

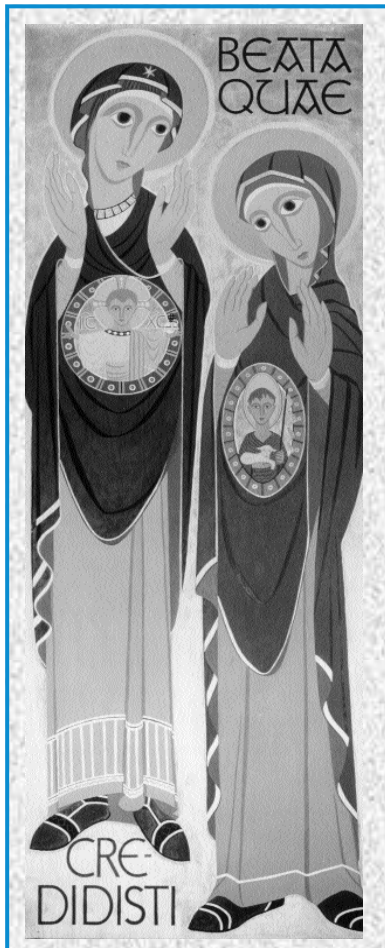
**VISITATION CHURCH**

**01/11/09**

**518042**

**CONTACT:**

**Chantel at 612-822-3139 or cell phone at 612-388-3255**



## Schedule

- Saturday Vigil** 5:00 pm  
**Sunday Mass** 10:00 am  
**Daily Mass** Tue-Sat 8:00 am  
**Holy Days of Obligation**  
 8:00 am, 7:00 pm  
**Reconciliation**  
 Saturdays 4:00 pm,  
 or by appointment.  
**Nursery**  
 10:00 am Sundays, infant-4  
**Eucharistic Adoration**  
 Every Thursday 8:30 am-  
 7:00 pm.  
**Rosary Devotion**  
 Before First Saturday Mass  
 and daily Mass at 7:30 am.

# THE CHURCH OF THE VISITATION

## *Catholic Church*

4530 LYNDALE AVENUE S. MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55419

[www.visitationcatholicchurch.com](http://www.visitationcatholicchurch.com)

Church Office 612-822-3139 Fax 612-824-3515

## 62ND ANNIVERSARY 1946-2008

### **Pastor**

*Father Thomas F.A. O'Brien* [frthomasobrien@aol.com](mailto:frthomasobrien@aol.com) 612-822-3139

### **Administrative Assistant/Bulletin Editor**

*Chantel Cervantes* [visichurch@aol.com](mailto:visichurch@aol.com) 612-822-3139

Bulletin notices due by noon on Mondays.

### **Facilities Coordinator**

*Anita Rosener* [visianita@aol.com](mailto:visianita@aol.com) 612-822-3139

### **Custodian**

*Tom Abresch* 612-822-3139

### **Director of Music**

*Barb Schrenk* [schrenkb@gmail.com](mailto:schrenkb@gmail.com) 612-203-9323

### **Master of Ceremonies**

*Timothy G. Wolfgram*

### **Trustees**

*Kristine Callaghan* 612-825-8431

*Tom Schuster* 612-866-8561

### **Parish Pastoral Council**

*Connie Klaers, Chair* [cklaers@msn.com](mailto:cklaers@msn.com) 612-823-6213

### **Finance Council**

*Philip Gleason, Chair* [pgleasoncpa@msn.com](mailto:pgleasoncpa@msn.com) 612-823-0080

### **Baptisms**

Saturdays or Sundays at Mass. Please call the parish office to make arrangements.

### **Marriages**

Six months preparation time needed. You must be a member of the parish for at least six months. Please call the parish office

### **Parish Membership**

Please call the church office to register in the parish.

### **After Hours Emergency Only**

*Father Thomas F.A. O'Brien* 612-532-4707

## *As Kingfishers Catch Fire, Dragonflies Draw Flame....*

Dear Friends,

You may have noticed that the number “eight” has great significance in a variety of different spheres. From an “octave” in music to “fortuitous eight,” the most coveted of numbers by the Chinese for birth-dates, telephone numbers and addresses.

In the Hebrew world, the number eight is *Sh'moneh*, from the root "to make fat," "cover with fat," or "to super-abound." As a noun, it means "super-abundant fertility," "super-abundant oil," etc., and as a numeral, it is the super-abundant number. As *seven* was so called in the Hebrew language because the seventh day was the day of completion and rest, so *eight*, as the Eighth Day, was over and above this perfect completion, and was indeed the *first* of a new series, as well as being the *eighth*.

The Letter of 2 Peter tells us that when the whole earth was covered with the flood, it was Noah as “the eighth person” (2 Peter 2:5) who stepped out on to a new earth to begin a new order of things. “Eight souls” (1 Peter 3:20) passed through it with him to the new and reborn world. Abraham had a total of eight sons: seven born of nature and the eighth (Isaac) born *by promise*. In the Book of the prophet Isaiah, eight sentences describe the Lord’s vineyard, but *seven* give the characteristics, and *one* the result. And according to Mosaic Law, the circumcision of a newborn male infant was to be performed eight days after his birth. Numerous other examples are available as well.

In our Catholic world, too, the number holds extraordinary symbolic and spiritual significance. Among the most obvious: in much of our literature, both Sunday and especially Easter Sunday, are also named “The Eighth Day.” Our baptismal fonts traditionally have eight sides to them, and our major feasts—Christmas, Easter, and Pentecost—historically all had Octaves associated with them.

Perhaps one of the best ways of understanding these “Octaves” is simply to remember that the creation of

the world, according to Genesis, is completed in seven days: six days of God’s actual creating activity, and one day of rest, to enjoy and take delight in it all. Seven days, therefore, mark the course of natural time. The day “beyond time,” the day that represents “the fullness of time,” is the eighth day. Count for yourself: begin with Sunday as day number one. When you have come to Sunday again, you will have come “full circle” and will have completed the loop; the Sunday that was Day One is also now Day Eight.

You can see, then, that the Octaves of our major feasts were essentially a way of extending the feast—in the liturgical calendar—from one day to eight days. In other words, the feasts were kept for eight days because they were “super-abundant” feasts—they stretch beyond natural time. And all eight days are really *one* day, the day of the Lord. In this sense, our major feasts are called “eschatological feasts,” because they stand over-against natural time and stretch us—both imaginatively and spiritually—from the natural world to the supernatural world, from natural time to God’s own fullness of time.

This may well be more than you ever wished to know about the number eight. I offer it to give you some further insight into the richness of our Catholic liturgical life. I also offer it as an explanation as to why the Church keeps the season of Christmas long after December 25 has come and gone. And, to, offer an oblique or sideways explanation as to why our Christmas decorations will remain in the church for a while—until February 2, the Feast of the Purification, and the date in Rome on which Christmas decorations are traditionally put away for the year. The Feast of the Purification....forty (40) days after Christmas. Now if you’d like to know something more about the significance of the number 40 in our liturgical life.....

With the promise of many prayers for super-abundant (8!!) blessings,

Father Thomas F.A. O’Brien

Pastor

**PARISH NEWS**

The Finance Committee will meet Tuesday, January 13, 2009 at 7:00 p.m., in the Fellowship Room. Please call the church office at 612-822-3139 if you are unable to attend.

January 15<sup>th</sup> (Thursday) at 7:00 pm please join your friends at Visitation to learn about our sister diocese in Kitui, Kenya that is part of our diocese-to-diocese Global Solidarity Partnership. Join Art Otto and Mike Haas as they explain the ongoing partnership, and relate sights and impressions of their recent visit to parishes in the Kitui diocese. Warm refreshments will take the chill off a cold January evening!

If you have not yet seen the icons at the Museum of Russian Art, now is your chance to do so. The VCCW is sponsoring a trip to the museum on Monday, January 19. We will carpool from Visitation for those who do not wish to drive to the museum. A docent will take us around for a viewing of the icons and explain the history of these beautiful works of art. Those who have already viewed the icons give high praise for the collection. We have a reservation for our group at 1:00. The museum is disability accessible. Our docent does limit a group to 25. Please call the office to reserve your space at 612-822-3139. Or call Donna Lunneborg at 612-866-3799. Our reservation member needs to be in by January 12.

January 22 Prayer Service for Life at the Cathedral will remember abortion victims. The Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis will sponsor a Prayer Service for Life at the Cathedral of Saint Paul, from 10:30-11:30 AM on Jan. 22, 2009, the 36th anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court decision which legalized abortion-on-demand. The annual prayer service commemorates the millions of lives lost to abortion and the many women and men wounded by the abortion experience. We invite you to join in thanking God for the gift of life and praying for an end to abortion. Archbishop John C. Nienstedt will speak. Providence Academy students will provide the music. A collection will be taken for the Archdiocesan LIFE FUND, an archdiocesan fund that provides last resort, emergency financial aid to women and couples for pregnancy-related expenses and to those with babies in their first year of life. For more information contact the Marriage, Family and Life Office, 651-291-4488.

**Last week's collection:** January 4, 2009 \$4,615.00  
**New Years collection:** \$1,645.25

**January 12-18, 2009**



Monday	No Mass Today	
Tuesday	8:00 a.m.	Brian Platt
Wednesday	8:00 a.m.	Dennis Taaffe†
Thursday	8:00 a.m.	Brian Platt
Friday	8:00 a.m.	Kay & Joe Schmidlein†
Saturday	8:00 a.m.	LaVonne Iverson
	5:00 p.m.	Mary Ann Michaels†
Sunday	10:00 a.m.	People of Visitation

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK** in our parish: Margaret Sullivan, Kathryn Mattefy, Lyn Paradise, Patrick McDonald, Edith Gibney, Roger Coryell, Pattee Kilday, Ruth Kelly, Marion Tombers, Bonnie Klein, Donald Eblen, Amy (Reynolds) Gaston, Joseph Brashear.



**TODAY'S READINGS**

**First Reading** – Behold my servant with whom I am pleased; he shall bring forth justice to the nations (Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7) or *Isaiah 55:1-11*.

**Psalm** – The Lord will bless his people with peace (Psalm 29) or *Isaiah 12:2-6*.

**Second Reading** – God anointed him with the Holy Spirit; he went about doing good (Acts 10:34-38) or *1 John 5:1-9*.

**Gospel** – You are my beloved Son, with you I am well pleased (Mark 1:7-11).

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

Monday:	Heb 1:1-6; Mk 1:14-20
Tuesday:	Heb 2:5-12; Mk 1:21-28
Wednesday:	Heb 2:14-18; Mk 1:29-39
Thursday:	Heb 3:7-14; Mk 1:40-45
Friday:	Heb 4:1-5, 11; Mk 2:1-12
Saturday:	Heb 4:12-16; Mk 2:13-17
Sunday:	1 Sm 3:3b-10, 19; Ps 40; 1 Cor 6:13c-15a, 17-20; Jn 1:35-42



**Christmas Flower Memorials and Honoraria**– Jerry McDonald & Sheila Grend McDonald.



The sanctuary flowers this week are given by Lorraine Michaels to the glory of God and in memory of Madeline Wild, on her birthday.