

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 4, 2009

FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY 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

Monday: 7:15 p.m. Madonna of Jerusalem Church

KOREAN CATHOLIC COMMUNITY (KCC)

Mass 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.

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This Week in the Church

Sunday, January 4
 St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

Monday, January 5
 St. John Neumann

Tuesday, January 6
 St. Gregory Nazianzen

Wednesday, January 7
 St. Raymond of Penyafort

Thursday, January 8
 Blessed Angela of Foligno

Friday, January 9
 St. Adrian of Canterbury

Saturday, January 10
 St. Gregory of Nyssa



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Stewardship
Offertory December 21/22, 2008

St. Mary	\$2,229
Madonna of Jerusalem	\$1,964
St. John Cantius	\$ 484

THANK YOU FOR YOUR STEWARDSHIP!

Catholic Charities Special Collection

St. Mary	\$ 897
Madonna of Jerusalem	\$ 990
St. John Cantius	\$ 467
Total:	\$2,354

(\$1,765 remitted to Catholic Charities—75% of collection)
(\$589 remitted to Sharpsburg St. Vincent de Paul Society—25% of collection)

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 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.

DR. KING MASS Join Bishop David Zubik for the Annual Dr. King Mass and Program on Sunday, January 11, 12:00 Noon at St. Paul Cathedral. The annual event honors the life and vision of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and is sponsored by the parish's Race and Reconciliation Dialogue Group in collaboration with the Office for Black Catholic Ministries. The program and refreshments will follow the Mass in the church's social hall.

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 on 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.

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.



Please pray for

JANE GORAL

May she rest in peace.

2009 MASS INTENTIONS There are still some weekend and weekday Masses available in 2009 for your personal or family intentions. In addition, altar candles and flowers are available for most weekends in 2009. Call the parish office for more information.

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.

VA HOSPITAL During the months of December and 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.

LOTTERY CALENDARS Christ the Divine Teacher Catholic Academy is sponsoring a lottery calendar for the entire year of 2009. The winnings are based on the evening daily lottery number. Calendars are available for purchase for \$25.00 at the Parish Office.

STRESS IN YOUR MARRIAGE? Retrouvaille is a program for married couples that feel bored, disillusioned, frustrated, or angry in their marriage. Some experience coldness. Others experience conflict in their relationship. Most don't know how to change the situation or even communicate with their spouse about it. This program has helped tens of thousands of couples experiencing difficulties in their marriage. For confidential information about or to register for the upcoming program beginning with a weekend on January 9, please contact Retrouvaille at 412-277-3434.

ST. ANTHONY SCHOOL AND DePAUL SCHOOL FOR HEARING AND SPEECH The Pittsburgh Diocese is home to two nationally recognized educational programs for children with special needs: St. Anthony School Programs and DePaul School for Hearing and Speech. A special collection to benefit these two organizations will be taken the weekend of January 17 and 18 at all Masses. Your donation on Sunday, January 18 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.

THE MONTH OF JANUARY January is considered by many as the time of new beginnings. Many of us make New Year's resolutions with a long list of desires to transform our bodies, minds and spirits into what we feel would make us better. First we need to forgive ourselves for past failings and forget past behaviors. Christ makes all things new, so give yourself permission to make a fresh start (Ephesians 4:23-24). Now is a good time to set some "SMART" goals.

- Specific** Eating a better diet is a good idea, but what are you going to do to make that happen?
- Measurable** Training for the Heart Walk would be a measurable goal.
- Achievable** Reading through the Bible in two years instead of one might be more achievable.
- Realistic** Don't set a goal to lose 25 pounds in one month or walk 5 miles the first time.
- Time** If you are making plans for a year, set some short-term goals leading up to your final goal.

Remember that these goals are meant to help you make changes in your life. They are not meant to make you feel bad about yourself. Changing old habits is hard and it may take several tries to get the results for which you are hoping. Don't make too many changes at once.

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.

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

Additional Christmas Flower Memorials

In Memory Of:

Aluise, Donald R.
Aluise, Dorothy
Becker, C.S.Sp., Father Peter
DeNinno, Ralph
Falk, Kathryn and John
Gallo, Fred Sr., Fred Jr. and Grandson
Goral, Thomas
Hall, Joseph
Hoerster, Julius and Maria and Family
Horne, Elaine
Horne, Helen
Kindler, Jason
Kruth, Mr. and Mrs. Regis
Pilarski, Andy and Irene
Stiller, Mr. and Mrs. Heinrich
Trotter, Father Charles F.
Uminski, Stanley A. and Family
Urso, Eugene
Verardi, Father Joseph
Wittman, Capt. and Mrs. R. C.

Requested By:

Wife, Bea
Bea Aluise
Bea Aluise
Joan DeNinno
Joan DeNinno
Mary Jane Gallo
Jane and Sophie
Family
Mary Ann Uminski
Family
Family
Joseph and Inez Pilarski
Mr. and Mrs. W. Stiller
Joseph and Inez Pilarski
Mr. and Mrs. W. Stiller
Bea Aluise
Mary Ann Uminski
Wife
Bea Aluise
Joseph and Inez Pilarski

Many thanks to all who donated towards the beautiful flowers that have made our Christmas liturgies so very special.

FAITHFUL CHRONICLES
by Father Frank D. Almada

Elsewhere in this bulletin you will find the Moving Forward Report # 9, "Reaching Out...Evangelization in Action for Sharpsburg." This lays out the path I am proposing we take to fulfill one of the five goals we set for ourselves last June, through the Moving Forward Committee. I urge you to read this report.

As I share this vision of our community with you, I am scared and excited. I am scared because I've never done anything like this before. For better or for worse, my years as a pastor have been full of **parish structural change**. On the North Side I merged two parishes into one. On the city of Pittsburgh's Hilltop, I worked with a dedicated committee of parishioners to close and sell three of our four churches, and concentrate on the one St. John Vianney Church. Now in Sharpsburg we are merging three parishes into one (while keeping open for a time our three beautiful church buildings).

But what the Moving Forward Committee and I have suggested (and you have approved) is **parish spiritual change**. We want to move this faith community from being worried about maintenance to focused on the **mission of Jesus Christ for his disciples**. We want to ask the Lord to help transform us from "pew potatoes" to **apostles**. This is scary stuff. I have never seen this in any of the parishes I've served, nor do I see this explicitly in any of the parishes of the diocese or our region. We are heading into territory where I and you have never been before.

But I am truly excited about this. At this stage in my life, after 30 years of priesthood, I feel strongly that we need to be a missionary church. This does not mean we travel to a faraway and exotic country. It means we take our faith to our neighbors and say, "We believe in Jesus Christ. We love the Catholic Church and our parish. We believe we have been given the best news of all, of God's love forever given to us through Christ our Savior. We are inviting you to walk with us, join our parish, deepen your own faith, and help others because of what we know and believe." As you read the Moving Forward report #9, you will see that I am asking for parishioners to accept my invitation to join one of seven committees, and help make this vision a reality. We have a lot to learn. I'm sure we'll make some mistakes. But this is truly "Good News" that I want to share. **Let's see if we can make our Sharpsburg Catholic Community (and, I hope, the new merged parish we want to become) the premier example of a mission-oriented parish in the Diocese of Pittsburgh.**

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Because of bulletin-printing deadlines, I write these words before Christmas. Please know that I am grateful for all the cards, notes, prayers and gifts I have received. This is a wonderful, loving community, and I am privileged and grateful to serve you as your priest. Thank you, and may the message of the Christ Child endure throughout this new year.

Schedule of Masses for the Week

SAT., JAN. 3

4:00 PM MOJ JOHN P. ZUZA by Jack and Cathy Zuza and Family

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

SUN., JAN. 4

8:30 AM SJC FRANK SPAGNOLO by Wife, Ann

10:30 AM STM AMELIA GASIOROWSKI by Daughter, Lorraine Pistoria

MON., JAN. 5

7:30 AM MOJ IN THANKSGIVING TO ST. JOHN NEUMANN by Thomas Troyan and Family

TUE., JAN. 6

7:30 AM MOJ IN THANKSGIVING by Frank and Brenda Panza

WED., JAN. 7

7:30 AM MOJ CATHERINE BEST by Susan Koch

THU., JAN. 8

7:30 AM MOJ MARY READAL by Christian Mothers and Rosary Society

FRI., JAN. 9

7:30 AM MOJ IN HONOR OF ST. LUCY by Anna Patitucci

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

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

CALENDARS If you need additional religious calendars for 2009, please feel free to take one from the vestibules of the churches. And thanks again to our neighbor and friends at Worrell Funeral Home for underwriting our Catholic calendars.

FAMILY PERSPECTIVE The Magi in today's gospel were led to Jesus by a star. Who are the stars your children follow? Don't let it be the tabloid stars. Resolve in 2009 to be the guiding star in the life of your children.

MARRIAGE MOMENTS The feast of the Epiphany celebrates the three wise men bringing gifts to the baby Jesus. Why not be wise and bring your spouse three compliments on January 6. Consider your beloved's physical appearance, a unique talent and an act of kindness.

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.

Our website is www.catholicsharpsburg.org

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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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