

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 5 – 6 December Presiders:

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

Readings for the Week of November 29, 2009

Sunday:	Jer 33:14-16/1 Thes 3:12---4:2/ Lk 21:25-28, 34-36
Monday:	Rom 10:9-18/Mt 4:18-22
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:	Bar 5:1-9/Phil 1:4-6, 8-11/Lk 3:1-6

IN/OUT OF FLU SEASON – No one is ever under an obligation to shake hands during the Sign of Peace (a statement of peace, bow or other gesture is appropriate) or to receive from the chalice. Christ is fully present in each species when the bread and wine have been consecrated into His Body and Blood. Anyone who is ill, or suspects he or she is ill, should refrain from receiving from the chalice out of good will. Also, he or she may wish to receive the host in the hand rather than by the mouth. Common sense dictates that one remain at home if feeling unwell.

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.

SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION: Tuesday, 8 December, is a Holy Day of Obligation in the United States. Sacred Liturgy will be celebrated at 12 noon and 7:00pm in the church.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION WINDOW: 8 December. In 1846 during the Sixth Plenary Council of Baltimore, the American Bishops placed the United States (upper panel) under the patronage of the Immaculate

Conception. The first and mother cathedral of the United States is the Basilica of the Assumption of Mary in Baltimore, Maryland (lower panel).

CHRISTMAS EVE PASSES are required for the 5:00pm Christmas Eve liturgy. Forms were included with the quarterly newsletter and mailed to all parishioners in late October. If you are a registered parishioner and did not receive a newsletter, please call the parish office (301) 948-5536, ext. 103.

Parish Life

ECCE QUAM BONUM: Last weekend **Michael Jeffrey Bateman** received First Eucharist.

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.

LITURGY OF THE HOURS: Morning Prayer is prayed every morning before the 9:15am daily liturgy. Morning prayer begins at 8:45am in the Thomas More Chapel.

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. The next class will be held Saturday, 19 December in the church. To register, call the parish office (301) 498-5536 ext. 105.

SAVE THE DATE: Here is an opportunity to participate in our first parish family **Christmas/Epiphany Pageant** on Sunday, 13 December, 2:00pm in our church followed by a Christmas Cookie Reception. For information, check the bulletin, Faith Formation emails or call the Faith Formation office (301) 948-5536, ext. 107 or 114.

WEEKEND RETREAT FOR PEOPLE FACING SERIOUS ILLNESS: A retreat specially planned for men and women facing serious physical illness will be held at the Dominican Retreat House in McLean, VA on 11 – 13 December 2009. A team of doctors, nurses, priests, sisters and helpers will be present around the clock. Scheduling allows plenty of time for rest and reflection. This retreat is offered free of charge. This is a non-smoking weekend.

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Registration closes 1 December 2009. Please call the Dominican Retreat House, (703) 356-4243 or Doug Sebek, (703) 860-4929 as soon as possible.

CHRISTMAS TV MASS: Will illness or disability prevent you or someone you know from being able to attend Christmas Mass? The Christmas TV Mass will air Friday, 25 December at 7:00am - 8:00am on WDCW- 50. The actual channel varies by TV provider. Those with an antenna or satellite television, CW is on channel 50; Comcast and Verizon channel is 3 or 23; RCN channel is 15. The TV Mass also airs Sundays at 10:30am.

MEN'S VOCATION RETREAT: Archbishop Wuerl is sponsoring a retreat for men in their 20's - 40's who are considering a call to the priesthood. The retreat will be held at Theological College, from the evening of Friday, 5 February through Sunday, 7 February at noon. To register or for more information, contact Msgr. Rob Panke, Director of Priest Vocations, (301) 853-4580 or visit the website vocations@adw.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.

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.

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

Faith Formation for Life

SCRIPTURE STUDY: A study of the readings for next Sunday, the *Second Sunday of Advent*, will be on Tuesday, 8 December 2009, 10:00am, in the Barn.

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

FAITH FORMATION Grades K - 8 will meet Tuesday, 1 December and Wednesday, 2 December.

ARCHDIOCESAN TUITION ASSISTANCE for Catholic Schools: All families are encouraged to apply for tuition assistance from the Archdiocese of Washington for the 2010 - 2011 school year. The deadline to apply is 4 December 2009. Families applying for archdiocesan tuition

assistance need to complete just one form for all children. The archdiocese hopes to award \$4 million in tuition assistance next year. For more information and to register now online, visit www.CatholicSchoolsWork.org or call (301) 853-5356.

HIGH SCHOOL PLACEMENT TEST: register your 8th grader to take the High School placement test to attend a Catholic high school next fall. The test will be held on 5 December and 12 December. All students must be pre-registered; no walk-ins are permitted. For more information visit and to register online www.CatholicSchoolsWork.org call (301) 853-5304.

KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS: Christmas is all about Christ, and the Knights of Columbus Council 36901 is helping to carry the message. You can help too, by creating a 12 x 18 inch poster promoting the theme, "Keep Christ in Christmas". Grades 1 - 8 are eligible to participate. In addition to the satisfaction of reminding everyone of the true meaning of Christmas, there is a top prize of \$100. Start now - entries are due by 9 December 2009. For more information, contact Donald Patti, 1-866-478-8080 or email nash Rambler@yahoo.com.

Social Concerns

ADVENT FOOD COLLECTION: Grocery bags for the Head Start Canned Food Drive will be distributed after each liturgy next weekend, 5 - 6 December. Filled bags will be collected on 12 - 13 December. Please be sure to include only non-perishable items in non-breakable containers.

RELIGIOUS RETIREMENT COLLECTION will be taken in all parishes in the Archdiocese of Washington the weekend of 12 - 13 December. This national collection distributes grants to religious institutes for the retirement needs of senior religious priests, brothers, and sisters. The fund also provides retirement planning and educational assistance to religious institutes.

BENEFIT CHRISTMAS CONCERT: St. Martin's of Tours church in Gaithersburg will present its annual Christmas concert on Wednesday, 2 December at 7:00pm. St. Martin's is located at 201 S Frederick Ave., Gaithersburg. All are welcome to attend this uplifting concert which explores the true meaning of Christmas through a variety of traditional and modern songs in several languages. In lieu of admission, attendees are asked to bring 5 - 10 cans of food to donate to St. Martin's pantry.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS BLOOD DRIVE on Saturday, 5 December, 10:00am - 4:00pm at St. Mary's,

Barnesville. Contact John Phipps, at jphipps@gl.com for more information.

Finance

VOLUNTEERS FOR CHRISTMAS DINNER FOR THE NEEDY are needed at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, 400 Michigan Ave., NE, Washington DC 20017. Volunteers will assist in preparing and serving meals in the Shrine cafeteria as well as delivering dinners to homes in the District and Montgomery and Prince George's Counties on Christmas day. Volunteers may contact the Shrine at (202) 526 -8300.

CRAFT SHOPPE will be taking orders for religious books and poinsettias after each liturgy in November in Founders Hall. Delivery will be the weekend of 4 – 6 December. The shoppe will be open from Friday evening, 4 December, 5 – 8pm, Saturday, 5 December 9am - 7pm and Sunday, 6 December, 10am – 2pm. Our raffle items for this year include *Chrissa, the 2009 American Doll* and the *Christmas Shop Lego Toy Set*. Raffle tickets will be available through 6 December.

Human Resources

NEW PARISHIONERS: The following family has recently joined our parish: *Mr. & Mrs. Andre Johnson*.

MORTGAGE: As of 1 November our mortgage debt is \$644,682.72. Our monthly interest/principal payment is \$18,500. The October revenue from our Debt Reduction Collection amounted to \$7,237.33.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO HELP WITH CHRISTMAS TREE SALES: Sign-ups will be held after liturgy each weekend in November.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- “**Work out Thursday**”, 3 December. Strong arms are needed to help unload the Christmas trees beginning at 1:00pm
- **Sales** begin on **Friday, 4 December**, at 3:30pm

November	
0 30 Mon	RCIA, 7:00pm, Founders Hall
December	
01 Tue	Scripture Study, 10:00am, Barn Faith Formation Sessions
02 Wed	Faith Formation Sessions
04 Fri	Christmas Trees Sales Begin Craft Shoppe Opens Food Bags for Head Start Distributed
06 Sun	High School Faith Formation
07 Mon	RCIA
08 Tue	Feast of the Immaculate Conception Sacred Liturgy, 12:00 Noon & 7:00pm Scripture Study 10:00am, Barn Faith Formation Sessions Parish Offices Closes at Noon
09 Wed	Faith Formation Sessions
12 Sat	Christmas/Epiphany Pageant Dress Rehearsal, 10:00am, Church
13 Sun	Religious Retirement Collection Food Bags for Head Start Returned St. Nicholas Project Donations Due Holy Name Society at 9:00am Liturgy Christmas Trees Sales Ends Christmas/Epiphany Pageant

CULINARY SKILLS NEEDED: Help feed the volunteers who are selling the Christmas trees by donating your favorite chili, soup, pasta, sandwiches or desserts. Volunteers are also needed to serve the workers and keep the kitchen clean. Help is needed on Saturday/Sunday, 5 – 6 December and on Saturday, 12 December. Sign-up sheets are available after each weekend liturgy during the month of November.

SAVE THE DATE

PARISH OFFICE HOURS: Regular office hours are Monday-Friday, 10:00am–4:00pm. Please note: the parish office is closed during the lunch hour, 12:00noon–1:00pm.

May	
09 Sun	Confirmation, 2:00pm, Bishop Gonzalez

BULLETIN/FLYERS DEADLINE: If you wish to submit a bulletin article or a separate insert/flyer for in the bulletin please submit the information by calling (301) 948-5536, ext. 103 or email joconnor@olvp.org by noon on Friday.

Facilities

TRAFFIC PATTERNS: For the health and safety of all, please follow the designated traffic patterns for our church. Enter from Seneca Road and take an immediate right onto the first driveway. Exit via the second drive and turn LEFT toward Seneca Road. Fire regulations prohibit parking in the circle during services.

**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**

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Comments:
