

The Catholic Community of Rankin and Swissvale

MADONNA DEL CASTELLO PARISH

2021 S. Braddock Avenue • Swissvale, PA 15218



November 29, 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.*

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

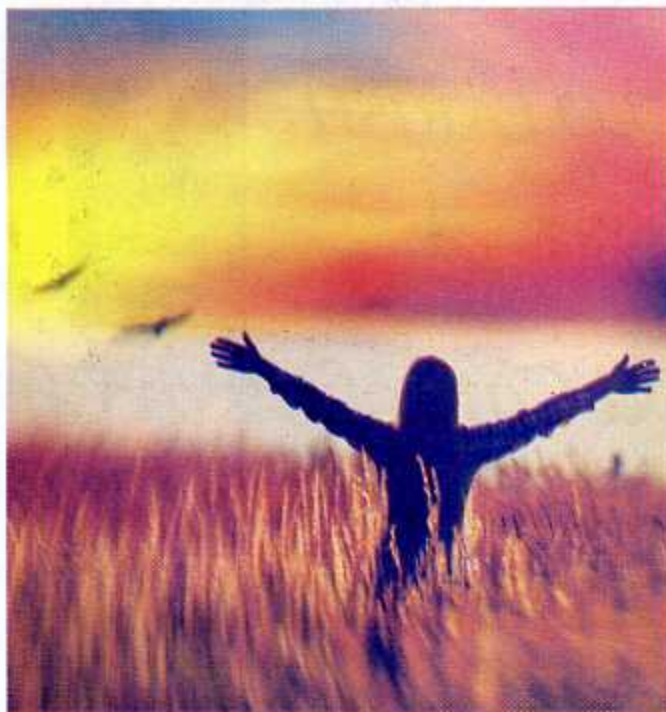
Available after Mass
and upon request

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.



"People will die of fright in anticipation of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. But when these signs begin to happen, stand erect and raise your heads because your redemption is at hand." - Lk 21:26-28

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A NOTE FROM FATHER JOHN

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 Dec. 5th & 6th. Please contact the parish office by noon on Thursday, Dec. 3rd to request the blessing and indicate which Mass you plan to attend.

The Memorare: In the Fall of 2014, Bishop Zubik asked for prayers for protection from evil. In response, we have been praying the St. Michael's Prayer. For the Advent and Christmas seasons, we will pray the *Memorare* interceding Mary, the fiercest adversary of the Devil, for her aid and protection.

††††

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 - November 28 - Vigil

4:00 PM Camille Chop Martz (Stanley & Donna)
6:00 PM Dorothy Tenner (Robert Tenner)

First Sunday of Advent - November 29

9:00 AM Frank Rajakovich (Ann Rajakovich)
11:00 AM For the People

Monday - November 30—St. Andrew

7:00 PM Ben Cerrone (Aunt Trudi)

Tuesday - December 1

9:30 AM Martin & Anne Louise Demblowski (Tim & Lisa Noca)

Wednesday - December 2

8:00 AM Madeline Miele (Rosetta Simonetta)

Thursday - December 3 - St. Francis Xavier

9:30 AM Rosella & Isabelle Bianco (Family)

First Friday - December 4 - St. John Damascene

8:00 AM Agnes Paesano (Jim & Val Bonacci)

First Saturday - December 5

9:30 AM Peg Koontz (Cecelia Panaia)
3:00 PM Wedding (W) Maura Znavor & Bernard Ponko

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)

THIS WEEK

Sunday - Little Sisters of the Poor Wish List Drive Collection

9:30 AM to 11:30 AM - Gift Shop open, 1st floor, Parish Center

Monday

7:00 PM Word of God Choir Rehearsal - Word of God

Tuesday

7:00 PM Holy Hour/Rosary- Madonna

Wednesday

10:30 AM Legion of Mary—Dattilo Hall
7:00 PM Healing Mass - Madonna

Friday

7:00 PM Holy Hour - Madonna

Saturday

8:45 AM to 10:30 AM - CCD Classes - Madonna
11:00 AM Rosary Making - 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 Social

9:30 AM to 11:30 AM - Gift Shop open, 1st floor, Parish Center

On Mission for The Church Alive!



"Legos" building blocks are all the rage. They appeal to everybody—kids and adults—because at heart all of us are builders. A key understanding of "On Mission to The Church Alive!" is our responsibility in building the kingdom of God. That sounds like a scary proposition, much too big for us. But it's simple. St.

Therese of Lisieux explained: "A word, a kindly smile, will often suffice to gladden a wounded and sorrowful heart." That's how we can build up the kingdom of God—one small act of kindness at a time! 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.

LOOK FOR THE LIGHTHOUSE MEDIA KIOSK AT BOTH PARISHES: 'Tis the season of preparation and anticipation...preparing for the holidays...buying gifts, baking cookies, writing out cards, planning parties. And so goes our hearts...preparing for *the* Birth, buying gifts (praying, fasting and penance), baking cookies (sweetening our souls with joy and anticipation), writing out cards (journaling of our love) and planning our parties (joyous time to be spent with the newborn Jesus, Mary and Joseph). Do something special, 'be' in the moment, ready yourself for His joyous arrival! **Please be sure to place your suggested donation in the money slot on the display so the ministry can be self-supporting.**



LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR "WISH LIST DRIVE": There will be the Little Sisters of the Poor "Wish List" Drive **the weekend of Nov. 28th & 29th.** There are "Wish Lists" on green paper in the literature racks/on the tables. Leave your donations as directed. This takes the place of the end-of-the-month November food collection.

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.

MASS OF DIVINE HEALING-Wed., Dec. 2nd, 7:00p.m., Madonna del Castello. Come and experience the healing presence of the Lord at a Mass joyfully celebrated by "the Fraternity of Priests" (a group of Pittsburgh and Greensburg priests). At Mass, a priest will announce healings discerned by the priests as they gathered to pray in the afternoon. Anointing for healing available after Mass. For info. call 412-241-1372.



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.



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 information 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 **Dec. 10th, 7:00p.m.** at Madonna. For more information call Mike Matthyse, 412-241-1254.



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, 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 by **noon on Fri., Dec. 4th** at 412.241.1372 or wordofgodpa@gmail.com. Sponsored by the Swissvale Ministerial Association.

Readings for Dec. 6, Second Sunday of Advent

1st Reading: Baruch 5:1-9... Jerusalem shall see the splendor of God's glory.

2nd Reading: Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11... Paul prays for the Philippians, that they may grow in the knowledge of the gospel and be filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ.

Gospel Reading: Luke 3:1-6... John the Baptist preaches repentance and baptizes in the region of the Jordan.

Question for reflection: John calls for repentance, a personal conversion of one's life. What actions will you take this Advent to live more in accord with the vision and values of Jesus?



Madonna del Castello



The Tabernacle Lamp is in memory of Blanche & Stanley Miara from Donna Miara.



The Altar Bread & Wine are in memory of Josephine Pulcini from her children.

Offertory for November 22 – \$3,390.00
Retired Religious - \$1,068.00

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 **John McDonnell** from Family.



IN YOUR CHARITY, please pray for the soul of **Marion Ransbottom**, wife of the late Charles, who was buried recently from Word of God Parish. May her soul rest in peace with Christ.

WEDDING BANNS

III Maura Znavor & Bernard Ponko

Please consider remembering the parish in your will.

WORD OF GOD COLLECTIONS

November 22 Offertory.....\$6,654.00
Retired Religious.....\$2,830.00

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 Sunday, December 6th, the hours of operation will be: 9:00a.m. --11:00a.m. Sundays only.** Available



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 gift-ware. **SATURDAY—DECEMBER 5—GIFT SHOP WILL BE OPEN FROM 6:30 P.M.— 7:30 P.M. FOR THE PARISH FAMILY SOCIAL.**

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.:

Wed., Dec. 2, 6:00 p.m. - Grades K-2 will perform at Barnes & Noble Waterfront

Sat., Dec. 5, 6:15 p.m. - 4th Grade students will do a special performance at Kennywood during their "Holiday Lights" spectacular

Wed., Dec. 9, 7:00 p.m. - Grades 3-5 will present "Crazy, Crazy Christmas" at Keane Hall, East Catholic School

Tues., Dec. 15, 7:00 p.m. - Grades 6-8 will present the "Living Nativity" at St. Maurice Church

Entertainment (\$30), Enjoy (\$30) and KidStuff (\$25) books are now available. Please contact Kate Halahurich to order by calling 412-519-8283 or email khalahurich@msn.com. All proceeds benefit the school.

East Catholic 2016 Gala: Save the date, February 27, 2016 at Stratigos Banquet Facility. Any questions, please contact Amie & Kenny Cooley, 412-260-2989, amie4dance@msn.com, or Laurie & Lou Del Rosso at 412-841-8767, ldelrosso3@gmail.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

PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN SESSIONS are listed on the diocesan website, www.diopitt.org, under "Protecting God's Children." The sessions are available on-line.

Diocesan Safe Environment Certification: First step is contact Kelly James. She will inform you of the next steps.

SERRA CATHOLIC H.S.: Placement Test for incoming freshmen-Sat., Dec. 5th, 9:00a.m.-12:00 Noon. To register or for more information, please call Mrs. Lyons at 412-751-2020 ext. 134 or email her at lyonsl@serrahs.org

BISHOP CANEVIN H.S.: Financial Aid & Scholarship Seminar-Thurs., Dec. 3, 7:00p.m.-8:30p.m., BCHS Father Leo Henry Library. Topics to be addressed include opportunities for scholarships and financial aid, the PSAS and scholarship application process, guidelines for qualifications, and further personalized assistance through our business office. We are committed to assisting families through this process. Please register to attend—contact Marianne Reinhart, 412-922-7400, ex. 228 or email reinhartm@bishopcanevin.org.

OAKLAND CATHOLIC H.S.: Congratulations to Lois Ballog who achieved High Honor Roll status for the first quarter, 2015-16 school year.

SERRA CATHOLIC H.S.: Congratulations to the following students: **Ruby Honor Roll-** "A" average, no grade lower than 93%-Gianna Mele-Madigan; **Silver Honor Roll-** "B" average, no grade lower than 85%-Mathew Visconti.

ELKS SCHOLARSHIP: This is real money for our youth to live out their dreams of going to college. Last year the Elks received 50 applications and 32 of them received scholarships. For more information check the national web site www.elks.org, select "our programs" and then "scholarship" to learn more about the program; questions call Debbie, 412-823-1357.

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 Steedle, 724-836-0406, ex. 6646, or Sr. Patrice Hughes, Elizabeth Seton Convent in Brookline, 412-343-1382.

AFTERNOON OF LESSONS & CAROLS-Sun., Nov. 29, 4:00p.m., Holy Trinity Church, 529 Grant Ave. Ext., West Mifflin. All are invited to share an afternoon of prayer in anticipation of the coming of Jesus as a Babe in Bethlehem. A reception will follow; info. call 412-466-6545.

Lunch With Santa-Sat., Dec. 5, 12:00p.m., St. John Fisher Church, Beufort Hall, in Churchill. Cost is \$5/person. Tickets may be purchased by calling the church office, 412-241-4722 **no later than Sun., Nov. 29.** Please make checks payable to St. John Fisher Church and note "Lunch with Santa."

Presentation on Pope's Encyclical: Join us at Villa Maria Education and Spirituality Center in Villa Maria, PA on **Sat., Dec. 5,** for a one-day presentation on Pope Francis' recent encyclical, *Laudato Si*. The program will be held **from 9:30a.m. to 4:00p.m.** and presenters will be Srs. Barbara O'Donnell, HM and Barbara Lenarcic, HM. For more information go to vmesc.org or call 724-964-8886.

ST. JOHN FISHER CHOIR will present a concert of Christmas music **Sun, Dec. 6, 4:00p.m.** in the church, located at 33 Lewin Lane, Churchill, PA 15235. A warm welcome is extended to all. Free will offering only. For more info. call 412-241-4722.

Catholic Medical Association Event -Sun., Dec. 13, St. Raphael Church, 1118 Chislett St., Pittsburgh, PA 15206. All healthcare professionals and students are welcome to attend the **9:00a.m. Mass,** followed by a presentation from Fr. Joseph Mele on **"Pope Francis' Communication Style: A Kiss is Stronger than Words!"** A Continental breakfast will be served (free will offering). For more info. call St. Raphael, 412- 661-3100 or email doctor.hahn@verizon.net.

Help Wanted: Franciscan Child Day Care Center: The Franciscan Child Day Care Center in Whitehall is seeking an experienced caregiver to care for young toddlers. Required: associate or bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education or related area, several years professional experience, strong leadership skills and nurturing disposition. Full-time with benefits. Please email resume to smerlo@osfprov.org.

PRO LIFE CORNER: As we anticipate the birth of the Christ Child, the Son of God who came into the world to bring His joy, peace, love, mercy, and forgiveness, let us pray for all who have had an abortion or who participated in this practice that they will seek our Lord's forgiveness and mercy and truly have peace and joy this Christmas.



WORD OF GOD PARISH CHRISTMAS GIFT GIVING



GIVING TREE: Help us make Christmas more special for needy families in the area. Take an ornament from the tree in the back of the church, listed on the ornament will be a suggested gift for the needs of a person from one of our families. Bring your gift back to the church wrapped and with the ornament tag attached. Each families gifts will be put together and delivered before Christmas. Please have your gift in by December 13th at the latest. If you are giving a gift card, you may place that in an envelope (with the ornament tag) and put it in the collection basket.



P.O.W.E.R.: Many Of The Women at P.O.W.E.R have no one to remember them at Christmas time. By donating small items for women ages 20-50 you will help brighten their Christmas. Place all items in the boxes set up in the back of the church by December 13th. Wallets, purses, pens & pencils, stamps, dusting powder, stuffed animals, socks, hair accessories, body lotions, nail polish, knee highs, toothpaste, slippers, jewelry, and hand cream/lotion are some suggestions. Hats, scarves or gloves are not needed.

ANGEL'S CORNER



ANGEL'S CORNER: Angel's Corner is always collecting new & gently used infant and toddler clothes. Disposable diapers are of great need. Baskets will be placed in the back of church for your donations through December 13th.

SPONSORED BY LADIES OF CHARITY



