

Our Lady of the Visitation Parish

14139 Seneca Road • Darnestown, Maryland 20874



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

17 December 2017

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

Vice-Chair

Deacon Thaddeus Dmuchowski

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

Vacant

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

Vice-Chair

Stephen Staton, CPA, (240) 988-7818

Human Resources Committee

John Feeney, (301) 762-2116

Facilities Committee

Tony Glander, (301) 460-6404

Fiscal Management Committee

Nick Serenyi, (301) 556-2320

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

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

JUNE 2018

2 Sat Confirmation, 2:00 p.m., Basilica Shrine of the Immaculate Conception

MAY 2018

5 Sat NIH Concert, 7:30 p.m., Church

FEBRUARY 2018

14 Wed Ash Wednesday Ecumenical Service, 8:00 p.m., Church

JANUARY 2018

16 Tue Scripture Study, 10:00 a.m., Barn
Faith Formation:

Grades K-5, 4:45 p.m., Founders Hall

15 Mon Office Closed-Martin Luther King, Jr.

14 Sun No Church School
Church Mission Collection
Baby Items Collection
No Faith Formation Classes

09 Tue Scripture Study, 10:00 a.m., Barn
Faith Formation:

Grades K-5, 4:45 p.m., Founders Hall

07 Sun Solemnity of the Epiphany
Church School, 9:00 a.m.

Mortgage Collection
Faith Formation:

Grades 6, 7, 8, 6:30 p.m., Founders Hall

06 Sat Baptism Class, 10:00 a.m., Barn

02 Tue Scripture Study, 10:00 a.m., Barn
Faith Formation:

Grades K-5, 4:45 p.m., Founders Hall

01 Mon Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God, Sacred Liturgy, 12:00 Noon, Church
Office Closed

DECEMBER 2017

29 Fri Office Closes at Noon

26 Tue Scripture Study, 10:00 a.m., Barn
No Faith Formation

25 Mon Christmas Day, 11:00 a.m., Family Liturgy

24 Sun No Church School
No Faith Formation Classes
Christmas Eve
Sacred Liturgy, 4:00 p.m., Passes Needed
Sacred Liturgy, 7:00 p.m., 10:00 p.m.

23 Sat Ember Day: Voluntary Day of Penance

22 Fri Ember Day: Voluntary Day of Penance
Office Closes at Noon

20 Wed Ember Day: Voluntary Day of Penance

19 Tue Scripture Study, 10:00 a.m., Barn
Faith Formation:

Grades K-5, 4:45 p.m., Founders Hall

17 Sun Church School, 9:00 a.m., Church
Sodality, 9:00 a.m. Mass and Meeting
Head Start Food Bags Collected
Christmas Pageant, 6:00 p.m., Church
Faith Formation:

Grades 6, 7, 8, 6:30 p.m., Founders Hall
High School, 6:00 p.m. Pageant,
6:30 p.m., Rectory



Faith Formation for Life



CHRISTMAS PAGEANT: Parents, grandparents, siblings, invited guests and all parishioners are welcome to attend our annual Christmas Pageant on **Sunday 17 December 2017 at 6:00 p.m. in the Church.** Please email Michele Olewack at molewack@olvp.org for more information.

HIGH SCHOOL FAITH FORMATION: *Scripture and Snacks with Father Ray* will be held on **Sunday, 17 December 2017** beginning at 6:00 p.m. in the church for the Christmas Pageant and concluding at the rectory.

SCRIPTURE STUDY: A study of the readings for the Fourth Sunday of Advent will be held on **Tuesday, 19 December 2017**, at 10:00 a.m. in the Barn.

Social Concerns

CARDINAL'S APPEAL: As of 06 December 2017, Our Lady of the Visitation Parish pledged \$133,632.34 to the Cardinal's Appeal. This is 99.89% of the goal established for our parish. To date, 96% of the pledges have been received. To donate to the appeal, visit <https://appeal.adw.org> or contact Valerie Brown at (301) 853-4574. **We are almost there!!!**

RELIGIOUS RETIREMENT COLLECTION: Our parish donated \$2,334.00 to this national collection.

ADOPTED FAMILY THANK YOU: Thank you to all those who donated to our Adopted Family Collection. You made Christmas a bit brighter for some very grateful families.

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

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bulletin. You will receive a card that specifies the gifts you purchased from the charity. Orders must be received by **Monday, 18 December 2017**.

ADVENT FOOD COLLECTION FOR HEAD START: Grocery bags for our Head Start program may be returned today, **16-17 December 2017**. Please be sure to include only non-perishable items in unbreakable containers.

Liturgical Life

MARY, MOTHER OF GOD LITURGY: Although this year, the Solemnity is not a holy day of obligation, The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God is a holy day of opportunity. Mass will be celebrated at Noon on **Monday 01 January 2018** in the church.

Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord

Sunday 24 December 2017 Presiders:

4:00 p.m. Fr. Raymond Fecteau (**Passes Needed**)
7:00 p.m. Fr. Mathew Punchayil
10:00 p.m. Fr. Raymond Fecteau

Monday 25 December 2017 Presiders:

11:00 a.m. Fr. Raymond Fecteau / Deacon Ted

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 03 December 2017**.

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 EVE PASSES are required for the 4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve liturgy. Forms were included with the newsletter, which was mailed to all registered parishioners. If you have not received the newsletter, please contact the parish office at (301) 948-5536.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT: 23-24 December 2017, PRESIDERS:

5:00 p.m. Fr. Mathew Punchayil / Deacon Bob

9:00 a.m. Fr. Raymond Fecteau

11:00 a.m. Fr. Mathew Punchayil

Readings for the Week of 17 December 2017

Monday: Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19 [cf. 7]/Mt 1:18-25
Tuesday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17 [cf. 8]/Lk 1:5-25
Wednesday: Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6 [cf. 7c and 10b]/Lk 1:26-38
Thursday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21 [1a; 3a]/Lk 1:39-45
Friday: 1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd [cf. 1a]/Lk 1:46-56
Saturday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14 [cf. Lk 21:28]/Lk 1:57-66
Sunday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29 [2a]/Rom 16:25-27/Lk 1:26-38

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** (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, 20, 22, and 23 December 2017** as special days of fasting, prayer and works of charity.

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. The next class is scheduled for **Saturday 06 January 2018** at 10:00 a.m. in the Barn. Attendance during pregnancy is advised. For information and/or to register, call the parish office, (301) 948-5536.

FORMED.ORG: Don't get left behind. Check out the new, **free** parish app that will allow you to access Catholic resources on your own schedule. Explore the website (www.formed.org), register and enrich your life with all the material available at your fingertips. Join others in our archdiocese and 1) go to formed.org / register; 2) enter the access code (**6QJXX**); 3) enter your email and create a password; 4) enjoy.

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, call the parish office, (301) 948-5536, ext. 107.

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 the Priest/Deacon.** Please email Father Raymond Fecteau (rfecteau@olvp.org), Father Mathew Punchayil (matpunchayil@yahoo.com), 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 Catho-

lic, please call the parish office (301)948-5536.

PRAYER CHAIN: If you would like to have a special intention remembered in our prayers, please email the parish office at parishoffice@olvp.org.

Facilities

PARISH REPAIRS: If you see a needed repair around the parish, please email 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 our own parish prepare for the coming new year by signing up with Faith Direct? By supporting Our Lady of the Visitation Parish, both you and our parish can save some time and peace of mind this holiday season. Already using Faith Direct? Don't forget to add your Christmas or End-of-Year contributions to your account. Visit www.faithdirect.net and use our church code: **MD114**.

CHRISTMAS-TWO COLLECTIONS: We are grateful to parishioners who make any extra donations to the parish at Christmas. At Christmas and at Easter two collections are taken in order to balance our parish budget.

Human Resources



THANK YOU to all those involved in the tree and wreath sale this year. This FUN-raiser 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, 22 December 2017** to celebrate the Nativity of the Lord and will reopen on **Tuesday, 26 December 2017**.

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.