

OUR LADY OF THE VISITATION, DARNESTOWN

Liturgical Life

ADVENT: The revised Roman ritual of 1989 states that four purple or four white candles may be used for the Advent wreath in the church or home. The season of Advent prepares us not only for Christmas/Epiphany, but also for a whole church year. In our parish, we use an evergreen wreath, white candles and purple bows.

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT: 6 - 7 December:
Presiders:

5:00 pm – Fr. Raymond Fecteau
9:00 am – Fr. Mathew Punchayil
11:00 am – Fr. Raymond Fecteau

Readings for the Week of November 30, 2008

Sunday: Is 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7/1Cor 1:3-9/
Mk 13:33-37
Monday: Is 2:1-5/Mt 8:5-11
Tuesday: Is 11:1-10/Lk 10:21-24
Wednesday: Is 25:6-10a/Mt 15:29-37
Thursday: Is 26:1-6/Mt 7:21, 24-27
Friday: Is 29:17-24/Mt 9:27-31
Saturday: Is 30:19-21, 23-26/Mt 9:35-10:1, 5a, 6-8
Next Sunday: Is 40:1-5/2Pt 3:8-14/Mt 1:1-8

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. Hermarues 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.

FAMILY CHOIR will sing at the 9:00am liturgy on Sunday, 14 December. Rehearsal will be Sunday, 7 December, 10:00 – 10:45am. If you would like to become a part of the choir, please call Diana Hurley, (301) 216-0870.

SAINTS/WINDOWS: OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE: 12 December. Mary appeared as an Aztec Princess to Juan Diego in 1531 in Mexico. Castillian roses bloomed miraculously and were used as proof of her appearance (lower panel). Her visitation prevented an impending war between the native peoples and the Spanish military. Mary has been declared patroness of all the Americas (upper panel).

SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION: Monday, 8 December, is a Holy Day of Obligation in the United States, even though it is on a Monday. Sacred Liturgy will be celebrated on Monday at 9:00am

in the church and in the evening at 7:00pm in the church.

Parish Life

REQUIESCAT IN PACE: It is with sadness we announce the death of **the Rev. Patrick William Kemp**, a priest of the Archdiocese of Washington. We commend him and his family to God in our prayers.

PARISH NECROLOGY: On the anniversary of their death, please remember in your prayers the following parishioners: **Nicanor Aquino** (3 December 2005) and **Winifred Donnellan** (4 December 1991).

REQUIESCANT IN PACE: Throughout the month of November you are asked to pray for the repose of the souls of all the faithful departed. A list of parishioners and relatives of parishioners who died this past year can be found in today's bulletin.

INFANT BAPTISMS: 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**. Attendance during pregnancy is encouraged. To register, call (301) 948-5536, ext. 105.

ST. MONICA SOCIETY: This society, for widows and widowers in our parish, is a source of spirituality, prayer, social activities and service to others. All widows and widowers in our parish are invited to meet with our group for coffee after the 9:15 Mass in the Barn on Wednesday, 3 December. For information, call Frances Childs, (301) 519-8728 or Carol Anne Puglisi, (301) 417-0839.

YOUTH RALLY AND MASS FOR LIFE: Youth in grades 9 – 12 are invited to attend the 26th Annual March for Life and Youth rally/Mass at the Verizon Center in Washington, DC on Thursday, 22 January 2009. Please attend a planning session on Saturday, 13 December from 1 – 2pm in Founders Hall. [Grades 6 – 8 may attend if accompanied by a parent.] Children and adults who would like to attend the Youth Rally and March for Life must attend this session. If you have any questions, please contact Deacon Bob Fischer, (301) 948-5536, Ext. 106 or Michele Olewack, (301) 948-5536, ext. 107. Note: this will count as Confirmation service hours. Adult chaperones, who have had the Virtus training, are also needed.

PRAYER CHAIN: If you would like to have special intentions remembered in our prayers, please call the parish office (301) 948-5536, ext. 103 or email joconnor@olvp.org.

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

ANOINTING OF THE SICK: If you are planning to undergo major surgery, please notify our parish office. If illness or age prevents you from attending Sunday Liturgy call the parish office to arrange for visitation and Communion in your home.

CATHOLIC ENGAGED ENCOUNTER: Engaged Encounter is a program of the Catholic Church dedicated to preparing couples for the Sacrament of Marriage. For information or to register for a weekend, go to www.dcengagedencounter.org.

MARRIAGE PLANNING: It is Archdiocesan and parish policy that couples seeking to be married in the Church are to make arrangements with a priest or deacon prior to setting a wedding date. A minimum of six months is needed for preparation.

ADVENT SILENT RETREAT FOR WOMEN, 5 – 7 December 2008 Come away to the quiet and peace of a Dominican retreat. Take time to pause, to reflect on and to strengthen your personal relationship with God. Step back from the daily rush and distractions to focus on the significance of this special time of year and to prepare to receive the mystery of Christ. Fr. Jude Winkler, OFM, Conv. is the retreat director. For information contact Mary Lee Seaman, (301) 937-4709 or the Dominican Retreat House, (703) 356-4243.

Faith Formation for Life

SCRIPTURE STUDY: A study of the readings for next Sunday, the *Second Sunday of Advent*, will be on Tuesday, 2 December 2008, 10:00am, in the Barn.

HIGH SCHOOL FAITH FORMATION will meet Sunday, 7 December, 6:30 - 7:45pm in Founders Hall.

FAITH FORMATION: Grades K -8 will meet Tuesday, 2 December and Wednesday, 3 December.

HIGH SCHOOL PLACEMENT TESTS:

St. Anselm's Abbey School will be hosting an entrance exam on Saturday, 13 December, 9:30am – 11:30am. For more information contact E.V. Downey, Director of Admissions at (202) 269-2379 or email admissions@saintanselms.org

St. John's Catholic Prep in Frederick Maryland placement test for students not currently enrolled in an Archdiocese of Washington school will be on Saturday, 13 December at 8:30am. For more information contact Michael W. Schultz, (301) 662-4210 or email admissions@saintjohnsprep.org.

THEOLOGY ON TAP, a ministry of the Archdiocesan Office of Young Adult Ministry, offers the opportunity for young adults age 21+ to reflect on how the Catholic faith relates to your life in contemporary society. The evening begins at 7pm. Come join us at Ireland's Four Fields, 3412 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Washington, DC on Tuesday evenings, at 7:00pm. For more information contact Laura Ferstl, ((301) 853-4559 or email yam@adw.org.

Social Concerns

SOCIAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE: A very special "thank you" to Jane Stenson, the chair of the Social Concerns Committee for her leadership and dedication over the past six years. Jane's term of office ends on the First Sunday of Advent; Marianne Beattie has graciously consented to be the new chair of the Social Concerns Committee.

ADVENT FOOD COLLECTION: Grocery bags for the Head Start Canned Food Drive will be distributed after each liturgy today. Filled bags will be collection on 6 – 7 December. Please be sure to include only non-perishable items in non-breakable containers.

RELIGIOUS RETIREMENT FUND will be taken in all parishes in the Archdiocese of Washington on the weekend of, 13 - 14 December. The fund distributed grants to religious institutes for the retirement needs of senior religious priests, brothers, and sisters. It also provides retirement planning and educational assistance to religious institutes.

HOLY CROSS HOSPITAL is requesting permission from the State of Maryland to build a new hospital on the Germantown campus of Montgomery College and to expand on its existing partnership with Montgomery College in educating and training current and future generations of nurses and other allied health professionals. Please write a letter of support to Rex W. Cowdry, M.D., Executive Director, Maryland Health Care Commission, 4160 Patterson Ave., Baltimore, MD 21216. For further information contact Eileen Cahill, (301) 754-7881.

Human Resources

VOLUNTEER "CHEFS" are needed to provide food (soups, casseroles, chili, sandwiches, desserts or your own specialty) for the workers during the tree sales and also to help in the kitchen. Please sign up in Founders Hall after each liturgy this weekend.

CHRISTMAS TREE SALES VOLUNTEERS are needed to help setup and sell Christmas trees. Workout Thursday: help unload the trees on 4 December at 1:00pm (usually takes @ 1.5 hours). Sales begin at 4:00pm on Friday evening, 5 December. Sign-up to help this weekend, 29 – 30 November.

OLVP CRAFT SHOPPE has a variety of beautiful, hand crafted gifts. Please stop by Founders Hall to select gifts for those on your Christmas list. The shoppe will be open Friday, 5 December from 5:00pm - 8:00pm; Saturday, 6 December from 9:00am to 8:00pm and on Sunday, 7 December until 1:00pm. The shoppe will not be open during liturgy. All proceeds from the Craft Shoppe benefit our parish

CRAFT SHOPPE RAFFLE: Our raffle item for this year is a Santini crèche. Raffle tickets are \$1.00 each and 6 for \$5.00. Tickets will be available after liturgy through 7 December. Winner not need be present at the drawing. All proceeds benefit our parish.

BULLETIN/FLYERS DEADLINE: To submit a bulletin article or a separate insert/flyer for the weekend of 6 – 7 December, please submit the information to Jean O'Connor, (301) 948-5536, ext. 103 or email joconnor@olvp.org by noon on Tuesday, 2 December.

Facilities

EXTERIOR STAIRS REPAIR: For your safety, we want to repair the exterior stairs leading to the lower level. We were fortunate to receive an estimate for approximately \$4,000.00. This item was not budgeted. If you are able to contribute to this repair, please see Fr. Ray or contact the parish office.

Finance

MORTGAGE: As of 1 November our mortgage debt is \$823,497.25. Our monthly interest/principal payment is \$18,500. The October revenue from our Mortgage Retirement Fund collection amounted to \$5,257.00

FAITH DIRECT: Parishioners can make weekly offertory and monthly mortgage reduction contributions via automatic payment from their checking account or credit card. Faith Direct offers a secure way of sending regular contributions throughout the year even when a parishioner is unable to attend mass due to illness or travel. A letter was sent to all

parishioners from Fr. Ray explaining how to sign up for the program. For additional information, please contact the parish office.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

November	
30 Sun	Adopted Family Donations Due
December	
02 Tue	Scripture Study, 10:00am, Barn Faith Formation, 4:30 & 6:30pm
03 Wed	St. Monica Society, 10:00am, Barn Faith Formation, 4:30pm & 6:30pm
04 Thu	Holy Hour, 7:00 – 8:00pm, Chapel Workout Thursday, Unload Trees, 1pm
05 Fri	Tree Sales/Craft Shoppe Sales Begin
07 Sun	Mortgage Reduction Collection Head Start Food Collection High School Faith Formation 6:30 – 7:45, Founders Hall
08 Mon	Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception Sacred Liturgy, 9:00am & 7:00pm, Church
09 Tue	Scripture Study, 10:00am, Barn Faith Formation, 4:30 & 6:30pm
10 Wed	Faith Formation, 4:30 & 6:30pm
14 Sun	Religious Retirement Collection Welcome Weekend Family Liturgy, 9:00am Shady Grove Pregnancy Center Collection
15 Mon	St. Nicholas Project Orders Due RCIA, 7:00pm, Church
16 Tue	Scripture Study, 10:00am, Barn Faith Formation, 4:30pm & 6:30pm
17 Wed	Parish Ember Day Faith Formation, 4:30pm & 6:30pm
18 Fri	Parish Ember Day
19 Sat	Parish Ember Day
23 Tue	Scripture Study, 10:00am, Barn No Faith Formation Sessions
24 Wed	Christmas Eve Sacred Liturgy 5pm (passes required) Sacred Liturgy 7pm and 11pm
25 Thu	Christmas Day Sacred Liturgy, 9:00am and 11:00am
26 Fri	Parish Office Closed

SAVE THE DATE

February	
20 Fri	Volunteer Appreciation Party

**END OF BULLETIN
ANY TEXT OR GRAPHICS ENTERED ON THIS PAGE
WILL NOT APPEAR IN THE PRINTED BULLETIN**

CHURCH NAME: **Our Lady of the Visitation**

CHURCH CITY: **Darnestown**

ROUTING CODE: **W**

RUN NUMBER: **2**

FILENAME: **03-0338.01b**

PHONE NUMBER: **301-948-5536**

FAX NUMBER: **301-948-7452**

EDITOR/ CONTACT: **Jean O'Connor**

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Comments:
