

The Catholic Community in Sharpsburg

Saint Mary Parish + Madonna of Jerusalem Parish + Saint John Cantius Parish

Very Reverend Frank D. Almade, V. F., Administrator

FEBRUARY 15, 2009

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

ADMINISTRATIVE CENTER

201 9th Street, Sharpsburg, PA 15215

Office.....412-784-8700
Office Fax.....412-781-1101
CCD.....412-784-8700
Cemetery Clerical Office.....412-784-8960
St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry.....412-781-2866
Christ the Divine Teacher
Catholic Academy.....412-781-7927
E-mail.....CCinSharpsburg@yahoo.com
Web site.....www.catholicsharpsburg.org

SCHEDULE OF MASSES

Saturday

4:00 pm Madonna of Jerusalem Church
6:00 pm Madonna of Jerusalem Church

Sunday

8:30 am St. John Cantius Church
10:30 am St. Mary Church
10:30 am St. John Cantius—KCC (in Korean)

BAPTISMS by appointment. Pre-Baptism session required. Baptisms will take place during any Sunday Mass.

MARRIAGES Six months' notice required. Please call Father to arrange an interview.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK Available at the conclusion of all weekend Masses or call Father Almade. Kindly inform us of hospitalized or shut-in parishioners.

CONFESSION SCHEDULE

Wednesday : 5:30 p.m. to 6:45 p.m. MOJ
Saturday: 3:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. MOJ

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Monday: 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. John Paul I Center

MATTHEW 7:7 PRAYER GROUP

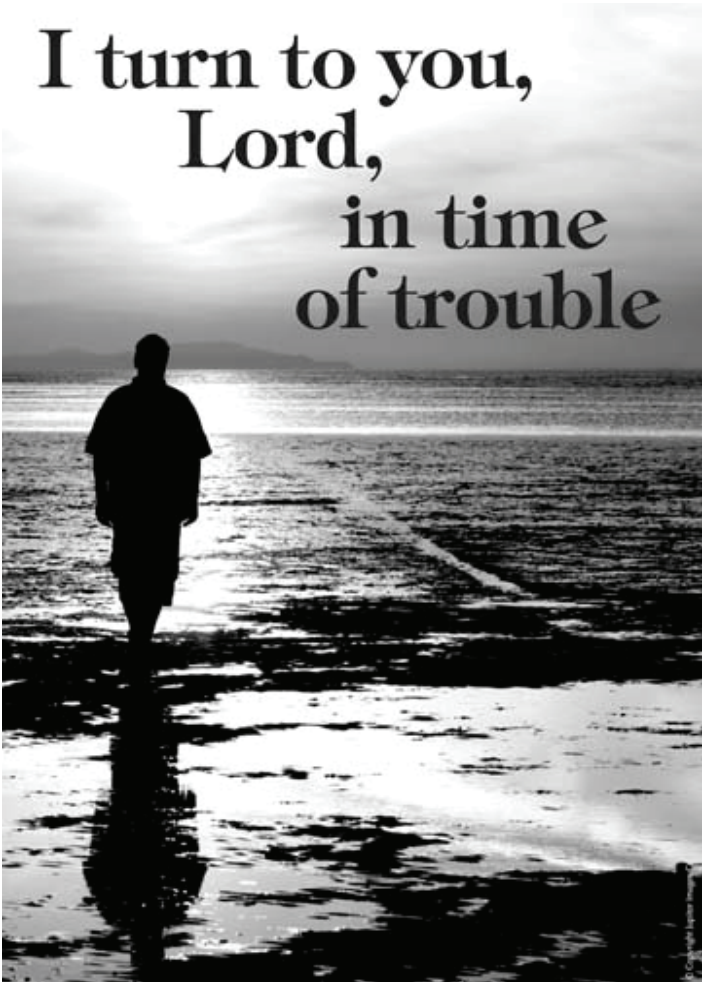
Monday: 7:15 p.m. in Madonna Church

KOREAN CATHOLIC COMMUNITY (KCC)

Masses in Korean at St. John Cantius Church
Sunday: 10:30 a.m.
Rev. Jang Won Choi, Chaplain
Website: www.tkccp.org

OFFICE HOURS

Monday to Friday: 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.



I turn to you,
Lord,
in time
of trouble

This Week in the Church

Sunday, February 15

St. Claude la Colombiere

Monday, February 16

St. Gilbert of Sempringham

Tuesday, February 17

Seven Founders of the Order of Servites

Wednesday, February 18

Blessed John of Fiesole

Thursday, February 19

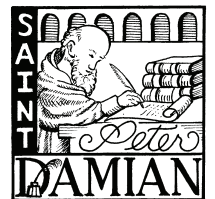
St. Conrad of Pienza

Friday, February 20

Blessed Jacinta and Francisco Marto

Saturday, February 21

St. Peter Damian



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Stewardship
Offertory February 7/8, 2009

St. Mary	\$2,462.00
Madonna of Jerusalem	\$3,339.00
St. John Cantius	\$1,066.00

TREMENDOUS!!! THANK YOU FOR YOUR STEWARDSHIP

LENT The season of Lent will begin this year on Ash Wednesday, February 25. The Mass schedule (with distribution of ashes) is as follows: 7:30 a.m. at Madonna of Jerusalem Church, 12:00 Noon at St. Mary Church and 7:00 p.m. at Madonna of Jerusalem Church. Also, the daily Mass on Wednesdays will move to 7:00 p.m. for Lent in Madonna Church.

“SOUPER” SUNDAY Sunday, February 1, was a wonderful day in more ways than one. The Youth Group, thanks to the generosity of our parishioners, raised \$760.00 and over 140 canned and non-perishable goods for the St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry. Again, your kindness is greatly appreciated!

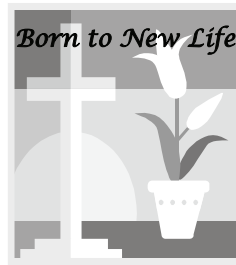
CHRISTIAN MOTHERS AND ROSARY SOCIETY The Christian Mothers and Rosary Society will hold their monthly meeting this Thursday, February 19. This month will feature the shower for Sister's Place and all members are asked to bring a household good or baby item to help mothers in need.

YOUTH GROUP This Friday, February 20, the Youth Group will participate in a 15 hour food fast. From 6:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m., the group will do service projects in preparation for Lent. At 9:00 p.m., there will be a lockdown in the John Paul I Pastoral Center for students in grades 6 through 12 with a night of service in prayer. At 8:30 a.m., the younger students are invited back to the John Paul Center for a day of prayer, music and service. At Noon, the fast will be broken with a lunch of soup and salad and at 3:00 p.m., the students will go to Madonna of Jerusalem church to pray the rosary and attend 4:00 p.m. Mass. Permission slips are needed for the students staying overnight and all who attend are asked to bring canned goods to help the St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry.

CHRIST THE DIVINE TEACHER CATHOLIC ACADEMY Christ the Divine Teacher Catholic Academy is now accepting registration for Pre-K through 8th grades for the 2009-2010 school year. For further information or to arrange a tour, please call 412-781-7927.

ST. JOSEPH PRESCHOOL St. Joseph Preschool in O'Hara Township is now accepting registrations for the 2009-2010 school year. The preschool offers classes for two, three and four year olds. Need-based tuition scholarships are offered. Please call 412-963-7205 for further information.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES Are you looking for a medical mission experience close to home? Then join our “volunteers with heart” team of clinical and non-clinical professionals at the Catholic Charities Free Health Care Center in downtown Pittsburgh. The mission of the center is dedicated to providing excellent primary health care at no charge to those who neither have health coverage nor are able to afford health insurance, regardless of religious affiliation. Physicians, dentists, dental hygienists, nurses and individuals with clerical and organizational skills are always needed and appreciated. Your time commitment is up to you. Free parking is provided. If you would like to share your gifts in the service of helping others, call Maureen at 412-456-6699.



Please pray for

Herb Hamilton

a former employee here at CCS,

Anna Meanor

and

Karen Rulli

May they rest in peace.

HEARTFELT CONGRATULATIONS Last Monday, February 9, the students of our 2nd grade CCD class celebrated the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time. We congratulate:

Jason Gigler
Natalie Kurth
Carson Landolina
Taryn Nasiadka
Isaac Panza
Emidio Paterra
Richie Strawn
Sofia Varvaro

We thank their teachers, Mrs. Pam Susi and Mrs. Susan Harchelroad, for their hard work and dedication in preparing the children and we are also grateful to Father Carlo Napoli for helping us to hear confessions at this very special time.

CENTRAL CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL Irish night returns to Central Catholic on March 8. Come celebrate Irish culture this year as Central Catholic presents the “13th Annual Irish Night: Row for Brendan”, benefitting the Central Catholic and Oakland Catholic rowing teams. Exciting ballads, dancing and instrumental performances will bring McGonigle Theater alive with Irish culture beginning at 7:00 p.m. After the show, you are invited to enjoy a complimentary reception with Irish scones and tea. Tickets can be purchased by calling ProArtsTickets at 412-394-3353.

NORTH CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL North Catholic High School is offering a \$500 financial aid discount for accepted freshman who register early. This is a special offer, limited to the first 75 registered students. For details, please call the Admissions Director, Mary K. Masa, at 412-321-4823 ext. 127.

SISTERS OF ST. FRANCIS Are you longing to ground your busy every-day-living in spirituality that gives purpose to daily challenges? Investigate the Sisters of St. Francis' Associate Program to find the calming peace and spiritual comfort you have been waiting for. The Association Program is comprised of men and women active in their parishes, civic communities and homes. They seek to deepen their lives in following the Gospel values in the spirit of St. Francis. A commitment to a monthly meeting of fellowship with other members, prayer and participation in a presentation on a Franciscan theme provides a rich time of rejuvenation. If this touches a hope with you, please contact Sister Marie Grace Blum at 412-821-1603.

Our website is www.catholicsharpsburg.org

PARISH SHARE Next Sunday, February 22, is the kickoff for our 2009 Parish Share campaign. You should be receiving a letter with information about this year's campaign and we hope, as always, that you will continue to be generous in helping us meet our goals.

2009 FLOWERS AND CANDLES Candles and flowers are available for just about every weekend for this year. The offering for candles is \$25 and the cost for flowers is \$50. Please call the Parish Office if you would like to remember your loved ones in a special way through flowers and candles.

ST. MARY CEMETERY In preparation for the spring, the cemetery workers request that you remove all decorations from the graves no later than March 1.

HELP WANTED Father Almade is looking for parishioners who are knowledgeable about the statues and windows of our churches to make booklets for histories of the churches. If you are able to help, please contact the parish office.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS Stations of the Cross will be held on each Friday during Lent at 7:00 p.m. in Madonna of Jerusalem Church. Different groups will present the stations throughout Lent. The schedule is as follows:

February 27	CCD Program
March 6	Holy Name Society
March 13	Christian Mothers and Rosary Society
March 20	Prayer Group
March 27	Youth Group
April 3	Living Stations

All are welcome to join us in prayer and reflection during this Lenten season.

NEIGHBORLY HOSPITALITY Our neighbors at St. Joseph Parish, O'Hara, had a water main break in their current church building three weeks ago. As a result, until their new church (under construction) is completed in late fall, we have offered our churches to their parishioners for funeral Masses or weddings. So over the next several months, please note that we will mention in our bulletin the St. Joseph parishioners who celebrate these ceremonies in our churches.

ABUSE PROTECTION The Diocese of Pittsburgh is committed to the prevention of abuse of children and young people. Our diocesan church has a strong record of responding to accusations of sexual misconduct by clergy or church personnel. The toll free number to contact in case of sexual abuse is 1-888-808-1235.

AQUINAS ACADEMY Aquinas Academy of Pittsburgh invites you to the Aquinas Academy Speaker Series. The series starts with Dr. Ray Guarendi's "Back to the Family" this Thursday, February 19, from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. Dr. Ray is a father, clinical psychologist, author, public speaker and radio host of "On Call with Dr. Ray and Friends" heard locally on 1590 AM WZUM. Diocesan teachers can earn Act 48 credits and catechists can earn two elective credit hours. For additional information, please contact Mike Burchill at 724-444-0722 ext. 17.

TAX DEDUCTIONS It's that time of year again when we prepare our tax returns. If you would like to receive a receipt of your offering to your parish for 2008, please call the Parish Office and we will be happy to send it to you.

BINGO!

at **MADONNA**



Join us on Sunday, February 22, for
strawberry shortcake to celebrate
Mardi Gras!!

DOORS OPEN AT 5:30 P.M.
BINGO BEGINS AT 7 P.M.
in the John Paul I Center

No one under 14 permitted.

SMOKERS/NON-SMOKERS WELCOME!!!

LARGE PAPER GROCERY BAGS ARE ALWAYS NEEDED!

For more information, call Marie at 412-781-3388.

POPE SAYS TRUE HEALING IS IN TRUTH AND LOVE OF GOD

Jesus' healing work is continued in the Church through the sacraments, the charity of the community and an understanding of the meaning and value of illness, Pope Benedict XVI is pointing out. Last week the Pope spoke about the Gospel's account of Jesus curing many sick people, stating that "it invites us once again to reflect on the meaning and value of illness in every situation in which the human being can find himself. Despite the fact that illness is part of human existence, we never manage to get used to it, not only because sometimes it comes to be burdensome and grave, but essentially because we are made for life, for complete life." We think of God as "plenitude of life," he observed; thus "when we are tested by sickness and our prayers seem in vain, doubt wells up in us and, filled with anguish, we ask ourselves: What is God's will?" The answer, said the Holy Father, is found in the Gospel. He explained: "Jesus does not leave room for doubt: God—whose face he himself has revealed—is the God of life, who frees us from all evil. The signs of this, his power of love, are the healings that he carries out: He thus shows that the Kingdom of God is near, restoring men and women to their full integrity in spirit and body." More importantly, he said, we "understand that man's truest and deepest illness is the absence of God, who is the fount of truth and love." Pope Benedict XVI added: "And only reconciliation with God can give us true healing, true life, because a life without love and without truth would not be a true life. The Kingdom of God is precisely the presence of truth and love, and thus it is healing in the depths of our being."

LOVE WALK FOR THE POOR Members of our Youth Group participated this past weekend in the Love Walk for the Poor. They attended Mass together and then walked with bags of food and baby items for approximately a mile through Shadyside and East Liberty. In addition, Rachel Haas, Christian Harchelroad, Gabrielle Harchelroad and Cecelia Troyan had the privilege of serving the Mass under Bishop William Winter. This humbling experience served in teaching all involved about the difficulties of homelessness and poverty.

FAITHFUL CHRONICLES
by Father Frank D. Almada

I am very grateful to Fathers Jim McDonough and Carlo Napoli for celebrating the Eucharist for you last weekend. It enabled me to be part of the team which led a Rachel's Vineyard retreat weekend.

Rachel's Vineyard is a program to offer reconciliation and healing to those who have had abortions, or participated in some way in the abortion experience. It is primarily for women who have had one or more abortions. It's also open to men who have paid for/encouraged their wives or girlfriends to have an abortion. The weekend retreat presents the unlimitedness of God's mercy, and follows the moral principle, "hate the sin, love the sinner." Women who have had abortions are invited to a deeper awareness of themselves at the time when they decided to have an abortion, their family and personal situation, and what the ramifications of the abortion are. The weekend retreat uses guided meditations to reflect on the healing Jesus offered in the gospels (to the woman with a hemorrhage, to the woman caught in adultery, to people with various diseases), the humanity of the baby they aborted (by naming their child), and their openness to the forgiveness and love God always holds open to us sinners. The various sessions also use symbols (water, candles, flowers, rocks, and letter-writing) to allow the retreatants to express their feelings and move toward Christ's healing. The priest's presence is important for the retreat, for all participants are invited to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation (confession) and to celebrate the closing Eucharist.

Every year tens of thousands March for Life in Washington on Jan. 22 (and several CCS adults and children represented us last month). Pro-lifers use the political process (such as the postcards to express our views to Congresspersons) and advocacy to advance various bills. But I believe that in addition to these public, political actions it is critically necessary to reach out (behind the scenes) to women and men who have undergone abortions, and now are grieving horribly the realization that they killed their baby, a child of God. Though the Rachel's Vineyard retreat is based on Catholic symbols and language, it is also rooted in sound psychological practices, and it is open to all women whatever their faith or level of practice.

In 1995 Pope John Paul II wrote: "I would now like to say a special word to women who have had an abortion. The Church is aware of the many factors which may have influenced your decision, and she does not doubt that in many cases it was a painful and even shattering decision. The wound in your heart may not yet have healed. Certainly what happened was and remains terribly wrong. But do not give in to discouragement and do not lose hope. Try rather to understand what happened and face it honestly. If you have not already done so, give yourselves over with humility and trust to repentance. The Father of mercies is ready to give you his forgiveness and his peace in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. You will come to understand that nothing is definitively lost and you will also be able to ask forgiveness from your child, who is now living in the Lord." If you know anyone who has had an abortion, pray for them, love them, and invite them to consider participating in a Rachel's Vineyard retreat. (For more info call Ann Depner at 412-456-6999.)

Schedule of Masses for the Week

SAT., FEB. 14

4:00 PM MOJ RICHAD MACIESKI, JR. & RICHARD MACIESKI,
SR. by Russell and Rose Williams

6:00 PM MOJ FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE
CATHOLIC COMMUNITY IN SHARPSBURG

SUN., FEB. 15

8:30 AM SJC WILLIAM C. & KATHERINE B. HILL by
William R. and Susan Hill

10:30 AM STM HARRY HABAY by wife and children

MON., FEB. 16

7:30 AM MOJ ASSUNTA LISTA by brother, Carlo and Rita Lista

TUE., FEB. 17

7:30 AM MOJ ANNA MEANOR by the Christian Mothers and
Rosary Society

WED., FEB. 18

7:30 AM MOJ BERNIE PERSICHETTI by Friends

THU., FEB. 19

7:30 AM MOJ FRANK PIASECKI by wife, Jean, and daughter,
Carol

FRI., FEB. 20

7:30 AM MOJ LAURA OZIMEK by Husband, Frank

SAT., FEB. 21

4:00 PM MOJ ANNA & JOSEPH LEMIC AND FAMILY by David
and Rose Rudzki

6:00 PM MOJ FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE
CATHOLIC COMMUNITY IN SHARPSBURG

SUN., FEB. 22

8:30 AM SJC FRANK PIASECKI by wife, Jean, and daughter,
Carol

10:30 AM STM DOLORES & HERB HAMILTON by Alice Schmidt

**If you have a Mass scheduled and wish to bring the gifts to
Father, please tell the ushers prior to Mass starting.**

SAINT VINCENT de PAUL SOCIETY In the Gospel today, Jesus, moved with pity, touched the leper and healed him. Let us pray today for the grace to be generous with our gifts to help those who are suffering. By your gift to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, you indeed put your faith into action as you bring healing to the poor, hungry and weeping.

MARRIAGE MOMENTS On anniversaries, the wise spouse always forgets the past, but never the present. What day of the month is your anniversary? If your actual anniversary is a ways away, perhaps you could have a mini-celebration next month on that date.

PARENTING POINTERS "My child, why have you done this to us? See how worried your father and I have been, looking for you." (Luke 2:48) Just as Jesus confounded his parents when he stayed in the temple talking with the teachers, sometimes our children worry us. OK, maybe a lot of the time. Put your child in God's hands. Sometimes that's all there is left to do.

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS Our featured advertiser this week is Sacco's Automotive Service. Please patronize our advertisers and thank them for helping us with the publication of our weekly bulletin.

NO CCD CLASSES, Monday, February 16, 2009. This is a scheduled day off in honor of Presidents' Day.

#515550

Catholic Community in Sharpsburg

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Sharpsburg, PA 15215

Office: 412-784-8700

Attn: Rosemarie

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Brother 5140