

The Catholic Community of Rankin and Swissvale

MADONNA DEL CASTELLO PARISH

2021 S. Braddock Avenue • Swissvale, PA 15218



December 4, 2016



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 Lynan	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

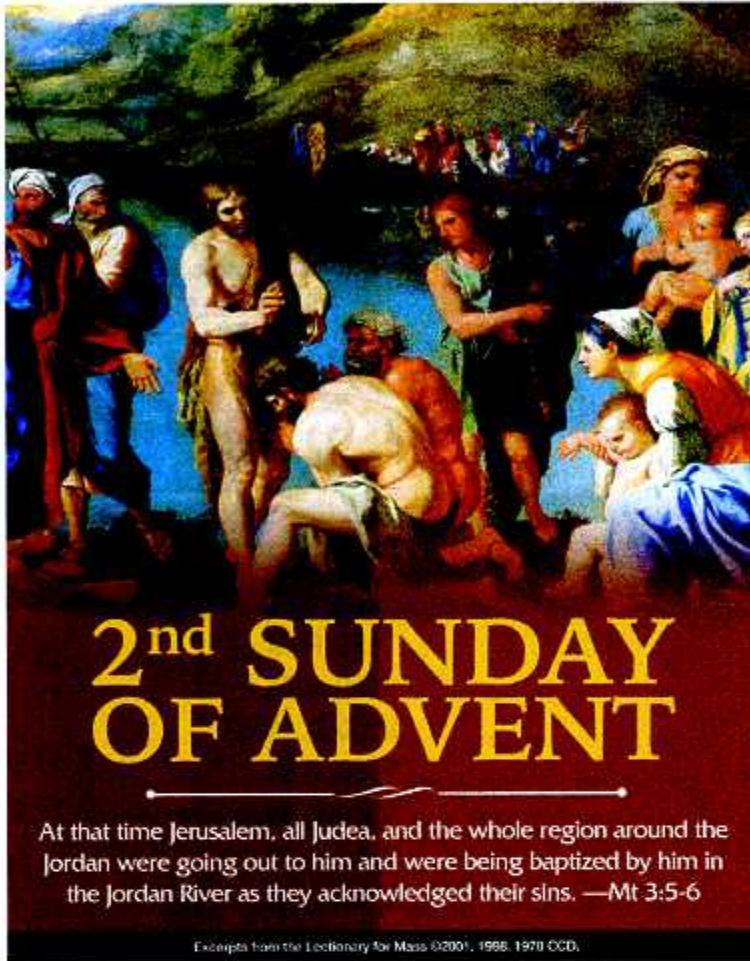
Available after Mass
and upon request

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
Madonna Email	madonnadelcastello1920@gmail.com
Word of God Email	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

The Pictorial Directories are in: Every household with a portrait in the Directory receives a free book. Additional directories will be available as long as supplies last for a suggestion donation of \$5 at the parish office.

Rite for the Blessing of a Child in the Womb: Such a blessing sustains the parents by imparting grace and comfort in time of concern and need, unites the parish in prayer for the unborn child, and fosters respect for human life within society. The blessing will be given after all Masses on the weekend of December 3rd & 4th. Please contact the parish office by noon on Thursday, December 1st to request the blessing and indicate which Mass you plan to attend.

††††



Thanks to you, five needy households from Madonna and five households from Word of God were provided Thanksgiving meals. May God bless you.

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

WEEKLY MASS INTENTIONS

- Saturday Vigil - December 3**
 - 4:00 PM Mary Marasti (Family)
 - 6:00 PM Anna Hergenroeder (Family)
- Second Sunday of Advent - December 4**
 - 9:00 AM For the People
 - 11:00 AM Antonio Zenone (John A. Zenone)
- Monday - December 5**
 - 7:00 PM Mario DePasquale (Carmella Coyne, Sister)
- Tuesday - December 6 - St. Nicholas, Bishop**
 - 9:30 AM Cecelia Stecik (Bernie Stecik)
- Wednesday - December 7 - St. Ambrose**
 - 8:00 AM Dec. Ben Cuccaro Family (Family)
- Wednesday - December 7 - Vigil - Immaculate Conception**
 - 7:00 PM (W) Frank Rajakovich (Jim & Rita Hyland)
- Thursday - December 8 - Immaculate Conception of Blessed Virgin Mary**
 - 9:30 AM (W) Lucia Vaccardi (Daughter, Amantina)
 - 7:00 PM (M) Patti Aducci (East Suburban District Catechetical Administration)
- Friday - December 9 - St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatotzin**
 - 8:00 AM Gloria & Dominic Sciulli (Margie & Joel Williams)
- Saturday - December 10**
 - 9:30 AM Frank & Dora Urick (Grandchildren-Terri, Matthew & Mary Lou)
- Saturday Vigil - December 10**
 - 4:00 PM For the People
 - 6:00 PM James McClelland (John & Louis Chorba)
- Third Sunday of Advent - December 11**
 - 9:00 AM Barbara Burkovich (Karen & Michael Burke)
 - 11:00 AM Anthony Pallotta (Josephine Pallotta)

THIS WEEK

- Saturday**
 - 6:30 PM to 7:30 PM - Gift Shop & Library Open Parish Center
- Sunday - Parish Family Weekend Socials**
 - 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM-Gift Shop & Library Open
- Monday**
 - 6:30 PM Word of God Choir Rehearsal - Word of God
- Tuesday**
 - 7:00 PM Cancer Support Group - Dattilo Hall
- Wednesday**
 - 10:30 AM Legion of Mary - Dattilo Hall
 - 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM - Scripture Sharing - Dattilo Hall
- Thursday-Immaculate Conception-Holy Day of Obligation**
- Saturday**
 - 12:00 PM Reconciliation - Word of God Parish
 - 6:30 PM to 7:30 PM—Gift Shop & Library Open
- Next Sunday - 2nd Collection - Utilities**
 - 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM-Gift Shop & Library Open

Mass in Spanish for Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe: All are invited to celebrate with Bishop Zubik and the Hispanic/Latino Catholic Apostolate **7:00 p.m. Mon., Dec. 12. St. Paul Cathedral.** For info. contact Fr. Richard Ulam, St. Regis Parish, 412-681-9365.

LOOK FOR THE LIGHTHOUSE MEDIA

"Repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.....make straight his paths" (Mt. 3)
we do not know the day or time.....do we need all the Christmas ads to remind us of how many shopping days we have? How many 'deals' we can get? No.....they are imbedding in our minds...but is the heavenly message also imbedded? How much more do we need to see or hear to be prepared? Do you have just 5 minutes a day? 2 minutes? A moment?

Please be sure to place your suggested donation in the money slot on the display.

ON MISSION FOR THE CHURCH ALIVE: Special thanks to all who participated in the parish consultation sessions. If you weren't able to attend a parish session, go online at OnMissionChurchAlive.org to watch the videos, download the presentation, and take the survey. Please return feedback packets to the parish office by Fri., Dec. 9th.



PARISH FAMILY SOCIAL-Sat., Dec. 3rd & Sun., Dec. 4th: Hosted at Madonna by the St. Vincent de Paul Society, and at Word of God by the Finance Council.



THE CANCER SUPPORT GROUP will meet Tues., Dec. 6, 7:00 p.m., in Dattilo Hall at Madonna.



A presentation on the roll of Angels at Christmas and in our lives will be given by Sr. Bernadette Manning, SC. All are welcome. For more information call the Word of God parish office.

MASS SCHEDULE:
(Holy Day of Obligation)

Wed., Dec. 7: 7:00p.m.-Word of God
 Thurs., Dec. 8: 9:30a.m.-Word of God
 7:00p.m.-Madonna



THE LIGHT IS STILL ON FOR YOU! Wed., Dec. 14, 5:30p.m.-8:30p.m., the Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available at Madonna and Word of God. Now is the time. God is waiting to offer you forgiveness, healing and peace. The light is on and the confessional door will be open. Please share this news with others, and invite those who may not have gone to confession in awhile to come back to the Sacrament. Mark your calendars!



Sunday Scripture Sharing on the readings for the upcoming Sunday. **Wednesdays, through December 28th, 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., Madonna.**



Attend when you can. This informal sharing can deepen your faith and prayer life. Bible suggested. Facilitated by the Bible Study leaders. The regular Bible Study returns in January.

PRAYER AND PRAISE GROUP meets at 7:00p.m. the 2nd & 4th Thursdays each month at Madonna. **There will be no meeting on Thurs., Dec. 8.** For info. call Mike Matthyse, 412-241-1254.



THE LADIES OF CHARITY: In honor and thanksgiving of the 400th anniversary of the Ladies of Charity founded by St. Vincent de Paul and St. Louise de Marillac, the Ladies of Charity will recommit themselves during the 7:00 p.m. Mass on Thurs., Dec. 8. Please join in support of our mission to serve rather than be served with simplicity, humility, and charity.

The Pittsburgh Catholic Magazine is now in the racks/on the tables. It is the Disability Awareness Issue.

MADONNA & WORD OF GOD'S MASS BOOKS have opened. There are 2017 Mass intention forms in the literature racks. Please drop off forms at the parish office, mail, or put them in the offering basket.

Saint Vincent de Paul Sarris Candy Orders will be available for pickup Dec. 10. Our Conference thanks you for your support.



Saint Vincent de Paul Winter Warming Collection: Our Society of Saint Vincent de Paul is collecting new and

Please Help gently used warm gloves, warm socks and knit caps. These items will be distributed by the Red Door ministry at St. Mary of Mercy Church, downtown Pittsburgh, to area homeless and needy this winter. The ministry's coordinator is Father Adam's mother, Heidi Potter, who is also in need of volunteers (with Diocesan clearances) to work with her on weekday mornings 9:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m. to make and distribute lunches. If interested please contact Heidi at 412-261-0110. Please place your items in the collection boxes in the rear of the church. Your gifts are greatly needed and appreciated.

Advent-Christmas Concert, Sun., Dec. 4, 2:00p.m., Sisters of St. Joseph Chapel in Baden. Includes Sisters of St. Joseph, and choir members from St. Damien of Molokai. Concert will celebrate the 100th anniversary of the sisters' beloved carol, **In a Manger Lowly.** Concert/reception tickets are \$40 each. To purchase tickets, commemorative items, or sponsorships, or for more info. visit www.bit.ly/InAManger or 724-869-6574.



Ecumenical Carol Festival: Sun., Dec. 11th, 6:30p.m. - 7:30p.m., Swisshelm Park Primitive Methodist Church, 241 Homestead St., 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. If you can provide cookies or wish to perform, please contact Deacon Ron Demblowski by noon on Fri., Dec. 2th at 241.1372 or wordofgodpa@gmail.com. Sponsored by the Swissvale Ministerial Association.

Madonna del Castello



The Altar Candles are in memory of JAMES CIAO from Josephine Ciao.

MADONNA COLLECTIONS

November 20.....	\$2,393.00
Retired Religious.....	\$1,345.00
November 27.....	\$2,447.00

COOKIES FOR CHRISTMAS

Orders for cookies are being taken through **December 4th**. Slips will be available at Dattilo Hall to place orders. If you have any questions, call Lois Petrarca, 412-646-2344 or Mary Iannucci, 412-371-4912.



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. 10th & 11th. **DO NOT WRAP GIFT**. Call Joelle with any questions at 412-860-8548.

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 _____

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 at the parish office.

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 Mackin** from Mary Ann Mackin.



IN YOUR CHARITY, please pray for the soul of **Frank P. Tomasic**, son of the late Philip & Antonia, who was buried recently from Word of God Parish. May his soul rest in peace with Christ.

NEW READERS SCHEDULES are available in the sacristy.



WORD OF GOD COLLECTIONS

November 20.....	\$4,891.00
Retired Religious.....	\$3,288.00
November 27.....	\$6,555.00

Canterbury Corner Gift Shop News:



Special seasonal items available at the Gift Shop now include Advent wreaths and candles, Advent Calendars, traditional Christmas wafers (Oplatki), boxed Christmas cards, and single Christmas cards for clergy, religious, and for those grieving the loss of a loved one. Also, something new at the Gift Shop this year -- Kneeling Santa statues and ornaments! The **Parish Library** is now open! Come and see the new books and videos for adults and children and the special display for Advent & Christmas! They are located on the 1st floor of the Parish Center, Word of God.

In addition to the regular Sunday hours of operation (9:00—11:00am), here are special extra hours for the Library & Gift Shop in December:

Dec. 3 (6:30-7:30pm)—during Parish Family Social

December 10 (6:30-7:30pm)

December 17 (6:30-7:30pm)

Dec. 24/25 and Dec. 31/Jan. 1 - closed



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

Christmas Music Programs:

Tues., Dec. 6th, 7:00 p.m.—The 4th & 5th graders will perform the joyous musical play based on the world's most popular Christmas story "Scrooge" at the school cafeteria (Keane Hall).



Perfect for Preschoolers Story-time-Wed., Dec. 14, 12:30p.m.-1:30p.m., East Catholic School Library, 2001 Ardmore Blvd., Forest Hills, PA 15221. This is a free story, rhyme, song and craft program designed to entertain and engage young children ages 2 1/2 to 5 years old. It is 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 of this story-time is Christmas—"away in the manger." There will be one session, 12:30 p.m.-1:30 p.m. We invite all children along with their parent or guardian to come and visit Story-time. Registration is required by calling the school office, 8:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Deadline for registration is Mon., Dec. 12. Join us for some "Christmas" fun!

Tues., Dec. 20-Living Nativity, St. Maurice Church, 1:00p.m. (students only) & 7:00p.m. (all are welcome). The 6th, 7th & 8th graders will tell the story of Jesus' birth through narration, song and liturgical dances.

Wed., Dec. 21, 7:00 p.m. - East Catholic School Band concert, Keane Hall. All are invited.

Congratulations to the following students: Highest Honor-Alexander Busch; **High Honor**-Vincent Kaschauer, Matthew Michalko, Gia Scaglione, Megan Swanson, Riley Yapsuga; **Honor**- Aidan Draxinger, Ryan Feczko, Havana Gomez, Thomas Kondrich, Luke Rajakovich, Reece Schauer, and Chloe Thomas.

CHRISTMAS DISCERNMENT RETREAT-Fri., Dec. 16, 7:00p.m.-Sun., Dec. 18, 11:00a.m., Gilmery Retreat Center. The weekend will include Mass with Bishop Zubik, Adoration, opportunities for Confession, conferences, and solid brotherhood; no cost, must be 18 or older. For info. & registration, please visit www.pghpriest.com.

HIGH SCHOOL SILENT RETREAT-Jan. 14-15, The Arc and The Dove Retreat House: God is alive and we



believe that He speaks to us. At this men's retreat, we are going to give God the time and space to speak to our hearts about our lives and our vocations. The retreat will be led by Fr. Mike Ackerman and Fr. Joe Freedy. For more information or to register, visit PGHPriest.com.



Prayer for On Mission for The Church Alive!

Father of Mercy,

as we journey On Mission for The Church Alive!



endow us with your gifts of collaboration, courage and compassion. Help us to fulfill the mission of Jesus and His Church through vibrant parishes, and effective ministries.

Raise up selfless, energetic leaders to serve the Church in fidelity and with care. May we, the Church of Pittsburgh in Allegheny, Beaver, Butler, Greene, Lawrence and Washington Counties be sustained and strengthened by your grace. Help us to learn Jesus, to love Jesus and to live Jesus. Hear this prayer and grant it through Jesus Christ our Lord, with the help of our dear Blessed Mother, under the Mantle of her love. Amen.

ELKS SCHOLARSHIP: This is real money for our youth to live out their dreams of going to college. The Braddock Elks is offering 500 scholarships to 2016-17 seniors that have excellent SAT scores, high involvement in their school and community, and who show strong leadership. SAT must be taken and scored prior to Oct. 2016. Monetary awards range from \$4,000 to \$60,000 paid over four years. Contact Debbie Raible for an application and details at 412-823-1357. No affiliation with the Elks is required.

Winter Bingo-Sun., Dec. 4th, 1:00 p.m., Sacred Heart Hall, 1600 Brinton Rd., Braddock Hills, PA 15221. Doors open at 12:00 Noon. Admission-\$20 paid at door (no ticket



BINGO

pre sale). Included are 16 regular games and 4 specials. Come and enjoy an afternoon of fun and bring your friends. For info, call the parish office, 412-271-1515. Sponsored by Good Shepherd Social Club.

ENJOY 2017 COUPON BOOKS: 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 your book, call Sr. Agnes Steedle, 724-836-0406, ext. 6646, or Sr. Patrice Hughes, Elizabeth Seton Convent, Brookline, 412-343-1382.

Readings for December 11, Third Sunday of Advent

1st Reading: Isaiah 35:1-6, 10...Isaiah describes the transformation and change that will occur when the Lord comes.

2nd Reading: James 5:7-10... Be patient and ready, the coming of the Lord is near.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 11:2-11... Jesus tells the disciples of John the Baptist to inform John about the works of Jesus' ministry, and speaking to the crowd, praises John as more than a prophet.

Question for reflection: John prepared the way for Jesus. What can you do this week to smooth a way for God to come to others?



PRO LIFE CORNER: No matter how many arrows are thrown at you, how much criticism you receive, or how many so-called friends you lose because you're defending life, it's all worth it. Continue to fight the culture of death.

