

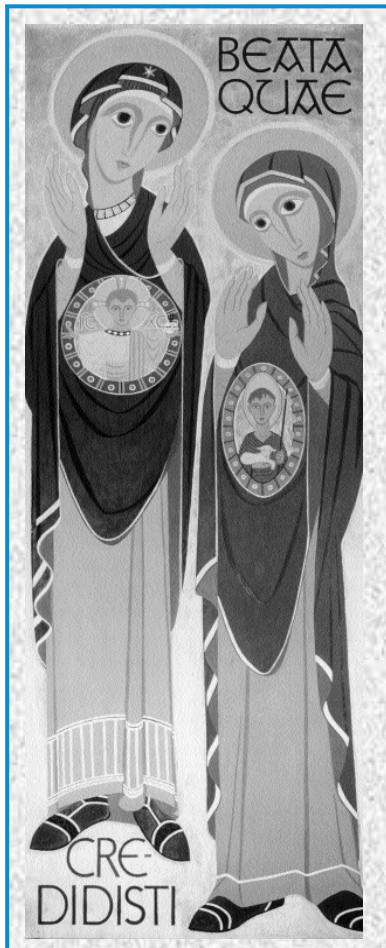
VISITATION CHURCH

10/19/08

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

Father Thomas F.A. O'Brien frthomasobrien@aol.com 612-822-3139

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Master of Ceremonies

Timothy G. Wolfgram

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Parish Pastoral Council

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

Finance Council

Philip Gleason, Chair 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,

As with all professors of English, when summer ends and classes resume, conversations inevitably turn to “what I read this summer.” And so several weeks ago, a colleague recommended his favorite novel of the summer, Edwin O’Connor’s *The Edge of Sadness*, the 1961 winner of the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction. Having great appreciation for my friend’s critical eye in terms of “things literary,” I immediately ordered it online.

It’s a great read! The novel, being “born out of O’Connor’s close friendships with priests and his deep affection for and fidelity to Catholicism and his alert, sympathetic, adjudicating intimacy” with the Church gives a 600-page glimpse of a half year, more or less, in an unnamed city in New England. It is a story rich in humor, in nostalgia, and in a surprising metamorphosis in the life of a diocesan priest. Toward the novel’s conclusion, the antagonist (Father John Carmody) speaks in a rather upbraiding tone to the main character, Father Hugh Kennedy. His remarks read something like this:

“We all know what a real parish is. A real parish is an old-time parish. One with a fine, big, old-fashioned, well-kept church with—and here’s the important thing—lots of Irish to put inside it! People like ourselves, Hugh. The kind of people you grew up with; the kind of people you like; the kind of people you *understand*: comic, picturesque, a little sharp in the tongue at times, maybe, decent, God-fearing, generous, and devout. The kind of people who can sing *Ave Maria* inside the church, but can give you a chorus of *There’s a Little Devil Dancng in Your Laughing Irish Eyes* on the way home. Those are the people the church was really meant for, wouldn’t you say, Hugh? The kind of people we all remember. Or think we do. Isn’t that what a real parish is? And isn’t that really, he said, his tone suddenly dropping the heavy irony, and becoming one of somber, straightforward accusation, ‘isn’t that really the one kind of parish you want? Don’t answer because I know the answer: I know *you*, Hugh.”

I read that paragraph just before I went to sleep the other night. And as I dozed off, I found myself thinking, “No....this parish....Visitation....this is *just* the kind of parish I want.” Why? Because we are so richly blessed; because we have so many talented and generous members in our parish family; because we have been a beacon of light and a refuge of hope for over sixty years in our Lyndale neighborhood; because so many of us find Christ here in so many different ways; because our parish is alive and pregnant with possibilities.

At the same time, we know things have changed. Just this past week, a visitor who grew up in this parish, served Mass for Father Cogwin, told me that he loved our sanctuary space and what had been done since the time of his childhood, but he also noted that we aren’t as we used to be, when we had four Masses each Sunday, each Mass filled to overflowing.

Yes, things have changed. Generally speaking, fewer Americans attend church each Sunday—Catholic or otherwise.

The demographics of our neighborhood have altered the population within our parish boundaries significantly. In the natural trajectory of their lives, families have grown and moved away. All of these changes we can account for; all of them are virtually beyond our reach to alter in any measurable, material way.

But others have left for more personal reasons. Some have been hurt, some disappointed, some rejected, some passed-by. Now it seems to me that—while we may recognize that such moments in our parishioners’ lives express their own freedom of choice, and we recognize that there is often “right” and “wrong,” “fair” and “unfair,” on both sides or many sides—we who wish to follow Christ as members of this parish need to ask ourselves, “Am I willing to extend my hand once again? Am I prepared to reach out with understanding and friendship, and invite again to the Lord’s table all those who are part of Visitation’s past, those who were once here and are here no longer?”

Someone said to me recently, “Well, I will try to go ‘half-way,’ but no more.” While this person may consider this to have been an expression of goodwill (and I have no doubt it was intended as such) I’m afraid it doesn’t go far enough. It doesn’t go far enough for you and it doesn’t go far enough for me—because it doesn’t mirror the Lord’s own dealings with us. If He only were to meet each of us “halfway” and no more, who of us could stand?

In our seventh decade as a parish, founded 62 years ago, literally thousands of men and women, boys and girls, have passed through our doors. They have prayed with us, wept with us, rejoiced with us, been one with us. They have helped us be who we are. Many of them are gone now, many through the passing of years and the vagaries of life. But many *could* come back. I pray that we don’t sit here on our haunches at 46th and Lyndale just hoping that will happen. I believe we need to be more generous, more forgiving, more welcoming, more hospitable, and—most of all—more open than that. Do you know someone who has left Visitation with some pain or sadness, some feeling of disconnectedness or disappointment? Why not reach out to that person; extend an invitation to “come back, come home.”

The Edge of Sadness ends with a wonderful paragraph: “Mark my words, Father,” he [the curate] said joyously, “Great things are in store!” Great things are in store. He bounded happily up the rest of the stairs and disappeared into his bedroom, whistling. I watched him go with amusement, with affection—and with gratitude. And then I left the office and the rectory, and went over into the church to say my prayers....” Great things are in store—if only we make God’s work truly our own. It’s true: God gives the increase. But it’s also true—in a very real and concrete way— that it is up to us.

Father Thomas F.A. O’Brien, Pastor



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

PARISH NEWS

Thank You! Thank you to all who supported the October luncheon. South Side Life Care center was so pleased with your generosity, both financially and materially. We have the best salad bar around I'm sure! Thanks also goes out to everyone who helped with the event.

Last Sundays 2nd collection for Buck Sunday totaled \$356.76. We have deducted these funds in partial payment for the repainting of Choir Room to the left of the sanctuary. Thank you to all who so generously contributed.

Save the date-Saturday, December 6--for the first St. Nicholas Full English Tea to be held here at Visitation. More details to follow!

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

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 next weekend, 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 26. 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.

Visitation video news— Some of our best new DVD's: *Xavier, Missionary Saint*, narrated by Liam Neeson. *Father's Little Dividend* (Spencer Tracy). *The Incredible Human Machine*, human development from conception. *Larry Boy/ Cartoon Adventures*.

October 20-26, 2008



Monday	No Mass Today	
Tuesday	8:00 a.m.	Mary Ann & Lorraine Michaels
Wednesday	8:00 a.m.	Special Intention
Thursday	8:00 a.m.	In Thanksgiving
Friday	8:00 a.m.	All Souls Novena
Saturday	8:00 a.m.	All Souls Novena
	5:00 p.m.	People of Visitation All Souls Novena
Sunday	10:00 a.m.	Mary Sullivan✚
		All Souls Novena

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



TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — The LORD said to Cyrus, his anointed, "I am the LORD, there is no other" (Isaiah 45:1, 46).

Psalm — Give the Lord glory and honor (Psalm 96).

Second Reading — Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy to the church of the Thessalonians: We thank God always for all of you (1 Thessalonians 1:1-5b).

Gospel — Give to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's (Matthew 22:15-21).

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday:	Eph 2:1-10; Lk 12:13-21
Tuesday:	Eph 2:12-22; Lk 12:35-38
Wednesday:	Eph 3:2-12; Lk 12:39-48
Thursday:	Eph 3:14-21; Lk 12:49-53
Friday:	Eph 4:1-6; Lk 12:54-59
Saturday:	Eph 4:7-16; Lk 13:1-9
Sunday:	Ex 22:20-26; Ps 18; 1 Thes 1:5c-10; Mt 22:34-40

ALTAR SERVERS NEXT WEEK:

Saturday, October 25	5:00 p.m.	John Manthei Jarad Dobesh
Sunday, October 26	10:00 a.m.	Maxwell Smith Peter Flynn

Sunday's Collection: October 12, 2008 \$7,787.00