

**Good Shepherd
Parish**
Braddock/
Braddock Hills



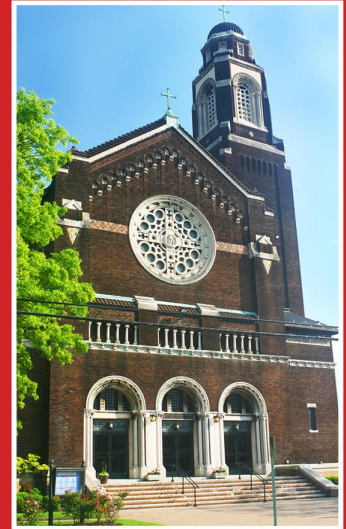
**Madonna del Castello
Parish**
Swissvale



**St. Maurice
Parish**
Forest Hills



**Word of God
Parish**
Swissvale



Good Shepherd
Braddock Avenue at Frazier St.
Braddock, PA 15104-1612

Sacred Heart
1600 Brinton Road
Braddock Hills, PA 15221-4902

Parish Office
Phone: 412-271-1515
FAX: 412-271-1222

Parish Office Hours:
Mon. - Fri.: 9 AM - 1 PM

Parish Staff
Mrs. Michele Catone
Parish Secretary
Email: gshepoffice@comcast.net

Mr. Frank Koncerak
Director of Maintenance

Madonna del Castello Parish
2021 S. Braddock Avenue
Swissvale, PA 15218

Parish Office
Phone: 412-271-5666
FAX: 412-271-2335
Website:
www.madonnadelcastello.org

Parish Office Hours:
Monday - Friday: 9 AM - 5 PM

Parish Staff
Kelly James
Parish Secretary
madonnadelcastello1920@gmail.com

St. Maurice Parish
2001 Ardmore Boulevard
Pittsburgh, PA 15221

Parish Office
Phone: 412-271-0809
FAX: 412-271-2415
Website: www.stmauriceparish.org
Twitter: @StMauriceFH

Parish Office Hours:
Mon. - Fri.: 9 AM - 12 PM
1 PM - 4:30 PM

Parish Staff
Norman E. Chapman, CAGO
Director of Music
nchapman@saintmauriceparish.org

Cheryl Kirkland
Director of Religious Education
ckirkland@saintmauriceparish.org

Kelley Rodgers
Business Manager
krodgers@saintmauriceparish.org

Judy Kosar, LaVerne Caprara
Secretaries
jkosar@saintmauriceparish.org
lcaprara@saintmauriceparish.org

Fr. Daniel A. Adjei
In Residence

Word of God Parish
7446 McClure Avenue
Swissvale, PA 15218

Administrative Office:
2021 S. Braddock Ave
Pittsburgh PA 15218

Parish Office
Phone: 412-241-1372
FAX: 412-271-2335
Website:
www.madonnadelcastello.org

Parish Office Hours:
Monday - Friday: 9 AM - 5 PM

Parish Staff
Deacon Ron Demblowski
Pastoral Associate
wordofgodpa@gmail.com

Michael Burke
Music Director

Karen Flynn
Parish Secretary
wordofgod1994@gmail.com

CLERGY TEAM

Fr. Frank D. Almade <i>Administrator</i>	Mr. Joseph M. Dougherty <i>Deacon</i>
Fr. Martin F. Barkin <i>Senior Parochial Vicar</i>	Mr. Keith G. Kondrich <i>Deacon</i>
Fr. Albert J. Semler <i>Senior Parochial Vicar</i>	Mr. Herb E. Riley <i>Deacon</i>
Fr. Jeremy J. Mohler <i>Parochial Vicar</i>	

This Week's Mass Schedule and Intentions

(Confessions: Saturday, 12:00 Noon-1:00 PM at Word of God & St. Colman; 7:30-8:00 PM, Monday at St. Maurice)

Date	Time	Location	Intention	Offered By
Sat. December 14 <i>Vigil Mass</i>	4:00 PM	St. John Fisher	1) †John & Mary Zinza 2) †Richard Bostjancic	1) Granddaughter 2) Wife
	4:00 PM	St. Maurice	†Juan, Amanda & Hector Garcia	Family
	5:30 PM	St. Colman	†Pat Trainor	Bour Family
	5:30 PM	Madonna del Castello	1) For the People of our Parishes 2) †John Zak	2) Family
Sunday, December 15 <i>Third Sunday of Advent</i>	8:00 AM	Good Shepherd	†Nicolina Hardy	John & Diana Hardy
	9:00 AM	St. Jude the Apostle	†David Speranzo	Sisters & Brother
	9:00 AM	Word of God	†Sophie C. Fazio	Family
	10:00 AM	St. Colman	†Roseann Alexander Boyd	Mother & Family
	10:00 AM	St. Maurice	†Mary Rosicci—Anniv.	Family
	11:00 AM	Sacred Heart	†Betty Hopta	Her Children
	11:30 AM	St. John Fisher	1) †Kathy Cassella 2) †Cecelia Dugan	1) SJF Ladies of Charity 2) Husband, John
	5:30 PM	St. Colman	All Living & Deceased of our Parishes	
Mon. Dec. 16 <i>Advent Weekday</i>	8:00 AM	St. Colman	1) †Ray 2) †Frank & Laverne Evanovich	1) Anonymous 2) Family
	7:00 PM	St. Maurice	†Veronica Wlahofsky	Scott Wlahofsky
Tues. Dec. 17 <i>Late Advent Weekday</i>	7:00 AM	Sacred Heart	†Mary Ellen Gildroy	M/M James Swankler
	8:00 AM	St. Colman	†Jean Nolan	Bill & Noreen Kelly
	9:00 AM	Madonna del Castello	†Mary Mae Molyneaux	Diane & Greg
Wed. Dec. 18 <i>Late Advent Weekday</i>	8:00 AM	St. John Fisher	†Nicolina Hardy	Joan & Gene Susi
	9:00 AM	Sacred Heart	†Homer McCartney, Anniversary	Kathy & Ryan
Thurs. Dec. 19 <i>Late Advent Weekday</i>	7:00 AM	Sacred Heart	†Janice Demblowski	CCD Students & Teachers Madonna & Word of God
	8:00 AM	St. John Fisher	1) †Gerald O'Donnell 2) †Richard Hayden	1) Family 2) Sister, Janet
	9:00 AM	Word of God	†Joseph & Helen Burg	Burg Family
Fri. Dec. 20 <i>Late Advent Weekday</i>	8:00 AM	St. Jude the Apostle	1) †Nick Travisano 2) †Al Volpe	1) Travisano Family 2) Family
	9:00 AM	St. Maurice (ECS)	†Matthew Clark	Jessica & Michael Wassil & Family
Sat. Dec. 21 <i>Vigil Mass</i>	4:00 PM	St. John Fisher	†Charles & Geni Catanese	Children
	4:00 PM	St. Maurice	†Dec. Mem. Michna & Prior Families	Barry & Michele Prior
	5:30 PM	St. Colman	†Tom, Ann & Brian Griffin	Mary Jo Valentine
	5:30 PM	Madonna del Castello	†Andy & Irene Petach	Maksimchuk Family
Sunday, December 22 <i>Fourth Sunday of Advent</i>	8:00 AM	Good Shepherd	For the People of our Parishes	
	9:00 AM	St. Jude the Apostle	1) †Ed Pfeil 2) †Priscilla Kent	1) Paul & Mila Rothrauff 2) Paul & Mila Rothrauff
	9:00 AM	Word of God	†Paul J. Cronin	Dan & Shirley Cronin
	10:00 AM	St. Colman	1) †Owen Alexander 2) †Joseph & Elizabeth Evancho	1) Wife & Family 2) Mason Family
	10:00 AM	St. Maurice	†Melvin & Grace Hartman, Vincent & Margaret Meinert, Angelo & Carmella Nese	Vincent & Angela Meinert
	11:00 AM	Sacred Heart	†Mary Estoscin Krivinsky	Family
	11:30 AM	St. John Fisher	1) †Margaret Miele 2) The Living & Deceased of our Parishes	1) Family
	5:30 PM	St. Colman	†Samuel & Marybelle Garofolo	Debbie



Faithful Chronicles

By Father Frank D. Almade

In 1969 Bishop Vincent Leonard decreed that every parish in the Diocese of Pittsburgh would publish an accounting of its finances for the parishioners to see. What you see in today's bulletin is fulfilling this wise requirement for the fiscal year July 1, 2018, through June 30, 2019 for all seven of our parishes in Grouping 216. The attached numbers have been reviewed by the Finance Council members of the seven parishes. If anyone wishes to see more detail, or has questions, give me a call or send me an email (falmade@diopitt.org), and I'll be happy to respond to your concerns.

This column is meant to give an overview of some of the issues facing our parishes, as we move toward merger in 2020.

Challenges. As you can see, all of our parishes were in deficit spending for the 2018-19 fiscal year. Unfortunately this is consistent with almost every parish in the Diocese of Pittsburgh. During the past 18 months we've been hit with the double whammy of the Pennsylvania Grand Jury report of priests who harmed children (issued in August 2018) and the **On Mission for the Church Alive** pastoral planning process. Both Sunday Mass attendance and Offertory collections have gone down 16- 19% in our grouping. It is hard to know which of these events has had more impact on the decline in Sunday Mass attendance and decline in Offertory contributions. Take your pick.

The subsidy to support children at East Catholic School is also a challenge. We have a wonderful, lively, excellent school on the St. Maurice campus, with great teachers, 180 kids and engaged leadership. But school expenses continue to rise far faster than inflation, and higher than parents can afford tuition raises. Remember, tuition from parishes only pays for about 60% of the total cost of Catholic education. The rest comes from the Diocese of Pittsburgh Bishop's Education Fund, school fundraising, and subsidy (grants) from neighboring parishes. Catholic elementary schools receive no government funding. In addition, past school budgets failed to pay health benefits for the teachers. As a result, there is at least \$250,000 in debt to the diocese for unpaid insurance bills. These financial woes are serious challenges to East Catholic School.

A third challenge is **Parish Share**. Donations have gone down significantly. Please remember that every parish is required to contribute "its fair share" to the office of the bishop and the workings of diocesan central administration (at a rate of 17.6% of total Offertory collections). All donations to **Parish Share** above and beyond each parish's goal remain in the parish for its own uses.

Positives. Our parishioners are generous. Over the past year you have donated almost \$2.5 million to your parishes. This figure does not count the contributions to the 11 second collections which are taken up throughout the year (for the missions, retirement fund for religious, Catholic Charities, St. Vincent de Paul Society, etc.) and which go directly to these organizations. Thank you! Thank you for your expression of Christian stewardship and heartfelt support for your parish. Remember, God can never be outdone in generosity.

Please note that while our parishes have debt (much of it for school expenses from ten years ago or more) our parishes also have liquid assets/savings in excess of \$3 million. This includes unspent Our Campaign for the Church Alive (diocesan capital campaign) monies, which must be used for each parish's specified purposes. I will work with the members of the Finance Councils in the new year regarding the Our Campaign money, and keep you informed.

Not listed in these financials is the fact that we are in the process of selling three school buildings (in Word of God, Good Shepherd and St. Colman parishes). When these transactions are completed very soon, our property insurance and utility bills should decline slightly, and revenue from the sales remain for the use of our parishes.

Pastoral Care. Our parishes are not just about money. Our parishes are made up of active Catholics who attend Mass weekly, volunteer in a myriad of ways, pray daily and witness to their faith at work and at home. Our priests and deacons baptize babies, visit the sick in nursing homes and hospitals and at home, celebrate funerals (Masses and blessing services) and witness marriages. Our priests hear hours of confessions each week and anoint the sick when called. Your donations make possible these thousands of acts of pastoral care by the clergy and laity.

Christian Stewardship. In a gentle way I ask you to review your giving, to your parish and to the poor. Have you had a "good financial year"? Consider increasing your weekly or monthly contribution to your parish. Or make a substantial end-of-the-year donation to **Parish Share**. Please make sure when you prepare your will that you leave a nice bequest to your parish which has served you and your family for decades. We have received seven bequests in the past 15 months from such thoughtful parishioners. Remember, you can't take it with you!

Let me end on a note of prayerful gratitude. In every donation, small or large, week-in and week-out I see the faces of our parishioners, their faith and their love for the church, and their awareness of God's gifts to them. Thank you for all you do for your parish.

Education / Faith Formation



Too Busy? Seven weeks could change your life! discovering Christ... Join Us starting in February 2020



Have you noticed the simple, intriguing notes in the bulletins over the past few weeks? Our first note was, "Life is a journey. Where are you headed?" These notes were all placed to peak your interest and entice you to find out more about your faith and your personal relationship with Christ. Our grouping has embarked on a wonderful journey of faith and we'd like you all to be a part of it! **We will be bringing ChristLife, a dynamic, Catholic, evangelical interactive series to our grouping starting in February 2020!** ChristLife was designed for participants to refocus their faith life and gain a deeper, closer and more personal relationship with God. Over seven weeks, we hope to help our participants to learn to love God, our neighbor and ourselves in a whole new way! Please continue to read the bulletin for more information on how YOU can take part in this transformative series, too! **God wants you to join us....please listen to His call!**

Thoughts to Reflect On and Share

If He opened the eyes of the blind and cleared the ears of the deaf, imagine what He can do for you when you allow your eyes and ears to be open to His Word. -Deacon Herb
You can follow Deacon Herb on Facebook.

Parish Stewardship - December 8

Good Shepherd	\$ 4,478.00
Madonna del Castello	\$ 2,290.00
St. Maurice.....	\$ 6,981.00
Word of God.....	\$ 6,771.00

Memorial Offerings

SACRED HEART: Altar Bread, Altar Candles, Altar Wine, Tabernacle Lamp and Flowers are **in memory of Anna Yurinko** by Paula & Family.
ST. MAURICE: Tabernacle Lamp is **in memory of Matthew Clark** by Phyllis & Steve Koncerak.
WORD OF GOD: Tabernacle Lamp and Altar Flowers are **in memory of John & Dorothy Collins** from Son, Bob.

PARISH LIBRARY/GIFT SHOP NEWS

SPECIAL HOURS today, Dec. 15: 9:00am—2:00pm!

Christmas at the Gift Shop: Stop in for traditional **Christmas Oplatki**—(package of 4 wafers), boxed Christmas cards, plus a wide selection of religious gifts. "**Requiem for the Living**" CDs from the Service of Remembrance—2/\$25 or \$15.00 each.

Parish Library: Fun and faith-filled **Christmas DVDs** for the whole family can be borrowed for the season.

****Late December/Early January hours:** Open—Dec 22, Closed—Dec. 26-Jan. 2, Open—Jan. 5.

Regular hours: Sundays—9:00-11:00am; Thursdays—9:30am-Noon.

Convenient location: 1st Floor—Word of God Parish Center at 7436 McClure Avenue—Swissvale.

Jon Zellhart and Friends present

KRONOS DUO: Join us for a celebration of beautiful music for guitar, clarinet, voice, and singing of your Christmas favorites!
Sunday, December 15 at 3:30 p.m., St. John Fisher Parish, 33 Lewin Lane, Pittsburgh, PA 15235.



CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Tuesday, December 24 - Christmas Eve

4:00 p.m. - St. Colman
4:00 p.m. - St. Maurice
4:00 p.m. - Sacred Heart
5:00 p.m. - St. Jude the Apostle
6:00 p.m. - St. John Fisher
7:30 p.m. - St. Maurice
10:00 p.m. - St. John Fisher
12 Midnight - Word of God

Wednesday, December 25 - Christmas Day

9:00 a.m. - Good Shepherd
10:00 a.m. - St. Colman
10:00 a.m. - Madonna del Castello
11:00 a.m. - Word of God



SPECIAL CONFESSION TIMES FOR ADVENT

Tues., Dec. 17, 7:00 p.m. - St. Jude the Apostle Church
Wed., Dec. 18, 1:00 p.m. - St. Colman Church
Thurs., Dec. 19, 7:00 p.m. - St. John Fisher Church

MADONNA & WORD OF GOD CHRISTMAS GIFT GIVING



GIVING TREES: Bring your wrapped gift back to EITHER church with the gift tag attached by **SUN., DEC. 15**. Gift cards can be placed in an envelope (with the gift tag attached) and put it in the collection basket.

P.O.W.E.R.: Place all items in the boxes set up in the back of Madonna and Word of God by **SUN., DEC. 15**.

Pittsburgh Catholic: Due to a new policy, the December 20 issue will cover the remainder of 2019. Weekly publication will resume with the issue on Friday, January 3.

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.

East Pittsburgh / Forest Hills

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS Sunday, December 15, 2019

Donut Sunday

Tuesday, December 17, 2019

7:00 PM-East Catholic School Living Nativity-Church

7:30 PM - Knights of Columbus - Lawrence Room

Thursday, December 19, 2019

7:00 PM - Bible Study - Parish Center



DONUT SUNDAY: will be held in St. Maurice Keane Hall this week, Sunday, December 15, after Mass. Please join us for coffee, juice and donuts.



CHRISTMAS DECORATING FOR THE CHURCH: We will be decorating St. Maurice Church for Christmas on Dec. 22 at 12:00 p.m. Volunteers are needed and welcome to help. Thank you.



CHILDREN'S LITURGY FOR CHRISTMAS AT ST. MAURICE PARISH:

on Tues., Dec. 24, at 4:00 p.m. Mass. We invite the children of our parishes to attend this beautiful

Mass with their families. Children are encouraged to attend and dress up as angels, shepherds, wise men, the star or as any one of the animals that were at the manger. Father Frank will call the children up during his homily to recreate a live nativity scene. Mary and Joseph will be chosen from the Second Graders of Religious Education and School. We hope that you and your family can join us for this beautiful Christmas Mass!



THE GOOD SHEPHERD HANDBELL CHOIR

will be performing their Christmas concert, "Glory to the Newborn King," **Sun., Dec. 15, at 2:00 p.m.** at Word of God Church in Swissvale and also **Sun., Dec. 22, 2:00 p.m.** at

Good Shepherd Church in Braddock. Join us as we help celebrate and ring in the Christmas season with holiday favorites such as "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen," "O Holy Night," "A Midnight Clear," "The First Noel," and more! Concerts are free and open to the public. We'd love to help you slow down and celebrate the holiday season with an afternoon of joyous music.

EAST CATHOLIC SCHOOL-SOUNDS OF THE CHRISTMAS SEASON Dec. 17, 7:00p.m.

Gr. 5-8 - "Living Nativity," story of Jesus' birth through narration, song & liturgical dances. For information call 412-351-5403.



Prayer Line: 412-277-0693 or 412-871-3245

Rankin / Swissvale

PSP Donation—Madonna:

In honor of St. Lucy from Ann Hopwood.

Dinners & Cookies can be purchased after the **Sat. 5:30 p.m. Mass** at Madonna in the hall twice a month and also after the **Tues. 9:00 a.m. Mass.** Dinners are in containers and include: Eggplant, Stuffed Shells, Plain Sauce, Rollatini & Meatballs, and Cavetelli. Baked goods include anginetts, iwanti, biscotti, and pizzelles. Everything is homemade. For info. call 412-271-5666.



This Week

Sunday

9:00 AM to 2:00 PM - Library & Gift Shop open
2:00 PM Christmas Concert - Word of God

Monday

6:30 PM Word of God Choir Rehearsal-Word of God

Wednesday

10:30 AM Legion of Mary - Swissvale Towers

Thursday

9:30 AM to 12:00 PM - Library & Gift Shop open

Next Sunday

9:00 AM to 11:00 AM - Library & Gift Shop open



Madonna will be decorated for Christmas on **Sun., Dec. 22 starting at 9 a.m.** Volunteers are welcome.



Hi Rise Mass, Thurs., Dec. 19, 1:30 p.m., Community Room, 1826 Monongahela Ave., Swissvale. For more information call the parish office, 412-241-1372.

ECUMENICAL CAROL FESTIVAL: Sun., Dec. 15, 6:00p.m.-7:00p.m., Pittsburgh Mennonite Church, 2018 S. 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 Pantries. A reception will follow. For more info.contact Deacon Ron Demblowski at 412.241.1372 or wordofgodpa@gmail.com. Sponsored by the Swissvale Ministerial Association.



Prayer Line: 412-804-8858

Braddock / N. Braddock / Braddock Hills



WE ARE LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS: to decorate Good Shepherd Church for Christmas. If anyone would like to volunteer please call the Good Shepherd Office at 412-271-1515. Office hours are Monday-Friday, 9:00 AM-1:00 PM.

Group 216	St Colman	Good Shepherd	St. John Fisher	St. Jude the Apostle	Madonna del Castello	St. Maurice	Word of God	Total 7/1/18 – 6/30/19
<u>Spiritual information</u>								
Families	1,100	596	650	302	459	1,131	644	4,882
Individuals	2,527	905	1,150	500	855	2,331	1,120	9,388
Baptisms	17	3	12	0	6	13	3	54
Marriages	3	2	6	0	0	3	8	22
Deaths	92	51	38	29	27	34	42	313

Deposit & Loan funds with the Diocese of Pittsburgh

Savings	\$20,437	\$322,366	\$1,359,340	\$596,810	\$21,453	\$200,554	\$26,142	\$2,547,102
Campaign Savings	\$43,371	\$27,499	\$16,910	\$16,705	\$7,241	\$153,825	\$90,116	\$355,667
Debt	\$783,242	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$467,282	\$1,354,480	\$2,605,004

Group 216	106001	165001	256001	290001	333001	395001	598001	
(\$ in 000)	St Colman	Good Shepherd	St John Fisher	St Jude the Apostle	Madonna del Castello	St Maurice	Word of God	Total Group
Offertery	362	244	345	86	142	532	337	2,048
Donations/Bequests	29	12	7	21	5	78	10	162
Fundraising	(3)	8	-	17	45	39	5	109
Other	4	9	18	4	6	6	1	48
Excess PSP	(62)	21	60	(24)	(3)	1	24	17
Total Revenue	329	293	430	104	195	655	378	2,385
Operating Expenses	382	340	458	105	187	678	290	2,439
School Subsidy	40	20	51	9	25	1	39	185
Surplus/(Deficit)	(93)	(67)	(79)	(10)	(17)	(23)	49	(239)
Additional School Deficit	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(279)
Net Surplus/(Deficit)	(93)	(67)	(79)	(10)	(17)	(23)	49	(518)
Cash	4	47	76	30	79	122	203	561
D & L Savings	20	124	1,359	592	22	200	26	2,344
Other Savings	-	275	-	-	3	8	21	306
Campaign	40	26	17	16	7	153	90	350
Total Assets	65	472	1,452	638	110	483	340	3,560
Insurance Payable	142	47	7	(1)	3	36	3	236
D & L Debt	700	-	-	-	-	464	1,355	2,519
Debt	842	47	7	(1)	3	500	1,358	2,754
Net Assets	(777)	426	1,445	640	108	(17)	(1,018)	806
Attendance Change	-22%	-47%	2%	-45%	-27%	-7%	-22%	-19%
Offertery Change	-9%	-16%	-24%	-22%	-26%	-16%	-9%	-16%
Additional school deficit shown in Total Group column is for East Catholic. Not shown above is East Catholic insurance payable of \$420								