

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 22, 2009

SEVENTH 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: 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

This Week in the Church

Sunday, February 22

Chair of Peter the Apostle

Monday, February 23

St. Polycarp

Tuesday, February 24

Blessed Luke Belludi

Wednesday, February 25

Blessed Sebastian of Aparicio

Thursday, February 26

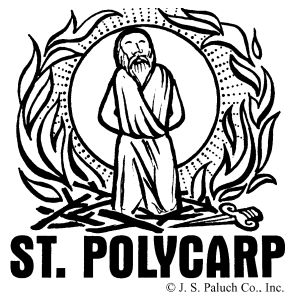
St. Porphyry of Gaza

Friday, February 27

St. Gabriel of Our Lady of Sorrows

Saturday, February 28

Blessed Daniel Brottier



BISHOP CREATES NEW SAINT JUAN DIEGO PARISH FROM THREE SHARPSBURG PARISHES

Bishop David Zubik has accepted the petition to merge three parishes into one parish from Father Frank Almade, administrator of the three parishes in Sharpsburg. On Sunday, March 1, 2009, Saint Juan Diego Parish will be established in Sharpsburg as the merger of Saint Mary Parish, Saint John Cantius Parish and Madonna of Jerusalem Parish. All three church buildings will be used in the new Saint Juan Diego Parish.

Saint Juan Diego Parish, Sharpsburg, is the first by this name in the Diocese of Pittsburgh and only the sixth parish to be established in the United States under his patronage, the first in the Northeast. The decree from Bishop Zubik establishing the parish notes, "This is the first recognition of a Native American saint in the Diocese of Pittsburgh and is granted to this new parish since Sharpsburg is known for its large statue of Chief Guyasuta of the Seneca Indian Nation, who collaborated with George Washington during the French and Indian War."

Bishop Zubik also appointed Father Almade as the first pastor of Saint Juan Diego Parish, with a term of six years. The bishop will install Father Almade ceremonially as pastor on Sunday, March 15, 2009, at the 10:30 a.m. Mass in Saint Mary Church. All are invited to attend this Mass of Installation. As a sign of unity, this will be the only Mass celebrated that weekend in the new parish.

The formation of Saint Juan Diego Parish has come after a six month process of pastoral planning by the Moving Forward Committee last year, which followed the diocesan "Alteration of a Parish" policy. The Committee, comprised of representatives of all three parishes, plus the Korean Catholic Community, submitted a five part plan for the three parishes to all parishioners in June. The five recommendations in the plan were: (1) Support the Korean Catholic Community; (2) Sell unused buildings; (3) Promote evangelization; (4) Keep open all three church buildings; and (5) Merge the three parishes into one new parish, with a new name. These recommendations received near unanimous approval by the 175 parishioners who attended two town meetings and who responded to the parish-wide mailing later that month. After soliciting suggestions for names for the new parish, the members of the Moving Forward Committee, the Pastoral Council, the Finance Council and Father Almade signed a petition on October 30 formally requesting that the bishop merge the three parishes.

The bishop's pastoral staff, Envisioning Ministry for the Future Executive Committee, and the Priest Council reviewed the petition and its documentation of wide consultation and communication. The Envisioning Ministry Committee and the Priest Council both unanimously recommended acceptance of the petition. Bishop Zubik approved the recommendation and set the date of March 1, 2009 for canonically establishing Saint Juan Diego Parish.

Stewardship

Offertory February 15/16, 2009

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|----------------------|------------|
| St. Mary | \$2,076.30 |
| Madonna of Jerusalem | \$1,866.00 |
| St. John Cantius | \$ 532.00 |

THANK YOU FOR YOUR STEWARDSHIP!

LENT The season of Lent will begin this Wednesday, 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.

RECEPTION An informal reception in honor of Father Almade's installation and our new Saint Juan Diego Parish will be held immediately following the 10:30 a.m. Mass on March 15. The reception will be at the John Paul I Pastoral Center and cookies are needed for that day. If you can donate cookies, they will be gratefully accepted on Friday, March 13 from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and on Saturday, March 14 from 10:00 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. If you are willing to help with the set-up and clean-up for the reception, please call the Parish Office at 412-784-8700.

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.

Born to New Life



Please pray for

Louis Intriери

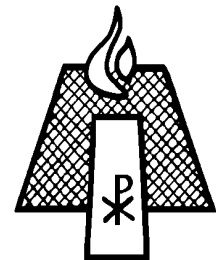
May he rest in peace.

**Altar and Sanctuary
Candles are burning
this week**

In memory of

George Williams, Sr.

by
Wife, Ann and Family



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GORZKIE ZALE On Sunday, March 15, at 3:00 p.m., the Pittsburgh Fraternity of Polish Priests will sponsor the traditional service of Gorzkie Zale at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, Polish Hill, with Bishop David Zubik as the main celebrant. All are welcome to attend this wonderful service.

***Please remember to make a bequest
to our new Saint Juan Diego Parish
in your will.***

2009 PARISH SHARE By now parishioners have received a letter from Father Almado inviting them to make a pledge (to be paid by several monthly payments) or a gift to the Parish Share Program, which begins this Sunday, Feb. 22. All three parishes have exceeded their Parish Share assessment the past two years. Parish Share enables the Diocese of Pittsburgh to support our chief shepherd, David Zubik, in his ministry as bishop, assist children in Catholic schools and religious education programs, help the poor through Catholic Charities, and enable young men to study for the priesthood. Over 100 programs are supported by Parish Share. Please be generous to this very worthy cause. If every household contributed at least \$200 to Parish Share, we would far exceed our goal. All money collected beyond our goal remains in Sharpsburg for our own needs. Father Almado thanks you for your support of Parish Share.

DIOCESAN PENANCE SERVICES During Lent, 2009, Bishop David A. Zubik will be holding penance services with individual rite of reconciliation at nine different parishes encompassing the 16 deaneries of the diocese between February 26 and March 18. In our area, Bishop Zubik will be celebrating reconciliation at Sacred Heart Church, Shadyside, on Monday March 2 at 7:00 p.m. and at Our Lady of Joy, Holiday Park, on Tuesday, March 10 at 7:00 p.m. Several priests will also be hearing confessions. All parishioners are invited to attend and go to confession.

LOCAL CLUSTER PENANCE SERVICES The parishes of our cluster will also hold penance services during the Lenten season. The times and dates are as follows: Saint Juan Diego Parish (Madonna of Jerusalem Church) on Wednesday, March 4, at 7:30 p.m., St. Joseph Parish on Wednesday, March 25 at 7:30 p.m., St. Scholastica Parish on Tuesday, March 31 at 7:00 p.m. and St. Edward Parish on Thursday, April 2 at 7:30 p.m.

"WHY MUST HE DIE?" The Teen Chorale of the TriCounty Choir Institute will present the Passion Play, "Why Must He Die?" at St. Edward Church on Sunday, March 1 at 6:30 p.m. The eighteen regular cast members and six fill-ins and crew include junior high, high school, college and graduate students from 18 area schools. This production is a meditation through music, drama and liturgical dance on the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. The performance is one hour and twenty minutes in length. There is no charge but a freewill offering will be taken.

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:

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|-------------|---|
| 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.

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.

BINGO!

at **MADONNA**



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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

Free Coffee!

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.

NEW BISHOP FOR ALASKA Last Month, Pope Benedict XVI appointed Msgr. Edward J. Burns as the new bishop of Juneau, Alaska. Msgr. Burns has been rector of St. Paul Seminary, Crafton, and a Pittsburgh priest for 25 years. He will be ordained a bishop on Tuesday, March 3, at 2:00 p.m. in St. Paul Cathedral, Oakland. This beautiful ceremony is open to all. The ordination Mass may also be viewed on the Christian Associates Channel on your cable listing.

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.

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.

HELP WANTED Father Almado 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.

SPRING CLEANING Anyone who is available to help with spring cleaning at St. Mary's Church is asked to come on March 30, March 31 and April 1 between the hours of 9:30 a.m. and 12 Noon. Men and women are needed and please don't forget your buckets and rags!

FAITHFUL CHRONICLES
by Father Frank D. Almada

Welcome to Saint Juan Diego Parish!

Last week I announced at all Sunday Masses the great good news that Bishop Zubik had accepted the petitions from our three parishes – Madonna of Jerusalem, St. John Cantius, and St. Mary – to merge into one new parish, with a new name. On March 1, 2009, Saint Juan Diego Parish is established as the newest parish in the Diocese of Pittsburgh. We are only the sixth parish with this name in the U.S., and the first in the Northeast.

Becoming one new parish marks another chapter in the Church's mission in Sharpsburg. The first parish, St. Joseph, was founded by Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos, a Redemptorist priest, in 1845. Later St. Mary (1852), Madonna of Jerusalem (1904), and St. John Cantius Parishes (1906) were established to minister to the needs of the German, Italian and Polish speaking immigrants living here respectively. In 1960 St. Joseph Parish moved "up the hill" to O'Hara Township, giving its church building to Madonna Parish after a fire destroyed its church. In 2007 the Korean Catholic Community took up residence at St. John Cantius, and continues their joyful growth and outreach. Now in 2009 we canonically come together as one community of Catholic faith, blessed with our three beautiful churches, and the devotion of the faithful.

I am grateful to Bishop David Zubik for asking me to stay on as your parish priest. I now receive a six year term of office as your pastor. Bishop Zubik is most gracious to come to Sharpsburg and ceremonially install me as the first pastor of Saint Juan Diego Parish on Sunday, March 15 at the 10:30 a.m. Mass in St. Mary Church. I hope all of you will adjust your usual Mass-going patterns and attend this one liturgy on Sunday, March 15, as parishioners from three former parishes and the Korean Catholic Community gather around one altar for Eucharist led by our bishop.

As I write this column on Monday morning, we have already received two large articles in today's editions of the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* and *Pittsburgh Tribune-Review*, an interview on WDUQ-FM, as well as shorter pieces on radio and TV. I look on these media events as opportunities for us to "tell our story" and evangelize, as Juan Diego did, telling the story of how Mary the Mother of God visited him and expressed her love for him and all peoples of the Americas.

Next Sunday there is no ceremony in establishing Saint Juan Diego Parish. By the bishop's decree – which is reproduced in its entirety in today's bulletin – at midnight on Sunday, March 1, 2009, the First Sunday of Lent, we become one community. Now it's up to us to continue what these communities have been doing for more than ten years, namely, work together for God's church. With this announcement we can also move forward in our communal evangelization efforts. Soon I'll be announcing the names of parishioners on our various committees. (There is still time to submit your name!) At this moment, I am very grateful for God whose grace has brought us this far by faith, and whose love and strength is always with us. ***Saint Juan Diego, pray for us! Virgin of Guadalupe, pray for us!***

Schedule of Masses for the Week

SAT., FEB. 21

4:00 PM MOJ ANNA AND JOSEPH LEMIC & 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 HAMILTY by Alice Schmidt

MON., FEB. 23

7:30 AM MOJ MARY SUSAN RANALLI by Peter and Mary Ellen Ramage

TUE., FEB. 24

7:30 AM MOJ IN HONOR OF THE HOLY FACE OF JESUS

WED., FEB. 25 ASH WEDNESDAY

7:30 AM MOJ DAN SCIULLI by Bob Krause and Family

12 NOON STM DOROTHY AND JOHN ARTURE by the Cunningham Family

7:00 PM MOJ GEORGE WILLIAMS, SR. by Wife, Ann & Family

THU., FEB. 26

7:30 AM MOJ PAUL J. ZWIGART by Wife, Betty & Children

FRI., FEB. 27

7:30 AM MOJ MARY HOLLIHAN by Carolyn and Chuck Vogle

SAT., FEB. 28

4:00 PM MOJ ROMILDO PERRI by Edda Perri & Family

6:00 PM MOJ RAY SWIERCZYNSKI by Wife, Toni, and Sons

SUN., MAR. 1

8:30 AM SJC LUCY & CARMEN CARVEZZA by Bernie and Cathy Hayden

10:30 AM STM FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY IN SHARPSBURG

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

SUNDAY, MARCH 15 As previously mentioned, only **one** Mass will be celebrated in Saint Juan Diego Parish on the weekend of March 14 and March 15. **NO** Masses will be offered at Madonna of Jerusalem Church or at St. John Cantius Church. The Korean Catholic Community is also cancelling their Sunday morning Mass to join in the 10:30 Mass with the bishop. The Mass of Installation for Father Almada will be celebrated at 10:30 a.m. at St. Mary Church with Bishop David Zubik as the main celebrant. All parishioners, former parishioners and friends of the parish are cordially invited to this very special liturgy.

SAINT VINCENT de PAUL SOCIETY In today's Gospel, Jesus overcomes the temptations to wealth, power and esteem. As we begin Lent, may we open our hearts to the grace of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. In addition, the Society would like to express their heartfelt thanks to Tom Troyan and the Youth Group for their continued support of the food pantry through their various activities.

LOOKING AHEAD Palm Sunday is April 5 and Easter Sunday is April 12. We will publish the Holy Week schedule in next week's bulletin.

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Catholic Community in Sharpsburg

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Sharpsburg, PA 15215

Office: 412-784-8700

Attn: Rosemarie

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