

# The Catholic Community in Sharpsburg

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

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

**JANUARY 11, 2009**

**THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD**

## 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 Almada. 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, January 11

Baptism of the Lord

### Monday, January 12

St. Marguerite Bourgeoys

### Tuesday, January 13

St. Hilary

### Wednesday, January 14

Servant of God, John the Gardener

### Thursday, January 15

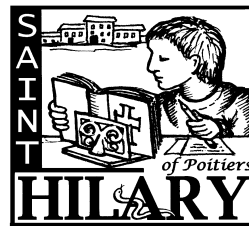
St. Paul the Hermit

### Friday, January 16

St. Berard and Companions

### Saturday, January 17

St. Anthony of Egypt



**Stewardship**  
**Offertory December 24/25, 2008**

St. Mary	\$5,878.00
Madonna of Jerusalem	\$3,749.00
St. John Cantius	\$1,032.00

**Special collection for Children and Youth**

St. Mary	\$1,475.00
Madonna of Jerusalem	\$ 877.00
St. John Cantius	\$ 398.00

**Offertory December 27/28, 2008**

St. Mary	\$2,389.00
Madonna of Jerusalem	\$1,900.50
St. John Cantius	\$ 707.00

**Offertory Solemnity of Mary, January 1, 2009**

St. Mary	\$1,370.00
Madonna of Jerusalem	\$ 921.00
St. John Cantius	\$ 304.00

**Offertory January 3/4, 2009**

St. Mary	\$2,632.00
Madonna of Jerusalem	\$2,089.50
St. John Cantius	\$ 725.00

**TREMENDOUS GENEROSITY!**

**ATTENDANCE COUNTS** Following are attendance counts for the past 4 Christmases, beginning with 2005. In 2006, only four Masses were offered due to Christmas falling on a Monday.

<b>2005</b>				
4:00 p.m.	6:00 p.m.	10:00 p.m.	8:30 a.m.	10:30 a.m.
689	78	129	119	141
<b>2006</b>				
4:00 p.m.		10:00 p.m.	8:30 a.m.	10:30 a.m.
586		205	125	278
<b>2007</b>				
4:00 p.m.	6:00 p.m.	10:00 p.m.	8:30 a.m.	10:30 a.m.
750	88	110	105	265
<b>2008</b>				
4:00 p.m.	6:00 p.m.	10:00 p.m.	8:30 a.m.	10:30 a.m.
749	80	160	118	280

The totals are as follows:

<b>2005:</b>	<b>1,156</b>
<b>2006:</b>	<b>1,194</b>
<b>2007:</b>	<b>1,318</b>
<b>2008:</b>	<b>1,387</b>

We are grateful to all who have worshipped in our churches during Christmas.

**SERIES OF PRESENTATIONS** The first of Father Almade's presentations on Evangelization will take place at 12 Noon and at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 5. The topic is, "What does the Bible say about evangelization?" Each talk will include time for discussion and will last approximately 90 minutes.

**LET'S GO STEELERS!!!**

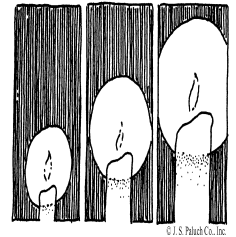
**Altar and Sanctuary  
Candles are burning  
this week**

In memory of

**Ottilio and Mary Cozza**

by

The Schiavone Family



**CHRISTIAN MOTHERS AND ROSARY SOCIETY** The Christian Mothers and Rosary Society will have a meeting on Thursday, January 15. Please remember that this is **not** the covered dish meeting. The covered dish meeting will be held on Thursday, February 19, along with the shower for Sister's Place.

**RACHEL'S VINEYARD** Rachel's Vineyard, a weekend retreat designed to heal the emotional and spiritual wounds of abortion, will be held February 6-8, 2009 at the Spiritan Center in Bethel Park. In a confidential and supportive atmosphere, Rachel's Vineyard demonstrates God's love, forgiveness and compassion to women and men struggling with abortion's aftermath. Financial aid available. Sponsored by Catholic Charities and the Diocese of Pittsburgh. To register or for more information, call Ann Depner or Karen LaFrance at 412-456-6999 or go online to [www.ccpgh.org](http://www.ccpgh.org) and click on Rachel's Vineyard. Registration deadline is January 30, 2009.

**MAGNIFICAT PITTSBURGH** Ladies, join Magnificat Pittsburgh for an extra special prayer breakfast on Saturday, January 31 from 9:00 a.m. to Noon at the Four Points Sheraton, Cranberry Township. Internationally known Christian singer, Katrina Rae, will give her testimony of fame and change interspersed with soft humor and her beautiful singer. Katrina is an international singer and evangelist in a contemporary Catholic ministry. She helps people accept healing from Jesus for life's pain and reach out to others with God's enduring love. Katrina is a 20-time Unity Award recipient with many TV and radio appearances, including EWTN. The cost of the breakfast is \$18 and the registration deadline is January 23. For more information, call Kay at 724-772-6749 or Pam at 412-461-8906.

**DIVORCED AND SEPARATED SUPPORT GROUP** The SS. John and Paul and St. Richard Parishes Divorced and Separated support group will begin its next 13-week cycle of meetings tomorrow, Monday, January 12, 2009. Meetings will be held at St. Richard Church, Dickey Road, Gibsonia in Rooms 5A and 5B of the Social Hall from 7:00 p.m. until 8:45 p.m. This group provides caring support to anyone who is experiencing the pain of separation or divorce. For more information, please call Ralph Joy at 724-933-6226.

**BLOOD DRIVE** Give the gift of life! Support the 6th annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blood Drive for Life on Saturday, January 17, from 9:30 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. at St. Benedict the Moor Church (above Mellon Arena). This event is sponsored by the Office for Black Catholic Ministries in partnership with the Central Blood Bank and cosponsored by several organizations and Mayor Luke Ravenstahl, City of Pittsburgh. To schedule your appointment, call Black Catholic Ministries at 412-456-3170 or the Central Blood Bank at 1-800-310-9551,

**CHILDREN'S ENVELOPES** Children's envelopes will be available in the vestibules of each of the churches beginning this weekend. Please write your child's name on the envelopes for the month of January.

**SPECIAL COLLECTION** A special second collection will be taken up next weekend at all Masses to benefit two nationally recognized educational programs in the Diocese of Pittsburgh: St. Anthony School Programs and DePaul School for Hearing and Speech.

St. Anthony School Programs provide Catholic special education to children with development delays and autism in 10 schools within the Diocese and one college-age program located on the campus of Duquesne University. DePaul School for Hearing and Speech teaches deaf or hard of hearing children how to listen, learn and speak, so that these children may fully participate in our hearing and speaking world.

Your donation will help St. Anthony School Programs and DePaul School for Hearing and Speech to further their goals of providing quality educational programs and services for their students. Your support is critical. Your generosity will help these organizations forever improve the lives of their students and families.

**YOUTH GROUP NEWS** All members in grades 6 through 12 can participate in the March for Life in Washington, DC on January 22, 2009. The bus will leave from St. Scholastica Church on Thursday at 12:30 a.m. The cost for the trip is \$35.00 per person and the parish will give \$20.00 toward this amount. On January 18, the youth group will volunteer at the VA Hospital in Aspinwall escorting patients to Mass at 10:30 a.m. and following Mass will be a breakfast at the John Paul I Center. For more information, contact Tom Troyan at 412-782-4860.

**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.

**CARLOW UNIVERSITY** Carlow University offers a number of financial benefits and scholarships for Catholic students in honor of its long-standing commitment to Catholic higher education. These benefits include academic scholarships and awards, athletic scholarships, Catholic high school discount, family member discount, legacy discount and courtesy discount. If you have any questions about Carlow University's exciting opportunities for Catholic students, please contact the Admissions Office at 1-800-333-2275.

**MOVING FORWARD LETTER #9** A copy of Father Almade's Moving Forward letter #9 was mailed to all parishioners this week. If you have not taken the time to read it yet, please do so and consider volunteering your time and talents to help with the evangelization of Sharpsburg.

**OBERRAMMERSGAU** Father Almade is leading a pilgrimage to see the Passion Play in Oberammergau, Germany leaving from Pittsburgh on August 26, 2010 and returning on September 3, 2010. This World famous Passion Play is only offered once every ten years. You will also have the opportunity to visit Munich in Germany and Salzburg and Innsbruck in Austria. For more information, please pick up a pamphlet in the vestibule of Madonna of Jerusalem Church.

**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.

# BINGO!

**at MADONNA**

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.

**ST. VINCENT de PAUL SOCIETY** Eighty-three households (205 individuals) were served by the St. Vincent de Paul Pantry during December. Surprisingly, this is an approximate 7% decrease from those served in November. However, the number of seniors and 18-34 year olds increased.

The cost (both actual and donated value) to serve these 83 households includes:

Fresh Meat and Produce	\$1,128
Utilities (Light, Gas)	\$ 166
Furniture	\$ 405
Tableware, Utensils, Furniture	\$ 478 (Donated)
Paper products, diapers, etc.	\$ 46 (Donated)
Canned Foods, Cereal, Crackers, Pastas, etc.	\$5,778 (Donated)
Christmas candy for children	\$ 456 (Donated)
Christmas gift for each individual	\$3,075 (Donated)
Gift certificates distributed	\$1,185 (Donated)

December volunteer effort—381 hours or 9.5 weeks

A very special thanks to the KDKA Turkey Fund and other generous businesses and individuals who made the gift certificate distribution possible. Thanks also to the generosity of the Catholic Community in Sharpsburg, as well as continued generous contributions from individuals and Churches of the surrounding communities. We are blessed to continue the work of St. Vincent de Paul and Blessed Frederick Ozanam.

**AN EXPRESSION OF GRATITUDE** Father Bill Dorner recently sent us this message:

To my dear friends in Sharpsburg,

I would like to thank all who sent me Christmas cards and greetings recently—I really appreciate hearing from all of you. It is always wonderful to hear from you because you are a very important part of my life and I hope that sometime this year I will be able to see you again. Please know that you are always in my prayers and I pray in a particular way that all of you have a grace-filled New Year and that God continues to bless all of you each and every day of your lives.

**FAITHFUL CHRONICLES**  
*by Father Frank D. Almada*

Friends Rosanne and Martin Saunders of St. Scholastica Parish brought an old yet valuable book to my attention, "Catholic Pittsburgh's One Hundred Years 1843-1943" by Msgr. A. A. Lambing. This is a treasure trove of information about the beginnings of our local church.

What is pertinent to us, 66 years (2/3 of a century) after its publication, are listings of parishes in the diocese and their current statistics. Let me compare 1943 and 2009 for Sharpsburg:

1943: St. Joseph, two priests, eight Sisters of Charity, school with 271 pupils; St. John Cantius, one priest, five Felician Sisters, school with 189 pupils; St. Mary, three priests, 15 Sisters of Divine Providence, school with 612 pupils; Madonna of Jerusalem, two priests. Total of four parishes, eight priests, 28 women religious, and 1,072 children in Catholic education (unknown number of children in CCD programs).

2009: 3 parishes which make up the Catholic Community of Sharpsburg, plus the Korean Catholic Community: two priests, no women religious, no school, and 65 children in CCD (for CCS) and 40 children in CCD (for KCC).

Check out the comparison of like categories for the diocese as a whole. (Remember, in 1943 the Diocese of Pittsburgh included 10 counties. Four counties were taken from Pittsburgh to create the Diocese of Greensburg in 1950.)

1943: One bishop, 621 diocesan priests active in diocese, 212 religious priests (for a total of 833 priests), 448 parishes, 19,874 infant baptisms, 2,079 adult converts, 10,453 marriages, 7,794 deaths, total Catholic population of 694,472.

2009: One bishop, one auxiliary bishop, two retired bishops, 270 diocesan priests active in diocese, 107 religious priests (for a total of 377 priests), 214 parishes, 6,269 infant baptisms, 879 adult converts, 2,278 marriages, 8,694 deaths, total Catholic population of 747,085.

Take a good look at these statistics. See how many children were in Sharpsburg (and the diocese) 66 years ago, and how few are here now. See the aging of our faith community in the baptism/convert to death rate for the diocese, flipping from 21,953:7,794 (about 3:1) to 7,148:8,694 (about 4:5). In 1943 the priest to people ratio was one priest for every 834 parishioners. Today it is one priest for every 1,982 parishioners. Diocesan projections indicate that in ten years there will be only 100 priests available for service. These are just some of the numbers behind our efforts at evangelization. I hope that you are willing to help by Reaching Out in Sharpsburg in the name of Christ through our evangelization project.

## *Schedule of Masses for the Week*

### **SAT., JAN. 10**

4:00 PM MOJ FRANK AND ANN BENNARDO by daughters,  
Carol, Frances, Rose, Liz and grandchildren

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

### **SUN., JAN. 11**

8:30 AM SJC ALUISE AND TOMANIO FAMILIES by Mary  
Tomanio

10:30 AM STM JOHN A. SUSI by wife, Marie and family

### **MON., JAN. 12**

7:30 AM MOJ HELEN BAILEY by Christian Mothers and Rosary  
Society

### **TUE., JAN. 13**

7:30 AM MOJ THOMAS GORAL by wife and children

### **WED., JAN 14**

7:30 AM MOJ REGINA JAWORSKI by Christian Mothers and Rosary  
Society

### **THU., JAN. 15**

7:30 AM MOJ FRANK GALLO, JR. by Noreen Maguire

### **FRI., JAN. 16**

7:30 AM MOJ HELEN MALYSZKA by family

### **SAT., JAN. 17**

4:00 PM MOJ FRANK CVITKOVICH by Amelia Rajkowski

6:00 PM MOJ HAZEL M. SARRICKS by grandchildren and  
great-grandchildren

### **SUN., JAN. 18**

8:30 AM SJC FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE  
CATHOLIC COMMUNITY IN SHARPSBURG

10:30 AM STM RENA PEIFFER by family

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

**MARRIAGE MOMENTS** Before God and spouse we stand naked. There is no use hiding or pretending that we are something that we are not. Is there any pretense or baggage that I bring to my marriage that I need to let go of?

**PARENTING POINTERS** As we approach Martin Luther King Day and Inauguration Day next week, talk with your kids about heroes. What historical female and male do they most admire? What living male and female do they want to emulate? Why?

**FAMILY PERSPECTIVE** What Our Heavenly Father said to Jesus in today's gospel, "You are my beloved. My favor rests on you" is said to each of us. We do not earn this love; it is given freely. The unconditional love we experience in our families is sacramental for it gives us a glimpse of God's freely given, all accepting love.

**VA HOSPITAL** During the month of January, our parish is responsible for helping to escort patients to 10:30 a.m. Mass on Sunday morning at the VA Hospital in Aspinwall. If you can participate with this wonderful ministry to help our veterans attend Mass, call the Parish Office or arrive at the hospital at 9:45 a.m. and report to the chapel.

**RAFFLE WINNER** The winner of the Nativity set raffle from the bingo was Timothy Buckley, ticket #150.

#515550

Catholic Community in Sharpsburg

201 Ninth Street

Sharpsburg, PA 15215

Office: 412-784-8700

Attn: Rosemarie

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Adobe Acrobat 8.0

Win XP

Brother 5140