

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 12 – 13 December Presiders:

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

Readings for the Week of December 6, 2009

Sunday:	Bar 5:1-9/Phil 1:4-6, 8-11/Lk 3:1-6
Monday:	Is 35:1-10/Lk 5:17-26
Tuesday:	Gn 3:9-15, 20/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38
Wednesday:	Is 40:25-31/Mt 11:28-30
Thursday:	Is 41:13-20/Mt 11:11-15
Friday:	Is 48:17-19/Mt 11:16-19
Saturday:	Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/ Lk 1:26-38 or 1:39-47
Next Sunday:	Zep 3:14-18a/Phil 4:4-7/Lk 3:10-18

SPECIAL LITURGY FOR FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN, will be celebrated on the Third Sunday in Advent, 13 December, at the 9:00am liturgy.

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).

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. May has been declared patroness of all the Americas (upper panel).

COMMUNAL PENANCE SERVICE, Tuesday, 15 December, 7:00pm, in the church. Visiting priests will be available for the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation.

CHRISTMAS EVE PASSES for 5:00pm Christmas Eve: 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

REQUIESCAT IN PACE: It is with sadness we announce the death of **Thomas Lancaster**, father of *Megan Gorman* and the death of **John M. Drescher, Jr.**, father of *Joanne Munzer*. We commend them and their family to God in our prayers.

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

PARISH EMBER DAYS: Responding to the Gospel and following Church tradition, Visitation parishioners are encouraged to voluntarily set aside Wednesday, 16 December, Friday, 18 December and Saturday, 19 December as days of fasting, prayer and works of charity.

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

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

next class will be held Saturday, 19 December in Foundes H all. To register, call the parish (301) 948-5536 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.

CONFIRMATION MEETING for parents of 6th and 7th grades parishioners will be on Thursday, 7 January, 7:00pm in the church.

CHRISTMAS TV 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.

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 *Third Sunday of Advent*, will be on Tuesday, 15 December 2009, 10:00am, in the Barn.

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

MARY OF NAZARETH SCHOOL'S AFTER CARE seeks a new team member for a 15 hour work week. The After Care Program is filled with vibrant and energetic children in grades K through 8. The After Care hours are 3 – 6pm, Monday through Friday. Duties include the supervision of children in multiple locations on the school grounds, including the outdoor playground. All staff must complete the Archdiocese of Washington's child Protection Program, which requires fingerprinting and attendance at a

specific training session. If interested, please call Sr. John at (301) 869-0940 or email Sisterjohn@MaryofNazareth.org.

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 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.

EPS: will present Conversational Spanish for Parish Ministry for English speakers who want to speak enough Spanish to be effective greeters, ministers to the homebound, bulletin editors and participants in bi-lingual liturgy and prayer. The course will be offered in two six-week sessions at EPS on the campus of Trinity University. The winter introductory session will be on Monday, 11 Jan – 22 Feb, 10am – noon; the evening session are on Wednesday, 13 Jan to 24 Feb, 7–9pm. For information call Ann Kitterman, (202) 884-9030 or email kittermana@trinitydc.edu.

Social Concerns

ADVENT FOOD COLLECTION: Grocery bags for the Head Start Canned Food Drive 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.

CATHOLIC CAMPAIGN FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT (CCHD) Our parish donated \$2,256.00 to this national collection.

ST. NICHOLAS CHRISTMAS CATALOG: Give a gift Charities include our sister parish in Haiti, Anagraha School

in India, S.O.M.E (So Others Might Eat), St. Ann's Infant Home and the 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 14 December to ensure delivery before Christmas.

ADVENT BABY SUPPLIES COLLECTION: Fourth Sunday of Advent, 19 – 20 December. New baby items such as sleepers, disposable diapers, Similac and Enfamil with 2010 and beyond expiration dates and other items can be placed in the basket in the alcove downstairs. All donations will benefit the Shady Grove Pregnancy center.

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

Human Resources

PARISH OFFICE HOURS: Regular office hours are Monday-Friday, 10:00am–4:00pm. The office will close at noon on Tuesday, 8 December, Feast of the Immaculate Conception.

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: 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.

Finance

GIVE LESS TO THE IRS: All 2009 donations to Visitation Parish throughout the year and at Christmas are tax deductible. All stocks donated in 2009 are credited to the donor at full face value on the date of transfer.

2009 CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS: To receive credit in 2009, your contributions must be dated by

Thursday, 31 December 2009. If you are mailing a contribution, it must be postmarked by Monday, 4 January 2010 and received in the parish office by Friday, 8 January 2010 to be credited to your 2009 Contribution Statement.

ST. MARY'S CAR RAFFLE: We will be participating in the February 2010 Car Raffle with St. Mary's in Landover Hills, MD. Like last year, there will be 5 new cars. We are hoping that this raffle will be a major fundraising opportunity for OVLP. Chances will be \$5.00; and we keep \$2.50. We would like to see parishioners purchase and sell tickets to make this fundraiser a real success. We are also looking for a chairperson and other volunteers to help with this process. If you are able to help, please call Marcia in the parish office, (301) 948-5536, ext. 102 or email mmontanio@olvp.org, if you can help.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

December

- 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, 2:00pm
- 14 Mon RCIA
- 15 Tue Scripture Study, 10:00am, Barn
Faith Formation Sessions
Communal Penance Service, 7:00pm
- 16 Wed Faith Formation Sessions
Parish Ember Day
- 18 Fri Parish Ember Day
- 19 Sat Baptism Class, 10:00am Founders Hall
Parish Ember Day
- 20 Sun Shady Grove Pregnancy Center Collection

SAVE THE DATE

May

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

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**

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Comments:
