

Saint Juan Diego Parish

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

MARCH 1, 2009

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

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

6:00 pm

Sunday

8:30 am

10:30 am

10:30 am

Madonna of Jerusalem Church

Madonna of Jerusalem Church

St. John Cantius Church

St. Mary Church

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

This Week in the Church

Sunday, March 1

St. David of Wales

Monday, March 2

St. Agnes of Bohemia

Tuesday, March 3

St. Katharine Drexel

Wednesday, March 4

St. Casimir

Thursday, March 5

St. John Joseph of the Cross

Friday, March 6

Servant of God Sylvester of Assisi

Saturday, March 7

Saints Perpetual and Felicity



*I will establish
my covenant
with you*

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. Today, Sunday, March 1, 2009, Saint Juan Diego Parish is 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. All other Masses in the parish are cancelled for that weekend only.

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.

<u>Stewardship</u>	
<u>Offertory February 22/23, 2009</u>	
St. Mary	\$2,527.00
Madonna of Jerusalem	\$2,090.50
St. John Cantius	\$ 672.00

THANK YOU FOR YOUR STEWARDSHIP!

MASS SCHEDULE With the arrival of Lent, Mass will be celebrated on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. in Madonna of Jerusalem Church and **not** on Wednesday mornings. You can also go to Confession before the start of Mass from 5:30 p.m. until 6:45 p.m. on Wednesday evenings.

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, or you can bake cookies, please call the Parish Office at 412-784-8700.

WRITING CHECKS? If you write checks for your offertory envelopes, for Parish Share and any other additional collection envelopes, flowers or candles, please make your checks payable to "Saint Juan Diego Parish." Thank you for your cooperation! This is a real sign we are a new parish!

Born to New Life



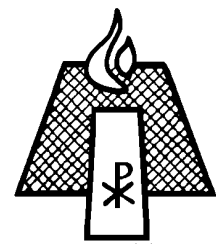
Please pray for

Dorothy Voller,
Joseph Aluise (brother of
Mary Tomanio) and
John Herchuck (son of John
and Alice Herchuck)

May they rest in peace.

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

In memory of
Ray Swierczynski
by
Wife, Toni, and Sons



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CCD/YOUTH GROUP NEWS Anyone interested in participating in the Living Stations please meet at 12:00 Noon at Madonna of Jerusalem Church on Sunday, March 1. We will decide parts and practice dates. If you are willing to participate but cannot attend the first meeting, please call Tom Troyan at 412-782-4860 or Marilyn Ganster at 412-781-7348.

LENTEN REGULATIONS Following is a list of rules that are to be followed by all Catholics during the Lenten season.

1. Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of fast and abstinence. The Fridays of Lent are days of abstinence in the United States.
2. The obligation of abstinence (refraining from eating meat) begins at the age of 14. The law of fasting (limiting oneself to one full meal and two lighter meals) obliges all between the ages of 18-59. No one should consider this obligation lightly.
3. Those individuals who have a medical condition in which fasting may be considered harmful are not obliged to fast, but should perform some other act of penance or charity.
4. Pastors and parents are to see to it that minors, though not bound by the law of fast and abstinence, are educated in the authentic sense of penance and encouraged to do acts of penance suitable to their age.
5. All members of the Christian Faithful are encouraged to do acts of penance and charity during the Lenten season beyond what is prescribed by the law.
6. As a general rule, a request for a dispensation from the obligation of abstinence on Fridays of Lent will not be considered unless some serious reason is present. The attendance at social events, banquets, wedding rehearsals or receptions, or funeral wakes are not considered sufficient reason to request a dispensation.

LENTEN PENANCE SERVICES The priests of our cluster of parishes (Sharpsburg, O'Hara, Aspinwall and Blawnox) have scheduled four Lenten penance services, so as to allow Catholics to properly prepare for the Feast of Easter. Penance services will be held on Wednesday, March 4 at 7:30 p.m. at Saint Juan Diego Parish (Madonna of Jerusalem Church) following 7:00 p.m. Mass; Wednesday, March 25 at 7:30 p.m. at St. Joseph Church, O'Hara, also after 7:00 p.m. Mass; Tuesday, March 31 at 7:00 p.m. at St. Scholastica Church, Aspinwall, and Thursday, April 2 at 7:30 p.m. at St. Edward Church, Blawnox.

VERONICA'S VEIL Veronica's Veil, America's Passion Play, will begin its 90th season of presentation on Saturday, March 21 and will run through Sunday, April 5 at the Veronica's Veil Auditorium on the South Side. The play will be presented on three weekends during this Lenten season. For reservations, please call 412-431-5550.

RESPECT LIFE NEWS The Respect Life committee will hold a meeting on Saturday, March 7 at 2:00 p.m. Please call Cathy at 412-784-9403, Theresa at 412-782-3368 or Joyce at 412-781-0165 for more information. In addition, people throughout Pittsburgh are invited to take part in the national 40 Days for Life effort that started on February 25 through April 5. In addition to prayer and fasting for an end to abortion, please consider volunteering to pray outside Magee Hospital, one of the largest abortion providers in the area, for one or more hours during this 40 days. For information, contact Mary Kay at 412-983-9366 or Ginny at 412-486-8241.

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.

CARD AND POKENO PARTY The Ladies Auxiliary of VFW Post 709 in Sharpsburg is sponsoring a card and pokeno party on Saturday, March 28. The doors will open at 11:00 a.m. and lunch will be served at Noon. Tickets are \$8 and may be purchased from: Nancy Downs at 412-361-1980, Lorraine Peiozze at 412-720-4138 and Joan Martin at 412-671-2658.

RUMMAGE SALE The first rummage sale of the season will be held at St. Aloysius Church on Mount Troy Road on Saturday March 7 from 8:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. and on Sunday, March 8 from 12:30 p.m. until 3:30 p.m. 18 huge rooms of treasures, food and raffles. For information, call 412-821-3610.

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER Marriage is a journey! A worldwide marriage encounter weekend can help you enrich your marriage and add some pizzazz to your journey. Whether you've been married 1 year or 50, a marriage encounter weekend may be just the thing you need to put a breath of fresh air into your relationship. The next weekend will be held from March 20 through March 22 at the Gilmory Retreat Center in Moon Township. For more information, call Mary and Lou Locante at 412-635-7775.

"BLINDED BY THE LIGHT: GOD'S CALL TO SAINT PAUL AND TO ME" The Pittsburgh Religious Vocation Council is sponsoring a vocation awareness retreat for single, Catholic women and men ages 18-40 who are discerning where God is leading them in their life choices. Vocation Ministers from women's and men's religious congregations and Diocesan Priesthood will guide the weekend and newer members and seminarians will be present to share their experiences. Personal and communal prayers including Eucharistic Adoration and Holy Mass will be part of the weekend along with presentations on discernment, spirituality, religious life and seminary. This event will be held at Martina Spirituality Renewal Center in West View from Friday, March 27 through Sunday, March 29. For more information or to register by no later than March 20, please call 412-456-3068.

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

FAITHFUL CHRONICLES
by Father Frank D. Almada

Welcome to Saint Juan Diego Parish!

Today, Sunday, March 1, 2009, without any fanfare or ceremony the three parishes in Sharpsburg become one – Saint Juan Diego Parish. By the stroke of the bishop's pen (and the letter which was in last week's bulletin and can be found on our website, www.catholicsharpsburg.org) the newest parish in the diocese is established, one with a long and rich history. Yet we want to look forward: to a future full of hope, to the mission of sharing the Good News of Christ with our neighbors, to honor and follow the son of Our Lady of Guadalupe, the mother of God. In this week's insert I offer answers to some of the questions which you have asked since I announced the news that Bishop Zubik accepted our petitions to merge two weeks ago. If you have questions about this new chapter in our faith journey, and can't find the answer, do contact me so I can respond. ***Saint Juan Diego, pray for us! Virgin of Guadalupe, pray for us!***

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While we in Sharpsburg begin a new parish, the Church universal begins its annual retreat called lent. If I were to do a "word association" with lent, I would guess you would answer: penance, fish on Friday, confessions, giving up, sacrifice, purple, or fasting. You wouldn't associate joyful, gladness, or excited anticipation to this spring season. But these are appropriate words for lent.

The General Instruction on the Roman Missal states simply: "Lent is a preparation for the celebration of Easter." It is for both catechumens and candidates, those preparing to receive the sacraments of initiation (baptism, confirmation, Eucharist), and the faithful who are already fully initiated. We prepare in lent to celebrate the Paschal Mystery ("dying Christ destroyed our death and rising he restored our life"). We are to reflect on the meaning of our baptism and to do the penitential practices of prayer, fasting, and giving alms.

Now we all know Easter is a joyful time—the most important feast in the Church's calendar. Therefore, to prepare for this solemnity we should cultivate a prayerful sense of joyful anticipation in lent. What does it mean that Christ died for us? What does it mean that we are to die to ourselves as Christ instructed? How does baptism change our life? How can we seek forgiveness for our sins from God through the sacrament of reconciliation and so learn to give forgiveness to those who have harmed us? How do we share our Catholic faith with others? These and questions like these are the "content" of lent. These 40 days should help us to deepen our understanding of Holy Thursday, Good Friday, the Great Easter Vigil, Easter Sunday, and the 50 days of the Easter Season ending with Pentecost.

My wish and prayer for you is to use both lent and the special occasion of the founding of Saint Juan Diego Parish for a joyful spiritual renewal for us as individuals and for us as a parish family. We follow in the footsteps of Jesus who had to undergo death in order to bring us eternal life. Happy Lent!

Schedule of Masses for the Week

SAT., FEB. 28

4:00 PM MOJ ROMILDO PERRI by Edda Perri and Family
6:00 PM MOJ RAY SWIERCZYNSKI by Wife, Toni, and Sons

SUN., MAR. 1

8:30 AM SJC LUCY AND CARMEN CAVEZZA by Bernie &
Cathy Hayden
10:30 AM STM FOR THE PEOPLE OF
SAINT JUAN DIEGO PARISH

MON., MAR. 2

7:30 AM MOJ FRED VRESH by Family

TUE., MAR. 3

7:30 AM MOJ JOSEPH ALUISE by Sister, Mary Tomanio

WED., MAR. 4

7:00 PM MOJ HENRY AND ANGELA STOCKE by Friends

THU., MAR. 5

7:30 AM MOJ CASIMIR KUCHTA by Family

FRI., MAR. 6

7:30 AM MOJ DOROTHY VOLLER by The Christian Mothers and
Rosary Society

SAT., MAR. 7

4:00 PM MOJ ANNA STANCZAK by Sam and Darlene Stelitano
6:00 PM MOJ ANTHONY J. SCALISE by Wife and Family

SUN., MAR. 8

8:30 AM SJC FOR THE PEOPLE OF
SAINT JUAN DIEGO PARISH
10:30 AM STM DOMENIC IEROVANTE by Wife, Dolores, and
Children

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

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED The Basic Needs Assistance Program of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Pittsburgh is in need of volunteers with social work or clerical support experience. By volunteering you will be directly helping those in need. Conveniently located in Downtown Pittsburgh's Cultural District, the office is easily accessible by public transportation. To volunteer for this program, contact Judy at 412-456-6975.

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:

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

All are welcome to join us in prayer and reflection.

SAINT VINCENT de PAUL 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. This month, through your gifts, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul was able to assist those in need.

PITTSBURGH CATHOLIC Some parishioners once again did not receive the mailing of the Pittsburgh Catholic. The newspaper had a computer problem and is mailing us 30 copies next week. Please pick one up in church next week and we apologize for this inconvenience.

#515550

Catholic Community in Sharpsburg

201 Ninth Street

Sharpsburg, PA 15215

Office: 412-784-8700

Attn: Rosemarie

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Brother 5140