

The Catholic Community of Rankin and Swissvale

MADONNA DEL CASTELLO PARISH

2021 S. Braddock Avenue • Swissvale, PA 15218



December 13, 2015



Word of God Catholic Parish

7446 McClure Avenue • Swissvale, PA 15218

Administrative Office: 2021 S. Braddock Avenue • Pittsburgh, PA 15218

MASS SCHEDULE

Daily:	Monday (Madonna)	7:00 P.M.
	Tuesday (Word of God)	9:30 A.M.
	Wednesday (Madonna)	8:00 A.M.
	Thursday (Word of God)	9:30 A.M.
	Friday (Madonna)	8:00 A.M.
	Saturday (Word of God)	9:30 A.M.
	Saturday Vigil (Madonna)	4:00 P.M.
	Saturday Vigil (Word of God)	6:00 P.M.
	Sunday (Word of God)	9:00 A.M.
	Sunday (Madonna)	11:00 A.M.

Consult the bulletin for Holy Day and Holiday Mass schedule

PARISH STAFF

Fr. John Lynam *Pastor*
 Keith Kondrich *Deacon*
 Ron Demblowski *Deacon/Pastoral Associate*
 Edward Kapsha *Madonna Music Director*
 Michael Burke *Word of God Music Director*
 Kelly James *Madonna Parish Secretary*
 Karen Flynn *Word of God Parish Secretary*
 Marcia Murello *Coordinator of Religious Ed.*

CONTACT INFORMATION

Parish Office (Madonna) 412-271-5666
 Parish Office (Word of God) 412-241-1372
 Parish Office Fax 412-271-2335
 Religious Education Office 412-271-5666
 Music Ministry (Madonna) EKAPD5965@gmail.com
 Bp. Dattilo Social Hall 412-271-3959
 Madonna Website www.madonnadelcastello.org
 Word of God E-mail wordofgod1994@verizon.net
 Church Street Convent 412-271-3346
 Parish Prayer Line 412-371-3173

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday, 12:00/Noon
(Word of God church)

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Contact the Parish Office
for an appointment

SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY

Contact the Parish Office
for an appointment at least
6 months before the wedding

SACRAMENT OF THE SICK

Available after Mass
and upon request

East Catholic School 412-351-5403
2001 Ardmore Blvd., Pgh., PA 15221

Sr. Judith Stojhovic, RSM *Principal*
School Website www.eastcatholicschool.org

A member of the East Catholic School Consortium

Bulletin Deadline Monday at Noon.



John answered them all, saying, "I am baptizing you with water, but one mightier than I is coming. I am not worthy to loosen the thongs of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire." -Lk 3:16

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1986, 1970 CCD

A NOTE FROM FATHER JOHN

Thank you to Charles Nied for donating calendars.

The annual **Christmas Charities Collection for Children and Youth** will be received on Christmas Day. This collection supports a number of programs that serve many children and youth who depend on our generosity and loving concern for them. The collection is credited to our Parish Share assessment.

††††

CHRISTMAS DISCERNMENT RETREAT-Fri. evening, Dec. 18-Sun. Morning, Dec. 20, Gilmory Retreat



Center.: Fr. Joe Freedy, and Frs. Welding, Vaskov & Noel will lead a retreat for those who desire a deeper relationship with Christ, seeking to know their vocation, and are interested in learning more

about discerning a vocation to the priesthood. Included: daily Mass, Adoration, Confession, conferences, talk and discussion with bishop Zubik. For men ages 18 or older (no cost); info./reg. www.pghpriest.com.

Child Protective Services Law: Report any acts of child abuse to Commonwealth of PA Hotline 1-800-932-0313.
Diocesan Victim Assistance Hotline: 1-888-808-1235
 Diocesan website, www.diopitt.org, under "Protecting God's Children." Sessions available on-line. **Diocesan Safe Environment Certification:** Contact Kelly James

PRO LIFE CORNER: If God sent His Son into the world today, how long before an ill-informed friend or doctor would say that child is unwanted-abortion him. Thank God for Mary's yes to His plan. Lord, grant that we will have the same openness to God's will for us.



WEEKLY MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday - December 12 - Vigil

4:00 PM For the People
 6:00 PM Lucia Zaccardi (Daughter, Amantina)

Third Sunday of Advent - December 13

9:00 AM Mary Elizabeth Martin (Fran Shink, Friend)
 11:00 AM Stella & John King (Miriam)

Monday - December 14 - St. John of the Cross

7:00 PM Beloved Deceased of Bonacci & Martin Families
 (John & Janice Bonacci)

Tuesday - December 15

9:30 AM Rosella & Isabelle Bianco (Family)

Wednesday - December 16

8:00 AM Josephine Poklemba (Gloria Blatnica)

Thursday - December 17

9:30 AM Wilbur Goff (Nieces-Lu Ann, Cindy, Sandra & Diane)

Friday - December 18

8:00 AM Mary & Joseph Sepesy (Family)

Saturday - December 19

9:30 AM Edward Ozimek (Curt Roemele)

Saturday - December 19 Vigil

4:00 PM Kitty Battaglia (Kimberly Battaglia)
 6:00 PM Victoria Kavulic (Norman Snyder & Family)

Fourth Sunday of Advent - December 20

9:00 AM For the People
 11:00 AM Frank Palangio (Vera & Family)

THIS WEEK

Sunday - Utilities Collection

9:00 AM to 11:00 AM - Gift Shop open, 1st floor, Parish Center

Monday

9:00 AM P.O.W.E.R. Wrap - Parish Center
 7:00 PM Word of God Choir Rehearsal - Word of God

Wednesday

10:30 AM Legion of Mary - Dattilo Hall

Thursday

1:30 PM Mass - Swissvale Towers, Community Room, 1st Floor

Friday

7:00 PM Holy Hour-Madonna

Saturday

8:45 AM to 10:30 AM - CCD Christmas Program - Madonna
 12:00 PM Reconciliation - Word of God Parish

Next Sunday

9:00 AM to 11:00 AM - Gift Shop open, 1st floor, Parish Center

ON MISSION FOR THE CHURCH ALIVE



"All the good works in the world are not equal to the holy sacrifice of the Mass because they are the works of men; but the Mass is the work of God...the Mass is the sacrifice of God for man." Those are the words of St. John Vianney, the 19th century French priest who is the patron saint of all priests. At the heart of Catholic worship is the Mass. Never take the liturgy for granted. Think of ways to help you and your fellow parishioners experience the life-changing power of the Mass. To read more, check out "On Mission for The Church Alive!" on page 5 of this week's *Pittsburgh Catholic* and visit www.OnMissionChurchAlive.org.

LOOK FOR THE LIGHTHOUSE MEDIA KIOSK

AT BOTH PARISHES: Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God. Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Phil 4. It is no coincidence that this has been declared the Year of Mercy....how it will evolve, only through our prayers and petitions of thanksgiving will give the answer! **Please be sure to place your suggested donation in the money slot on the display so the ministry can be self-supporting.**



A Christmas Flower Memorial Envelope is included in your regular donation envelope packet. Please return it by Mon., Dec. 14th.



COOKIES FOR CHRISTMAS: Orders for cookies are being taken **through Dec. 13.** Order forms to place orders are available in the racks/on the tables. **Orders can be picked up at Madonna Sat., Dec. 19 after 4p.m. Mass & Sun., Dec. 20 after**



11a.m. Mass. Questions-call Lois Petrarca, 412-646-2344 or Mary Iannucci, 412-371-4912.

Walk Through The Holy Door With Bishop

Zubik: In response to Pope Francis' call for a Jubilee Year of Mercy, Bishop Zubik will open a Holy Door on **Sun., Dec. 13, 2:30p.m.** during a special Mass at St. Paul Cathedral. Everyone is welcome to be led through the Holy Door. For more information check www.diopitt.org/jubilee-year-mercy.



MASS-Thurs., Dec. 17, 1:30p.m., Swissvale Towers, 1826 Monongahela Ave., Community Rm., 1st Fl.

CHRISTMAS CAR MAGNETS: Display the true meaning of Christmas to all by displaying this holy magnet on your car or front door. These magnets are made with durable vinyl that will not damage your vehicle paint or finish. All proceeds benefit the Swissvale Knights of Columbus Holiday Exceptional Adult Fund. For info. call Dan Pulcini, 412-443-1069.

EAST CATHOLIC SCHOOL: Tues., Dec. 15, 7:00 p.m. - Grades 6-8 will present the "Living Nativity" at St. Maurice Church. They will tell the story of Jesus' birth through narration, song and liturgical dance.

Wed., Dec. 16-"Perfect for Preschoolers Story-time," 12:30p.m.-1:30p.m., school library. This is a free story, rhyme, song and craft program designed to entertain and engage young children. Program is for children 2 1/2 to 5 years old and designed to give them a positive introduction to books and the habit of reading. Each program features appealing books, favorite stories, and lively activities. The theme is "Christmas." We invite all children along with their parent or guardian to come and visit. Registration is required-call the school office, 412-351-5403 (8:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m.) Final date for registration is Mon., Dec.14. Catholic follows Woodland Hills School District Weather cancellation.

Virtual Tour of the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem is online at www.obethlehem.com

NURSING HOME, HOMEBOUND & HOSPITAL LISTS: Very often we are not aware of parishioners who are hospitalized, homebound, or in nursing homes. Please let the parish office know of any parishioners who would like to receive communion and/or a visit from a priest.

Saint Vincent de Paul Sarris Candy Orders are available for pickup the weekend of **Dec. 12-13.** Our Conference thanks you for your support.



LADIES OF CHARITY REMINDER-POWER WRAP IS Mon., Dec. 14, 9:00 a.m., Parish Center, 1st floor.

LADIES OF CHARITY: Please pay your dues and report your volunteer hours by Sun., Dec. 20th. They can be put in the collection basket or taken to the parish office. Thank you!

Ecumenical Carol Festival: Sun., Dec. 13th, 6:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m., Pittsburgh Mennonite Church, 2018 So.



Braddock Ave., Swissvale. Carols sung by the audience will be interspersed with music, readings, storytelling, etc. from members of area churches. A money offering will be taken for the local Food Cupboards. A reception will follow. Sponsored by the Swissvale Ministerial Association.

Mercy to Those of Same Sex Attraction: Fr. Joseph Luisi, pastor of North American Martyrs, will host a workshop at DeLuca Hall **Mon., Dec. 14, 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.** There will be a one hour documentary, "Desire of the Everlasting Hills" which is an insightful view of the lives of Dan, Rilene and Paul—all of whom are Catholic and who have experienced same sex attraction. This documentary was an Official Selection of the John Paul II Inter-Faith Film Festival in 2015. This film is sponsored by Courage International which is a Catholic ministry aimed at helping Catholics who experience same-sex attraction. The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops endorses Courage International. There is no fee. This subject matter is appropriate for adults only—no children or teens under 18. We will also be using the Documentary Discussion Guide that accompanies the film. This documentary and discussion will clear up misconceptions and allow each of us to understand and love one another as Christ loves us. For more information call 412-373-0330.

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE:

Dec. 24 4:00 p.m. - Madonna
6:00 p.m. - Word of God
Midnight - Word of God
Dec. 25 10:00a.m. - Madonna

**Readings for December 20, Third Sunday of Advent**

1st Reading: Micah 5:1-4...The ruler of Israel is promised to come from Bethlehem.

2nd Reading: Hebrews 10:5-10...Through obedience to God's will Christ consecrated all.

Gospel Reading: Luke 1:39-45...Mary visits Elizabeth who cries out with praises to Mary and her child.

Question for reflection: What turns you away from doing what God wants?

Madonna del Castello



The Tabernacle Lamp is in memory of Andrew Orfitelli from Gilda Orfitelli.



The Altar Candles are in memory of Andrew Orfitelli from Gilda Orfitelli.



The Altar Bread & Wine are in memory of Andrew Orfitelli from Gilda Orfitelli.



The Altar Flowers are in memory of Andrew Orfitelli from Gilda Orfitelli.

PSP Donation: In memory of Albert Vasquez from Sam & Shirley Rocco, Donna Veyliotti.

CONGRATULATIONS to Ken & Frances Chelosky, who celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary recently.

Offertory for December 6 - \$2,884.00

Parish Share Assessed - \$40,871 Collected - \$49,575

GIVING TREE: Our Annual Giving Tree is set up in the back of the church. Take one of the decorations, upon which are printed the gifts needed. Return the gift to the church by the weekend of Dec. 12th & 13th. DO NOT WRAP GIFT. Call Joelle with any questions at 412-860-8548.

DECORATING FOR CHRISTMAS: We will be decorating for Christmas on **Sun., Dec. 20, after the 11:00 a.m. Mass.** We need volunteers to help. If you are interested, just show up on Sun. If you have any questions, call the parish office.

Anyone who would like to have any or all of the gifts celebrated in memory of or tribute to a loved one(s) at **Madonna del Castello Parish**, should complete the form below, place information and money in a plain envelope and deposit the sealed envelope in the collection basket, mail it to the parish office or deposit in the mail slot.

Madonna del Castello Memorial/Living Tribute Request

I would like to offer:

Altar Flowers (\$50) _____	Altar Candles (\$10) _____
Altar Bread (\$25) _____	Tabernacle Lamp (\$10) _____
Altar Wine (\$25) _____	Complete Offering (\$120) _____

In Memory of _____

In Tribute to _____

From _____

Phone _____



WORD OF GOD



THROUGHOUT THIS WEEK IN WORD OF GOD PARISH LITURGIES, we will use the Altar Bread, Wine, Candles & Sanctuary Lamp in memory of **Ann Rajakovich** from family.



IN YOUR CHARITY, please pray for the souls of **Marjorie D. Frank**, wife of the late William "Bill"; and **Audrey Martinchich**, wife of Robert, who were buried recently from Word of God Parish. May their souls rest in peace with Christ.

Please consider remembering the parish in your will.

WORD OF GOD COLLECTION

December 6.....\$7,158.00

Parish Share Assessed: \$71,000 Collected: \$85,640

PARISH SHARE: Money received over the assessment is returned to the parish. You may send in payments any time during the month or put them in the offering basket. If you have not given or made a pledge, there is still time to do. Any contribution received after December 31 will be credited to the next tax year.

Canterbury Corner Gift Shop is now open!!



Visit the Gift Shop in its new location on the first floor of the Word of God Parish Center. Please note: Hours of operation are: 9:00a.m.--11:00a.m. Sundays only. The Gift Shop will be **CLOSED** on December 27. Available now are Advent wreaths and replacement candles, gifts for the Christmas season, Christmas wafers (Oplatki), beautiful and unique boxed Christmas cards (**including Irish designs**), and religious giftware. **Christmas wafers (Oplatki) will also be available in church after the 4:00p.m. Mass (Madonna) and the 6:00p.m. Mass (Word of God) on these following Saturday evenings only: December 12, and December 19.** The suggested offering for an envelope of four wafers is \$2.00.

MEMORIAL OFFERING: Any or all of the gifts at **Word of God Parish** can be celebrated in memory of a loved one(s). Please fill out the form below and drop it off at the parish office, send through the mail or put it in the collection basket. You may request a particular week. Dates requested will be scheduled on a first-come/first served basis.

WORD OF GOD PARISH MEMORIAL OFFERING REQUEST FORM

I would like to offer:

ALTAR BREADS \$30 _____	SANCTUARY LAMP \$5 _____
ALTAR WINE \$15 _____	COMPLETE OFFERING \$60 _____
ALTAR CANDLES \$10 _____	

IN MEMORY OF _____

FROM _____

WEEK _____

PHONE _____

Growing in FAITH™

Discovering hope and joy in the Catholic faith.

December 2015

Madonna del Castello and Word of God Parishes

Rev. John Lynam, Pastor

One Minute Meditations

St. Thomas Becket

Thomas enjoyed power and riches as a close friend of England's King Henry II, who appointed him chancellor of England. In 1162, King Henry had Thomas named Archbishop of Canterbury. The King tried to pressure Thomas and the other bishops into agreeing to laws allowing the state to regulate Church matters, but Thomas refused. The King exiled Thomas, who fled to France for safety. To protect the Church, Thomas returned to England and was martyred soon after.



Gratitude and Generosity

Gratitude and generosity often go hand in hand. God is generous in his blessings to us, and often gives us more than we need. Our gratitude inspires us to "give back" to God. Gratitude is the attitude of a generous heart.

"Do not let your left hand know what your right is doing, so that your almsgiving may be secret. And your Father who sees in secret will repay you" (Mathew 6:3-4).



Unwrap the gifts from your Father

God loves to give his children gifts, especially at Christmas. "Thanks be to God for his inexpressible gift" (2 Corinthians 9:15). This year, unwrap your heavenly gifts ...

Joy - "Shout, and sing for joy, O inhabitant of Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel" (Isaiah 12:6). We are joyful because God gave us the gift of himself. Celebrate by talking about God with others.

For example, tell how he has blessed you in the last year.

Peace - "Be not afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which

will come to all the people" (Luke 2:10). Is it possible to live in the world and not be afraid? Yet peace is what the angel advised Zechariah, Mary, and the shepherds at the

Incarnation. Take the angel's advice and "be not afraid." Accept the gift of peace; avoid worry and doubt.

Love - When God sent his Son to our rescue, he gave us an incomprehensible gift of love. This gift calls for a response,

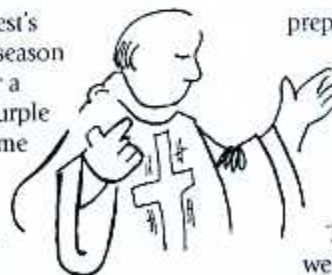
as he invites us to share in his love. "Beloved, let us love one another; for love is of God, and he who loves is born of God and knows God" (1 John 4:7). Share love at Christmas by spending time, not money, on those you love.



Why Do Catholics Do That?

Why does the priest wear purple during Advent?

The colors of the priest's vestments highlight a season of the liturgical year or a mystery of the faith. Purple (violet) represents a time of penance and preparation. During three weeks of Advent, the priest wears violet vestments to remind us to



prepare penitentially for Christ's coming. On the third Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday), he wears rose vestments to signal the halfway point of Advent. This is a happy time when we anticipate the joy in Christ's coming.

The peacemakers are children of God

This is the season during which we become our better selves. Peace reigns in our hearts while we exchange gifts and pleasant thoughts. The best gift we can offer the King of Peace, however, is to be peacemakers throughout the year.

Bring harmony. It isn't enough to avoid conflict. Peacemaking means admitting wrongdoing and accepting responsibility immediately. Peacemakers give up ground even if they are entitled to it.

Allow small things to remain small. It can be easy to find opportunities to take offense or find others in the



wrong. Peacemakers don't accept every opportunity they are offered for a fight.

Catch others at their best. Gratitude and graciousness are the best remedies for conflict and anxiety. Share respect freely. Bring goodwill to every situation.

Watch for opportunities to spread peace. Daily you will face situations in which you will have to make a choice, take a stand, defend a position, or seek a peaceful resolution. Be prepared to be a peacemaker even when it won't be popular, pleasant or easy.

from Scripture

Luke 2:41-52, Living in the world

In this reading, the Holy Family went to Jerusalem during the year Jesus was twelve. In those days, a Hebrew boy became a man around the age of twelve and was recognized in a ceremony we know as a Bar Mitzvah. At this point a Jewish boy would begin formal education in the Torah and Hebrew Scriptures.

This was an important time in Jesus' life. This reading said that Jesus stayed behind to talk with the scholars and teachers, and told his parents he was doing his Father's work. He had become aware of his duties to his



Father in Heaven, yet he remained mindful of his responsibilities to his parents on Earth and obediently left with them.

Christians live in the world, in neighborhoods, schools, and workplaces. Jesus demonstrated his respect for his ties to his family, yet he continued to pursue his place in God's plan of salvation.

The lesson for us is we don't have to retire from the world to be holy. Instead, we have to find ways to live a holy life in the world.

Q & A Where did we get the Nativity Scene?

The tradition of the nativity scene started in Greccio, Italy. St. Francis of Assisi was amazed that God, out of love for us, would allow himself to be born

in a lowly stable. He wanted to illustrate the humility of the Bethlehem scene for those around him. Three years before his death, he had the chance to do just that. The



chapel his order usually used was too crowded to celebrate Midnight Mass indoors, so St. Francis set up an altar in a nearby cave and celebrated Mass there.

With the permission of the Holy Father, St. Francis also set up a manger in the cave and brought in an ox and a donkey. The nativity scene was powerful in rekindling the faith of the people of Greccio. A former soldier even reported seeing the wax figure of the baby Jesus come to life! Whether the figure came to life or not remains a mystery. Today, it reminds us God "was made flesh, and dwelt among us" (John 1:14).

Feasts & Celebrations

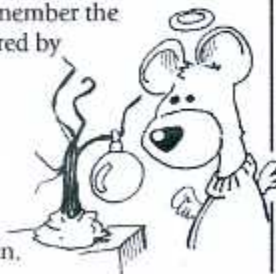
Dec. 8 – The Immaculate Conception of Mary. On this day we commemorate that Mary was conceived in St. Anne's womb without original sin. In addition to attending Mass, praying the rosary is a wonderful way to celebrate.

Dec. 9 – St. Juan Diego (1548). A humble Native American and faithful Christian, Juan Diego was visited by the Blessed Virgin at Tepeyac Hill in Mexico. She asked that a chapel be built for her, and sent him to the bishop with roses as a sign. When the roses were emptied before the bishop, Juan's cape

retained the image of the Blessed Mother.

Dec. 21 – St. Peter Canisius (1597). Born in Holland, Peter joined the Jesuits in 1546, and worked to safeguard the faith through his writings and teachings. His work, The Catechism of the Catholic Church, is still used today.

Dec. 28-The Holy Innocents: On this day, we remember the infants massacred by King Herod's soldiers (Matthew 2:16-18). We also pray for the safety of unborn children.



Our Mission

To provide practical ideas that promote faithful Catholic living.

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