

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

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.

Mass Schedule

Monday, September 29	7:00 P.M.
Josephine Poklemba (Agnes Paesano & Annette Milacci)	
Tuesday, September 30	9:30 A.M.
Word of God Mass	
Tuesday, September 30	7:00 P.M.
Holy Hour	
Wednesday, October 1	8:00 A.M.
Karen Nuzzo (M/M Anthony Covato)	
Thursday, October 2	9:30 A.M.
Word of God Mass	
Friday, October 3	8:00 A.M.
Anthony Pallotta (Theresa Cecere)	
Friday, October 3	7:00 P.M.
Holy Hour	
Saturday, October 4	9:30 A.M.
Word of God Mass	
Saturday, October 4	4:00 P.M.
Pat Decesare (Guy, Pat, Ken & Michele Mazzella)	
Saturday, October 4	6:00 P.M.
Word of God Mass	
Sunday, October 5	9:00 A.M.
Word of God Mass	
Sunday, October 5	11:00 P.M.
For Our Parishioners	



Saturday, October 4	4:00 P.M.
Lois Ballog & Nichole O'Dell	
Sunday, October 5	11:00 A.M.
Savannah Stophel & Dominic Capezzuto	



Saturday, October 4	4:00 P.M.
Dave Fumara, Wayne Sarsfield, Guy Mazzella, Marian Iovino	
Sunday, October 5	11:00 A.M.
Bill Pfoff, Jim Tomko, Dave Petrarca, Chris Gibson	



Saturday, October 4	4:00 P.M.
Nadine Uziel	
Sunday, October 5	11:00 A.M.
Michaela Buzzard	



The Tabernacle Lamp is for THE RUSSO & SMITH FAMILIES From Linda & Tony Russo.



The Altar Candles are for THE RUSSO & SMITH FAMILIES From Linda & Tony Russo.



The Altar Bread & Wine is in memory of JOSEPH BONACCI From Wife Terry & Family.

+ REST IN PEACE +

MARY BONGA, sister of Al Haski.

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 Monday, September 23. If you are interested in joining or have any questions, call Patti Aducci at 412-243-9457.

LADIES OF CHARITY

The next Ladies of Charity meeting will be Thursday, October 2 at 6:30 pm in Dattilo Hall. They are also asking for boys clothing, slightly used or new, sizes newborn to 2T. Diapers, sizes 3, 4 & 5 & baby wipes. Drop off at the entryway to churches.

40 DAYS FOR LIFE

Began on Wed., Sept. 24 and ends on Sunday, Nov. 2. Our parishes are invited to unite with Christian churches in the Pittsburgh area to pray and fast to end abortion. Our parishes will also stand in peaceful prayer vigil at the Planned Parenthood abortion clinic 933 Liberty Avenue on Saturday, Oct. 13, from 3-7 pm. Information packets with sign up forms are available in the literature racks and tables. Please sign up for one or more hours. You may also sign up to pray at the display in the back of church. You may also participate on any day between now and Nov. 2. Questions: Deacon Ron, parish office or 40daysforlifepittsburgh.com.



THANK YOU

A big thank you to everyone who organized & participated in the Annual Bingo Bash. It was an enjoyable & successful afternoon! Thanks again & we look forward to seeing you next year!

Also: Thanks to your generosity during the annual Lenten Talk Series, the Swissvale Churches were able to assist several families displaced by the fire on Saturday, September 13.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL

During the months of September and October, members & friends of our Parish's Society of St. Vincent de Paul Conference will be participating in the 4th annual Friends of the Poor Walk to raise money to assist local individuals & families in need. Walkers commit to walking 10,000 steps (approximately 5 miles) & recruit individual sponsors for a minimum of \$5. All walkers receive a pedometer to keep track of their total steps & a Walk t-shirt. All sponsors will be entered in a drawing for a variety of great prizes. Contact Betsy Tomko at 412-241-4524 or betsytomko@verizon.net Sign up will be September 27-28, in Bishop Dattilo Hall.

BLESSING OF PETS

Saturday, October 4 is the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi. You are invited to bring your pet to Madonna del Castello for a Blessing of Pets on Saturday, October 4 at 10:30 am. The blessing will take place on the lawn or covered driveway in case of bad weather.

GENESIS COLLECTION

Genesis Collection, Oct. 4 & 5: Genesis provides comprehensive pregnancy support and caring adoption services. The Genesis House provides a self-help, homelike environment to women in need of temporary shelter. The two learning centers provide necessities to Mom and child. Information: 421-766-2693. Volunteers will accept donations and distribute rose appliqués at the exits.

School News

Wednesday, October 15 is our first Year "Perfect for Preschoolers Story-time" at East Catholic School, 2001 Ardmore Blvd., Forest Hills, PA 15221. This is a free story,

rhyme, song and craft program designed to entertain and engage young children. The program is designed to provide a positive introduction to books and the habit of reading for children 2 ½ to 5 years old. Each program features appealing books, favorite stories, and lively activities. The theme of this Story-time is "Fall Leaves Fall". 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 the East Catholic School Office (412-351-5403) during school hours (8:30 am until 2:00 pm). Final date for registration is Monday, October 13, 2014. Join us for some "Fall" fun! East Catholic follows Woodland Hills School District Weather cancellation.

ST. SIMEONE CELEBRATION

The 55th Annual Feast Day honoring St. Simeone will be celebrated on Sunday, October 12th with Holy Mass at 11:00 A.M. followed by procession with the Del Monte Italian Band. Dinner and dance at the Croatian Home in Rankin will follow. Reservations are required. Cost is \$15/person. Please call Domenic or Lois Petrarca at 412-646-2344 for reservations.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

Pittsburgh Foundation Annual Day of Giving

One day each year the Pittsburgh Foundation generously makes a matching contribution to all donations given via their website. This year that date will be Thursday, October 2nd. If you've been considering making a gift to support the worthy work of our Vincentians & our conference, this is a one day opportunity to have your gift increased. On October 3rd, please visit www.pittsburghgives.org and select our conference "Society of Saint Vincent de Paul, Madonna & WOG Parishes" to make your gift.

DIocese of Pittsburgh Abuse Hotline 1-888-808-1235.

PROLIFE CORNER

To end abortion and euthanasia no sacrifice is too extreme. There is no price that we can attach to a precious life. We must leave this world better than we found it, even if it costs us our lives! Abortion and euthanasia must end now.

SERVICE SALUTE



FROM CORPORAL *to Clergyman*

BY GEN LUCIDI PAYNE

AS A SHY TEENAGER, MICHAEL JOHN LYNAM NEVER ENVISIONED EMBARKING ON THE PATH TO THE PRIESTHOOD. Fresh from high school, he served four years in the Marines, followed by a decade working as a skilled auto technician.

"I was in my late 20s, had a well-paying job and all the material things I needed, but wasn't really happy. Something was missing from my life," he recalls. "That's when the Lord touched my heart and raised my first thoughts of becoming a priest." In 2000, those thoughts became reality, and at age 38, he was ordained.

Today, Father John is pastor of Madonna del Castello and Word of God Parishes in Swissvale and happily fulfilling the vocation he says was always his true calling.

Entering the seminary wasn't on the horizon in 1980 when he graduated from Allegheny East High School. His sights were set on following the family tradition of serving a military stint. Initially he considered the Air Force, but was excited to join several buddies in the Marine Corps.

"Dad said, 'keep the faith' and mom hugged me and said, 'make sure you write.'" Their advice—Stay close to God and family—always remained with me," says Father John looking back on the life-changing morning he left home.

Donning the Marine dress blues was a win-win experience. "I was privileged to serve my country while gaining leadership and job skills that I continue to use," explains Father John who was trained to repair tank and motor transport vehicles.

"The Marines enabled me to mature. I

grew up in a small town and the Marines took me to such places as Okinawa and Quantico. But," he admits, "even though I couldn't wait to see the world, I couldn't wait to get home. There really is no place like home."

After successfully completing his tour, Father John, sporting corporal E-4 stripes, returned to Wilmerding and his parents, James and Corinne, and six sisters. Thanks to his Marine-learned mechanic skills, he landed a job with a Monroeville Honda dealer.

Meanwhile, he was dating a nice girl and renewing a friendship with a former schoolmate. "Both were lapsed Catholics and challenged me about my religion. I started researching Catholicism so I could respond with better answers. Those studies—along with the feeling something was missing in my life—triggered thoughts that perhaps I should consider becoming a priest."

For the next two years he wrestled with concerns of being too shy or not strong enough to handle seminary studies. But they eased when a priest attended a clinic at the dealership. "He had a hard time getting the key into the car. I thought maybe there's hope for me."

At 32, Father John entered the seminary and three years later was selected to study at Rome's North American College. "I didn't speak Italian, but quickly learned enough to get me through the classes."

Special moments in Rome are forever etched in his memory. Topping the list is the day Cardinal Ratzinger, the future Pope Benedict XVI, ordained him a dea-

con. In addition, his ambition to serve in the Air Force materialized when he was appointed a second lieutenant and served as a chaplain's assistant.

After ordination, he became parochial vicar at St. Charles Lwanga Parish and later at St. Frances Cabrini and St. Louise de Marillac Parishes.

Since 2006 Father John has led Madonna del Castello, founded almost a century ago by Italian immigrants. "I felt great when I learned of the assignment because Swissvale is so much like my hometown," says Father John, noting that his mother was of Italian decent and his grandfather came from the same part of Italy as most of the parishioners.

Within four years, Father John was also assigned Word of God Parish, which then consisted of St. Barnabas and St. Anselm in Swissvale and Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Rankin. The appointment came with multiple challenges, including closing two churches and a school because of dwindling attendance.

"It's extraordinary how well he has handled the situation. Father John is a strong, compassionate leader who has successfully made difficult decisions," says Bob Shanahan, member of the Word of God finance committee. "He worked side-by-side with us—seeking advice, establishing open dialog, analyzing answers, and requiring transparency throughout the process. We are truly blessed to have him."

Father John credits any achievements to "God's guidance" and the background he gained from the Diocese of Pittsburgh's

Good Leaders, Good Shepherds Program, which helps priests to be more effective leaders in running parishes.

Parishioners say that unassuming nature is among the qualities that have drawn them to admire Father John.

"Father John's charisma comes through the moment he walks from the sanctuary, down the church aisles and toward the altar to begin Mass," says Lorraine Cost, a neighboring church parishioner who regularly attends Madonna. "He is always smiling and stopping to shake hands. His kind and cheerful personality make everyone feel welcome and blessed."

Jo Donatelli, a 50-year worshipper at Word of God, praises Father John for being on call 24-hours-a-day, visiting hospitals, funeral homes and making house calls.

Mending souls isn't all that the busy priest fixes. "Father John's a hands-on, peoples-priest who can repair just about anything," points out Olive Magnotta, a Madonna lector and wedding coordinator. "Whether on a ladder fixing the roof or checking out wiring, he continually looks for ways to keep the church buildings in good shape. In the winter, he plows snow and the summer, cuts grass. He's even been known to lift the hood of a parishioner's car and repair the engine."

In his characteristic low-keyed style, Father John brushes off any accolades. "My tool box is the Lord's way of working through my hands. Besides," he adds, "whether you're a priest or a Marine, when you give yourself in service to others; it's always a great thing."

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