

Our Parish Visitor

Our Lady of the Visitation Parish Newsletter

PALM SUNDAY PASSION OF THE LORD

5:00 p.m., 24 March 2018
9:00 a.m., 25 March 2018
(Procession)
11:00 a.m., 25 March 2018



HOLY THURSDAY MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

7:00 p.m., 29 March 2018

MENSA (Altar)

Our altar is the focal point of the church. The use of black marble for "the altar of Christ" makes our altar noble, beautiful, and strong in appearance. Black marble was the material of choice in ancient Roman temples. The black marble flat stone of our altar rests on four black marble columns. The four white marble columns in the Eucharistic Chapel at the St. John Lateran Basilica in Rome, the first and most ancient Christian church, inspired the special design of our altar. The design, material and size of our altar are based on those of the Altar of Burnt Offering used in the ancient Jewish Temple in Jerusalem. Theodore Cardinal McCarrick anointed our altar with Sacred Chrism during the *Rite of Dedication of a Church and an Altar* on the Feast of the Visitation, 31 May 2001.



GOOD FRIDAY CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S PASSION

7:00 p.m., 30 March 2018

CROSS

Our cross with an image of Christ crucified is a constant reminder of the Paschal Mystery. The crucifix is a statement of our belief that human suffering leads to redemption when it is united with the passion and death of Christ. The size of the crucifix and its placement make it visible from almost anywhere in the nave, in the gathering space, even from outside on the porch. Placed low on the sanctuary wall, our crucifix can be seen by those in the assembly, whether standing, sitting or kneeling. At our parish celebration of the Lord's Passion on Good Friday, individuals, couples and families are able to approach and reverently venerate the crucifix that is present at every liturgical celebration. (The room to the left of the cross is a work sacristy; it is named in honor of Saint Anthony of Padua.)



THE EASTER VIGIL IN THE HOLY NIGHT

8:00 p.m., 31 March 2018

BAPTISMAL FONT

Our black marble baptismal font is placed at the entrance to the nave. We journey *through* baptismal waters *to* the altar. The baptismal font at the St. John Lateran Basilica in Rome, the first and most ancient Christian font, inspired the design of our font. Baptism by immersion or infusion is possible. The pedestal cradles the crystal bowl that served as the "baptismal font" in the early years of our parish. The v-shaped skylight over the baptismal font evokes the image of the Holy Spirit descending from above. The dove sculpture placed on the wall above the main doors to the nave recalls the stained glass window above the altar at the Basilica of St. Peter in Rome. Directly over the doors is an ancient symbol for the Most Holy Trinity: an eye (the Father), fish (the Son), and wings (the Holy Spirit).

EASTER SUNDAY

01 April 2018

9:00 a.m. – Special Music
11:00 a.m. – Special Music



PASCAL CANDLE

The Paschal Candle symbolizes “the light of Christ, rising in glory”. Our Paschal candle is made of genuine beeswax. The handcrafted candle and its stand are in harmony with the other church furnishings. It is located in a place of honor near the baptismal font. During the Easter Season, the Paschal Candle is placed in the sanctuary near the ambo and is lighted for all liturgical celebrations. The Paschal Candle is always lit for every Baptism and for all funerals. The large cross etched in the center of the candle identifies it as the Paschal Candle. The first letter of the Greek alphabet, *Alpha*, appears at the top of the cross, and *Omega*, the last letter, appears at the bottom of the cross. In the *Book of Revelation*, God is “... the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.” The current liturgical year appears in raised wax numbers: Christ is present here and now in the worshipping assembly. Grains of incense are encased in the five small white crosses. The five crosses represent the five wounds of Jesus: two for the nails in his hands, two for the nails in his feet, and one for the spear thrust into his side. The Paschal Candle is consecrated at the beginning of the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday.

CREMATION AND THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

In recent years Americans have moved away from traditional burial rituals in favor of more expedient and economical ones. Christians believe that the human body is integral to the human person. The body, even after death, deserves respect. Catholics bury their dead in a manner that shows reverence for God our creator, and in a way that serves as a sign of faith that we await resurrection of the dead on the last day.

In 1963, the Vatican Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith issued an instruction that permits cremation as long as it is not done as a denial of one of the most basic Christian beliefs – the resurrection of the dead. This permission was incorporated into the Code of Canon Law in 1983 and in the Code of Canons in the Eastern Churches in 1990. Exactly what should be done with the “cremains” was not specified.

On 25 October 2016, after consultation with Vatican offices, with bishops’ conferences, and with the Eastern churches’ synod of bishops, Pope Francis approved “*Ad resurgendum cum Christo*” (“To Rise With Christ”). This instruction deals with the burial of the deceased and the conservation of ashes in the case of cremation. A funeral Mass may be celebrated now with either the body or with the cremated remains present. The new instruction reiterates the church’s preference for the burial of the body in normal circumstances, and, when cremation is necessary, the instruction insists that the remains be properly interred.

The Vatican instruction states that the reservation of the ashes of the departed is to be in a sacred place in order that the deceased continue to be included in the prayers of the Christian community. The proper burial of the remains ensures that the deceased person is remembered and that his/her remains are shown proper respect. “God created man in his image, in the divine image he created man; male and female he created them.” (*Genesis 1-27*). – Fr. Ray



AMBRY

A white cabinet hangs on the right wall as one enters the nave of our church. The ambry serves as a sacred cabinet to hold the Oil of Catechumens, the Oil of the Sick, and the Sacred Chrism. These holy oils, consecrated by the local bishop every year during Holy Week, are entrusted to our faith community and deserve special care. These oils are used for Baptism, Confirmation, Anointing of the Sick, and Holy Orders. Appropriately located near the baptismal font and the Paschal Candle, the glass front, glass sides, and glass bottom shelf of the locked cabinet allow the sacred oils to be visible to everyone. The unique design of this ambry also provides a bottom shelf for the placement of the bread and wine to be presented during Mass at the beginning of the Liturgy of the Eucharist.



OUR TWIN SISTER PARISH IN HAITI

Listen closely the next time we pray during Mass for our sister, Our Lady of the Visitation Parish, in Gonaives, Haiti. She is a sister in need. A twin sister at that. The mid-1980's marked a profound change in the Church's stance on issues related to peasants and the urban poor. Pope St. John Paul II, during a visit to Haiti in 1983, said bluntly—"Things must change here." Since that time, the Church has redoubled its efforts to assist Haitians who are in poverty, in part through partnerships and twinnings.

We here in Darnestown are called upon to step in and to help our twin sister in Gonaives. Four times a year, we take a collection and send it, via the Baltimore Haiti Outreach Program run by the Archdiocese of Baltimore, to Haiti for our sister parish. The Archdiocese of Baltimore has had a relationship with the Diocese of Gonaives for nearly two decades. The purpose of its Outreach Program is to assist sister parishes in Gonaives by providing parishioners evangelization, food and education.

Poverty in Haiti affects its citizens in many aspects of everyday life, including housing, nutrition, education, healthcare, and infant mortality. The needs are many. Natural disasters, chief among

which are earthquakes and hurricanes, are relentless and multiply the need—on what seems to be a regular periodicity and endless basis. So the next time we take a collection for our twin sister in Haiti, please remember her, and please help her. Things must change there, and we must drive that change. – Kathryn Sutton, Chair, Social Concerns Committee

ADOPTED FAMILY

Our Adopted Family Program is one of the longest operating social concerns projects of our parish. Each year in late summer several families are identified by service providers in the county as in need of assistance. Over the years various agencies such as Head Start, Health & Human Services, and currently Linkages to Learning have provided us with this information.

We sponsor three collections each school year (fall, Christmas & spring). The new items are specific to each individual in the family. The details of the requests for the children and their parents are listed on-line through a software program called SignUp Genius. You can request a link to the list and it will allow you to view the needed donations. Look for the announcement in our parish bulletin. The next collection will be in April.

Over the last few years the hardships of members of the local community have intensified. We appreciate the generosity of our parishioners to help our brothers and sisters in Christ. Thank you for your support of this mission. - Marianne Beattie, Coordinator of the Adopted Family Program.



VACATION BIBLE CAMP 18-22 June 2018 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

At Shipwrecked VBC, kids discover how Jesus rescues us through life's storms. Shipwrecked is filled with incredible Bible-learning experiences kids see, hear, and touch. We have team-building games, cool songs and lots of standout activities that help faith flow into real life. Since everything is hands-on, kids might get a little messy (like creating slime last year). Be sure to send them in play clothes and safe shoes. Plus, we'll help kids discover how to see evidence of God in everyday life - something we call God Sightings. Get ready to hear that phrase a lot!

Your kids will also participate in an outreach project, through a program called Connecting Kids to Justice that will provide seeds for families around the world. So save the date: June 18-22, 2018. The fun starts at 9:00am – 1:00pm. **We ask campers to arrive 15 minutes early on the first day.**

Fee per child is \$75.00. To register your child or children for this life-changing event, go to vbspro.events/p/olvp2018.

Financial Assistance available for parish children. - *Your Shipwrecked VBC Director, Captain MO*



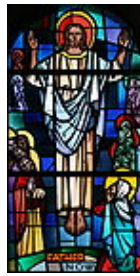
SPRING CONCERT
Saturday, 05 May 2018
7:30 p.m., Church

Mark your calendars now to enjoy the NIH Community Chorus (and some of our parishioners) in **A Concert of Contrasts: Brahms and Americana**, a free concert on Saturday, 05 May 2018 at 7:30 p.m. in our beautiful church.

The repertoire will include Johannes Brahms' *Naenie*, as well as a collection of American Folk Songs.

The NIH Community Chorus is an all-volunteer organization founded in 1996. The group presents three free concerts a year. Free-will donations collected at the concerts benefit NIH Charities including Children's Inn, Friends of the Clinical Center, the Patient Emergency Fund and Special Love, Inc./Camp Fantastic. More information about the NIH Community Chorus can be found at www.nihco.org.

Schedule a date night or a night out with friends to attend this free concert at Our Lady of the Visitation Parish. For anyone who might wish to support the NIH Charities, there will be a basket where you can offer a free-will donation. It promises to be a delightful evening. – *Diana Hurley, Visitation Parish Choir Members*



ASCENSION
Sunday, 13 May 2018
9:00 a.m. Family Liturgy



PENTECOST
Saturday, 19 May 2018
5:00 p.m. Liturgy

Sunday, 20 May 2018
9:00 a.m. Family Liturgy

Sunday, 20 May 2018
11:00 a.m. Liturgy



CONFIRMATION
Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception

Saturday, 02 June 2018
2:00 p.m.



CORPUS CHRISTI
Sunday, 03 June 2018
9:00 a.m. Procession



THANK YOU FOR BABY ITEM DONATIONS

Diapers. Clothing. Bottles. Bibs. Blankets. Boppies. Toys. The list goes on. All donated this year to Birthright and the Shady Grove Pregnancy Center as a result of your continued kindness and generosity.

Pope St. John Paul II wrote that, "[t]here is no authentic Christianity if there is no mission activity; Jesus is a gift from God that must be brought to everyone." *Go In Peace, A Gift of Enduring Love*, John Paul II, 2003 # 116.

Thank you, and God bless those who received the diapers, clothing, bottles, bibs, blankets, boppies . . . all representative of the gift of Jesus you brought to those in need and those served by both organizations. – *Kathryn Sutton, Chair, Social Concerns Committee*



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