The Catholic Community of Rankin and Swissvale

MADONNA DEL CASTELLO PARISH

2021 S. Braddock Avenue • Swissvale, PA 15218

December 27, 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.*

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

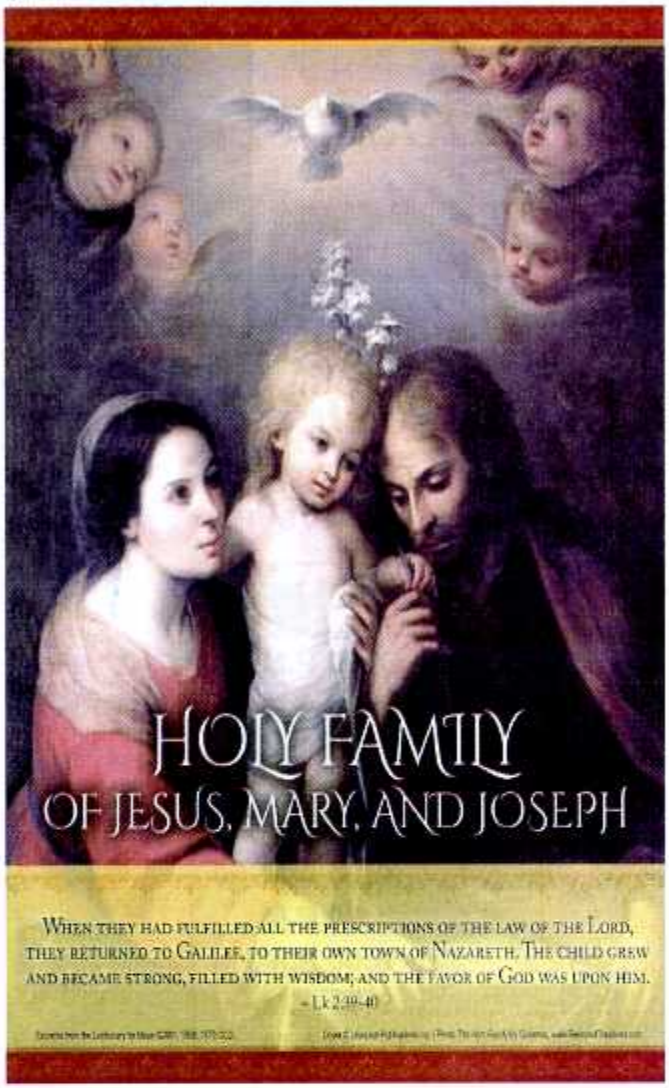
CONTACT INFORMATION

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

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.



A NOTE FROM FATHER JOHN

Many thanks to an anonymous donor who gave several hundred dollars in gift cards for the needy and signed the letter " a sheep that was lost."

Thank you to all who helped to make the Solemnity of our Lord's birth a very prayerful and reverent celebration. Also, thank you to all who volunteered to decorate the churches.

††††

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: When life and family are not treasured and preserved in a society, collapse on all fronts is inevitable. Sadly, this statement applies to America today. Pray for an end to the culture of death.

WEEKLY MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday - December 26 - Vigil
4:00 PM Anthony Pallotta (Bernie Stecik)
6:00 PM Mike Limbacher (Lucy & Family)
Sunday - December 27 - Holy Family
9:00 AM Norm DeLuca (Dolores Davies)
11:00 AM For the People
Monday - December 28 - The Holy Innocents
7:00 PM Agnes Paesano (Paul & Nancy Bianculli)
Tuesday - December 29
9:30 AM Gary Hall (Helen Russo)
Wednesday - December 30
8:00 AM Zenone Family (Mafalda Zenone)
Thursday - December 31
9:30 AM Carole Kirk (Roseann Martino)
Thursday - December 31 - Vigil - Mary, Mother of God
7:00 PM (W) John Miller (Terry & Emma Culligan)
First Friday - January 1 - Mary, Mother of God
8:00 AM (M) For the People
7:00 PM (M) Albert Vasquez (David & Debbie Fiumara)
First Saturday - January 2 - St. Basil the Great & St. Gregory Nazianzen
9:30 AM Colleen Powers (Miriam King & Sister. Kathleen Williams)
Saturday - January 2 - Vigil
4:00 PM Richard "Doc" Lucarelli (Joe Sepesy)
6:00 PM Joseph Schott (Sally Wellman)
Sunday - January 3 - Epiphany of the Lord
9:00 AM For the People
11:00 AM Wesley Taylor (Paula Taylor, Dave, Samantha, Tony & Dylan Sacco)

THIS WEEK

Tuesday
7:00 PM Holy Hour/Rosary - Madonna
Wednesday
10:30 AM Legion of Mary - Dattilo Hall
Thursday - Parish Office Open until 12:00 Noon
Friday - Mary, Mother of God (Holy Day of Obligation)
Saturday
11:00 AM Rosary Making Session - Dattilo Hall
12:00 PM Reconciliation - Word of God Parish
6:30 PM to 7:30 PM - Gift Shop open, 1st Floor, Parish Center
Next Sunday - Parish Family Socials
9:00 AM to 11:00 AM - Gift Shop open, 1st Floor, Parish Center

ON MISSION FOR THE CHURCH ALIVE

We are in the early weeks of the Jubilee Year of Mercy called by the Holy Father. The Jubilee Year will last until November 28th next year. Pope Francis has described this year as a "favorable time to heal wounds." At the same time, we have begun "On Mission for The Church Alive!" The goal of "On Mission" is to help our parishes become even more vibrant communities of service. What social outreach to the community can our parish do that it is not doing now? 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: "The travails of the Holy Family is eerily modern—at a time when so many families throughout the world are forced to be homeless refuges and when immigrant families in our own country are broken apart and cruelly separated. For the millions of families in these situations the ordinary challenges of family life are compounded many times over. For all of us who love and cherish our families and what they have meant to us, this Sunday is a time to reflect on what is the heart of our family life and to what extent is it a reflection of the faithful and forgiving love that God has for all of us, his human family. Confident in that divine love we turn to the nourishment of the Eucharist to help sustain us." by Fr. Donald Senior, C.P., President, Professor of New Testament Studies. **Please be sure to place your suggested donation in the money slot on the display so the ministry can be self-supporting.**

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.

OUR PARISH FAMILY WEEKEND SOCIALS are

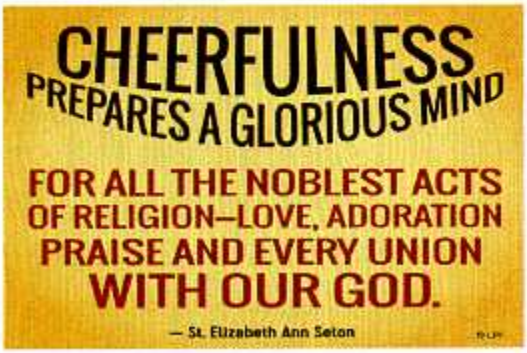
at both parishes after next weekend's Masses January 2 & 3. Ladies of Charity will host the socials at Madonna. The Readers will host the socials at Word of God.

HAPPY NEW YEAR from all of us at LPI—your bulletin company. **THANK YOU** to all of our present and past advertisers—patronize or refer them to someone you know! If you would like to place an ad this year contact Sue, 724-831-0975 snovosel@4lpi.com.

MASSES-MARY MOTHER OF GOD (Holy Day of Obligation)

Dec. 31 7:00 p.m. - Word of God
Jan. 1 8:00 a.m. - Madonna
7:00 p.m. - Madonna

There will be Holy Hour before these Masses.



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.

Veneration of a Relic of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

after the 7:00 p.m. Mass at Madonna on her feast day, **Mon., Jan. 4th**. The use of relics has a basis in Sacred Scripture (see II Kings 2:9, Acts 19:11 & 12). Miracles and favors continue to be associated with the intercession of a saint and the veneration of relics. Relics remind us of the holiness of the saint and cooperation with God's grace. They inspire us to ask God for the grace to live a faith-filled life.

ROSARY MAKING: The Legion of Mary will have a Rosary Making Session on the **first Saturday of each month at 11:00 a.m.,** in Dattilo Hall, Madonna.

THE ROSARY is said at Swissvale Towers, 1826 Monongahela Ave., Community Room, 1st fl., **every Monday, 3:30 p.m.**

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 wordofgodpa@gmail.com.

Annulment Presentations: The purpose of these talks is to provide information about the nullity process and help those wanting to begin the process to do so by receiving the initial paperwork. These talks are directed toward those who have a desire for adult education regarding this often misunderstood subject. People involved in RCIA as teachers or directors may have a special interest in attending. Registration is not required, but to plan for chairs and refreshments please let us know that you are coming at tribunal@diopitt.org or call 412-456-3033. The presentations will begin at 7:00 p.m. and are free of charge. The next presentations are scheduled for: **Thurs., Feb. 19-** St. Bede's-Point Breeze, presenter: Very Rev. Thomas W. Kunz, JCL, STD; **Thurs., Feb. 26-**St. Margaret Mary-Moon Twp., presenter: Jay Conzemius.

Madonna del Castello

The Tabernacle Lamp is in memory of M/M William Burkhardt from Karen & Vince Balistreri.

The Altar Candles are in memory of Armand Capasso from Babe Capasso & Family.

The Altar Bread is in memory John Mladjan from Jet Mladjan; The Altar Wine is in memory of Armand Capasso from Babe Capasso & Family.

The Altar Flowers are in memory of John Mladjan from Jet Mladjan.

OFFICE HOURS

The office will be open until Noon on Thursday, December 31 and closed Friday, January 1.

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 **John T. Mackin** from Mary Ann Mackin.

Please consider remembering the parish in your will.

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.

THANK YOU to the choir for taking part in the Ecumenical Carolfest last Sunday. We are grateful for your gifts of time and talent.

THANK YOU to the following ladies who helped clean the church for Christmas: Peggy Keene, Kathy McClelland & Angel, Nancy Bianculli, and Georgette Walko.

Canterbury Corner Gift Shop: The Gift Shop will be closed on December 27. Visit the Gift Shop in its new location on the first floor of the Word of God Parish Center beginning in the new year on **the weekend of January 2/3. Saturday—January 2—the Gift Shop will be open from 6:30p.m.—7:30p.m. for the Parish Family Social. Please note: Regular hours of operation are: 9:00a.m.--11:00a.m. Sundays only.**

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 _____

EAST CATHOLIC SCHOOL

School Walking Tours are conducted during school hours.

This will allow parents to observe the children in the classroom, learn about the programs, meet our teachers and find out more about the East Catholic School philosophy. Tours include classroom observations as well as a guided tour of the facility. Parents will receive an application with additional information for them to consider. Touring a school is the best way for you to have a direct experience of the classrooms and the overall feeling of the school. We invite you to come and see East Catholic School for yourself. Our tours are conducted by Parent Guides who love showing visitors around our school and are very happy to answer your questions. When possible, Sister Judith, our principal and other members of the staff will be available to discuss details of our many programs with you. To sign up for a tour contact the school office between 8:30a.m. & 2:00p.m. at 412-351-5403. Walking tour dates: Jan. 6 @ 20, 9:30 a.m., Jan. 31—Open House, Feb. 9 & 23, 9:30a.m., and March 2 at 9:30a.m. A special tour will be on Sun., March 13 (at Story Time) scheduled for 2:00p.m.

Save the Date! Mark your calendars—the East Catholic **Gala is Sat., Feb. 27th** at Stratigos Banquet Facility. This event benefits East Catholic School and is a fun-filled evening of dinner, dancing, live band, live auction, and more! Details to follow later.

Continue to Save: Box tops, labels, etc.—we continue to save Box tops for Education. We receive $.10 for each box top that is submitted. You can drop them off in the boxes at the entrances of the church. Register your Giant Eagle card (code is 1135) and select East Catholic and receive 10 Box Tops for Education. Each month when you shop at Giant Eagle there will be new opportunities to earn Box Tops for East Catholic.

Campbell's Labels: We have been able to obtain much needed equipment for the school without impacting the budget. Just save the part of the label that has the Campbell Kid with the Labels for Education Logo.

Readings for Sunday, January 3, Epiphany of the Lord

1st Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6…Jerusalem shall be a light to all nations.

2nd Reading: Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6…Gentiles are co-heirs in the promise of Christ.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 2:1-12…The Magi seek out Jesus and do him homage.

Question for reflection: Where and how do you encounter Jesus in your daily life?

ENJOY 2016 COUPON BOOKS are available from the Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill through Dec. 30 for $30. It provides hundreds of half-off and two-for-one coupons for travel, dining, shopping, sporting events, and regional attractions in Allegheny, Westmoreland, Washington, and Fayette counties. To reserve a book call Sr. Agnes, 724-836-0406, ex. 6646, or Sr. Patrice, Elizabeth Seton Convent, Brookline, 412-343-1382.

New Year's Eve Oldies Dinner Dance-Thurs., Dec. 31st: Most Holy Name of Jesus Parish, doors open 7:30p.m. (dancing 8:00p.m.-1:00a.m.) Tickets $40/person include homemade hot dinner buffet (pork & sauerkraut, fried chicken, rigatoni, pierogies, salad, rolls, cake, coffee & tea). There will be party favors, draft beer, mixers and bottled water, BYOB. (A snow date of Sat., Jan. 2nd has been set.) The school hall is located at 1515 Tinsbury St., Pittsburgh, PA 15212. For more info. call 412-231-2994, ex. 0 or email mostholyname@gmail.com, or visit www.mostholynameofjesusparish15212.org.

IRELAND TOUR ++ Your are invited to a "Faith 'n History Tour" of Ireland with CIE Tours, **July 1-12, 2016.** Join with William G. Connare Division 1 of the Ancient Order of Hibernians (Greensburg) and Chaplain Fr. Jeremiah O'Shea on this memorable tour, including many sites from Belfast/Derry in North to Donegal, Sligo, Galway, Kerry, Waterford, Dublin with so much in between. All dinners/breakfasts, hotels, air, etc. included: $3295 pp/do. For full details contact Fr. O'Shea at rorrunjto@yahoo.com or 724-832-0482.

RETROUVILLE: Hope and help for troubled marriages is available through Retrouvaille. For confidential information about or to register for the program beginning with a **weekend on January 15,** please contact Retrouvaille at 412-277-3434. More information is available at http://www.retrouvailleofpittsburghinc.org./

Weekend Retreat for Post-Abortion Healing-Jan. 22-24, Spiritan Center in Bethel Park. In a confidential and supportive atmosphere, Rachel's Vineyard demonstrates God's love, forgiveness, and compassion to women (and men) struggling with abortion's aftermath. Catholic Charities and the Diocese of Pittsburgh co-sponsors this retreat. To register or for more info. call Toni Jester, 412-352-5348 or email toniafji@comcast.net.

Accounting Honors Institute for high school students who have an interest in business: There are 3 topics with 2 sessions each held on Saturday mornings on campus in January, February and March. Students may sign up for one or more topics. Inf./reg. available at www.duq.edu/business/AHI or call 412-396-5832.

LISTEN TO CATHOLIC RADIO: 106.7 FM WAOB

WEB WATCH:

Foryourmarriage.org.—Marriage resources, articles and news sponsored by the U.S. Bishops
www.diopitt.org—official diocesan website
www.pghpriest.com—diocesan vocations website
http://seekandfind.com/—view Word of God bulletins on-line through Liturgical Publications, Inc.
www.masstimes.org—location of churches when traveling
www.FaithandReason.com.-inspiration for your spiritual journey

CATHOLIC SINGLES, 21 & OVER: The Catholic Alumni Club offers a variety of social opportunities including league athletics, parties, picnics, dances, dinners, hiking, volleyball, scripture study, trips, etc. For info. check www.capittsburgh.org.

YOUNG ADULTS & SINGLES OF ALL AGES: check Catholicthrive.com.

Christmas Daily Prayer with the Holy Family

Blessed Joseph, my strength and guide,
Holy Mary, my inspiration and model,
Lord Jesus, child of hope, joy, and peace,
watch over me, bless me today,
and every day of this season of grace.
Amen.

Household Table Prayer for the Christmas Season

Come, let us adore him.
Come, let us adore him.

Today we celebrate your birth, O Christ,
as your glory fills the world with light.
May this meal strengthen us
to be a light for others.

Come, let us adore him.

We hear the herald angels sing
of God's peace on earth.
May the food of this table nourish us
to live the good news of peace.

Come, let us adore him.

The Lord has come to us,
the Word of God in human flesh!
Bless this meal, bless our lives
during these joyful Christmas days.

Amen.

EPIPHANY HOUSE BLESSING

Items needed: chalk and a small bottle of holy water. Gather with family members, friends, and perhaps some neighbors at the front door.

In the (+) name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Tradition names the magi:
Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar.
With chalk, their initials sign this doorway, along with four crosses of the seasons, and the numerals of the new year.

[20 + C + M + B + 16]

Let us pray: *Christus masionem benedicat.*
May Christ bless this house, Amen.
Leader (or other Reader):
A reading from the Letter to the Galatians.
So then, while there is time let us do good for all people, especially those who are of the household of faith.
The Word of the Lord

Each room is sprinkled with holy water.

Living room:
Bring us to live with you one day in heaven.
Bless this room, O Lord. Amen.
Kitchen:
You prepare for us a rich feast.
Bless this room, O Lord. Amen.
Dining room:
Feed us at the heavenly banquet.
Bless this room, O Lord. Amen.
Bedrooms:
In you alone we rest securely.
Bless this room, O Lord. Amen.
Bathroom:
You cleanse us from every impurity.
Bless this room, O Lord. Amen.

All return to the front door to pray together.

Our Father. . .

All are sprinkled with holy water.

Bless this household through all days to come, Father, Son, and Holy spirit, forever and ever. Amen.