

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.

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT: 13 - 14 December:
Presiders:

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

Readings for the Week of December 7, 2008

Sunday: Is 40:1-5, 9-11/2Pt 3:8-14/Mk 1:1-8/
Monday: Gn 3:9-15/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 26:38
Tuesday: Is 40:1-11/Mt 18:12-14
Wednesday: Is 40:25-31/Mt 11:28-30
Thursday: Is 41:13-20/Mt 11:11-15
Friday: Zec 2:14-17 or Rev 11:19a, 12:1-6a, 10ab/
Lk 1:26-38 or :Lk 1:39-47
Saturday: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Mt 17:9a, 10-13
Next Sunday: Is 61:1-2a, 10-11/1Thes 5:16-24/
Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

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. If you would like to become a part of the choir, please call Diana Hurley, (301) 216-0870.

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.

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).

Parish Life

REQUIESCAT IN PACE: It is with sadness we announce the death of **Juanita R. Soares**, mother of *Deanna Gazda*.

PARISH NECROLOGY: On the anniversary of her death, please remember in your prayers the following parishioner: **Filomena Picciano** (8 December 1993).

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.

CHRIST IN THE CITY is a ministry of the Office of Young Adult Ministry that focuses on spiritual growth and provides an opportunity to establish a relationship with Christ. On the second Thursday of each month, young adults from across the city meet at St. Patrick Catholic Church, 10th and G Sts. NW, Washington DC to pray and worship. The evening starts at 7:00pm with the rosary. Eucharistic Adoration, Praise and Worship, Confession and Reflection will be from 7:30 - 8:30pm. Upcoming dates: 11 December and 8 January.

MEN'S VOCATION RETREAT: Archbishop Wuerl is

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

sponsoring a retreat, 6 – 8 February 2009, for men in their 20's – 40's who are considering a call to the priesthood. The retreat will be held at the Theological College, Friday evening 6 February through noon on Sunday, 8 February. To register or for more information, contact Msgr. Rob Panke, Director of Priest Vocations, (301) 853-4580 or email vocations@adw.org.

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.

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.

Faith Formation for Life

SCRIPTURE STUDY: A study of the readings for next Sunday, the *Third Sunday of Advent*, will be on Tuesday, 9 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, 9 December and Wednesday, 10 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.

Social Concerns

ST NICHOLAS CHRISTMAS CATALOG: Give a gift to charity as an alternative to a Christmas gift to a loved one. Charities include our sister parish in Haiti, Anugraha School in India, S.O.M. E. , St. Ann's Infant home and Little Sisters of the Poor. Use the insert in the parish bulletin to select a charity and place your order. All orders must be received by Monday, 15 December to ensure delivery before Christmas. For more information, call Marianne Beattie, (301) 869-6898.

ADVENT BABY SUPPLIES COLLECTION: Third Sunday of Advent, 13 – 14 December, new baby items such as sleepers, disposable diapers, Similac and Enfamil with 2009 and beyond expiration dates and other items can be placed in the basket in the hallway downstairs. All donations will benefit the Shady Grove Pregnancy Center.

ADVENT FOOD COLLECTION: Grocery bags for the Head Start Canned Food Drive will be distributed after each liturgy today. Filled bags will be collected this weekend, 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 distributes grants to religious institutions for the retirement needs of senior religious priests, brothers, and sisters. It also provides retirement planning and educational assistance to religious institutes.

ANNUAL CATHOLIC LOBBY NIGHT: The Maryland Catholic Conference's annual Lobby Night, which brings together hundreds of Catholics to meet with their state lawmakers, will be held on President's Day, Monday, 16 February, in Annapolis. Lobby Night 2009 will allow you to speak with your legislators on public policy issues concerning Catholic schools, poverty, support for pregnant women in crisis, the death penalty, and marriage. For information or to register, please visit www.mdcathcon.org or call (410) 269-1155 or (301) 261-1979.

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.

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

CATHOLIC CAMPAIGN FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT: Our parish donated \$2,303.00 to this national collection.

Human Resources

NEW PARISHIONERS: The following families have recently joined our parish: **Mr. & Mrs. James Fiore, Ms. Jennine Fiore, Mr. & Mrs. Michael Regnell and Ms. Anne Sharkey.**

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.

BULLETIN/FLYERS DEADLINE: To submit a bulletin article or a separate insert/flyer for the weekend of 13 – 14 December, please submit the information to Jean O'Connor, (301) 948-5536, ext. 103 or email joconnor@olvp.org by noon on Tuesday, 9 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 December our mortgage debt is \$809,057.72. Our monthly interest/principal payment is \$18,500. The November revenue from our Mortgage Retirement Fund collection amounted to \$7,820.00.

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

December

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| 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 |
| 30 Tue | No Faith Formation Sessions |
| 31 Wed | No Faith Formation Sessions |

January

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| 01 Thu | Sacred Liturgy, 10:00am, Church |
| 04 Sun | Family Liturgy, 9:00am
Mortgage Reduction Collection
Welcome Weekend
High School Faith Formation
6:30 – 7:45, Founders Hall |
| 05 Mon | RCIA, 7:00pm, Church |
| 06 Tue | Scripture Study, 10:00am, Barn
Faith Formation, 4:30 & 6:30pm |
| 07 Wed | Faith Formation, 4:30 & 6:30pm |

SAVE THE DATE

February

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| 20 Fri | Volunteer Appreciation Party |
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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: **03-0338.02b**

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

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

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

CURRENT FORMAT: EBSWUN

Comments:
