

VISITATION B.V.M., TROOPER, PENNSYLVANIA



MONDAY, MARCH 13, 2006

7:00 AM John A. Bowe, Sr.
8:00 AM William C. Fazio – 2nd Anniv.
12:05 PM Jack Cawley

TUESDAY, MARCH 14, 2006

7:00 AM Paul & Virginia Fusco
8:00 AM C. Anthony Borzelleca
12:05 PM Geraldine Panzullo

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15, 2006

7:00 AM John Vargo
8:00 AM Mary Barnett
12:05 PM Frederick C. Raffetto, Sr.

THURSDAY, MARCH 16 2006

7:00 AM William Kolb
8:00 AM Mary Barnett
12:05 PM Marie Specchialo – 20th Anniv.

FRIDAY, MARCH 17, 2006 – St. Patrick, bishop

7:00 AM John Reilly
8:00 AM Jerald Brian Allen
9:00 AM John Davis

SATURDAY, MARCH 18, 2006 – Cyril of Alexandria, bishop

7:00 AM Earl DiCicco
8:00 AM Cirillo V. Casals - Living



Keller Tschoepe, Steven Zawislack, Julie Bigoski, Edmund Orme, Jr., Eleanor Bucci, Thomas Jackson, Mary Lupo, Jeffrey Brown, Ralph Mutschler, Katie Rorbacker, Joseph P. Devine, Tara Mehl, Joseph Gotowski, Robert Smith, Rose Gotowski, Ralph Mattiola, Betty Clemente, Michael Frank, Billie Massino, Daniel Patrick Sweeney, Cameron John Niemala, Helen Marinari, Aedan Licwinko, Lettie Jones, William Sean Kelly, Gloria Lisowski, Sr., Baby Luke Michael Murray, Camillo Ruzzi, Ray Peters, Maryellen Daniels, Bobby Allen, Edward Doherty, The Dougherty family, Nancy Alizzo, Angela Lamont, Kiersten Reilly, Saad Nassim, Helen Letting, Wanda Purr, Celeste Kleaver, Marie Fennelly, Jack Steele, Jim Buro, Baby Benjamin Wallace, George Kearns, Gregory Kern, Catherine Mossop, Jack Kees

PLEASE REMEMBER OUR BELOVED DECEASED,
ESPECIALLY: Joseph Denick, Helen Burns

WE ARE A TITHING PARISH

"God's Plan for Giving"

Tithing Weekend: March 5, 2006: \$39,391.72

"Comment from the Pastor": "Mother Teresa once said, 'Holiness is not the luxury of the few. It is a simple duty for you and for me. If there are poor in the work, it is because you and I don't give enough.' What a challenge Mother Teresa gives to a tithing parish such as Visitation. There are many poor people within our own community and perhaps their numbers would be fewer if you and I would be more generous with our TIME, TALENT & TREASURE."

"Comments on Tithing from the Pews": "How can anyone put into words what God does for one? The peace...in times of stress is an example. The month's money of one who has a fixed income and yet it seems to go further. God is so subtle. I don't hear bells, fireworks or drums; still my prayers are answered. Don't try to outdo God! He will not allow it. He comes back with more help than before."

ADDITIONAL DAILY MASS DURING LENT: During the Season of Lent, a 12:05PM Mass will be celebrated on Monday, Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Thursdays. A 9AM Mass will be celebrated on all Fridays of Lent. These Masses are in addition to the 7 & 8AM daily Masses.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: Each Wednesday during Lent at 1:15PM and Friday Evenings at 7:30PM, both in the Lower Church. All are welcome!

FAST AND ABSTINENCE AND OTHER ACTS OF PENANCE FOR LENT

The Bishops of the United States prescribe, as minimal obligation, that all persons who are fourteen years of age and older are bound to abstain from eating meat on all Fridays of Lent. Further, all persons eighteen years of age and older, up to and including their fifty-ninth birthday, are bound to fast by limiting themselves to a single full meal on Good Friday, while the other two meals on those days are to be light.

All the faithful are encouraged to participate in Mass and to receive the Most Holy Eucharist daily, to celebrate frequently the Sacrament of Penance, to undertake spiritual reading, especially the study of the Sacred Scriptures, and to participate in parish Lenten devotions as well as Lenten education programs.

COME JOIN US AS WE PRAY THE ROSARY AS A PARISH FAMILY. Bring your special intentions on Wednesday evening at 6:30PM in the Lower Church.

ST. RITA OF CASCIA NOVENA: The Novena is prayed on Tuesday mornings after the 8AM Mass. Favors already received will be announced beforehand. Come join us.



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK...

"Suddenly, looking around, they no longer saw anyone but Jesus alone with them." One week the Gospels take us into the desert with Jesus to fast, to be tempted, to be purified. This week we go up a high mountain with Peter, James and John where the Lord is transfigured, His glory is made manifest. Both are Lenten experiences.

Our Penance and fasting, the little sacrifices that we make in this holy season create space in our lives to be filled with the Lord! Focusing on Him in prayer as we climb the mountain and behold His glory, helps us recognize Him alive in those around us, in the least of His brothers and sisters.

We are very grateful to the many parishioners who have completed pledges to the Capital Campaign, to those who are continuing to make regular payments and to all whose generosity and hard work has enabled us to come this far. The Campaign has been on a "back burner" for several months as we "catch our breath" and enjoy its first fruits in our beautiful renewed school facilities. Please know that the Campaign remains much alive as do the hopes and expectations of Visitation parishioners for a much needed Parish Life Center. Like Rome, our beautiful Church and other parish facilities we enjoy, it may not be built in a day, but it will come!

Peace always,

Msgr. Murray

WELCOME, NEW FAMILIES...We want to know and serve you. Please register at the Rectory, Monday thru Friday – 9 AM to 8 PM. We hope you will join us with your prayers, presence, and talent.



CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD

The process of dismissing children (grades K-2) from Sunday Mass during the Liturgy of the Word occurs at the 9:00 AM and 11:00 AM Masses. No registration is required. All children are welcome!

CHARISMATIC PRAYER MEETING: Each Thursday evening from 6:30-8PM in the Lower Church. All are welcome.

THE VOCATION MONSTRANCE IS COMING



In October 2004, Pope John Paul II blessed a special monstrance to be used in prayer for priestly vocations. Since then, it has traveled throughout the United States and will arrive in our Archdiocese on March 21, 2006. During the week of March 21-28, holy hours utilizing this monstrance will take place in each of the vicariates in the Archdiocese. All the faithful are encouraged to pray before the Blessed Sacrament for an increase in priestly vocations. Join us on Wednesday, March 22, 2006 for a Holy Hour at Mary, Mother of the Redeemer Church in North Wales at 7:30PM and here at Visitation BVM Church on Friday, March 24, 2006, beginning with Mass at 9AM and continuing with adoration throughout the day until 4PM. Please note that the Perpetual Adoration Chapel will be closed during this time.

PERPETUAL ADORATION CHAPEL

Our Chapel is always open for your prayerful visits. Take time out of your hectic schedule to spend a few moments with the Blessed Sacrament. The Chapel is located behind the Convent.

Attention: We are in need of new adorers on Friday at 10PM & Saturday at 6PM & 7PM. If interested, please call Joe Valovage @ 610-630-6070.

CHILDREN'S EUCHARISTIC ADORATION: The Children's Adoration Program will continue on Monday, APRIL 3, 2006 from 3:15 to 3:45PM. Pre-school children and CARES children will meet in the chapel for a brief visit and proceed to the music room until 3:45PM to discuss the importance of adoration. Parents of Pre-school must be in attendance. Please call Joe Valovage @ 610-630-6070 for more information.

DIVINE MERCY NOVENA begins Friday, April 14th and will continue through Saturday, April 22nd. We will meet in the Lower Church at 6:30PM each evening. All are welcome to join us.



SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Congratulations and prayers from our Visitation Family to the following family whose child was recently baptized and incorporated into the Body of Christ:

Christian Giovanni, son of John & Melanie Corrado

PRE-JORDAN SESSION

The next Pre-Jordan Class for expectant parents is scheduled for Thursday, April 13, 2006 from 7 to 8:30 PM in the Larkin Center. Please call the Rectory to register, 610-539-5572.

VISITATION B.V.M. CHURCH, TROOPER, PENNSYLVANIA

RESPECT FOR LIFE INFORMATION

Truly great must be the value of human life if the Son of God has taken it up and made it the instrument of the salvation of all humanity! (John Paul II, The Gospel of Life, No. 33)

Mass of Remembrance: St. Stanislaus Parish, Lansdale, extends an invitation to all those who have been touched in some way by the death of an unborn or newborn child. A Mass of Remembrance will be celebrated on Saturday, March 18th at 7PM. For more information or to have your child be remembered by name, please call Pam Mohl at 215-855-3133. A reception will be held following the Mass in the Parish Center.

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT: If you are grieving the loss of a loved one or helping someone through their grief, you are invited to our parish support group meeting on Sunday, March 12, 2006 from 2-4PM in the lower rectory conference room. Please call Peg McDonough at 610-584-5514 for more information.

LEGION OF MARY: The central annual function of the Legion of Mary is the Acies. All active and auxiliary members and their families are invited to attend this solemn expression of our union and dependence on Mary, our Queen. This year's Acies will be held at Visitation B.V.M. Church on Sunday, March 26, 2006 at 2PM. For more information, call Josephine Boccella at 610-539-8750.

AID TO THE CHURCH IN CENTRAL & EASTERN EUROPE

Collection Weekend of March 25-26, 2006

The Collection to Aid the Church in Central & Eastern Europe responds directly to the requests of local bishops to support seminaries, social service programs, youth ministry, and pastoral centers, to restore churches and to spread the Gospel message through the mass media. Here is an opportunity for us to give concrete witness to our compassionate concern for the universal Church. We encourage your generous support of this collection.

PLEASE CONTINUE YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT OF OUR PARISH VOUCHER

- Macy's – 10% of every gift card sold by Visitation
- Acme & Giant – 5% of every voucher sold by Visitation
- Plaza Flowers - \$4 of every order \$35 or more when "BVM" charity code is used.
- Genuardi – 1-3% of total amount spent when use Genuardi card. *Thanks for your support!*

Vouchers are sold Monday-Friday at the Rectory.

MOM'S ANNUAL RETREAT: Moms! Looking for a way to replenish your heart? Attend the 10th annual MOM-Heart of the Home Day of Renewal for mothers. March 25th at Kennedy-Kenrick. For more info, call Pat Petrauskas - 610-754-6686 or online at www.momheartofthehome.org. Registration forms are in the back of church.

ST. JOSEPH'S TABLE: All are welcome to attend the celebration for St. Joseph's Feast Day on Sunday, March 19th from 1-5PM in the Larkin Center. "Mangia" or in English – Eat! Italian foods traditionally served on St. Joseph's Day will be served. All are welcome – young, old, families, friends. Good will donations will be accepted.



PALM BRAIDING: Learn the art of Palm Braiding in preparation for Palm Sunday. Classes are sponsored by the Visi-Bees and will be held in the Larkin Center. All are welcome. Children under the age of thirteen must be accompanied by an adult. Classes are free and will be held on: *Sunday, March 12th @ 7:30PM; Monday, March 13th @ 7PM; Friday, March 17th @ 2PM; Sunday, March 19th @ 7:30PM; Thursday, March 23rd @ 7PM.* Palm Braiders are needed to assist with making braided palm remembrances to be offered to Parishioners on Palm Sunday. Donations for the braided palm pieces are welcome. Call Anne Dozer at 610-631-1171 should you need any further information.

"SPIRIT TO HEAL" SEMINAR AT VISITATION

Visitation will host doctors Michael Torosian M.D. and Veruschka Biddle Ph.D on March 28th at 7PM in the school auditorium. The doctors will explain how spirituality and prayer can create hope and peace and significantly strengthen the human body. For more information, call 610-584-5957.

WOMEN'S GUILD NEWS

Executive Board Meeting: Tuesday, March 14th @ 7:15PM; General Meeting: 8PM. Program – Sarah Agnew "Irish Music".

Save the Date! Friday, April 21st, for our Annual Spring Basket Raffle.

CUB SCOUT PACK 369 – Scouts & Families: The "Blue Gold Mass" will be celebrated at the 9AM Mass on Sunday, March 19th. Scouts must wear full dress uniform and are asked to report to the lower church by 8:40AM.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS



Congratulations and God's peaceful blessing to all those who received First Reconciliation this Saturday, March 11th.

Reminders:

- March 13-20th – Confirmation Interviews will be held
- Wednesday, March 15th – Confirmation Retreat
- Monday, March 27th – Confirmation Written Test
- Sunday, April 2nd – First Eucharist Poster Mass

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT – MARCH 12, 2006

- Tuesday, April 4th – First Eucharist Retreat for Visitation Students
- Wednesday, April 5th – First Eucharist Retreat for PREP STUDENTS

FIRST EUCHARIST POSTER MASS: Sunday, April 2nd. First Eucharist Candidates and their family may attend any Mass of their choice. Pews will not be reserved. You may sit anywhere throughout the church. Be sure to bring your First Eucharist Poster with you to Mass. A letter explaining this further will be sent home through school and PREP.

CONFIRMATION: All paperwork and fees must be turned in to the Religious Education Office as soon as possible. Confirmation candidates will not receive their Confirmation robes unless all paperwork and the fee are turned in.

CONFIRMATION RETREAT: Confirmation candidates will attend the Confirmation Retreat on Wednesday, March 15th at Malvern. Visitation School students should report to school in their usual manner. PREP students MUST report to Visitation School Gym by 8:15AM. Buses will leave Visitation parking lot promptly at 8:30AM. The "Permission" slip MUST be signed and turned in prior to March 15th in order for a Confirmation Candidate to board the bus. The bus will return students to Visitation by 2PM. Visitation School students will report back to their classrooms and dismiss at their usual time. PREP students MUST be picked up at Visitation School by 2PM.

FIRST EUCHARIST: The First Eucharist Record Keeping form and the fee were due to be turned in on March 6th. Please send this in to the Religious Education Office as soon as possible.

PILGRIM VIRGIN STATUE – Week of March 13th:
Michelle & Julie Mandrachia Family



IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER:

Monday, March 13 – Faculty Retreat Day; no school for students.

Tuesday, March 14-Thursday, March 16 – Terra Nova Testing for Grades 2 & 3.

Wednesday, March 15 – Stations & Benediction; Grades 6-8 at 1:15PM.

Friday, March 17 – Lenten Friday Mass; Grades 2-5 at 9AM

Monday, March 20 – Distribution of Second Trimester Report Cards.

Wednesday, March 22 – Stations of the Cross & Benediction at 1:15PM, Grades 3-5 attend.

Thursday, March 23 – Open House for Prospective Parents at 10AM

Friday, March 24 – Lenten Friday Mass at 9AM, Grades 1-8 attend as Visitation Parish hosts the Monstrance blessed by the late Pope John Paul II. Students will have special adoration times to pray for religious vocations.

Monday, March 27 – Lenten Reconciliation Service & Confessions, 9AM, Grades 3-8

Wednesday, March 29 – Stations of the Cross & Benediction at 1:15PM, Grades 6-8 attend.

Thursday, March 30 – Assembly on Conflict Resolution for Grades 6-8, 1PM, sponsored by Home & School.

Congratulations to Colin Brier, Grade 7, who won the Catholic War Veterans Spelling Bee on Friday, March 3, 2006. Best wishes to Colin as he now continues on to state competition.

Congratulations to the Visitation Cheerleaders who placed first in a recent competition at Norristown High School. In addition, they received a first place award for dance and a second place award for cheer in the Kennedy-Kenrick sponsored cheerleading competition on Saturday, March 4th. Best wishes to the cheerleaders in their remaining two competitions in March.

UPCOMING REGISTRATION DATE

2006-2007

Tuesday, March 21, 2006 - New students to Grades 1-8, 9AM until 11AM; Child must be 6 by Sept. 1st for First Grade.

MIDDLE STATES UPDATE

The Visitation Faculty has been involved in on-going professional research, in conjunction with the Project Evaluation for Middle States Re-Accreditation. As a result of some of this research, a note-taking program is being initiated school-wide. More information on this program will be forthcoming.

Faculty committees make presentations to the faculty at large on a bi-weekly schedule. The many ideas which surface have proven very beneficial for the writing, reading and English goals on behalf of the students.

8TH GRADE RETREAT PARENT MEETING: A Parents' Committee Meeting will be held on Monday, March 13th at 7:30PM in the School Art Room. All are invited to attend!

Statue for the Week of March 14th:
The D'Aquilante Family



Pee Wee Track Registration: Attention all Kindergarten, 1st, 2nd, & 3rd grade parish children. Pee Wee Track Registration will be held for boys & girls on Thursday, March 16th from 6-8PM in the Visitation School Lobby. Any questions, call Brian Kiniry at 610-630-4009.

Co-Ed High School Volleyball Team: All High School students, any age, any skill level, are invited to join our co-ed volleyball team! We play against other HS CYO groups in the area from March to May. There will be a registration fee, and you will get a team t-shirt. If interested, contact Anna Byrnes (byrnesie919@earthlink.net).