

*Liturgical Life*

**FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD: 3 - 4**

January: Presiders:

5:00 pm – Fr. Raymond Fecteau

9:00 am – Fr. Raymond Fecteau

11:00 am – Fr. Raymond Fecteau

**ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION:** On the Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord, 3 – 4 January 2009, special refreshments will be served after each liturgy to celebrate the eighteenth anniversary of our first public mass in Darnestown.

**Readings for the Week of December 28, 2008**

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  
Monday: 1 Jn 2:3-11/Lk 2:22-35  
Tuesday: 1 Jn 2:12-17/Lk 2:36-40  
Wednesday: 1 Jn 2:18-21/Jn 1:1-18  
Thursday: Nm 6:22-27/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21  
Friday: 1 Jn 2:22-28/Jn 1:19-28  
Saturday: 1 Jn 2:29---3:6/Jn 1:29-34  
Next Sunday: Is 60:1-6/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12

**SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD, 1**

**January** is a holy day of obligation. Sacred Liturgy will be celebrated on Thursday, 1 January 2009 at 10:00am. “Mother of God” is the oldest title and feast for Mary. Mary, under this title, is the patroness of the Archdiocese of Washington.

**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 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.

**ELIZABETH ANN SETON, (1774 – 1821) 4 January,**

Elizabeth Ann Seton was born in New York and raised as an Episcopalian. Widowed with five children, Elizabeth became a Catholic and was especially devoted to the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist (upper panel). She founded the American Sisters of Charity in 1809, establishing the foundations for the parochial school system in America. Mary of Nazareth School, a school serving our parish and six other parishes, met in our parish barn (lower panel) until their new school was built in 1996.

**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 NECROLOGY:**

On the anniversary of her death, please remember in your prayers the following parishioner: **Francis DeSales Zobel** (1 January 2002).

**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.

**GETTING READY DAY I**

for those parish children preparing to receive their First Penance and Reconciliation in 2009 is scheduled for Saturday, 10 January, 9am - 11am in Founders Hall. Children must be accompanied by their parents.

**FIRST PENANCE:**

First Penance and Reconciliation Service for parish children will be held on Saturday, 31

## THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

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January at 9:00am. A reception for the children and their families will follow in Founders Hall.

**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.

**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 *Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord*, will be on Tuesday, 30 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](mailto: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. Please visit [www.mdccathcon.org](http://www.mdccathcon.org) or call (410) 269-1155 or (301) 261-1979 for more information.

**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.

**BLACK AND INDIAN MISSIONS COLLECTION** will be taken the weekend of 10 – 12 January 2009. This collection, mandated by the III Plenary Council in 1884, embodies the Church's concern for evangelizing Black, American Indian, Eskimo and Aleut peoples in the United States. These needs exist throughout the country. Each year, bishops appeal for help in the great and growing task of parish evangelization. The collection is needed now more than ever. Your generosity is appreciated.

**Human Resources**

**NEW PARISHIONERS:** The following families have recently joined our parish: **Ms. Bridget Casey, Mr. & Mrs. Joshua Horner, Mr. & Mrs. Brian Kane, and Mr. Robert Lembo.**

**WELCOME WEEKEND** will be the weekend of 3 – 4 January 2009. Parishioners are invited for refreshments in Founders Hall after all the masses. There will also be a Welcome Table set up to provide information for those who would like to register with our parish.

**BULLETIN DEADLINE:** If you wish to submit a bulletin article or a flyer for the Baptism of the Lord, 10 - 11 January 2009, please call Jean O'Connor, (301) 948-5536, ext. 103 or email [joconnor@olvp.org](mailto:joconnor@olvp.org) by noon on Tuesday, 6 January 2009.

**PARISH OFFICE** will close at noon on Wednesday, 31 December and will reopen on Friday, 2 January.

**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**

**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**

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 Black and Indian Missions Collection  
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: **03-0338.05b**

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

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

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

**CURRENT FORMAT: EBSWUN**

**Comments:**

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