

# The Catholic Community of Rankin and Swissvale

## MADONNA DEL CASTELLO PARISH

2021 S. Braddock Avenue • Swissvale, PA 15218



**December 6, 2015**



## Word of God Catholic Parish

7446 McClure Avenue • Swissvale, PA 15218

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

### MASS SCHEDULE

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

*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.**



*"Every valley shall be filled  
and every mountain and hill shall be made low.  
The winding roads shall be made straight,  
and the rough ways made smooth,  
and all flesh shall see the salvation of God."  
- Lk 3:5-6*

Excerpt from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1988, 1970/CCB

#### A NOTE FROM FATHER JOHN

Thank You to the Prayer Group and all who helped host the visiting priests for the Mass of Divine Healing.

††††

**CHRISTMAS DISCERNMENT RETREAT-Fri. evening, Dec. 18-Sun. Morning, Dec. 20,** Gilmery Retreat Center.: Fr. Joe Freedy along with 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](http://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](http://www.diopitt.org), under "Protecting God's Children." Sessions available on-line. **Diocesan Safe Environment Certification:** Contact Kelly James

#### Readings for December 13, Third Sunday of Advent

**1st Reading:** Zephaniah 3:14-18a...A savior is promised to Israel.

**2nd Reading:** Philippians 4:4-7...Rejoice in the Lord always. The Lord is near.

**Gospel Reading:** Luke 3:10-18...John the Baptist tells the people the kind of changes in their lives that are needed. He also announces the coming of the Christ.

**Question for reflection:** What changes in your life does Jesus want you to do?

#### WEEKLY MASS INTENTIONS

##### Saturday - December 5- Vigil

4:00 PM Agnes Martinich (Edna & Jim Tomko)

6:00 PM Cecelia Stecik (Bernie Stecik)

##### Second Sunday of Advent - December 6

9:00 AM For the People

11:00 AM Geraldine Lisjak (Family)

##### Monday - December 7 - Vigil - Immaculate Conception

7:00 PM (M) Mike & Ann Pascal (Pascal Family)

##### Tuesday - December 8 - Immaculate Conception

9:30 AM (W) Peg Koontz (Larry & Pat Furry)

7:00 PM (M) For the People

##### Wednesday - December 9 - St. Juan Diego

8:00 AM Dorothy Scanlon (Estate)

##### Thursday - December 10

9:30 AM Joseph & Caroline Medica (Son, Greg)

##### Friday - December 11 - St. Damasus I, Pope

8:00 AM John Gottenkiene (Jack Joyce)

##### Saturday - December 12 - Our Lady of Guadalupe

9:30 AM Ann Rajakovich (Ladies of Charity)

##### 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)

#### THIS WEEK

##### Saturday - Parish Family Social

6:30 PM to 7:30 PM-Gift Shop open, 1st floor, Parish Center

##### Sunday - Parish Family Social

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

##### Tuesday - Immaculate Conception (Holy Day of Obligation)

##### Wednesday

10:30 AM Legion of Mary - Dattilo Hall

2:00 PM Ladies Fellowship - Dattilo Hall

6:00 PM to 9:00 PM - Sacrament of Reconciliation  
Madonna & Word of God

##### Thursday

7:00 PM Prayer & Praise Group - Madonna

##### Friday

7:00 PM Holy Hour/Rosary & Prayers - Madonna  
Our Lady of Guadalupe

##### Saturday

8:45 AM to 10:30 AM - CCD Classes - Madonna

12:00 PM Reconciliation - Word of God Parish

##### Next Sunday - Utilities Collection

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

**PRO LIFE CORNER:** Vatican City (CNA/EWTN News) - Meeting Nov. 6 with members of Italy's pro-life movement, the Pope called on those present "to protect the most vulnerable people, who have the right to be born into life, as well as those who ask for a healthier and more dignified existence," according to the Vatican Information Service translation. "There is a need to work at different levels and with perseverance, in the promotion and defense of the family, society's foremost resource, especially with reference to the gift of children and the affirmation of the dignity of the woman."



**LOOK FOR THE LIGHTHOUSE MEDIA KIOSK**

**AT BOTH PARISHES:** This week is rich in preparation. John the Baptist, as the 'voice in the desert' and Our Mother Mary, with her complete and unhesitant 'yes' in becoming the Virgin Mother. Imagine their courage, imagine their faith...these gifts are there for us also! All we need is to say 'yes' to prepare our hearts! **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.**

**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.

**PARISH FAMILY SOCIAL-Sat., Dec. 5th & Sun., Dec. 6th:** Hosted at Madonna by the St. Vincent de Paul Society, and at Word of God by the Finance Council.

**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](http://www.diopitt.org/jubilee-year-mercy).



**MASS-Thurs., Dec. 17, 1:30p.m.,** Swissvale Towers, 1826 Monongahela Ave., in the Community Room, 1st Floor.

**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 more info. contact Dan Pulcini, 412-443-1069.



**LADIES FELLOWSHIP GROUP** meets every other **Wednesday in Dattilo Hall at 2:00p.m.** Our next meeting is **Dec. 9th.** If you are interested or have any questions, please call Patti Aducci at 412.243.9457.

**PRAYER AND PRAISE GROUP:** The next meeting will be **Thurs., Dec. 10th, 7:00p.m.** at Madonna; info. call Mike Matthyse, 412-241-1254.



**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 *Pittsburgh Catholic Magazine* is now in the church racks/on the tables. This issue features Christmas traditions.

**Our Lady of Guadalupe Prayers: Fri., Dec. 11<sup>th</sup>, 7:00p.m.,** Madonna parish. There will be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Rosary, Litany of the Blessed Virgin, Prayer to the Virgin of Guadalupe, Adoration and Benediction.

**MASS SCHEDULE:**

**(Holy Day of Obligation)**

Mon., Dec. 7: 7:00p.m.-Madonna

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



**THE LIGHT IS STILL ON FOR YOU! Wed., Dec. 9, 6:00p.m.-9:00p.m.,** the Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available in every parish in the Diocese of Pittsburgh. 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!



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

**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. If you can provide cookies or wish to perform, please contact Deacon Ron Demblowski at 412.241.1372 or [wordofgodpa@gmail.com](mailto:wordofgodpa@gmail.com). Sponsored by the Swissvale Ministerial Association.



## Madonna del Castello



The Tabernacle Lamp is in memory of James Ciao from Josephine Ciao.



The Altar Candles are in memory of M/M William Burkhardt from Karen & Vince Balistreri.



The Altar Bread & Wine are in tribute to John & Janice Martin Bonacci from Marie Capezzuto.

Rest in Peace: Albert Vasquez, husband of Gloria.

Offertory for November 29 – \$2,884.00

Parish Share Assessed - \$40,871 Collected - \$49,110

### COOKIES FOR CHRISTMAS

Orders for cookies are being taken **through December 13th**. Slips will be available in the back of church to place orders. If you have any questions, call Lois Petrarca at 412-646-2344 or Mary Iannucci at 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. 12th & 13th. **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 \_\_\_\_\_

## 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 **Peg Koontz** from Tricia Wilson.



**IN YOUR CHARITY**, please pray for the souls of **Stephen Aubele**, son of the late Gilbert & Rosemary; and **Martha Yurko**, wife of the late Michael, 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**

November 29.....\$5,368.00

Parish Share Assessed: \$71,000 Collected: \$84,970

**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. **Starting Sun., Dec. 6th, the hours of operation will be: 9:00a.m.--11:00a.m. Sundays only.** Avail-



able now are Advent wreaths and replacement candles, gifts for the Christmas season, Christmas wafers (Oplatki) wafers, beautiful and unique boxed Christmas cards at reasonable prices, and religious giftware. **SAT., DEC. 5—GIFT SHOP WILL BE OPEN 6:30 P.M.—7:30 P.M. FOR THE PARISH FAMILY SOCIAL.** Christmas wafers (Oplatki) will also be available after the 4:00p.m. Mass (Madonna) and the 6:00p.m. Mass (Word of God) on these following **Sat. evenings only: Dec. 5, Dec. 12, and 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 \_\_\_\_\_





society of  
saint  
vincent  
de paul

Dear Parishioner,

As another liturgical year comes to an end and a new one begins our Society of Saint Vincent de Paul takes this opportunity to report on its activities and accomplishments. During the last 12 months our Conference visited 70 families and provided assistance to 173 individuals, spending \$20,344. We helped a single mother who had just had a cancerous kidney removed to obtain housing when the bank foreclosed on her landlord. We secured private funding for a young woman to buy a computer as she begins college; she knows that education is going to be her path out of poverty. 33 beds were purchased for both children and adults who were sleeping on the floor. Water and other utilities were turned back on in homes with children and disabled.

None of this would have been possible without the generosity of you, our Parishioners. By purchasing Sarris candy, participating in our annual Walk for the Poor, or giving during the second collections your support has allowed us to do these things. Your support has given hope to the 173 people whom we helped this year and let them know that we at Word of God and Madonna del Castello care about them. You have truly put Jesus's words into action that "whatsoever you did for the least of these brothers of mine you did for me."

Our Vincentians eagerly await the Holy Year of Mercy. The corporal and spiritual works of mercy we are all asked to focus on this year are at the very heart of the Vincentian core mission of service to the poor and needy. If you are looking for a way to grow spiritually during this Holy Year please consider becoming a Vincentian.

Please know that our Conference is very grateful for and humbled by your generosity and remember you in their prayers.

