

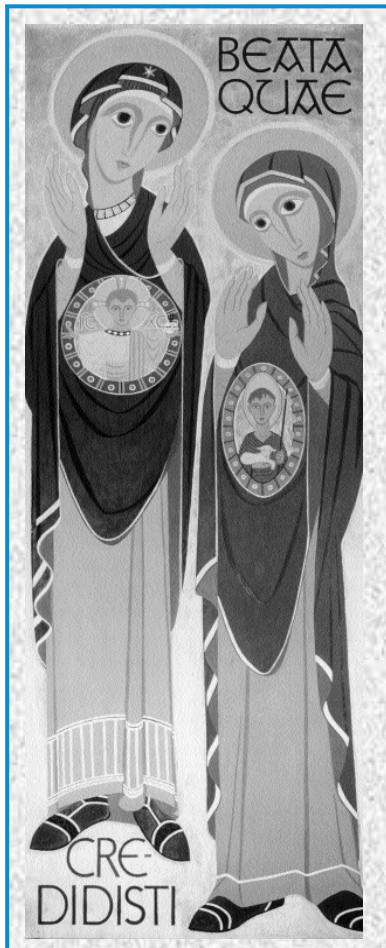
VISITATION CHURCH

10/12/08

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

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

62ND ANNIVERSARY 1946-2008

Pastor

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Timothy G. Wolfgram

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Parish Pastoral Council

Connie Klaers, Chair cklaers@msn.com 612-823-6213

Finance Council

Philip Gleason, Chair 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,

Saint Augustine wrote many important and subsequently famous lines. Perhaps one of the most significant was "*Cantare amantis est*" – "singing is a lover's thing." This should be instructive for each of us who gathers daily or on Sundays to pray, and gives us something to ponder as we move forward as The Church of the Visitation.

I'm sure you have better things to do than to count the number of times the verb "to sing" (or variations on it) appears in the Bible. I'll save you the trouble—not because I myself have counted (my arithmetic skills are truly limited!)—but because others have already done it. Words such as "to sing" or "song" appear 309 times in the Old Testament and thirty-six in the New. It's as if to say, when we encounter God, sheer words aren't enough, only song can begin to express the joy and delight we experience when the living God touches us with His grace, His saving power, His beauty.

Several weeks ago, I came across an article on singing that noted, "We find the first mention of singing in the Bible after the crossing of the Red Sea. Israel has now been definitively delivered from slavery. In a desperate situation, it has had an overwhelming experience of God. Just as Moses as a baby was taken from the Nile and only then really received the gift of life, so Israel now feels as if it has been, so to speak, taken out of the water: it is free, newly endowed with the gift of itself from God's own hands.

Our response to God's saving action is, quite naturally and first and foremost, one of love. How could we not lift up our voices in joyful song as we respond to God's own love for us—enfleshed in Christ, a love even unto death? And yet, so often at Mass so many of us hold back from singing for any number of different reasons: "I don't know the melody; I know the melody too well—I'm tired of it (*O Come, O Come Emmanuel* springs to mind); the organ is too loud; the organ isn't loud enough; I only sing traditional hymns, none of the contemporary junk; I only want modern musical pieces grounded in Scriptural verses, none of this 19th century pious prattle; I want Bach and Mozart—that's what the glory of God is all about; I find classical liturgical music is elitist and inaccessible—I want something that connects my Christian faith to the experience of everyday life and living."

The list could go on and on. What are we to do? Well, I have a few practical suggestions. First, let's not limit church music terribly strictly. We have an infinitely

large trove of good liturgical music to draw on, music that spans centuries and extends up to our present day. Second, let's recognize that just as the first Christmas carol had no human origins—it was the song of the angels that announced the Good News of great joy—when I sing it is not about "me," it is about me joining in a great cosmic expression of joy and gratitude. That is why the Preface at each Mass, whatever its other variations, always concludes "And so we join the angels and the saints in singing to Your glory." I'm not alone when I sing at Mass; I am in the greatest and most luminous of companies. I am using the voice God gave me—whether it is high or low, on-key, flat or sharp, to praise Him, which is the sole purpose for my having been created in the first place. Third, let's recognize that just as there is no such thing as a faith completely undetermined by culture, so too there is no such thing as an isolated, "pure" form of liturgical singing. As Cardinal Ratzinger commented, "Faith itself creates culture and does not just carry it along like a piece of clothing...This cultural given is capable of encountering other contemporary cultures...[And] this ability to exchange and flourish also finds its expression in the ever-recurring imperative, 'Sing to the Lord a new song.'"

Certainly, one of Visitation's great treasures, one of its many joys, is its rich musical tradition. Who could have listened to our choir at the Mass of Installation and not have been moved deeply and truly thrilled? (One of my colleagues from Saint Thomas Academy even asked me the following day if the Archbishop had brought his own choir from the Cathedral, their singing was so glorious!) I hope and pray that in the coming months and years we will fortify this great tradition of ours, that our Masses will shine with splendid music, that each of us will take voice and sing heartily to the Lord's glory.

One of the steps I have taken in this regard is to ask Barb Schrenk to assume the position of Director of Music. Many of you know Barb, you know her talent, you know her love for music and her love for the liturgy. Most impressive of all to me, is that I have come to see in Barb something which is essential—to my mind—for good liturgical music in a parish: the recognition that music, that singing, is itself one of our greatest ministries. And it is not the exclusive preserve of a music director, or assembled musicians, or talented choir members: it is a ministry each of us can undertake for "the others." It's a gift we can give. And in giving that gift, of course, we acknowledge that "singing is a lover's thing."

With all joyful notes in the Lord,

Father Thomas F.A. O'Brien
Pastor

PARISH NEWS

The sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick will be celebrated during the 10am Mass, **Today**, followed by a brunch in the Fellowship Room. All are welcome—those who are ill and desire the healing and prayer of this sacrament, and those who wish to join in prayer for all they know and love.

The Finance Committee will meet Tuesday, October 14, at 7:00 pm in the Fellowship Room. The Liturgy Committee will meet Tuesday, October 21 at 7:00 pm in the Fellowship Room. Members of these committees, please confirm your attendance with Chantel at 612.822.3139 or visichurch@aol.com

The Knights of Columbus will conduct a Tootsie Roll Drive for the mentally handicapped **today** after Mass. Donations will be appreciated.

Ushers are needed for the 10:00 am Sunday Mass beginning in November. Substitute ushers are available if you ever need to be absent. Please join us in this important ministry. Questions? Call Bob Nehotte at 612-823-8346.

Visitation Pie Sale is coming this month, October 25 and 26. All bakers of the parish please drop off your pies before the weekend Masses. All buyers....be on the lookout for the pies!

It's time to think about Christmas in Appalachia— Helping the poorest of the poor. Please gather any caps, mittens, scarves, sweaters, toys and games that can be gifts for everyone. The deadline is October 28. Please leave the items in the church library. Questions? Please call Rosie Bjornsted at 952-945-0393.

October is Respect Life month. During the month of October, you will find a cradle in the narthex for contributions of new or 'like new' baby items. All items collected will go the South Side Life Care Center in south Minneapolis.

Buck Sunday is this weekend! We are asking each of you to contribute "one buck" to the second collection this weekend, to help us pay for some unanticipated (and therefore unbudgeted) need in the parish. Please help—it will cost less than a cup of coffee and yet will make a big difference.

October 13-19, 2008

Mass Intentions  for the week

Monday	No Mass Today	
Tuesday	8:00 a.m.	Marlene Schlueter
Wednesday	8:00 a.m.	Kathryn Mooney†
Thursday	8:00 a.m.	Harold Simonson
Friday	8:00 a.m.	Joseph Brashear
Saturday	8:00 a.m.	Florence Perrault
	5:00 p.m.	People of Visitation
Sunday	10:00 a.m.	Don & Donna Lunneborg 57th Anniversary

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



TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading – On this mountain the LORD will make for all peoples a feast of rich food and choice wines (Isaiah 25:6-10a).

Psalm – I shall live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life (Psalm 23).

Second Reading – God will supply whatever you need (Philippians 4:12-14, 19-20).

Gospel – I have prepared my banquet, and everything is ready. Come to the feast! (Matthew 22:1-14 [1-10]).

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Gal 4:22-24, 26-27, 31 – 5:1; Lk 11:29-32

Tuesday: Gal 5:1-6; Lk 11:37-41

Wednesday: Gal 5:18-25; Lk 11:42-46

Thursday: Eph 1:1-10; Lk 11:47-54

Friday: Eph 1:11-14; Lk 12:1-7

Saturday: 2 Tm 4:10-17b; Lk 10:1-9

Sunday: Is 45:1, 4-6; Ps 96; 1 Thes 1:1-5b; Mt 22:15-21



The sanctuary flowers this week are to the glory of God and celebration of Don and Donna Lunneborg's 57th wedding Anniversary.

ALTAR SERVERS NEXT WEEK:

Saturday, October 18 5:00 p.m. Jack Bassett
Nick Bassett

Sunday, October 19 10:00 a.m. Jenna Birkeli
Richelle Yunger

Sunday's Collection: October 5, 2008 \$4,833.00