

The Catholic Community of Rankin and Swissvale

MADONNA DEL CASTELLO PARISH

2021 S. Braddock Avenue • Swissvale, PA 15218



December 20, 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.



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A NOTE FROM FATHER JOHN

Thank you to the Kutch Funeral Home for donating calendars.

††††

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: Are we prepared to follow the way of the Lord? Are we willing to follow Mary's example and say 'yes' to God's will in our lives? God

wants to live in our hearts and our souls. He wants to live in us, give us His peace, His love, His mercy. Let us respond as did Mary—let it be done to me according to your Word.



WEEKLY MASS INTENTIONS

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)

Monday - December 21 - St. Peter Canisius

7:00 PM David Iovino (Patricia Catone)

Tuesday - December 22

9:30 AM Maria & Joe Dichiera (Dtr., Rosetta & Son-in-law Family)

Wednesday - December 23

8:00 AM August & Mollie Perrotto (Family)

Thursday - December 24

9:30 AM William Mularkey (Ann Mularkey)

Thursday - December 24 - Vigil - Nativity of the Lord

4:00 PM (M) For the Poor & Lonely

6:00 PM (W) Deceased of Hyland Family (Jim & Rita Hyland)

12:00 AM (W) Norbert Hollan (Wife, Carolyn)

Friday - December 25 - Nativity of the Lord

10:00 AM (M) For the Children

Saturday - December 26 - St. Stephen

9:30 AM Dennis McLaughlin (Barbara McLaughlin)

Saturday - December 26 - Vigil

4:00 PM Anthony Pallotta (Bernie Stecik)

6:00 PM Mike Limbcher (Lucy & Family)

Sunday - December 27 - Holy Family

9:00 AM Norm DeLuca (Dolores Davies)

11:00 AM For the People

THIS WEEK

Sunday

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

Monday

7:00 PM Word of God Choir Rehearsal - Word of God

Wednesday

10:30 AM Legion of Mary - Dattilo Hall

Thursday - Parish Office Open until 12:00 Noon

Friday - Christmas Charities Collection

Saturday

12:00 PM Reconciliation - Word of God Parish

ON MISSION FOR THE CHURCH ALIVE

If we get too caught up in the secular celebration of Christmas, we may experience that day-after feeling of "is that all there is?" There is nothing wrong with all the lights and jingle bells if we remember what we are celebrating: the birth of Jesus. We are called to become His disciples, to live out our faith in love and service. That is the work of formation that must go on in us every day of the year. Make today another step in your formation as a disciple of Jesus. 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.



LEADERSHIP BREAKFAST-Sat., Feb. 6, 8:30a.m.-11:30a.m.,

St. Paul Seminary Cardinals' Great Hall. Youth Ministry Leaders, volunteers, parents, young adult professionals, and WYD pilgrims are invited to join Bishop Zubik for a leadership breakfast inspired by Pope Francis' Year of Mercy. To register, please visit <http://yearofmercy.eventbrite.com>.

LOOK FOR THE LIGHTHOUSE MEDIA KIOSK AT BOTH PARISHES:

Our challenge, our joy, our goal is to be open to doing God's will. Mary is our perfect example. As she declared her immediate 'yes' as the 'handmaid of the Lord', let us also, through her intercession, offer our 'yes' to His will. Take advantage of the multitude of guides, and be open to His words! **Please be sure to place your suggested donation in the money slot on the display so the ministry can be self-supporting.**



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.

BECOME CATHOLIC? To become a Catholic, a person takes a wonderful spiritual journey through the process called The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA). We invite anyone who is not baptized, baptized in another Christian faith, and baptized Catholics who have not received First Communion and/or Confirmation on this journey that begins with get-acquainted sessions. Please extend an invitation to anyone you know who would like to join us. They may be waiting to be asked. There are special brochures in the literature racks or on the tables. Contact: Deacon Ron Demblowski, 412.241.1372 or wordofgod-pa@gmail.com.



COOKIES FOR CHRISTMAS: 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.



Stay connected with Madonna del Castello and Word of God Parishes through our new Catholic Community of Swissvale & Rankin's Facebook Page at: www.facebook.com/pages/Catholic-Community-of-Swissvale-Rankin/1448072735511686

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.

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



OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP DEVOTIONS are conducted every Saturday after the 9:30a.m. Mass at Word of God Parish. The 10 minute devotional concludes with a blessing of the Assembly with the icon of Our Lady of Perpetual Help. The icon shows Mary protecting Jesus with her arms around Him. Her solemn face looks directly at us as the archangel Michael and Gabriel bring the instruments of Christ's crucifixion, a lance, sponge, cross, and nails.

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.

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!



The Nativity of the Lord

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



THERE WILL BE NO HOLY HOUR before Mass Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

Madonna del Castello



The Tabernacle Lamp is in memory of Charles Argenzio from Helen Argenzio & Daughter.



The Altar Candles are for the DeFrank & Ciao Families from Josephine Ciao.



The Altar Bread & Wine are in memory of Frank Palangio from Vera & Family.

Rest In Peace: Steve Santoro, son of Ann & the late Samuel.

Offertory for December 13- \$3,657.00

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

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.

THANK YOU

A special thanks to Mary Pat Valentino & Joelle Matthews for conducting the Giving Tree Project this year and to all who generously gave to the needy of our area. We are grateful for your charity.

OFFICE HOURS

The office will be open until Noon on Thursday, December 24 and closed Friday, December 25.

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 **Mondry & Furry Families** from Larry & Pat Furry.



IN YOUR CHARITY, please pray for the soul of **Joseph Burg**, husband of Helen, who was buried recently from Word of God Parish. May his soul rest in peace with Christ.

Please consider remembering the parish in your will.

WORD OF GOD COLLECTIONS

December 13.....	\$5,855.00
Utilities.....	\$816.00
Immaculate Conception.....	\$1,517.00

Parish Share Assessed: \$71,000 Collected: \$86,945

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 Saturday, Dec. 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 _____

GIVING TO YOUR PARISH

As you plan your giving for 2015 consider that there are ways to make revocable or irrevocable planned and deferred gifts to the parish in addition to outright cash. Here are some options to consider.

July-September 2015 Issue



"Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God."

—1 Corinthians 9:10-11

Establish a Named Endowment Fund

Your current donation or future gift through your will, gift annuity or trust can establish a named fund in the Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh Foundation, *Sharing in Faith™*, *Our Catholic Legacy* that will benefit your parish forever.

A Tale of Three Sisters—Four Charitable Gift Annuities and a Bequest

In 1999 and in 2005, Alice F. Angst established two \$10,000 charitable gift annuities, one to benefit St. Basil Parish and the other for St. Thomas More Parish. Alice's sister Jean Angst, in 1999 and 2008, invested a total of \$55,000 in two gift annuities to benefit the Bishop's Education Fund (BEF), the largest scholarship fund in the Diocese of Pittsburgh Foundation. Both of these generous sisters passed away recently, Jean at 87 and Alice at 90 years of age. The two parishes received a total of over \$7,000 from the remainder of Alice's gift annuities, while the Bishop's Education Fund received over \$28,000 from Jean's annuities. Both sisters received guaranteed (mostly tax free) income for life generated by the gift annuities in addition to immediate income tax deductions. A third sister, Grace Angst, became the executrix of Alice's estate and was very helpful in establishing the Alice Angst Angel Fund; a permanently endowed scholarship fund in the Diocese of Pittsburgh Foundation in the amount of \$668,542 through the last will and testament of her sister, Alice. May God Bless these wonderfully generous sisters and their parents.

A Gift of a Retirement Plan Remainder

Retirement plan remainders (IRA, 403B, 401K, etc.) left to your heirs will be subject to both income tax and, (in some cases), estate taxation after your life. If you direct all or part of those pre-tax dollars to your parish or school, there will be zero taxes on that amount. This doesn't need to be stated in your will. You must designate it by completing a form with your retirement plan custodian, (bank, financial planner, insurance company, etc.). Consider leaving income tax free after-tax funds to your heirs.

Transfer a Gift of Stock to Your Parish

Call 412/456-3055 to facilitate a transfer of stock. Your gift can be used as a campaign pledge payment, an endowed scholarship, for Parish Share, your offertory, or be unrestricted for the parish's greatest need. A gift of appreciated securities is fully tax deductible, and there are no capital gains taxes to declare.

Wording for a Bequest in your Will or Living Trust

Please instruct your attorney to make a provision in your Will or Living Trust using this language: "I give, devise and bequeath \$_____ (specify dollar amount) or ___% of estate or property to _____ (name) Parish at _____ (address). For a listing of attorneys, please call 412/456-3055.

Please remember your parish as you plan your estate. Consult your attorney or tax advisor for more specific advice. For information on any current or deferred gift option, such as a trust, insurance policy, will, retirement fund, endowed fund, stock transfer, charitable gift annuity, or bequest intention document, please contact Paul Stabile, Director of Planned Giving, Office for Stewardship at 412-456-3055 or pstabile@diopitt.org.



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