
Tuesday, 31 May 2011
7:00 p.m.

Ascension
Sunday, 05 June 2011
9:00 a.m. Family Liturgy

Parish Picnic
Sunday, 05 June 2011
4:00 – 7:00 p.m.
Pavilion

Pentecost
Sunday, 12 June 2011
9:00 a.m. – Family Liturgy

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 on the Parish website



Parish Anniversary Mass and Picnic

Our Lady of the Visitation Parish is celebrating its 20th Anniversary. James Cardinal Hickey canonically established Our Lady of the Visitation as a new parish on 31 May 1991.

The parish is also celebrating the 10th anniversary of our church's dedication. Theodore Cardinal McCarrick solemnly dedicated our church on 31 May 2001. Our patronal feast will be celebrated with a special liturgy on 31 May 2011 at 7:00 p.m. in the church.



We will celebrate our anniversary during the annual parish picnic on Sunday, 05 June 2011 at 4:00 p.m. at the parish Pavilion. In case of rain, the picnic will be moved to Founders Hall.

The picnic will have special activities in honor of the anniversary. Please watch the bulletin for more details.

Website Update

Over the coming months, OLVP will be updating its website. Changes will be made in the design of the site and more links will be offered to parish activities and programs. Eventually it is hoped that a gallery of parish photos could be included on the website. Please watch the bulletin for further details.

Email Address

The parish has begun to gather email addresses for the distribution of information regarding parish activities. If you would like your email address added to this distribution list, please send it to parishoffice@olvp.org with "email" in the subject line.



Pascal Candle

A new Paschal candle is blessed and lit every year at Easter.

The flame of the Paschal candle symbolizes Christ as light of the world and his presence in the midst of his people. The Paschal candle is sometimes referred to as the "Easter candle" or the "Christ candle."

The term "Paschal" comes from the word *Pesach*, which in Hebrew means Passover. The tall white candle in many ways signifies the Divine pillar of cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night that led the Israelites in their Exodus from slavery in Egypt.

The cross is always the central symbol, most clearly identifying it as the Paschal candle. The Greek letters alpha and omega signify that God is the beginning and the end (taken from the Book of Revelation).

The current year represents God's presence here and now in the midst of the gathered worshippers. Five grains of incense (most often red) are embedded in the candle (sometimes encased in wax "nails") during the Easter Vigil to represent the five wounds of Jesus: one in each hand, one in each foot, and the spear thrust into his side.

At the Easter Vigil on the Saturday evening before Easter, the ceremonial lighting of the Paschal candle is one of the most solemn moments of the service. The risen Christ, is a light (life) dispelling darkness (death).

Led by the Paschal candle, the priest and ministers process to the place where all are assembled. The candle is raised three times during the procession, accompanied by the chant "*Lumen Christi* -The light of Christ" to which the assembly responds "*Deo Gratias* - Thanks be to God".

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Following the procession the Exultet is chanted, traditionally by a deacon, but it may be chanted by the priest or a cantor. The Exultet concludes with a blessing of the candle:

Accept this Easter candle,
a flame divided but undimmed
a pillar of fire that glows to the
honor of God.
For it is fed by the holy melting
wax, which the mother bee
brought forth
to make this precious candle.
Let it mingle with the lights of
heaven
and continue bravely burning
to dispel the darkness of this
night!
May the Morning Star which
never sets
find this flame still burning:
Christ, that Morning Star,
who came back from the dead,
and shed his peaceful light on
all humanity,
your Son, who lives and reigns
for ever and ever.

Amen.

The Paschal candle is placed near the ambo and remains lit at all worship services throughout the Easter season. After the Easter season, it is placed near the baptismal font. The Paschal candle is also lit during services that include the Sacrament of Baptism to signify the Spirit and fire that John the Baptist promised to those who were baptized in Christ.

During the Sacrament of Baptism, a small candle will be lit from the Paschal candle and presented to the newly-baptized with these words: "Receive the Light of Christ." The Paschal candle is also lit at a funeral Mass or memorial Mass as a sign of the hope of the resurrection into which Christians are baptized.

*"Lumen Christi –
The Light of Christ"*



Sacred Chrism

Sacred Chrism is essential for the Catholic Sacrament of Confirmation, and is prominently used in the Sacraments of Baptism and Holy Orders. Those to be confirmed, after receiving the laying on of hands, are anointed on the head by the bishop or priest.

In Baptism, if the person baptized is not to be immediately confirmed, the minister anoints them with Chrism. Newly ordained priests are anointed with Chrism on the palms of their hands, and newly ordained bishops receive an anointing of Chrism on their foreheads. It is also used in the consecration of churches and altars.

In former times, Chrism was used to consecrate patens and chalices as well. The Sign of the Cross would be made with the Chrism on the interior parts of the chalice and paten where the Eucharist would rest. This Sign of the Cross would then be smeared to cover the entire interior parts of the chalice and paten. The chalice and paten would need to be consecrated with the Chrism again if they were re-gilded. This ritual could only be performed by a bishop or a priest with the faculties to do so. However, this is no longer the practice, and currently a simple blessing by a priest suffices.

Chrism is made of olive oil and is scented with a sweet perfume, usually balsam. Chrism is consecrated by Cardinal Wuerl in the presence of a gathering of the priests of Washington at the Mass of the Chrism. This mass takes place during Holy Week. The Oil of Catechumens and the Oil of the Sick are also blessed at this Mass.

These Holy Oils are usually stored in special vessels known as chrismaria and kept in a glass and wood cabinet known as an ambry.