

## 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.

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT:** 20 - 21 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 December 14, 2008

Sunday: Is 61:1 – 2a, 10 – 11/1Thes 5:16 – 24/  
Jn 1:6-8, 19-28  
Monday: Nm 24:1-7, 165-17a/Mt 21:23-27  
Tuesday: Zep 3:1-2, 9-13/Mt 21:28-32  
Wednesday: Gn 29:2, 8-10/Mt 1:1-17  
Thursday: Jer 23:5-8/Mt 1:18-25  
Friday: Jdg 13:2-7, 24-25a/Lk 1:5-25  
Saturday: Is 7: 10-14/Lk 1:26-38  
Next Sunday: 2Sam 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14aa-16/  
Rom 16:25-27/ Lk 1:26-38

### FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD:

**Wednesday, 24 December 2008 Presiders:**

5:00pm – Father Raymond Fecteau (**Passes Needed**)  
7:00pm – Father Mathew Punchayil  
11:00pm – Father Raymond Fecteau (**Midnight Mass**)

**Thursday, 25 December 2008 Presiders:**

9:00am – Father Mathew Punchayil  
11:00am – Father Raymond Fecteau (**Family Liturgy**)  
The Family Choir will sing on Christmas Day at the 11:00am liturgy.

### FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD , 3 – 4

**January 2009:** Our Family Choir will sing at the 9:00am Family Liturgy. Refreshments will be served after each liturgy to celebrate the eighteenth anniversary of our first public mass in Darnestown.

**SAINTS/WINDOWS: MARY, MOTHER OF GOD, 1 January** "Mother of God" is the oldest title and feast for Mary. Mary, under this title, is the patroness of the Archdiocese of Washington. The coat of arms for our Archdioceses appears in the upper panel; St. Matthew's, the Cathedral for our Archdiocese, appears in the lower panel.

**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.

### Parish Life

**PARISH EMBER DAYS:** Responding to the Gospel and following Church tradition, Visitation parishioners are encouraged to set aside *Wednesday, 17 December, Friday, 19 December and Saturday, 20 December* as special days for fasting, prayer, and works of mercy.

**PARISH NECROLOGY:** On the anniversary of his death, please remember in your prayers the following parishioner: **Stephen Pindell**, (18 December 1994).

**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 9:15am liturgy in the Barn on Wednesday, 7 January. 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 26<sup>th</sup> Annual March for Life and Youth rally/Mass at the Verizon Center in Washington, DC on Thursday, 22 January 2009. If you have any questions, please contact Deacon Bob Fischer, (301) 948-5536, Ext. 106 or Michele Olewack, (301) 948-5536, ext. 107.

**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, 10<sup>th</sup> 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 date: 8 January.

## THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

**SODALITY POTLUCK**, Sunday, 14 December, 6:00pm, at the home of Susan Welsh. For more information, please call Maureen Dingivan, (301) 515-1018 or email Maureen at [dingivan@verizon.net](mailto:dingivan@verizon.net)

**MEN'S VOCATION RETREAT:** Archbishop Wuerl is sponsoring a retreat, 6 – 8 February 2009, for men in their 20' – 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. For information, contact Msgr. Rob Panke, at (301) 853-4580 or email [vocations@adv.org](mailto:vocations@adv.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](mailto: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](http://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 a minimum of six months prior to setting a wedding date.

### *Faith Formation for Life*

**SCRIPTURE STUDY:** A study of the readings for next Sunday, the *Fourth Sunday of Advent*, will be on Tuesday, 16 December 2008, 10:00am, in the Barn.

**FAITH FORMATION:** Grades K -8 will meet Tuesday, 16 December and Wednesday, 17 December.

**CHRISTMAS PAGEANT:** Faith Formation children will be performing their Christmas pageant at 5:00pm in Founders Hall on Tuesday, 16 December and Wednesday, 17 December. All are invited to come and sing along with the children.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE:** Faith Formation sessions, grades K – 8, will not be held on Tuesday, 20 January and Wednesday, 21 January due to the presidential inauguration.

### *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 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.

**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.mdccathcon.org](http://www.mdccathcon.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.

### *Human Resources*

**CHRISTMAS CRAFT SHOPPE'S RAFFLE:** This year's raffle, a Santini Crèche, was won by the Dodelin family.

**THANK YOU** to the many volunteers who help with the tree sales, Craft Shoppe and wreath decorating.

**BULLETIN/FLYERS DEADLINE:** To submit a bulletin article or a separate insert/flyer for the weekend of 20 – 21 December, please submit the information to Jean O'Connor, (301) 948-5536, ext. 103 or email [joconnor@olvp.org](mailto:joconnor@olvp.org) by noon on Tuesday, 16 December.

*Facilities*

**SNOW EMERGENCY:** Liturgy on Sundays and on Holy Days of Obligation, including their vigils, is not cancelled because of weather. Faith Formation sessions are cancelled if a snow emergency plan is in effect, or if Montgomery County public schools are closed for school/community use. The parish office is open if there is a delay in the opening of schools; the office is closed if schools are closed. Weekday liturgy is held if there is a delay in the opening of schools. If schools are closed, there is no daily liturgy.

**EXTERIOR STAIRS REPAIR:** For your safety, the exterior stairs leading to the lower level have been repaired. 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*

**CHRISTMAS GIFT:** We are grateful to parishioners who make an extra donation to our parish at Christmas. Your donation is needed to help balance our parish budget.

**GIVE LESS TO THE IRS:** All 2008 donations to Visitation parish are tax deductible. All donations to our parish at Christmas are tax deductible. All stocks donated in 2008 are credited to the donor at full face value on the date of transfer.

**2008 CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS:** To receive credit in 2008, your donation must be **dated by Wednesday, 31 December 2008**. If you are mailing a contribution, it must be postmarked by Friday, 2 January 2009 and received in the parish office by Monday, 5 January 2009 to be credited to your 2008 Contribution Statement.

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

**December**

- 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**

- 01 Thu Sacred Liturgy, 10:00am, Church
- 04 Sun Family Liturgy, 9:00am  
Mortgage Reduction Collection  
Welcome Weekend
- 05 Mon RCIA, 7:00pm, Church
- 06 Tue Scripture Study, 10:00am, Barn  
Faith Formation, 4:30 & 6:30pm
- 07 Wed St. Monica Society, 10:00am, Barn  
Faith Formation, 4:30 & 6:30pm
- 10 Sat Getting Ready Day II, 9:00am – 11:00am
- 11 Sun Holy Name Society At 9:00am Liturgy  
High School Faith Formation  
6:30 – 7:45, Founders Hall
- 12 Mon RCIA, 7:00pm, Church
- 13 Tue Scripture Study, 10:00am, Barn  
Faith Formation, 4:30 & 6:30pm
- 14 Wed Faith Formation, 4:30 & 6:30pm

**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: **03-0338.03b**

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

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

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

**CURRENT FORMAT: EBSWUN**

**Comments:**

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