# MADONNA DEL CASTELLO

2021 S. Braddock Avenue • Swissvale, PA 15218

**PARISH STAFF**

**Father John Lynam,** *Pastor*
**Father Joe Codori,** *Parochial Vicar*
**Keith Kondrich,** Deacon
**Kelly Lisovich,** *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

**BULLETIN DEADLINE**

Monday at Noon

**RECTORY OFFICE HOURS**

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

**MASS SCHEDULE**

Daily ..... 7:30 a.m.
Saturday (vigil mass) ..... 4:00 p.m.
Sunday ..... 10:30 a.m.

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

**ANOINTING OF THE SICK**

Sunday's after the 10:30 a.m. Mass.

**RECONCILIATION**

Saturdays at 10:30 a.m. and by appointment.

**BAPTISMS**

Call the office for an appointment.

**MARRIAGE**

Contact the Pastor at least six months in advance.

# Mass Schedule

**Monday, November 26** 7:30 A.M.
Andrew Migliorato (Al & Margie Haski)
**Tuesday, November 27** 7:30 A.M.
Robert Lang (Eileen Lang)
**Tuesday, November 27** 7:00 P.M.
Holy Hour
**Wednesday, November 28** 7:30 A.M.
Lou Zegarelli (Peggy Gibson)
**Thursday, November 29** 7:30 A.M.
Martha Colapietro (John & Judy DiBernardo)
**Friday, November 30** 7:30 A.M.
Marilyn Sepesy (Elaine Pacolla)
**Friday, November 30** 7:00 P.M.
Holy Hour
**Saturday, December 1** 7:30 A.M.
Intention of the Celebrant
**Saturday, December 1** 4:00 P.M.
Ilario Dichiera (Sister Rosetta Simonetta & Family)
**Sunday, December 2** 10:30 A.M.
Eva Buettner (John & Lisa Buettner)

## Altar Servers

**Saturday, December 1** 4:00 P.M.
Krista Bagwell & Andrew Klabnik
**Sunday, December 2** 10:30 A.M.
Dominic Capezzuto & Sydney Factor

## Eucharistic Ministers

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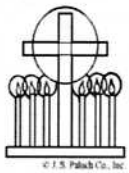
**Saturday, December 1** 4:00 P.M.
Dave Fiumara, Wayne Sarsfield, Guy Mazzella, Cathy Wreath
**Sunday, December 2** 10:30 A.M.
John Bonacci, Ellie Yearsley, Mike Pascal, Dave Petrarca

## Lectors

**Saturday, December 1** 4:00 P.M.
Tim Bagwell
**Sunday, December 2** 10:30 A.M.
Janice Bonacci

The Tabernacle Lamp is in memory of
M/M WILLIAM BURKHARDT
From Karen & Vince Balistreri.



The Altar Candles are in memory of
ANDREW ORFITELLI
From Gilda Orfitelli.

The Altar Bread & Wine is in memory of
ANDREW ORFITELLI
From Gilda Orfitelli.

**+++ REST IN PEACE +++**

ROSE REGINELLA, sister of Jack Abbenante.
CORNELIA BLOISE, mother of Rosella LeDonne.

Memorial or Living Tribute Request
I would like to offer: √

| | |
|---|---|
| Altar Flowers | ($50) ____ |
| Altar Bread | ($25) ____ |
| Altar Wine | ($25) ____ |
| Altar Candles | ($10) ____ |
| Tabernacle Lamp | ($10) ____ |
| Complete Offering | ($120) ___ |

In Memory of _____

In Tribute to _____

From _____

## LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR

The Little Sisters of the Poor are selling Christmas Cards depicting the Blessed Mother with baby Jesus. The pencil sketch is on a blue background. The cards can be purchased by calling the Little Sisters at 412-307-1100. Cards cost 7 for $10 (plus $1.50 shipping), 12 for $15.00 (Plus $2.00 shipping), 30 for $25.00 (plus $5.00 for shipping).

## THANK YOU

Thank you to Deneen Swartzwelder, Lisa Bagwell & Claudine Bagwell for chairing our Senior Dinner, the kitchen workers, the youth who served as waiters and our seniors, who are such pleasant guests. The dinner was a great success.

## ECUMENICAL CAROL FESTIVAL

Sunday, Dec. 9th, 7-8p.m., Pittsburgh Mennonite Church, 2018 S. Braddock Ave., Swissvale. Carols sung by the audience will be interspersed with music, readings, 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 Ron Demblowski by noon on Wed. Dec. 5th at 241.1372 or wordofgodpa@gmail.com. Sponsored by the Swissvale Ministerial Association.

## ADVENT EVENING OF REFLECTION

There will be an Advent Evening of Reflection at Madonna del Castello Parish on Sunday, December 9. The evening will begin at 6 pm and conclude at 9 pm. Chris Padgett will be the speaker. Please register by calling 412-241-1372 or email at wordofgod@verizon.net.

## REVITALIZATION SEMINAR FOR CAREGIVERS

As the holidays approach, more people are feeling "burned out" while caring for an older parent or family member. Join Sister Norma Rodriguez SHS (Sisters of the Holy Spirit) for a Revitalization Seminar for Caregivers and Volunteers to recharge mentally, emotionally, physically and spiritually at the Panera Bread, Miracle Mile Shopping Center in Monroeville on Tuesday, November 20 from 9 to 10 am. A Guided Imagery CD will also be used to focus on relaxation techniques. This program is sponsored by Compassionate Care Hospice and Arcadia Home Care and Staffing. To register, please call 412-720-8941 or E mail Bill.backa@yahoo.com

## PENANCE SERVICE

There will be a Penance Service here at Madonna on Wednesday, December19 at 7 p.m. Fr. John and other priests will be available to hear confessions. Penance Services will also be held on Tuesday, December 11 at 7 p.m. at Good Shepherd Parish, Sacred Heart site in Braddock Hills and on Thursday, December 18 at 7 p.m. at Word of God Parish, St. Anselm site in Swissvale.

## EAST CATHOLIC SCIENCE NEWS

The University of Pittsburgh Science Mobile Lab was at East Catholic School on November 15, 2012 for our 7th & 8th grade Science classes. The students took part in the program titled "Living with Bugs". The Mobile Lab is a self contained, traveling laboratory that allows students to use current, and high-end science equipment to perform laboratory investigations. It is one of the latest exciting additions to a very active K-12 science education outreach sponsored by the University of Pittsburgh Department of Biological Sciences. For the past six years, Mr. Lamanti's affiliation with the University has been able to plan several visits of the mobile lab to enrich the science curriculum at our school. The activities that our students take part in are higher level thinking science experiment programs.

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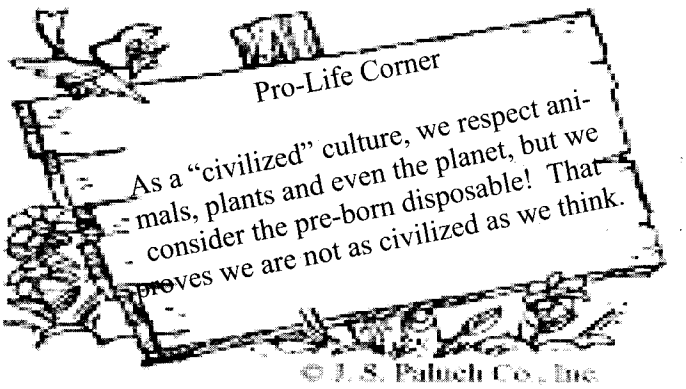

# MADONNA DEL CASTELLO

## 2013 EVENTS

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 13 & LENTEN FRIDAYS – FISH FRY DINNERS. CHAIRPERSON: LOIS PETRARCA 412-371-9458.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 17 – JUBILARIANS BRUNCH. CHAIRPERSON: PEGGY GIBSON 412-824-4508.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY, MARCH 16 & 17 – FOOD DRIVE. CO-CHARIPERSONS: LEANNA AND MARK BALLOG 412-823-8398.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20 – PENANCE SERVICE AT 7:00 P.M.

SUNDAY, JUNE 2 – CORPUS CHRISTI – ADORATION AFTER 10:30 A.M. MASS UNTIL 3:00 P.M.

SUNDAY, JUNE 9 – GRADUATES BRUNCH FOR 2013. CO-CHAIRPERSONS: ROSE & MIKE PASCAL 412-243-3068.

JULY 25, 26, 27 – PARISH FESTIVAL. CO-CHAIRPERSONS: DIANE AND DAVID PETRARCA 412-242-4833.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 4 – PROCESSION & BANQUET FOR MADONNA DEL CASTELLO FEAST DAY.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15 – BINGO BASH. CHAIRPERSON: PEGGY GIBSON 412-824-4508.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5 – ELECTION DAY PASTA DINNER. CHAIRPERSON: AL HASKI 412-271-8857.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9 &10 – FOOD DRIVE. CO-CHAIRPERSONS: LEANNA AND MARK BALLOG 412-823-8398.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10 – SENIOR CITIZENS DINNER. CO-CHAIRPERSONS: DENEEN SWARTZWELDER 412-758-3216.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18 – PENANCE SERVICE AT 7:00 P.M.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 23 – DECORATING FOR CHRISTMAS IN CHURCH. CHAIRPERSON: DAVID FIUMARA – 412-271-2875.

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OUR PARISH FAMILY SUNDAYS WILL BE THE FIRST FULL WEEKEND EACH MONTH, EXCLUDING JUNE, JULY & AUGUST.

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DEAR PARISHIONERS,

THE LIST ABOVE OF SPECIAL EVENTS FOR THE YEAR 2013 IS PROVIDED IN ADVANCE SO THAT YOU MIGHT MARK YOUR CALENDAR AND PLAN TO PARTICIPATE. THESE ACTIVITIES ARE GREAT WAYS OF OUR COMING TOGETHER AS A PARISH FAMILY, AND SOME OF THEM ALSO PROVIDE NEEDED INCOME FOR THE PARISH.

PLEASE OFFER TO ASSIST BY CALLING THE VARIOUS CHAIRPERSONS.

BLESSINGS ON YOU AND LOVED ONES IN 2013!

# 2013 SPECIAL MASSES AND DEVOTIONS 2013

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 13 – ASH WEDNESDAY – MASSES AT 7:30 A.M. AND 7 P.M. ASH SERVICE AT NOON. MASS AT TOWERS AT 1:30 P.M.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 17 – JUBILARIANS MASS AT 10:30 A.M. FOR PARISHIONERS OBSERVING 25 – 30 – 35 – 40 - 45 – 50 – 55 – 60 – 65 – 70 YEARS OF MARRIAGE IN 2013.

THURSDAY, MARCH 28 – HOLY THURSDAY MASS AT 7 P.M.

FRIDAY, MARCH 29 – GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE AT 1:00 P.M. OFFERING SUPPORTS THE HOLY PLACES.

SATURDAY, MARCH 30 – HOLY SATURDAY. VIGIL MASS AT 7:00 P.M..

SUNDAY, MARCH 31 – EASTER. MASS AT 10:30 A.M.

TUESDAY, APRIL 16 – SAINT ANTHONY NOVENA BEGINS AT 7:00 P.M.

THURSDAY, MAY 9 – ASCENSION THURSDAY. MASSES AT 7:30 A.M. AND 7 P.M.

SUNDAY, MAY 12 – MOTHER'S DAY MASS FOR LIVING AND DECEASED MOTHERS

MONDAY, MAY 27 – MEMORIAL DAY. MASS FOR YOUR DECEASED LOVED ONES.

SUNDAY, JUNE 2 – CORPUS CHRISTI – MASS AT 10:30 A.M.

SUNDAY, JUNE 9 – 10:30 A.M. MASS FOR 2013 GRADUATES.

THURSDAY, JUNE 13 – MASS IN HONOR OF SAINT ANTHONY AT 7:00 P.M.

SUNDAY, JUNE 16 – FATHER'S DAY MASS FOR LIVING AND DECEASED FATHERS.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 4 – 10:30 A.M. MASS IN HONOR OF OUR PARISH PATRONESS.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 15 – ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY – MASSES AT 7:30 A.M. & 7 P.M.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13 – 10:30 A.M. MASS IN HONOR OF ST. SIMEONE.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 1 – ALL SAINTS DAY. MASSES AT 7:30 A.M. & 7 P.M.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2 – ALL SOULS DAY MASS. AT NOON. MASS FOR YOUR DECEASED LOVED ONES, ALONG WITH CANDLE SERVICE AND CALLING OF NAMES.

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 28 – THANKSGIVING DAY MASS AT 7:30 A.M.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 9 – IMMACULATE CONCEPTION MASS AT 7:30 A.M. (NOT A HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION)

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24 – CHRISTMAS EVE MASSES AT 4 P.M. AND 10 P.M.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25 – CHRISTMAS DAY MASS AT 10:30 A.M.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 1 – MOTHERHOOD OF MARY MASSES (NEW YEAR'S DAY) AT 7:30 A.M. & 7 P.M.

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Growing in FAITH™

Discovering **hope** and **joy** in the Catholic faith. Special Advent Edition 2012

## One Minute Meditations

### Shepherds of the poor

Among the first to receive Jesus into the world were shepherds. Today, the presence of the shepherds in the Nativity scene reminds us of the poor of the world and how close they are to Jesus' heart. In honor of the shepherds, perform some act of kindness for the poor.

### Say "no" for Advent

Instead of taking on extra activities during the Christmas season, try saying "no" more often. Don't work overtime, don't attend another party, even say "no" to additional volunteer activities. Use the time you said "no" to the world to say "yes" to preparing for the Lord.

### Advertise your faith

Put on a joyful appearance no matter what is going on in your day. Remind yourself of the coming miracle and what it means for each one of us.

### Unborn joy

*"When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the infant leaped in her womb ..."* (Luke 1:40). Even in the womb, John was filled with joy to serve God. During Advent look for ways to do God's will and then leap for joy as you fulfill his plan.

### The light of Advent

*"What came to be through him was life, and this life was the light of the human race; the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it"* (John 1:4-5).

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# Unwrap the true gifts of Advent

To do Christmas right, Advent should come first in all of its stillness and anticipation. Yet, the flurry of Christmas preparations often shoves Advent right out of the way. This year, try to slow down, simplify, and savor the true gifts of Advent with ideas like these:

**Give gifts from the heart.** Deborah said, "One year my father lost his job and money was too tight to buy gifts. So we gave cookies instead and started an annual tradition. I still give cookies and people look forward to them every year. I like it because I get to put something of myself into the gifts I give."

**Celebrate Advent blessings.** Instead of giving store-bought gifts, Carlos and his family offer prayers. Each person writes down his or her name and a prayer request on a slip of paper that goes into a jar. On Thanksgiving Day, every member pulls out one slip and agrees to pray for the person and intention on it. On Christmas Day, part of the celebration is revealing the identities of their "Secret Advent Angels" and rejoicing in God's blessings of the season.

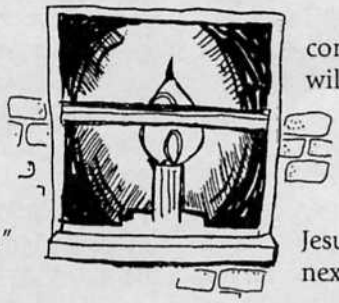
**Retell the Story.** Martin said, "When I was a boy, Dad read some of the Christmas story each Sunday night of Advent. He'd finish with the Nativity on Christmas morning. It was a great way to focus our celebration."

**Banish the darkness.** "Every night during Advent Mom turned off all the lights in the kitchen and we lit the Advent wreath," Kara remembered. "We sang 'O Come O Come Emmanuel' and made up prayers. As we got older, we each took turns lighting the candles and could barely contain ourselves Christmas Day when we could light the 'Jesus Candle.' I live alone but I still light the Wreath every night during Advent."

## Why Do Catholics Do That?

# Why do we celebrate Advent?

Advent is a time of warning, a time of preparation, a time of urgency. It is when the Church wants us to ask, "What do I need to do to be ready to greet the Lord?"



We know that Jesus will come at our death and he will come at the end of time. The season of Advent encourages us to make the necessary preparations so we can joyfully greet Jesus whenever we meet him next.

# Develop an Advent frame of mind

The holiday season can seem more like a test of character than a preparation for celebration. In the midst of the seasonal stress, we are asked to reach into ourselves and bring out only what is kind, generous, and loving. It may help to remember that the real reason for the season is the celebration of unimaginable love.

**Try to see with a Father's eye.** Our Heavenly Father delights in our creation and loves us for exactly who we are. During Advent, try to see yourself through his eyes. Not the flawed human visible to the rest of us, but the spectacular product of God's divine love and the reflection of his glory.

**Tune in to a remarkable moment.** *"And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us"* (John 1:14). It really happened. God really came and shared our experience in the world. In response, we can reach out beyond our friends and family and share our experience of God with the rest of the world.

**Prepare your gift.** The real gift of the Magi was to receive Jesus as the savior of all people. Your gift to Jesus can be an open heart, ready to receive the love he has for you. *"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life"* (John 3:16).

Anticipating an eternity of unimagineable love is absolutely the right Advent frame of mind.

# 5 ways to enrich your season

Many of us look forward to Christmas all year but let Advent pass unnoticed. This quiet season can't compete with the lights, the joy, and the excitement of Christmas. Yet Advent is a beautiful season in itself.

Consider these five ways to enjoy Advent as the season of hope ...

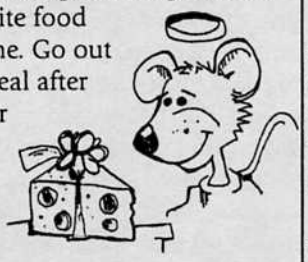
**1. Come into the silence.** Over the next few weeks, take lots of deep breaths and treat yourself to some silent time each day.

**2. Mark your progress.** Buy or make an Advent wreath with four candles and light a new candle each Sunday. Say the traditional prayers or write your own.

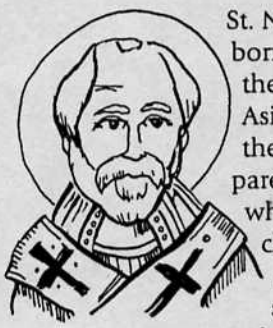
**3. Share the joy.** Make peace with anyone who wronged you - or was wronged by you. Put resentment out of your heart to make more room for joy.

**4. Comfort the lonely.** Compile a list of people who live alone, are new to your area, or who have lost a loved one this year. Include them in your holiday gatherings.

**5. Start a new tradition.** Sing a special song each night during Advent. Reserve a favorite food just for this time. Go out for a special meal after Mass. Whatever you do, make it joyful and celebratory.



# St. Nicholas - A saint for the season



St. Nicholas was born at the end of the third century in Asia Minor. He was the son of wealthy parents who died when he was a child. Despite his misfortune, he selflessly wanted to share his wealth with those in need.

One popular story involving St. Nicholas concerns a man who had lost his fortune and was too poor to fill his family's bellies. He was even thinking of selling his three daughters to pay off his debts. Nicholas heard of the man's situation and secretly threw a bag of gold into an open window in the house. When the man awoke the next morning, he thanked God for his good fortune. Twice more Nicholas helped the man in this way, and each time the man praised God – just as Nicholas intended.

St. Nicholas' feast day is December 6th this year. Children all over the world put their shoes out at night to find candy and small treats in them in the morning, in remembrance of St. Nicholas' anonymous generosity.

# An illuminating tradition

The Advent wreath is one of the most popular devotions of the season. It is a symbol of our watchful wait for the Savior. Here's a way to make your own.

Supplies: Styrofoam ring, markers, evergreen branches that you buy or gather, wire or twist ties, three violet (purple) candles, one rose (pink) candle.

Directions: On the Styrofoam ring, mark four "Xs" equal distances apart where the candles will sit. Press a candle into the ring at each "X" to make an indentation. (Don't leave the candles in place yet.)

Wrap the evergreen branches around the ring to cover it completely. Secure the greens with wire or twist ties. Place the candles in the indentations you created earlier. Wind ribbons around the ring or add pine cones to decorate as you choose.

The three violet candles represent preparation, and are lit during the 1st, 2nd, and 4th weeks of Advent. The rose candle, lit during the 3rd week, is a reminder to rejoice.

Light a candle each night during Advent and offer prayers of hope and thanksgiving.

**Our Mission**

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