

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.

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY: 27 - 28 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 21, 2008

Sunday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Rom 16:25-27/
Lk 1:26-38

Monday: 1 Sm 1:24-28/Lk 1:46-56

Tuesday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Lk 1:57-66

Wednesday: Morning: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/
Lk 1:67-79

Thursday: Vigil: Is 62:1-5/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/
Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25

Midnight: Is 9:1-6/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14

Dawn: Is 62:11-12/Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20

Day: Is 52:7-10/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or
1:1-5, 9-14

Friday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Mt 10:17-22

Saturday: 1 Jn 1:1-4/Jn 20:1a, 2-8

Next Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3/
Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 or
Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19/Lk 2:22-40
or 2:22, 39-40

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**)
(Prelude music to begin at 10:30pm)

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.

FAMILY CHOIR: The beautiful music provided by the Family Choir on *Gaudete Sunday* brought joy to all. The next Family Choir weekend will be Sunday, 11 January 2009, 9:00am. Rehearsal will be the preceding week, Sunday, 4 January, at 10:00am. If you would like to join the choir, please contact Diana Hurley, (301) 216-0870.

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 Archdiocese 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

REQUIESCAT IN PACE: It is with sadness we announce the death of **the Rev. Msgr Armando E. Jiminez-Rebollar** a retired 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: **Nicholas Toran** (27 December 1993) and **Matthew Todd Wolff**, (27 December 1997).

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 26th Annual March for Life and Youth rally/Mass at the Verizon Center in

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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, 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 date: 8 January.

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@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 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 *Feast of the Holy Family*, will be on Tuesday, 23 December 2008, 10:00am, in the Barn.

FAITH FORMATION SESSIONS: Grades K -8 will resume on Tuesday, 6 January and Wednesday, 7 January.

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.

MARY AS INSPIRATION IN LIVING: Education-Parish-Service (EPS), a faith and spiritual development program for adult Catholics, will consider Mary as Mother of God and Mother of the Church, as well as the model of discipleship in Mary, the Perfect Disciple, on Tuesdays, 6 January through 3 February from 7:00pm – 9:15pm. The instructor will be Sr. Mary Ann Cook, SND, D.Phil.. Classes will be held at 125 Michigan Ave., NE, on the campus of Trinity University. For more information contact Ann Kitterman, (202) 884-9030 or email her at kittermanna@trinitydc.edu.

Social Concerns

THANK YOU: We would like to thank our generous parishioners who donated bags of groceries to the head Start canned Food Drive, to those parishioners who purchased and wrapped Christmas gifts for our Adopted Family, to those who donated to our Advent Baby Needs collection for the Shady Grove Pregnancy Center and to everyone who participated in the St. Nicholas Project.

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.

RELIGIOUS RETIREMENT COLLECTION: Our parish donated \$3,201.00 to this archdiocesan collection.

Human Resources

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

BULLETIN DEADLINE: If you wish to submit a bulletin article or a flyer for the Feast of the Holy Family, 27 – 28 December or the Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord, 3 – 4 January 2009, please call Jean O'Connor, (301) 948-5536, ext. 103 or email joconnor@olvp.org by noon on Tuesday, 23 December 2008.

PARISH OFFICE will close at noon on Wednesday, 24 December and will reopen on Monday, 29 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.

Finance

FAITH DIRECT: Thank you to all parishioners who signed up to participate in the Faith Direct program. Your participation will make it more convenient to meet our monthly operating expenses.

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

- 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
- 19 Mon Parish Office Closed
- 20 Tue Scripture Study, 10:00am, Barn
No Faith Formation Sessions
- 21 Wed No Faith Formation Sessions
- 22 Thu Right-to-Life March
- 26 Mon RCIA, 7:00pm, Church
- 27 Tue Faith Formation, 4:30 & 6:30pm
- 28 Wed Faith Formation, 4:30 & 6:30pm
- 29 Thu The Lord's Table Soup Kitchen
- 31 Sat First Penance, 9:00am

SAVE THE DATE

February

- 20 Fri Volunteer Appreciation Party

May

- 17 Sun Confirmation, 2:00pm

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: **03-0338.04b**

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

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

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

CURRENT FORMAT: EBSWUN

Comments:
