

# MADONNA DEL CASTELLO

2021 S. Braddock Avenue • Swissvale, PA 15218



## PARISH STAFF

**Father John Lynam, Pastor**

**Keith Kondrich, Deacon**

**Ron Demblowski, Deacon**

**Kelly James, Secretary**

**Edward Kapsha, Music Director**

**Patricia Aducci, Coordinator of Religious Ed.**

## PARISH CONTACTS

Parish Office: ..... 412-271-5666

Fax Number: ..... 412-271-2335

Religious Education Office: ..... 412-271-5666

Music Ministry | ..... 412-271-5666

Bp. Dattilo Social Hall ..... 412-271-3959

Website: [www.madonnadelcastello.org](http://www.madonnadelcastello.org)

## BULLETIN DEADLINE

Monday at Noon

## RECTORY OFFICE HOURS

9:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday

## MASS SCHEDULE

Daily: Monday .....7:00 p.m.

Wednesday & Friday ..... 8:00 a.m.

Saturday (vigil mass) .....4:00 p.m.

Sunday .....11:00 a.m.

*Consult the bulletin for Holy Day and Holiday Mass schedule.*

## ANOINTING OF THE SICK

After Sunday Mass.

## RECONCILIATION

Saturdays at noon at Word of God Church and by appointment.

## BAPTISMS

Call the office for an appointment.

## MARRIAGE

Contact the Pastor at least six months in advance.



<b>Monday, December 8</b>	9:30 A.M.
For Our Parishioners	
<b>Monday, December 8</b>	7:00 P.M.
John Gottenkiene (Ann & Darlene Hardy)	
<b>Tuesday, December 9</b>	9:30 A.M.
Word of God Mass	
<b>Tuesday, December 9</b>	7:00 P.M.
Holy Hour	
<b>Wednesday, December 10</b>	8:00 A.M.
Carmella & Carl Scaramucci (John Scaramucci, MD)	
<b>Thursday, December 11</b>	9:30 A.M.
Word of God Mass	
<b>Friday, December 12</b>	8:00 A.M.
David Iovino (DeGrano & Haubrick Families)	
<b>Friday, December 12</b>	7:00 P.M.
Holy Hour	
<b>Saturday, December 13</b>	9:30 A.M.
Word of God Mass	
<b>Saturday, December 13</b>	4:00 P.M.
Thomas Walsh (Connie Lewski)	
<b>Saturday, December 14</b>	6:00 P.M.
Word of God Mass	
<b>Sunday, December 14</b>	9:00 A.M.
Word of God Mass	
<b>Sunday, December 14</b>	11:00 P.M.
For Our Parishioners	



<b>Saturday, December 13</b>	4:00 P.M.
Lois Ballog & Savannah Stophel	
<b>Sunday, December 14</b>	11:00 A.M.
Dominic Capezuto & Andrew Klabnik	



<b>Saturday, December 13</b>	4:00 P.M.
Dave Fiumara, Wayne Sarsfield, Guy Mazzella, Marian Iovino	
<b>Sunday, December 14</b>	11:00 A.M.
Bill Pfoff, Jim Tomko, Dennis Capezuto, Dave Petrarca	



<b>Saturday, December 13</b>	4:00 P.M.
Rose Pascal	
<b>Sunday, December 14</b>	11:00 A.M.
Lisa Buettner	



The Tabernacle Lamp is in memory of  
JAMES CIAO  
From Josephine Ciao.

### THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, a holy day of obligation, is celebrated every year on December 8. Even though this feast day occurs in the liturgical season of Advent, which prepares for the birth of Our Lord Jesus Christ, the Immaculate Conception refers to the conception of Mary in the womb of her mother, St. Anne. From the first moment of her conception, Mary was, by the singular grace of God, kept free from all stain of original sin. The Mass schedule for the Holy Day is:

Sunday, December 7 – Word of God – 7 pm.  
Monday, December 8 – Madonna – 9:30 am.  
Monday, December 8 – Madonna – 7 pm.

**The office will be closed Monday, December 8.**

### TRADITIONAL CHRISTMAS WAFERS

Traditional Christmas Wafers (Oplatki) will be available after masses this weekend in Dattilo Hall. Each envelope contains 4 wafers.

### LADIES FELLOWSHIP

Madonna del Castello has a Ladies Fellowship Group that meets every other Wednesday in Dattilo Hall at 2:00 p.m. Our next meeting is Wednesday, December 10. If you are interested in joining or have any questions, call Patti Aducci at 412-243-9457.

### OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

Our Lady of Guadalupe will be Friday, December 12 at 7 pm at 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.



## REFLECTION

**Mother Teresa said:** Many are starving for ordinary bread. But there is another kind of hunger—the hunger to be wanted, to be loved, to be recognized. Nakedness too is not just the want of clothes, but also about loss of dignity, purity, and self-respect. And homelessness is not just want of a house; there is the homelessness of being rejected, of being unwanted in a throwaway society. The biggest disease in the world today is the feeling of being unwanted and uncared for. The greatest evil in the world is lack of love, the terrible indifference towards one's neighbor. Lord, warm our cold hearts with your grace, so that we your disciples may produce the fruits of love.

## THANKS TO YOU

Thanks to your generosity six needy households from Word of God and five households from Madonna were provided Thanksgiving meals. May God bless you!

## "THE LIGHT IS STILL ON FOR YOU!"

This year in every parish across the Diocese of Pittsburgh, the Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available on Wednesday, December 10 from 6-9 pm. Consider making a commitment this Advent to experience the healing grace of God's forgiveness & love. Visit [www.diopitt.org/lightstillon](http://www.diopitt.org/lightstillon) for more information.

## ECUMENICAL CAROL FESTIVAL

Sunday, December 14, 6-7 pm., Union Baptist Church, 2117 Collingwood Ave. Swissvale. Carols sung by the audience will be interspersed with music, readings, etc. from members of the 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, call Ron Demblowski at 412-241-1372 or [wordof-godpa@gmail.com](mailto:wordof-godpa@gmail.com). Sponsored by the Swissvale Ministerial Association.



**East Catholic Story Time:** Wednesday, December 10 is the next "Perfect for Preschoolers Story-time" at East Catholic School at 2001 Ardmore Boulevard, Forest Hills. This is a free story, rhyme, song and craft program designed to entertain and engage young children. The program is for children 2 1/2 to 5 years old and 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". There will be one session from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. We invite all children along with their parent or guardian to come and visit Story time at East Catholic Library. Registration is required by calling East Catholic School Office (412-351-5403) during school hours (8:30 am until 2:00 pm) Final date for registration is Monday, December 8. Join us for some "Christmas" fun! East Catholic follows Woodland Hills School District Weather cancellation

## LORD, TEACH US TO PRAY.."

AS Catholics, we pray the Lord's Prayer & the Hail Mary frequently. Most of us memorized these prayers when we were very young. We recite them regularly without much conscious effort; however our familiarity with these two very beautiful prayers can sometimes lead us to take them for granted. Deacon Keith Kondrich, Executive Director of The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul here in Pittsburgh will share some personal reflections on praying the Hail Mary intentionally on Sunday December 7 at 12:15 pm in Dattilo hall. Come reflect on the power of this prayer to renew & strengthen our relationship with Mary, our Mother.

## COOKIES FOR CHRISTMAS

Orders for cookies are being taken through December 7th. 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.

**DIOCESE OF PITTSBURGH ABUSE HOTLINE 1-888-808-1235.**

## PROLIFE CORNER

Let all of us who profess to be Christian open our hearts to God's grace, that we will have the courage to speak out in defense of all life, the pre-born, the sick and elderly who are in danger of abortion and euthanasia. May God have mercy on us.

Baptism  
in  
Christ



MARY MARGARET PASCAL, daughter of Bridget Will & Marc Pascal.

# Growing in FAITH™

Discovering hope and joy in the Catholic faith.

December 2014

Madonna del Castello Parish and Word of God Parish

Rev. John Lynam, Pastor

## One Minute Meditations

### St. Nicholas

Legends abound about this saint but we know that he was orphaned at a young age when his wealthy parents died. Generous to a fault, he reportedly threw money down a chimney to enable a poor man's daughters to marry. This is the image that makes him the model for Santa Claus. As bishop of Lycia (now Turkey), he fought against heresies plaguing the Church in the fourth century. He was devoted to charity and the protection of the weak.



### Pray for peace

In the midst of your celebration of Christ's birth, please pray that all nations will come to respect life from conception to natural death.

### Believing vs. understanding

When Mary heard she would give birth to the Son of God, she didn't understand but trusted anyway, "Be it done to me according to your word" (Luke 1:38). She knew that we don't have to understand to believe that God can do the impossible.



## Give as God gave at Christmas

We give because God gave. God gave us his son, so every December we imitate him by giving gifts to our loved ones. What about gifts for God?

**God gave the gift of himself.** God was the first Christmas gift, lying in a manger. In his image, we are called to give the gift of ourselves to him. Go to Mass every Sunday and in between, too. Kneel in adoration before the tabernacle or in a Perpetual Adoration chapel. Go to Confession to stay connected.

**Give the gift of love.** God loves freely whether or not we love in return. He asks us to share love with others. Give others your undivided attention. Put down the cellphone in meetings,

in conversations, and definitely at Mass. Listen when someone has a problem. Put people before things.

**Give the gift of prayer.** Are your prayers like a letter to Santa – lists of wants and needs? God already knows all that. Instead, pray for friends or loved ones who aren't active in their faith. Offer Rosaries for those who are sick. Ask God for guidance and thank him for his goodness.

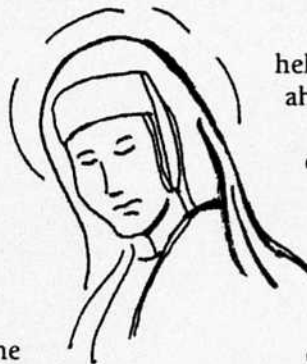
**Give the gift of help.** Don't forget your parish where God's work is done. Help clean the church, teach a class, shovel snow, support a ministry. Without you, God's work won't get done.



## Why Do Catholics Do That?

### Why do Catholics say Mary was born without Original Sin?

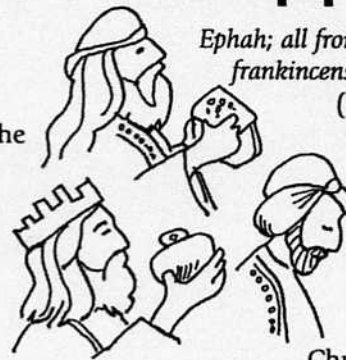
The Catechism teaches that God gave Mary all the gifts necessary for her to become mother of our Savior. In fact, when the angel Gabriel addressed Mary as "full of grace" in Luke 1:28, he means that Mary had the special divine



help necessary for the task ahead.

While we are cleansed of original sin at Baptism, Pope Pius IX infallibly affirmed that Mary's role in Jesus' work was so crucial that it kept her from original sin at the outset.

# Christmas is our epiphany



*Epiphany; all from Sheba shall come bearing gold and frankincense, and proclaiming the praises of the Lord"*

(Isaiah 60:6). St. Matthew recorded that they brought three gifts: gold – the gift for a king, frankincense – the gift for a priest, and myrrh – a burial ointment.

The kings witnessed to the presence of the Messiah on Earth, and the fulfillment of God's promise of a Savior. Christmas is our reminder that God is always faithful.

Christmas is our epiphany into God's eternal love.

"Epiphany" is defined as a sudden revelation or insight. The celebration we call "The Epiphany" commemorates the moment when three foreign kings visited the newborn Jesus and experienced the revelation that he was a divine king.

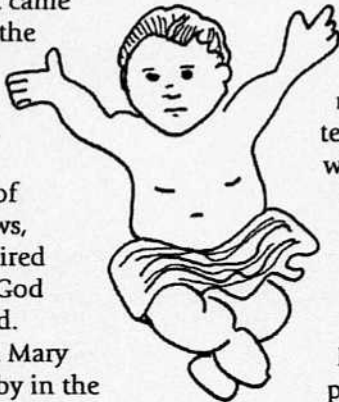
The visit of the Magi was prophesied in the Old Testament. *"The kings of Tarshish and the Isles shall offer gifts, the kings of Arabia and Seba shall bring tribute. All kings shall pay him homage, all nations shall serve him"* (Psalm 72:10-11). *"Caravans of camels shall fill you, dromedaries from Midian and*

## from Scripture

### Luke 2:22-40, Look for the Lord

To the uninformed observer, Jesus' birth was unremarkable and his family quite ordinary. When it came time to present him in the temple, his parents couldn't afford the customary offering of a lamb and gave two pigeons as an offering of the poor. As faithful Jews, they did what was required by their faith to thank God for the gift of their child.

Yet, when Joseph and Mary presented their new baby in the temple, Simeon immediately recognized him as the Messiah. Inspired by the Holy Spirit, he



prophesied that Jesus was to be "a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel."

Simeon was not alone in recognizing the Lord in the temple. Anna was also filled with the Holy Spirit. Her faith in God's promises gave her hope. The hope God places in our hearts gives us a desire for the kingdom of Heaven. The Holy Spirit reveals the presence of the Lord to those who want to know him, to receive him, and to be with him forever.

## Q & A How long does the Christmas season last?

The Church's real Christmas season starts on Christmas Day and lasts until the Baptism of Our Lord.



By celebrating the whole season, you can make your Christmas joy last long after you've taken down the tree. Here are some highlights of the season:

**Feast of the Holy Family, December 28th.** Gather for a special meal with family or make contact with out-of-town relatives.

**Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, January 1st.** Dedicate a special rosary to the Blessed Mother asking her to help you grow in love and trust.

**The Epiphany, January 4th.** The example of the Magi honoring Jesus has become a symbol of sharing him with the world. This is our chance to think about the way we live so that we can better reveal Christ to our world.

**The Baptism of Our Lord, January 11th.** Baptism is our entry into the Kingdom. Take time this day to renew your Baptismal vows and decide what you can change in your life to help you live as Christ did.

## Feasts & Celebrations

December is when we prepare for and celebrate Christ's birth and the miraculous events surrounding it.

**December 8 – Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary.** On this Holy Day of Obligation, we attend Mass to commemorate that Mary was conceived in St. Anne's womb without original sin.

**December 12 - Our Lady of Guadalupe (1531).** The Blessed Mother appeared to St. Juan Diego, also Native American. She asked to have a chapel built for her, and had him carry roses in

his tilma (cape) to the bishop as a sign. When he emptied his tilma before the bishop, it retained the image of the Blessed Mother.

**December 27 – St. John (1st century).** An apostle and friend of Jesus, St. John was known for his fiery temper. He once asked Jesus if he could call down fire from heaven on an inhospitable town. Later in his life, he and St. Peter asked the Holy Spirit to come down on the Samaritans.



### Our Mission

To provide practical ideas that promote faithful Catholic living.

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(Unless noted Bible quotes and references are from the Revised Standard Version and the New American Bible)

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