

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 23, 2008

FEAST OF CHRIST THE KING

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 23

Feast of Christ the King

Monday, November 24

St. Andrew Dung-Lac and Companions

Tuesday, November 25

St. Columban

Wednesday, November 26

St. Catherine of Alexandria

Thursday, November 27

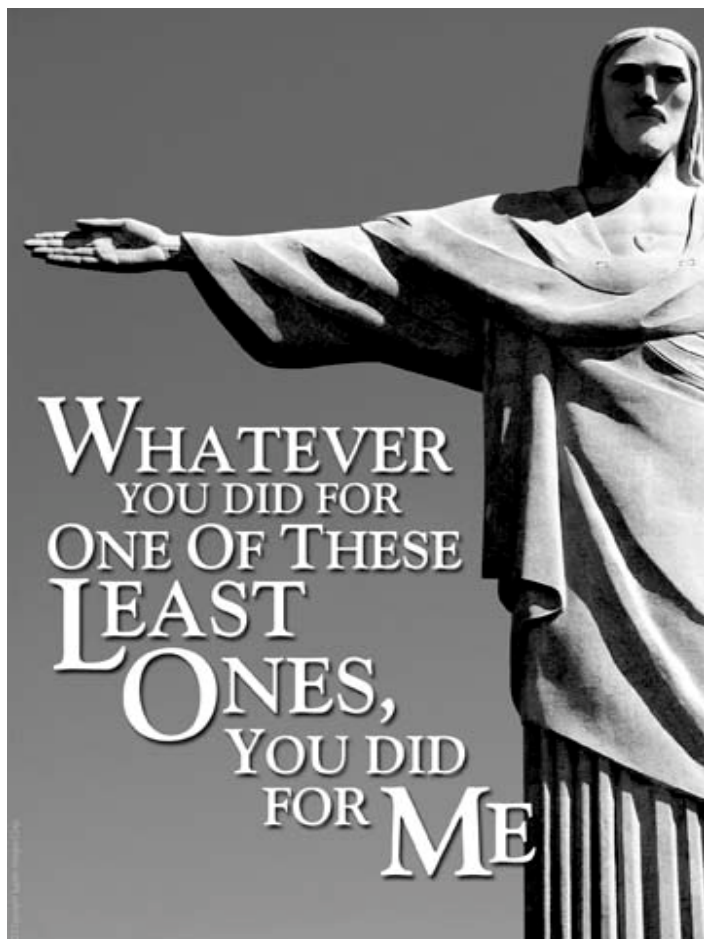
St. Francesco Antonio Fasani

Friday, November 28

St. James of the Marche

Saturday, November 29

Servant of God John of Monte Corvino



Stewardship	
Offertory November 15/16, 2008	
St. Mary	\$2,402
Madonna of Jerusalem	\$1,913
St. John Cantius	\$ 690

THANK YOU FOR YOUR STEWARDSHIP!

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.

SECOND COLLECTION 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 this weekend.

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 Society 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.

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.




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CHRISTMAS PAGEANT Please do not forget to mark your calendars for our Christmas pageant that will be presented on Saturday, December 20 in the John Paul I Pastoral Center following the 6:00 p.m. Mass at Madonna of Jerusalem. The youth of the parish, along with dedicated volunteers, are working very hard for this special production. Hope to see you there!

C E M E T E R Y L O T S As published in previous bulletins, 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.

WELCOME The Catholic Community in Sharpsburg welcomes all visitors to our churches. If you are a parishioner and notice a visitor in our midst, please extend your hand to make our them feel at home.



Flowers at the Altar

In memory of

The Cresta and Montemurro Families

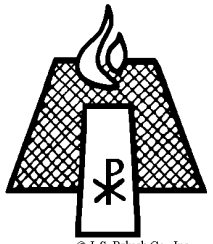
by
Eugene and Judy Cresta and Family

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

In memory of

Anna Marie Jones and Son, Donald

by
Family

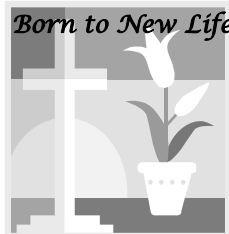


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Please pray for


**Anna Marie Jones,
Wayne Weber,
Rita Marmarelli,
Stella Hesselbach and
Lt. Gov. Catherine Baker Knoll**

May they rest in peace.



Born to New Life

FEAST OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE The Parish of St. Regis and the Latino Community of the Diocese of Pittsburgh are pleased to invite everyone to join with them on Friday, December 12 at St. Paul Cathedral to honor Our Lady of Guadalupe. At 6:25 p.m., the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe will arrive from St. Regis Church and at 6:30 p.m., they will welcome her and sing "Las Mananitas." Following at 7:00 p.m. will be Mass celebrated by Bishop David Zubik and a reception will be held after Mass in the Cathedral Social Hall. For more information, please call 412-681-9365.



**H E A R T F E L T
CONGRATULATIONS** Our congratulations go out to Mrs. Bea Aluise who has completed the required training to serve our parish as a Parish Advocate for Persons with Disabilities, a program sponsored by the

Diocesan Department for Persons with Disabilities. The role of the Parish Advocate is to assist the pastor in his ministry to welcome and include persons with disabilities into full participation in the life of the church. Thank you for a job well done, Bea!!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED Once again, the Catholic Community in Sharpsburg has been asked to help with the Red Kettle Campaign for the Salvation Army. All children of the parish and their families are asked to sign up for a two-hour shift on Saturdays from November 29 through December 20 at the Wal-Mart in the Waterworks Mall. If you are able to help with this wonderful service project, please contact Tom Troyan at 412-782-4860.

THANKSGIVING DAY MASS Please do not forget that Mass will be celebrated at 10: 00 a.m. on Thanksgiving Day, November 27, at Madonna of Jerusalem Church. All are most welcome to attend.



A THANKSGIVING TABLE PRAYER

O Gracious God, we give you thanks for your overflowing generosity to us. Thank you for the blessings of the food we eat and especially for this feast today. Thank you for our home and family and friends, especially for the presence of those gathered here.

Thank you for our health, our work and our play. Please send help to those who are hungry, alone, sick and suffering war and violence. Open our hearts to your love. We ask your blessing through Christ your son. Amen.

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.)

LOTTERY CALENDARS Christ the Divine Teacher Catholic Academy will sponsor a lottery calendar for the entire year of 2009. The winnings are based on the evening daily lottery number. Calendars will be available for \$25.00 after Mass this weekend at Madonna Church and at the Parish Office beginning next week.

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.

EXTRA BULLETIN AND INSERT Please take a copy of today's bulletin with you as it contains an insert with many important times and dates for upcoming Masses and Penance services, along with the request form for Christmas Flower Memorial Donations. Also available are special edition Advent bulletins from our bulletin publisher filled with interesting articles and activities for you and your family.

FEAR UNDERMINES TALENTS, SAYS POPE Fear is the wrong attitude when it comes to putting talents at the service of our neighbors, says the Pope. The Holy Father said "Our gifts, apart from natural qualities, represent the riches that the Lord Jesus has left us as a legacy, so that we bear fruit with them: his Word, deposited in the holy Gospel; baptism, which renews us in the Holy Spirit; prayer—the 'Our Father' - that we address to God as sons united in the son; his forgiveness, which he commanded to be brought to all; the sacrament of his Body and Blood that he poured out. In a word: the Kingdom of God." The Pope also said that the central message of this week's Gospel "regards the spirit of responsibility toward God and humanity with which the Kingdom of God is to be accepted." He said that the Virgin Mary is the perfect example of one who has this accepted this responsibility and we are to look to her for help.

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.

SUGGESTIONS FOR CHURCH ETIQUETTE

1. Please keep a respectful quiet in the presence of Jesus in the Eucharist before and after Mass.
2. Please turn off or silence cell phones and pagers.
3. Please remember to wear appropriate clothing, especially during the summer months.
4. Please do not bring into the church cups of coffee from various chains or from home.
5. Please remember bottles of water are not appropriate except in case of true medical need.
6. Please remember chewing gum by anyone is not acceptable ever, at any time, during Mass (we have a one-hour fast prior to Communion.)
7. Please refrain from reading the bulletin, emails or text messages during Mass.
8. Please no MP3 devices, iPods, Nano or otherwise.
9. Please do not come late, scoot out after Communion or rudely leave before the Liturgy is concluded, including the closing hymn.
10. Please participate in the Mass—body, mind and spirit—singing, speaking, praying, attending within the heart and the body.

Why these suggestions for church etiquette? The answer is reverence, respect, participation. Our obligation is NOT just bodily presence in the church during the time the Mass is being celebrated; our obligation each Sunday and Holy Day of Obligation is active participation in mind, heart and body in the Liturgy, in which the saving mysteries of the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ are celebrated in a way that we may enter into them. That is our privilege as Catholics to take part in by prayerfully lifting up our minds and hearts and offering ourselves with Jesus Christ at the altar. Our Lord unites us with Himself, with one another and with the angels and saints, by the Holy Spirit, in the one and only worship of God the Father when we come to Mass—nothing less. God the Father listens to our prayers with loving and unfailing attention; we should be together as a community, in His presence in exactly the same way. One of our goals together must be the restoration and maintenance of reverence and participation in the Liturgy—our whole and undivided hearts we must give to God. Let us all be reminded of our duty and our privilege as Catholics.

FAITHFUL CHRONICLES
by Father Frank D. Almada

Today is the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ the King. This feast is a recent one. It was begun by Pope Pius XI in 1925. The pope connected the denial of Christ as king to the rise of secularism. The world had just ended "the Great War" and saw the rise of many dictators in Europe. (Little did the pope or people know at that time that an even greater world war would begin in 1939.) In his encyclical letter promulgating this feast, Pope Pius XI wrote, "The chief causes of the difficulties under which mankind was laboring in the world were due to the fact that the majority of men had thrust Jesus Christ and his holy law out of their lives; that these had no place either in private affairs or in politics; and that as long as individuals and states refused to submit to the rule of our Savior, there would be no really hopeful prospect of a lasting peace among nations." Sounds contemporary, doesn't it?

Pope Pius set the feast for the last Sunday of October, to connect it with the Feast of All Saints and Feast of All Souls on Nov. 1 and 2. In 1969 Pope Paul VI affirmed the feast, but in the restoration of the liturgy after Vatican II made Christ the King the last Sunday of the liturgical year. This broadened the understanding of Christ as King not only of all creation, all people and nations, but all time to the end of time. Christ the King also prepares us to begin a new liturgical year, and the season of Advent's preparation for the birth of the Savior.

In the first reading, the prophet Ezekiel gives us a picture of the kind of leadership we celebrate in this feast. The shepherd cares for his flock. The shepherd rescues the lost, heals the hurting, feeds the members and gives them rest. The shepherd cares for his own. The second reading points out that as Christ was obedient to the will of his Father, so are we to be obedient to the ways and teachings of Christ.

Today many balk at the idea of kings and queens, believing them to be oppressive. Some in the church even reject the titles of "lord" and "king" for Christ because they believe that such titles are borrowed from oppressive systems of government. But Jesus knew the oppressive nature of secular kings, and in contrast to them, he connected his role as king to humble service, and commanded his followers to be servants of others as well. In some Scripture passages his kingdom is tied to his suffering and death. While Christ is coming to judge the nations, his teachings spell out a kingdom of justice and judgment balanced with radical love, mercy, peace and forgiveness. When we celebrate the Feast of Christ the King, we honor one willing to die for humanity and whose loving-kindness endures forever.

A BLESSED THANKSGIVING TO ALL!

Schedule of Masses for the Week

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 ANNA MARIE JONES AND SON, DONALD by
family

MON., NOV. 24

7:30 AM MOJ THOMAS J. GREGURICH by sons

TUE., NOV. 25

7:30 AM MOJ COMMUNION SERVICE

WED., NOV. 26

7:30 AM MOJ COMMUNION SERVICE

THU., NOV. 27 THANKSGIVING DAY

10:00 AM MOJ ROSE FERRARO SACCO by Harry and Rachele
Heinl

FRI., NOV. 28

7:30 AM MOJ COMMUNION SERVICE

SAT., NOV. 29

4:00 PM MOJ ALFRED AND SUSIE LAVIA AND DOROTHY by
Theresa and Joe Rudzki

6:00 PM MOJ SHARYN ASHBURN by Patricia, Bernie and
Mrs. Swiech

SUN., NOV. 30

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

10:30 AM STM FRANCES WEINHEIMER 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.**

ST. VINCENT de PAUL SOCIETY Today as we celebrate Christ the King, we hear Jesus say: "...whatever you did for one of the least brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." Knowing that we find the face of Christ in the poor, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul continues to help serve our brothers and sisters with their temporal needs.

MARRIAGE MOMENTS As you prepare for Thanksgiving this week, thank God for your spouse. Tell your spouse a specific quality that endears you to her or him. Remember, there are many people in our world still looking for love and still searching for a soul mate.

PARENTING POINTERS The day after Thanksgiving has been dubbed "Black Friday" by merchants since it is the start of the Christmas shopping season who wish their accounts to be in the black or positive numbers. It's also called "Buy Nothing Day" by those who are trying to reduce consumerism. Yes, you'll buy some presents, but why this day? Stay home if possible, spend time playing with your kids or volunteering your time, and save yourself the stress of fighting the crowds. That's the most meaningful present you can give.

FAMILY PERSPECTIVE Families feed the hungry, give drinks to thirsty toddlers and welcome strangers and even stranger relatives into our homes. We clothe children and visit family members who are sick and imprisoned. The routine actions of family life are religious and priestly for we make Christ present in what we do. Families live the Beatitudes.

Our website is www.catholicsharpsburg.org

#515550

Catholic Community in Sharpsburg

201 Ninth Street

Sharpsburg, PA 15215

Office: 412-784-8700

Attn: Rosemarie

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Brother 5140