

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 19 – 20 December Presiders:

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

Readings for the Week of December 13, 2009

Sunday:	Zep 3:14-18a/Phil 4:4-7/Lk 3:10-18
Monday:	Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a/Mt 21:23-27
Tuesday:	Zep 3:1-2, 9-13/Mt 21:28-32
Wednesday:	Is 45:6b-8, 18, 21b-25/Lk 7:18b-23
Thursday:	Gn 49:2, 8-10/Mt 1:1-17
Friday:	Jer 23:5-8/Mt 1:18-25
Saturday:	Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Lk 1:5-25
Next Sunday:	Mi 5:1-4a/Heb 10:5-10/Lk 1:39-45

FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

Thursday, 24 December 2009 Presiders:

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

Friday, 25 December 2009 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, - 2 -3 January 2010: Our Family Choir will sing at the 9:00am Family Liturgy. Refreshments will be served after each liturgy to celebrate the nineteenth 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 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.

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.

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 **Anne Keogh Senftle**, mother of parishioners *Theresa Quine* and *Joseph Senftle*. We commend her and her family to God in our prayers.

PARISH NECROLOGY: On the anniversary of his death, please remember in your prayers, the following parishioner: **Steven Pindell** (18 December 1992)

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 next class will be held Saturday, 19 December in Founders Hall. To register, call the parish (301) 948-5536 ext. 105.

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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 *Fourth Sunday of Advent*, will be on Tuesday, 22 December 2009, 10:00am, in the Barn.

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.

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

ADOPTED FAMILY - THANK YOU to all parishioners who generously donated to our Adopted Family collection. Your generosity is much appreciated.

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.

ST. NICHOLAS CHRISTMAS CATALOG: Charities include our sister parish in Haiti, Anugraha School in India, S.O.M.E (So Others Might Eat), St. Ann's Infant Home and the Little Sisters of the Poor. 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.

THANKSGIVING COLLECTION amounted to \$391.00 and was given to our sister parish in Haiti.

THE LORD'S TABLE SOUP KITCHEN: Volunteers are needed to serve the guests at the soup kitchen on Thursday, 31 December. The soup kitchen is located at St. Martin's Church in Gaithersburg. If you are able to help, please call Joyce McCarthy, (301) 590-1258.

Human Resources

NEW PARISHIONERS: The following families have recently joined our parish: **Mr. & Mrs. Craig Beach, Mr. & Mrs. Charles Bradle, Ms. Nina Mall, and Mr. & Mrs. John Offenbacher.**

PARISH OFFICE HOURS: Regular office hours are Monday-Friday, 10:00am-4:00pm.

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 jconnor@olvp.org by noon on Friday.

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 Country 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.

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

CRAFT SHOPPE RAFFLE WINNERS: The Scott McDowell family won the Christmas Lego set and Jane Stenson won Crissa, the American Girl doll.

THANK YOU to the many volunteers who helped with the Christmas tree sales, the Craft Shoppe and the wreath decorations.

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 are hoping this raffle will be a major fundraising opportunity for OLVP. 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.

MORTGAGE: As of 1 December, our mortgage debt is \$613,882.09. Our monthly interest/principal payment is \$18,700. The November revenue from our Debt Retirement Fund amounted to \$8,674.33.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

December

- 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, 7:00pm, Founders Hall
- 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
- 21 Mon RCIA, 7:00pm Founders Hall
- 22 Tue Scripture Study, 10:00am, Barn
No Faith Formation Sessions
- 23 Wed No Faith Formation Sessions
- 24 Thu Christmas Eve
Sacred Liturgy, 5:00pm, Passes Needed
Sacred Liturgy, 7:00pm & 11:00pm
Parish Office Closed
- 25 Fri Christmas Day
Sacred Liturgy, 9:00am
Sacred Liturgy, 11:00am, Family Liturgy

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**

FILENAME: **03-0338.03b**

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

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

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

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Comments:
