

# 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 18, 2009**

**SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

## ADMINISTRATIVE CENTER

201 Ninth 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 18

St. Charles of Sezze

### Monday, January 19

St. Fabian

### Tuesday, January 20

St. Sebastian

### Wednesday, January 21

St. Agnes

### Thursday, January 22

St. Vincent

### Friday, January 23

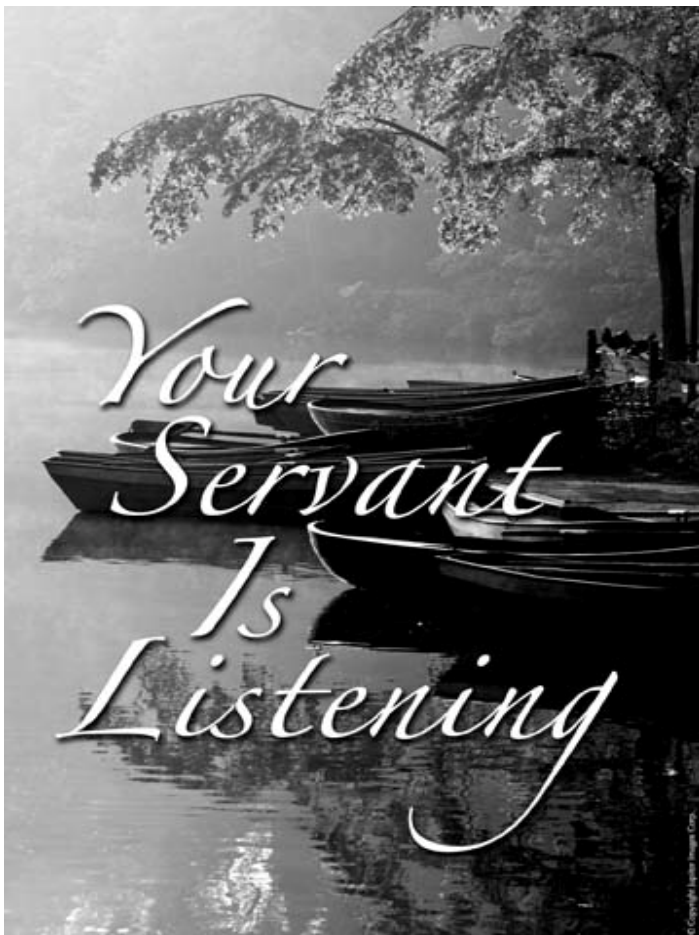
Blessed Mother Marianne Cope

### Saturday, January 24

St. Francis de Sales



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<b>Stewardship</b>	
<b>Offertory January 10/11, 2009</b>	
St. Mary	\$2,103
Madonna of Jerusalem	\$2,135
St. John Cantius	\$ 576

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR STEWARDSHIP!**

**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.


**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.

**YOUNG ADULT SUNDAY** Young Adult Sunday will be celebrated on January 25 at the 10:30 a.m. Mass at St. Mary Church. Following Mass will be a coffee and donut social at the John Paul I Pastoral Center. Please call Tom Troyan at 412-782-4860 if you are planning to attend.

**RESPECT LIFE** All are encouraged to participate in the Annual March for Life in Washington, DC on Thursday, January 22. A bus will be leaving from St. Scholastica's at 12:15 a.m. Breakfast will be provided; bring a bag lunch and money for dinner. Prior to the March, those attending will go to the Verizon Center for a rally and Mass. After the March there will be an opportunity to visit senators and congressman. The cost is \$25 per person. Please call Mary Catherine Scanlon at 412-781-6550 for more information. If you are unable to attend, please spend some time in prayer that day and every day for this cause.

President-elect Obama wants Americans to share our concerns with him on his official transition website, <http://www.change.gov/page/s/yourvision>. Respectfully tell him that protecting human life is our top priority and that unborn babies should have the same right to life we read about in the Declaration of Independence. Ask him not to sign the Freedom of Choice Act because we do not believe it will help women or America and we do not want tax money to pay for abortions. Post cards will be available in our Churches next week to help send a message to Congress to oppose the Freedom of Choice Act and to retain laws against government and promotion of abortion. All will have the opportunity to sign these cards to send to our representatives and senators. Anyone who is interested in joining our parish respect life committee, please call Cathy Zuza at 412-784-9403 or Theresa Urso at 412-782-3368.

**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.

	<p><b><u>Please pray for</u></b></p> <p><b>Geraldine Yester, Adalgisa Leo and Harold Shields, brother of Betty Kee</b></p> <p>May they rest in peace.</p>
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**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.

**OBERRAMMERGAU** 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.

**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.

**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.

**ST. VINCENT de PAUL SOCIETY** In the Gospel today, Jesus asks, "What are you looking for?" Often we are looking for happiness in very selfish ways, but we find it is when we look for ways to make others happy that we truly become happy. As you place your gift in the Society of St. Vincent de Paul Poor Box, know that you are a sign of God's love to those who are suffering and you give them reason to believe and to trust.

**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.

**CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK** Christ the Divine Teacher Catholic Academy will begin its celebration of Catholic Schools Week at the 5:00 p.m. Mass on Saturday, January 24 at St. Scholastica Church. This year's theme is "Catholic Schools Celebrate Service." Students will assume many of the lay ministries of the liturgy. Prior to the liturgy, the school will hold an "Open House" from 3:00-5:00 p.m. All are welcome to tour the school and information about the school will be available.

**WEDDING PLANS** The following is a reprint of an article written by Fr. Charles Bober that was published in the Friday, January 9, 2009 edition of the Pittsburgh Catholic.

The first "rule" about weddings is that couples should never make arrangements for a wedding (especially down payments on halls, invitations, flowers, etc.) until they have first spoken with the parish priest. This is not only intended to avoid conflicts about dates in the parish schedule, but more importantly, to ensure that the wedding can take place in the Catholic Church.

That conversation with the parish priest will involve questions about baptism, age, disposition regarding the church and marriage, as well as any prior marriages. From that discussion, the priest will be able to determine if the marriage can take place or what needs to be done in order for that to occur.

Actual Church law on marriage is rather simple once a few principles are understood. The first principle in regard to marriage is that Catholics are bound to celebrate marriage in the presence of a legitimate minister (bishop, priest or deacon) and two witnesses. It is important to note, however, that for serious reasons, with proper permission and having obtained appropriate instructions and made the required declaration regarding children, Catholics may be married before non-Catholic clergy (with or without a Catholic priest present.) Therefore, it is not accurate to say that every Catholic who does not marry before a legitimate minister and two witnesses is, therefore, not married in the eyes of the church.

The second principle concerns those not baptized as Catholics. Since the early years of the last century, the understanding of the Catholic Church has been that marriages of those who are not Catholic are considered valid when they fulfill civil requirements and those of their own religious traditions (if applicable).

This means baptized Protestants who exchange marriage consent before a minister of religion (or a civil official) are considered to be truly married unless some defect of intention or other circumstance would render that marriage consent invalid. This is especially important in those situations where such marriages end in divorce and one of the parties wishes to marry a Catholic in the Catholic Church.

In these cases, the Catholic Church cannot permit such a marriage because it considers the first marriage to be valid unless some defect was present that would render the marriage invalid. This would be determined by the usual process of annulment.

Therefore, it is important to note that just because a wedding took place outside the Catholic Church does not mean that the wedding is automatically invalid in the eyes of the Catholic Church.

**WORLD MARRIAGE DAY** This year, World Marriage Day will be celebrated on Sunday, February 8. World Marriage Day honors husband and wife as head of the family. It salutes the beauty of their faithfulness, sacrifice and joy in daily married life. If during this year of 2009, you are celebrating an anniversary ending in the numbers 0 or 5 or are married over 50 years, please contact the Parish Office so that we may recognize your wonderful commitment on February 8.

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

# 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.

**SAVE YOUR HOME PROJECT** Allegheny County officials announced a pilot project that will revise the county's mortgage foreclosure program. The program began on Monday, January 12. Owner-occupied homes facing foreclosure will be specially flagged for attention and the plaintiff will also have to identify the name, address and phone number of someone at the lender with authority to discuss the action. A pink cover sheet on the court papers marked "urgent notice" will promote the new "Save Your Home Hotline." People will be put in touch with a nonprofit housing counselor free of charge to help try to work out arrangements with their mortgage company. The counselor will set up a conference under a judge's supervision to determine if they can work out an arrangement. Existing help may also be available.

People entering the pilot project will get a 90-day court stay of foreclosure while going through credit counseling and efforts to work out arrangements to save their home. Funds are available to help people refinance their houses. Those struggling to keep their homes praise the new program as a breakthrough that will give people hope. For additional information, please call the Save Your Home Hotline at 1-800-298-8020.

**SERIES OF TALKS** Father Ken White of St. Scholastica Parish will hold a series of talks during January and February with the theme, "Take A Second Look." The first talk is titled, "Hurt, Bruised or Angry—A Listening Session" and will be held on Tuesday, January 20 and the second talk is called "Take a Deeper Look" and will be held on Monday, February 2. The third talk will be held on Monday, February 9 and it is "The ABC's of Catholic Annulment" and the last talk will be on Monday, February 23 and the title is, "Considering Becoming Catholic." Each talk will begin at 7:30 p.m. and will be held in the Pastoral Center except for the last talk. The last talk will be held in the Marsico Library. The talks are open to the public and will be free of charge.

**WOMEN'S RETREAT** On Saturday, February 7, a Women's Retreat will be held at Mount Alvernia. The theme of the retreat is Franciscan Solitude. The cost is fifty dollars and includes lunch and supper, exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Reconciliation and a Sunday Liturgy. For more information or to register, please call 412-275-7708.

FAITHFUL CHRONICLES  
*by Father Frank D. Almada*

Since 1800 the United States of American has been celebrating Inaugurations marking the peaceful transition of one president leading our country to another. But this Tuesday, January 20, our country will have make history. The first non-white will take the oath of office as the 44<sup>th</sup> President, Barack Hussein Obama. The son of a black African man from Kenya and a white American woman from Kansas, raised in Hawaii and for a time in Indonesia, a convert to Christianity, a best-selling author, Barack Obama represents much that is right about our country. His election comes at a difficult moment in our nation's history. We are mired in two long wars, the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression of the 1930's, unemployment moving toward 8%, and rising numbers of people without health care. Confidence in government as a force for good in people's lives is at an all time low after the failure to respond to the victims of Hurricane Katrina and other natural disasters. Yet Mr. Obama presents as a calm voice who believes in the ability of this country to address these (and many more) severe problems.

We will pray for our new president at the 7:30 a.m. Mass in Madonna Church. But I urge all to pray for our new president as he works with the Congress, our military leaders, world leaders, and people from all walks of life to build up our nation, heal the wounds of war, violence and recession, and bring us closer to the peace and justice God's Kingdom.

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Two days after the grandeur and public acclamation of a presidential inauguration, Washington, D.C. will be the site for the 36<sup>th</sup> annual March for Life. January 22 marks the sad anniversary of the 1973 *Roe v. Wade* and *Doe v. Bolton* decisions of the U.S. Supreme Court, which legalized abortion on demand. The marchers this year will face another supporter of legal abortion in the White House. But supporters of human life everywhere are realizing it will take generations of hard work, prayer, and suffering to make our culture understand the evil of abortion and change to support human life from conception to natural death. Our bishops have asked all Catholics to observe January 22 as a day of penance for violations to the dignity of the human person, and of prayer for the full restoration of the legal guarantee of the right to life for the unborn. We will begin the day of penance with 7:30 a.m. Mass in Madonna Church.

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Our petition to merge three parishes into one here in Sharpsburg was reviewed by the Priest Council this past week. I trust we will hear from the bishop sometime in the spring about his decision. Also with this decision will be his choice to pastor the new parish. Several parishioners have asked about my assignment. I will say that the bishop is free to choose the priest he determines best for Sharpsburg. But if he asks me to remain here as pastor, I will gladly say yes.

## *Schedule of Masses for the Week*

### **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

### **MON., JAN. 19**

7:30 AM MOJ WILLIAM J. ZACHARIAS by Chet and Kathy  
Maciejewski

### **TUE., JAN. 20**

7:30 AM MOJ FRED PETRELLI by Vince Aluise

### **WED., JAN. 21**

7:30 AM MOJ MARCELLA TARASI by Jack and Florence Abraham

### **THU., JAN. 22**

7:30 AM MOJ FOR THE FULL RESTORATION OF THE LEGAL  
GUARANTEE OF THE RIGHT TO LIFE OF  
UNBORN HUMAN BABIES

### **FRI., JAN. 23**

7:30 AM MOJ DOMENIC STELLITANO by Daughter, Mary

### **SAT., JAN. 24**

4:00 PM MOJ FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE  
CATHOLIC COMMUNITY IN SHARPSBURG  
6:00 PM MOJ JULIA KRISA by Godson, Tom Troyan

### **SUN., JAN. 25**

8:30 AM SJC HELEN BAILEY by Godson, Brian Stangis  
10:30 AM STM HERMAN, BERTHA AND JEROME STEGMAN by  
Rose Stegman

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

**FAMILY PERSPECTIVE** In today's Gospel, Philip told Nathaniel, "Come and see." He did not preach, he invited and Nathaniel became a disciple of Jesus. If our children see the excitement of our faith, that will be an invitation enough. Words will not be necessary.

**MARRIAGE MOMENTS** What does it mean to be equal? Are both of you equally good at cooking, mechanical things, sewing, small talk? Probably not. Even though your spouse may have a natural talent for a particular task, try trading chores for a day. Just for fun.

**PARENTING POINTERS** The internet can be a blessing and a curse. It is a valuable homework tool and facilitates communication among far flung family members. Information that used to take days to find or a trip to the library can often be found in seconds. Ask your child to show you something new online today.

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

***Please remember to make a bequest  
to your parish in your will.***

#515550

Catholic Community in Sharpsburg

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Sharpsburg, PA 15215

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Attn: Rosemarie

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