

Saint Juan Diego Parish

Reverend Frank D. Almada, Pastor

NOVEMBER 29, 2009

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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.....saintjuandiegopgh@verizon.net
Web site.....www.saintjuandiegopgh.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 with Father Almada required. Baptisms will take place during any Sunday Mass or after Sunday Mass.

MARRIAGES Six months' notice required. Please call Father to arrange an interview.

HOLY ORDERS Young men who wish to find out more about the priesthood should contact Father Almada.

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)

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.



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.



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**On Sunday,
December 13, a
special Christmas gift
will be given for all
paid admissions.**

**Thank you for your
continued support!**

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION Bishop Zubik has asked parishes and pastors to continue having Eucharistic Adoration during the Jubilee Year of the Priest (June 2009-June 2010). With the enthusiastic support of the Parish Pastoral Council, Father Almade is planning to start a new parish tradition: having a Day of Eucharistic Adoration on the Feast of Saint Juan Diego, December 9. After 7:30 a.m. Mass, the Eucharist will be exposed for prayer in Madonna of Jerusalem Church all day. At 6:00 p.m., there will be a dinner for all parish volunteers in the John Paul I Pastoral Center. At 7:30 p.m., there will be Evening Prayer and Benediction to conclude the celebration of our parish's patron. Father Almade has invited the new regional vicar, Father Phil Farrell, to preside and preach at Benediction (subject to his acceptance). Please mark Wednesday, December 9 on your calendar for prayer and celebration of Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament, as we honor our patron.

NEW HYMNALS Saint Juan Diego Parish has purchased new hymnals that can be found in each church and the books begin today, November 29, the beginning of the new liturgical year. These books replace our seasonal Missalettes. All readings for Sundays and major feasts can be found in the hymnals, as well as expanded listings of songs for music. Please make friends with our new hymnals.

YOUTH GROUP The Saint Juan Diego Youth Group will go Christmas caroling at St. Mary's Courtyard on Friday, December 11 at 7:00 p.m. If you can attend, please call Tom Troyan at 412-782-4860.

Flowers at the Altar

In memory of

John and Helen Bursich

by

Francis and Janice Peitz



Born to New Life



Please pray for

Robert Myers

May he rest in peace.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT Saint Juan Diego Parish is holding a benefit Christmas concert on Sunday, December 20 beginning at 2:00 p.m. in St. Mary Church. Performers include William Dell and Wee Jams, the Soul and Inspiration Choir from Incarnation of our Lord Parish and several other local musical groups. Tickets are available for a \$15 donation by calling the Parish Office at 412-784-8700 or by sending the form that was printed in the Advent Bulletin.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT Back again for a second year is a Christmas Pageant presented by the Children of Saint Juan Diego Parish. The pageant will take place on Saturday, December 12 at 7:30 p.m. in the John Paul I Pastoral Center. Immediately following the pageant will be a parish social. Parents, your help is still needed and greatly appreciated. Everyone is welcome to this free performance.

OPLATKI WAFER Oplatki wafer is available for purchase for \$1.00 after each Mass in the sacristies of our churches. It is also available at the Parish Office. This is a wonderful way to share the love and joy of Christmas with your family and friends at table using this Polish tradition of hospitality and sharing.

OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE MASS All are invited to join Bishop Zubik for the annual Our Lady of Guadalupe Spanish Mass on Friday, December 11 at 7:00 p.m. at St. Paul Cathedral in Oakland. The celebration begins at 6:30 p.m. with the "Our Lady" procession. Enjoy the festive reception afterward in the Cathedral's social hall.

YOU AND THE FLU In today's bulletin is a repeat of a message from the Diocese of Pittsburgh regarding best health practices to prevent transmission of germs and viruses in church (and home, work and elsewhere). A few parishioners have asked why we continue to offer the Precious Blood at every Mass. A couple of points to remember: Every communicant has the option of receiving Our Lord both under the species of the consecrated bread and the consecrated wine. This is your choice. It is traditional and longstanding Catholic teaching that Jesus Christ is present whole and entire both under the species of consecrated bread and the consecrated wine. Second, if you have the sniffles, or a cold or full-blown flu, you should not take Holy Communion from the cup. Further, if you are sick, you should consider staying at home, praying in your room, and getting better, so as to come to Mass the next Sunday. There is no sin if you are sick and miss Sunday Mass. Third, many Catholics (including the priest) find it spiritually rewarding to follow the commands of Jesus at the Last Supper: "Take and eat. Take and drink." For this reason, Saint Juan Diego Parish will continue to offer the cup of Precious Blood at every meal. Father Almade trusts that each Catholic will make good decisions regarding their health, and their participation at Mass.

Faithful Chronicles by Father Frank D. Almade

For today's reading, we have a guest columnist. Karen Sue Smith is editorial director of "America" magazine, a Catholic weekly published by the Jesuits of the United States. Her column, which is reproduced in its entirety, appeared in the Nov. 9, 2009, edition. Subscriptions to "America" are \$56 a year. Call 1-800-627-9533.

As a retiree, my mother finally has the time to indulge her contemplative streak. While I was growing up, she would rise at 5:00 a.m. to sit alone with her coffee, enjoy the quiet and browse the newspaper. After we bought a piano, she would play one unbroken improvised song, a progression of chords, for half an hour or more. To me it sounded like prayer, like Mary pondering all those things in her heart. I'd lie in bed and wonder at the songs my mom kept inside some deep interior well, there in the Arizona desert.

Externally, my mother led a busy suburban life, working full time and raising a family. Whenever she would finally join us kids of an evening to watch television, she'd fall asleep in minutes.

In her 60s my mother retired. Next thing I knew, she was taking painting lessons. The class painted exclusively from photos, so she was free to choose any subject that interested her. She made small renderings of birds, huge scenes of the Southwest, even a Lord's Supper image. Obviously she had talent, but it was her enthusiasm we found so touching. I thought, finally she has time for herself. Then the gifts started coming. Over the years my mother would present to each family member and close friend a framed painting of a subject she had carefully selected, not for herself but for them. On she went, until she painted herself out.

My mother became a caretaker again, of her parents. They could no longer care for themselves in Ohio, so they joined their two daughters, who live a mile apart, in Phoenix until they died at 89 and 93. They my mother and aunt lost their two brothers, leaving only the two of them. My mother came to terms with death. On a visit to my parents' home, I noticed new objects from my mother's family—a glass bowl, a knick-knack and several quilts.

My mother took up quilting, right where her own mother and grandmother had left off. To their hand-sewn piecework tops, she added batting and backing and "quilted" it all with a running stitch. She handed down three quilts, one to each child, a labor across three generations. Each quilt is a vivid example of patient love turned stitch by tiny stitch into a strong protective coverlet, practical enough to warm a family for decades, artful enough to decorate a room.

Two years ago my mother turned 80, wearing red at the party. But since then a series of falls, a broken bone and arthritis have put a crimp in her active lifestyle. She still drives, shops, goes online, consumes the news and sports, dances (with a cane handy) and keeps a neat house. She and my dad are mainstays at their local church, which specializes in ministry to seniors. But my mom nurtures her contemplative streak now.

Like an intrepid explorer, she sets out every morning to observe the universe from her patio. She looks at the sky and inspects her territory. Once she watched a hummingbird build a nest, which later fell to the ground. She examined every layer of it—bits of pencil plant used for the foundation, leaves of an artificial plant to line the nest—then she put it back. I stood on a ladder and found a tiny egg inside. "That explains it," she said. "One parent flies over it every day."

Limitations try to catch my mother, but she's too attentive to get caught. What fascinates her are the little things—the birds, beetles and roses she never had time for. And she seems to be so keenly aware of her own mortality that she chooses to be ever affirming, as if to hand on to others her positive take on the world. In her wisdom, my mother is aging wakefully, demonstrating with her contemplative gaze just how it's done.

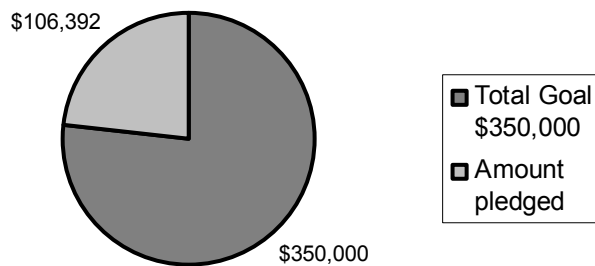
A NOTE OF GRATITUDE Fr. Ron Lengwin, the Diocesan Director for the Mission Office of the Diocese of Pittsburgh, sent a note of thanks for the World Mission Sunday contribution of \$1,398 submitted from Saint Juan Diego Parish. The offering will be used to help support 102 young men preparing for priesthood at the Missionary Society of St. Paul Seminary in Zambia. Thank you for your generosity!

ST. VINCENT de PAUL SOCIETY As we begin Advent we are called to "await" in joyful anticipation for the grace of Christmas to once again bless our lives. Wherever you live in our parish, there are poor families within walking distance of your home. Your gift in the St. Vincent de Paul Poor Box will help the poor to celebrate the grace of God's love this Christmas.

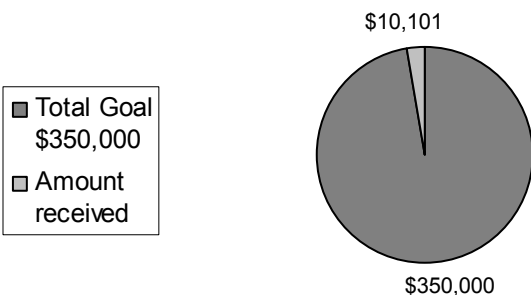
CCD NEWS On November 16, the children of grades 3 through 8 celebrated the Sacrament of Reconciliation. In anticipation of the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, the children will participate in the Mass that will be celebrated at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, December 7 at Madonna of Jerusalem Church. This Mass does fulfill the obligation for the feast day and all are welcome to attend and celebrate with our children.

BAKERS NEEDED Cookies are needed for the Parish Christmas Social and Children's Pageant on December 12. If you are able to contribute cookies for this special occasion, please call Elaine Auen at 412-781-2635 or the Parish Office at 412-784-8700. Cookies can be dropped off at the John Paul I Pastoral Center on Friday, December 11 until 5:00 p.m. and on Saturday morning, December 12, until Noon. Thank you for your kindness!

**Saint Juan Diego Parish
Capital Campaign
Pledges
as of 11/25/2009**



**Saint Juan Diego Parish
Capital Campaign
Amount received
as of 11/25/2009**



**Saint Juan Diego Parish
as of November 9, 2009**

OUR GOAL FOR PARISH SHARE PROGRAM	\$57,055
AMOUNT WE'VE COLLECTED	53,150
AMOUNT WE'RE UNDER	\$ 3,905

We're almost there!

ATTENDANCE AND STEWARDSHIP This week's attendance and offertory collection numbers will be published in next week's bulletin due to the early submission of the bulletin in anticipation of the Thanksgiving holiday weekend.

Schedule of Masses for the Week

SAT., NOV. 28 FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

4:00 PM MOJ MARY JON LYONS by Family
6:00 PM MOJ MICHELINA, DOMENIC AND JOHN CORRADO by Family

SUN., NOV. 29

8:30 AM SJC FOR THE PEOPLE OF SAINT JUAN DIEGO PARISH
10:30 AM STM JOHN AND HELEN BURSICH by Francis and Janice Peitz

MON., NOV. 30

7:30 AM MOJ COMMUNION SERVICE

TUE., DEC. 1

7:30 AM MOJ COMMUNION SERVICE

WED., DEC. 2

7:30 AM MOJ COMMUNION SERVICE

THU., DEC. 3

7:30 AM MOJ ADELIN SCHUSTER by Toni, Steve and Doug Swierczynski and Families

FRI., DEC. 4

7:30 AM MOJ MARY RANALLI AND RANALLI FAMILY by Vince Ranalli

SAT., DEC. 5 SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

4:00 PM MOJ WALTER DRABICKI by Helen and Daughters
6:00 PM MOJ MARY LOU REITH by Dolly and Justin Bucek

SUN., DEC. 6

8:30 AM SJC FOR THE PEOPLE OF SAINT JUAN DIEGO PARISH
10:30 AM STM IN LOVING MEMORY OF SUE BRENBORG

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

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION The Feast of the Immaculate Conception is Tuesday, December 8 and it is a holy day of obligation. The Mass schedule is as follows:

Monday, December 7	6:30 p.m.	Madonna of Jerusalem
Tuesday, December 8	7:30 a.m.	Madonna of Jerusalem
Tuesday, December 8	12 Noon	St. Mary
Tuesday, December 8	4:00 p.m.	St. Mary

ADVENT PENANCE SERVICES Following is a list of upcoming Advent Communal Penance Services for our cluster:

Monday, December 14	7:00 p.m.	St. Scholastica Church, Aspinwall
Wednesday, December 16	7:30 p.m.	St. Joseph Church, O'Hara
Thursday, December 17	7:00 p.m.	All Saints Church, Etna
Thursday, December 17	7:30 p.m.	St. Edward Church, Blawnox
Tuesday, December 22	7:00 p.m.	Madonna of Jerusalem Church, Sharpsburg

In addition, St. Mary of the Assumption in Glenshaw will hold confessions on the following dates and times:

Thursday, December 10	6:30 p.m.
Saturday, December 12	11:30 a.m.
Monday, December 14	6:30 p.m.

All are encouraged to participate in the Sacrament of Reconciliation in anticipation of the Birth of our Lord.