

# The Catholic Community in Sharpsburg

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

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

**NOVEMBER 16, 2008**

**THIRTY-THIRD 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  
 7:30 pm St. John Cantius—KCC (in Korean)

**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

**KOREAN CATHOLIC COMMUNITY (KCC)**

Masses in Korean at St. John Cantius Church  
 Saturday: 7:30 p.m.  
 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, November 16**  
 St. Margaret of Scotland

**Monday, November 17**  
 St. Elizabeth of Hungary

**Tuesday, November 18**  
 Dedication of St. Peter and St. Paul

**Wednesday, November 19**  
 St. Agnes of Assisi

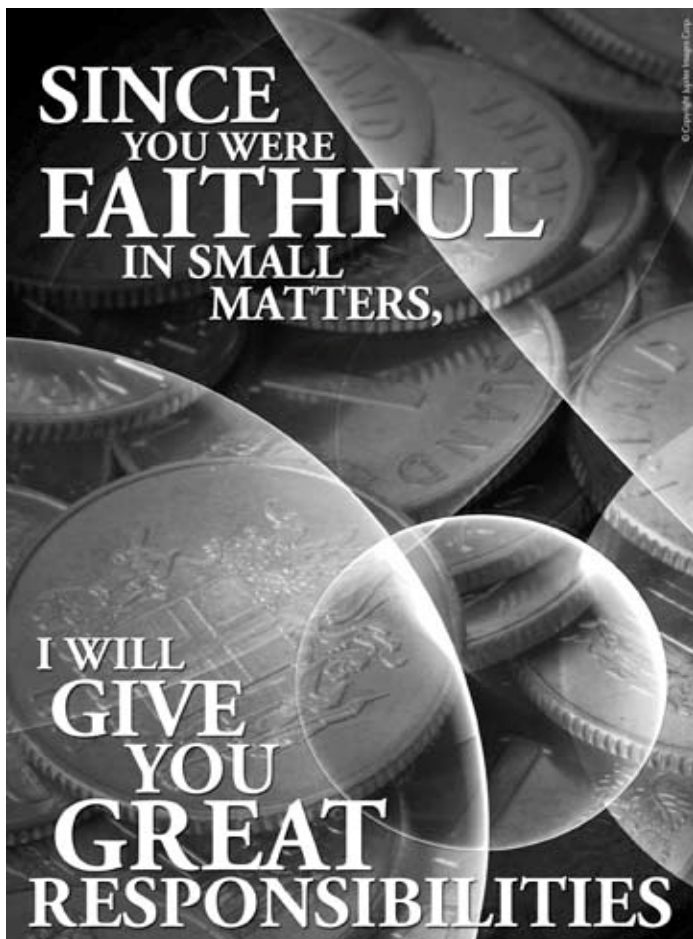
**Thursday, November 20**  
 St. Rose Philippine Duchesne

**Friday, November 21**  
 Feast of the Presentation of Mary

**Saturday, November 22**  
 St. Cecilia



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**Stewardship  
Offertory November 8/9, 2008**

St. Mary	\$2,301.50
Madonna of Jerusalem	\$3,047.25
St. John Cantius	\$ 781.00

**Mission Appeal remitted to the Diocese of Pittsburgh**

St. Mary	\$667
Madonna of Jerusalem	\$524
St. John Cantius	\$215

**All Saints**

St. Mary	\$382.50
Madonna of Jerusalem	\$382.50
St. John Cantius	\$168.00

**All Souls**

St. Mary	\$398.50
Madonna of Jerusalem	\$282.50
St. John Cantius	\$268.00

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR STEWARDSHIP!**

**MASS SCHEDULE** As Father Almade announced at all Masses two weeks ago, the Mass schedule for our three churches will not change for the upcoming winter months. The two Saturday Masses at 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. will be celebrated at Madonna of Jerusalem, 8:30 a.m. Mass will be offered at St. John Cantius and 10:30 a.m. Mass will be celebrated at St. Mary Church.

**NEW CANDLES** New candles are now available for purchase in our three churches. The candles will burn for six days instead of just five and will change colors with the liturgical seasons. For the first four weeks of the month of November, the candles will be amber in color and then will change to blue for Advent. The cost of the candles will now be three dollars instead of two. We hope you like the new candles.

**LUNCHEON BINGO** The Christian Mothers and Rosary Society will hold their annual "Deer" Luncheon Bingo on Monday, December 1. The doors will open at 11:30 a.m. and bingo will start at 1:00. Any donations for raffle prizes are greatly appreciated. For more information or for tickets, please call Evelyn Troyan at 412-781-9368.

**CHRISTIAN MOTHERS AND ROSARY SOCIETY** The Christian Mothers and Rosary Society will hold their monthly meeting on Thursday, November 20 at 7:00 p.m. in the John Paul I Center. New members are always welcome!

**YOUTH GROUP** Our youth group will meet on Friday, November 21 from 6:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. The older children will undergo training for the AED devices that are located in each of the churches and movies will be shown for all. Mark your calendars for this fun and informational night. Hope to see all of you there!

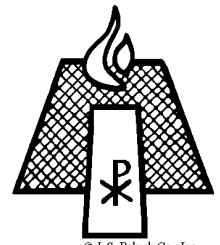
**C** **EMETERY LOTS** As published in the insert in last week's bulletin, the price for lot sales in St. Mary's Cemetery will increase beginning on December 1. If you are considering making a purchase, now may be the time for you to do so. Interment fees will also increase effective December 1. The increases are posted on our website and available by calling Joyce at 412-784-8960.

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

In memory of

**Richard Macieski, Jr.**

by  
Family



**Please pray for**

**Jean Panza,  
Michael Urso,  
Frank Gallo, Jr. (son of Ann Gallo)  
and  
Regina Jaworski**

May they rest in peace.

**ADVENT PENANCE SERVICES** The priests of our cluster of parishes (Sharpsburg, O'Hara, Aspinwall and Blawnox) have scheduled four Advent penance services, so as to allow Catholics to properly prepare for the Feast of Christmas. Penance services will be held on Monday, December 1 at 7:30 p.m. at St. Scholastica Church, Aspinwall; Tuesday, December 9 at 7:30 p.m. at Madonna of Jerusalem Church; Thursday, December 11 at 7:30 p.m. at St. Edward Church, Blawnox; and Wednesday, December 17 at 7:30 p.m. at St. Joseph Church, O'Hara.

**THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE** In the spirit of generosity, please bring a bag of non-perishable food to the 10:00 a.m. Mass on Thanksgiving Day at Madonna Church to help the St. Vincent de Paul continue to provide for the needy in our area. A basket will also be available at the front of the church for any monetary donations.

**ON VACATION** Father Almade will be on vacation from Tuesday, November 25 until Wednesday, December 3. Mass will be celebrated on Monday, November 24, at 7:30 a.m. Communion services will be held on Tuesday, November 25 and Wednesday, November 26. Thanksgiving Mass will be celebrated on Thursday at 10:00 a.m. at Madonna of Jerusalem and communion services will also be held on Friday, November 28, Monday, December 1 and Tuesday, December 2. Daily Mass will resume on Wednesday, December 3 at 7:30 a.m. in Madonna of Jerusalem.

**PITTSBURGH CATHOLIC** The November 21 issue of the Pittsburgh Catholic will be mailed to all households in the diocese. Please note that we are in the process of updating the mailing list. If you are a registered parishioner and do not receive a copy of the November 21 Pittsburgh Catholic, call their office at 412-471-1252 and they will be happy to send you this special pre-Advent edition.

**PITTSBURGH CATHOLIC ARTICLE** Please look in the November 21 issue of the Pittsburgh Catholic for a special article written by Father Almade on post-election abortion thoughts. Many valuable things can be learned from this article and take the time to read and discern how we can all help to fight for the unborn.

***Our website is [www.sharpsburgcatholic.org](http://www.sharpsburgcatholic.org)***

**FEAST OF IMMACULATE CONCEPTION** The Feast of the Immaculate Conception of Mary is Monday, December 8 and *is* a holy day of obligation. Catholic Community in Sharpsburg will have three Masses: at 7:30 a.m. in Madonna Church; at 12 Noon in St. Mary Church; and at 6:30 p.m. in Madonna Church. The evening Mass will include participation by the children in our CCD classes. (Please note there will not be an anticipated Mass on Sunday night.)

**DIOCESAN ADULT FAITH FORMATION SERIES** An old age problem for human beings is to think of the body as something evil that must be transcended. However Catholics know better than that even if it remains a temptation. Sister M. Timothy Prokes, FSE will talk about this in the second installment of this year's lecture series. In her talk entitled, "St. Paul's Challenge: Glorify God in Your Bodies," Sister Timothy will base her talk on this passage from 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 "Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God? You are not your own; you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body." Sister's presentation will be held at St. Paul's Seminary Auditorium on Tuesday, November 18 at 7:30 p.m. Continuing education credit is available for priests, deacons and catechists. The lecture is free.

**FELICIAN SISTERS' HOLIDAY CRAFT SHOW** A craft show will be held featuring handmade gifts and decorations created by the Sisters at the Provincial House in Coraopolis on Saturday, November 22 from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. The Sisters will also have gifts from Third World Countries for sale for the support of these nations.

**ST. VINCENT de PAUL SOCIETY** The good news of today's Gospel is the extravagance of what is being given us. All we need do is be faithful in "small matters." The cost of fidelity has no comparison to the reward given. When you give the furniture, household items and clothing you no longer use to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, you are sharing God's extravagant love.

**MARRIAGE MOMENT** "This is why a man leaves his father and mother and clings to his wife, and the two of them become one body." (Genesis 2:24) What a profound transition marriage is. Of course you never stop loving your parents, but now you have a new first love.

**FAMILY PERSPECTIVE** Like the servants in today's Gospel, God has given us special assets and expects us to totally invest ourselves in them. Laziness or being too busy is not tolerated. Family was freely given to us and is our most precious asset. Invest yourself!

**HOW TO PROTECT YOUR IDENTITY** This information is provided by the Diocese of Pittsburgh to help all of us. Although our personal information is everywhere, there are steps we can take to protect ourselves from identity theft. First, order your credit report and check the accuracy of the report. Always guard your social security number. Protect your mail by paying your bills from post office boxes. Destroy any documents that no one else should be able to access. Be careful as you shop online and only use a credit card, not a debit card. Update your spyware protection and virus software regularly on your computer. Pick your personal identification numbers carefully. Keep all important documents under lock and key at home. Record your credit and bank information and keep them in a safe place. If your cards or checkbook are ever lost or stolen, immediately notify the issuers and the bank.

# 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.

**ORGAN DONATION SEEN AS ACT OF CHARITY** The donation of one's organs is a free act of charity and should not be submitted to the "logic of the market," says Pope Benedict XVI. Upon receiving an audience this week of participants in the international congress "A Gift for Life, Considerations on Organ Donation," the Pope denounced the buying and selling of organs as he praised the act of freely and gratuitously donating parts of one's own body. "Organ donation is a unique testimony of charity. There exists, in fact, a responsibility of love and charity that commits oneself to make one's own life a gift for others, if one truly seeks one's own fulfillment. As Lord Jesus taught us, only by giving one's life, can you save it."

The Holy Father continued by affirming, "The act of love, which is expressed with the gift of one's own vital organs, is a genuine testament of charity that knows how to look beyond death so that life always wins. The recipient should be aware of the value of this gesture that one receives, of a gift that goes beyond the therapeutic benefit. What they receive is a testament of love and it should give rise to a response equally generous, and in this way grows the culture of gift and gratitude."

The Pontiff said as the "body can never be considered as a mere object," so the "logic of the market" cannot be applied to organ donation. He explained: "Any reasons for the buying and selling of organs or the adoption of utilitarian and discriminatory criteria would clash in such a way with the meaning of gift that they would be invalidated, qualifying them as illicit moral acts. Abuses in transplants and organ trafficking, which frequently affect innocent persons, such as children, must find the scientific and medical community united in a joint refusal. They should be decidedly condemned as abominable. Also, the very idea of considering the embryo as 'therapeutic material' contradicts the cultural, civil and ethical foundations on which the dignity of the person rests."

**RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS** Now in its 21st year, the national collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious has raised an astonishing \$550 million to care for elderly and infirm members. Most of us have special stories about Sisters who taught us, ministered to our sick loved ones and witnessed to Christ's love in a personal way. Please be extra generous when you make your donation to the Retirement Fund for Religious on Sunday, November 23.

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

Enclosed in this bulletin is the Annual Financial Report for the three parishes which make up the Catholic Community in Sharpsburg. In the Diocese of Pittsburgh parishes, and the diocese itself, have been making annual financial reports since 1969.

This report is very similar to the 2006-2007 financial report. Unfortunately for both, they continue to tell a story of increasing expenses and flat income. Despite the hard work of the CCS Finance Council and our efforts to move closer to a balanced budget, we continued to add to the debt of St. Mary Parish (mostly because of the overwhelming insurance expenses). Madonna Parish eked out a small surplus. St. John Cantius had both increased income and expenses, because of the arrival of the Korean Catholic Community in September of last year. The KCC contribute to the building expenses and salary of Father Choi. We continue to work with them in an ongoing basis.

These figures don't tell the whole story of our finances and administration. Over the past year there have been many improvements to our buildings. These include a new air conditioning unit and smoke-eater machines for the John Paul I Center, new windows for Madonna Rectory for energy efficiency, new awnings on Madonna Church, new roofs on St. John Cantius Church and Rectory, a new freezer for the St. Vincent de Paul Society program at St. Mary Church. The Finance Council and I have also instituted money-saving actions. We stopped printing our own bulletin and contracted with the J. S. Paluch Company, and therefore went from spending \$7,000 a year for a copier lease and paper to receiving \$500 a year because of our advertisers. We improved our internet and phone service, yet pay less than we did a year ago. We worked with National City Bank regarding our banking and now receive income from "sweeps accounts". We've cleaned up the envelope and *Pittsburgh Catholic* lists, and reduced costs. We exceeded the 2007 Parish Share assessment, raising almost \$23,000 in non-taxable income for the parishes.

I am hopeful that our financial report next year will look a lot different – and better – than this year. Our weekly count of persons attending Sunday Mass has been going up slightly. We have moved from a halftime director of religious education to a program manager with no drop in quality of catechetics. We hope to complete the sale of unused buildings at St. Mary's (rectory, school, lyceum, garage) as soon as possible. This action alone could save us tens of thousands of dollars over a full fiscal year.

Most of all, what cannot be printed but is all over this report is your generosity to your church, in Offertory and special collection donations, in gifts of volunteer skill and time, and through your prayers. I am grateful beyond words for your contributions to your church throughout the year.

**Thank you!** Thank you for all you have given and continue to give in Christian stewardship to your parish. May the Lord who can never be outdone in generosity richly reward you.

THANKSGIVING DAY MASS WILL BE CELEBRATED AT 10:00 A.M. IN MADONNA CHURCH ON NOVEMBER 26. ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND.

*Schedule of Masses for the Week*

**SAT., NOV. 15**

4:00 PM MOJ LUCY VINCENT, SAM AND FRANK BRUNO by Leo and Carmella Rudzki

6:00 PM MOJ JOSEPH GALKA by family

**SUN., NOV. 16**

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

10:30 AM STM RAYMOND AND MARYANN SCOTT by daughters and grandson

**MON., NOV. 17**

7:30 AM MOJ JUNE GAETANO by Pasquale Gaetano and children

**TUE., NOV. 18**

7:30 AM MOJ NICK AND SADIE BURSICK by Jim and Pat Wetzel and family

**WED., NOV. 19**

7:30 AM MOJ JENNIE, JOE AND AUDREY VECCHIO by family

**THU., NOV. 20**

7:30 AM MOJ MARIAN KOST by Vivian and Jim Bragg

**FRI., NOV. 21**

7:30 AM MOJ IRENE DURKOT by the Christian Mothers and Rosary Society

**SAT., NOV. 22**

4:00 PM MOJ VINCENT D'ANGELO by wife, Ann and children

6:00 PM MOJ JOSEPH PAUBA by sister, Marge and family

**SUN., NOV. 23**

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

10:30 AM STM DONALD JONES AND DECEASED FAMILY by family

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

**HELP WANTED** St. Paul's United Methodist Church, Ross Township, is hiring an administrative assistant for the preschool, child care and before and after school programs. Responsibilities include computerized registration, writing letters, creating calendars, making copies and communicating with parents, teachers and director. Applications and resumes are due no later than November 17 and the job begins January 5, 2009.

North Hills Community Outreach is hiring a full-time Operations Specialist. Responsibilities include financial bookkeeping and support of NHCO's information technology, facilities, grounds and transportation.

If you are interested in either of these positions, please contact Wendy Gordon, Director of Communications of North Hills Community Outreach at 412-487-6316, option 1, extension 3112 or go to [www.nhco.org](http://www.nhco.org).

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

#515550

Catholic Community in Sharpsburg

201 Ninth Street

Sharpsburg, PA 15215

Office: 412-784-8700

Attn: Rosemarie

Publisher 2007

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