



## Madonna of Jerusalem Church

### Saint Juan Diego Parish

Madonna of Jerusalem Parish was founded in 1904 for Italian immigrant Catholics in Sharpsburg. Prior to this time, an Italian priest regularly visited Sharpsburg to celebrate Mass for the local Italian speaking population. This priest used St. Joseph Church for Masses. On July 29, 1904, the congregation purchased an existing Presbyterian church on Main Street. The church was dedicated on September 11, 1904.

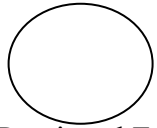
In 1922, new altars were installed in the church. The church was extensively renovated in 1946, with the installation of new pews, windows, statues, confessionals, altars, an entry and a vestibule.

That church burned to the ground in 1960. That year, Bishop John Wright determined that because of population decline in Sharpsburg, St. Joseph Parish would move to O'Hara Township. Then, Madonna of Jerusalem Parish moved into St. Joseph's church building on 9<sup>th</sup> street in Sharpsburg.

This church building, the third in the history of St. Joseph Parish, was built in 1873-1874. The church had renovations in 1900, after the flood of 1936, 1957, and 1986-88, when changes to fulfill the liturgical reform of Vatican II were done.

The 1988 renovation provided Madonna of Jerusalem Church with three distinctive statues on the back wall behind the altar. Directly above the altar is the Risen Christ. To the left is Mary (Madonna of Jerusalem) and the Child Jesus; to the right is St. Anthony of Padua and the Child Jesus. The baptismal font is to the left of the altar; the tabernacle is to the right. Immediately behind the altar is the Presider's Chair, a pre-Vatican II hand carved sedilla, with chalice, cross, angel and lions on the armrests. At the rear of the church is a traditional crucifix of Christ.

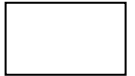
# DESCRIPTION OF STAINED GLASS WINDOWS IN MADONNA CHURCH



Baptismal Font



Tabernacle



Pulpit



1

Sacred Heart of Jesus  
Immaculate Heart of Mary

Trinity  
Lamb of God

8

2

Lion, represents St. Mark the Evangelist  
Angel, represents St. Matthew  
the Evangelist

Ox, represents St. Luke the Evangelist  
Eagle, represents St. John  
the Evangelist

9

3

Unknown  
Lamb Victorious

Alpha/Omega  
Cross

10

4

Dove  
Lilies

Chalice/Host  
Unknown

11

5

Chalice/Host  
Cross with Crown

Cross with Crown of Thorns  
Spear and Sponge

12

6

Dove  
Baptismal Font

Eagle  
Treasure Chest

13

7

Candle  
Ciborium

Unknown  
Lilies

14