

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 30, 2008

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.....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 30

St. Andrew

Monday, December 1

Blessed John of Vercelli

Tuesday, December 2

Blessed Rafal Chylinski

Wednesday, December 3

St. Francis Xavier

Thursday, December 4

St. John Damascene

Friday, December 5

St. Sabas

Saturday, December 6

St. Nicholas of Myra



St. Francis Xavier

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OFFERTORY COLLECTION The offertory collection figures for this weekend will be published in next week's bulletin as the bulletin was sent to the publisher early due to the Thanksgiving holiday.

SECOND COLLECTION The second collection next weekend, December 6 and 7, is for Parish Share. We thank you for your generosity.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES Bishop David Zubik has asked all parishes in the Diocese to sponsor a one-time only second collection for Catholic Charities next weekend, December 6 and December 7. As that is the same weekend as our Parish Share collection, the Catholic Community in Sharpsburg will sponsor this collection the following weekend, **December 13 and 14**. As the primary social service agency of the Diocese of Pittsburgh, Catholic Charities serves all, regardless of religious affiliation at their time of greatest need. The agency is currently experiencing a 40% increase in the number of calls from people who are challenged by the current economic conditions and need help with food, utility bills and other basic needs. With the coldest weather approaching, there is a keen sense of urgency that resources will not be able to meet demand. Please support Catholic Charities as generously as possible and help your neighbors in need.

BLEST ARE THEY The Blest Are They welcome members and their families to a Christmas gathering on December 6 from 12:30 p.m. until 3:00 p.m. at the John Paul I Pastoral Center. Refreshments will be served and all are welcome to stay and attend the 4:00 p.m. Mass in Madonna of Jerusalem Church. Please call Edith at 412-486-7573, Barb at 412-781-5732 or Bea at 412-781-8975 by December 1 if you are planning to attend this special event.


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!



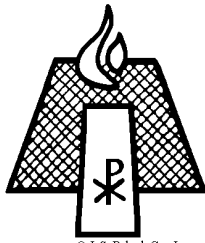
ADVENT PENANCE SERVICES The priests of our cluster of parishes (Sharpsburg, O'Hara, Aspinwall and Blawnox) have scheduled four Advent penance services, so as to allow Catholics to properly prepare for the Feast of Christmas. Penance services with two or more priests will be held on Monday, December 1 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. All are encouraged to participate in the sacrament of Penance as we joyfully anticipate the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

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 through Saturday, December 20 at the Wal-Mart in the Waterworks Mall. If you and your family are able to help with this wonderful service project, please contact Tom Troyan at 412-782-4860.

Flowers at the Altar
In memory of
Mary Ranalli
by
Son, Vince



**Altar and Sanctuary
Candles are burning
this week**
In memory of
Anthony R. Pugliese
by
Rosemarie, Michael and Rachel



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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. However, if you wish to attend a vigil Mass, All Saints in Etna will have a Mass at 5:00 p.m. and St. Mary, Middle Road, has a 6:00 p.m. Mass)

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.

FESTIVAL OF LESSONS AND CAROLS St. Matthew Parish, 53rd and Carnegie Streets in Lawrenceville, is having a pre-Christmas celebration under the direction of Carol Spehar on Sunday, December 7 at 2:00 p.m. The St. Matthew Choir and Carol will provide the music for this service that relates the story of Christmas in the beautiful and solemn words of the prophets and evangelists with the choir and the congregation responding with carols and hymns. Refreshments will be served in the parish hall following this celebration and all are welcome to attend.

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.

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.

Our website is www.catholicsharpsburg.org

CELEBRATING ADVENT This week, Catholic families will begin to prepare our hearts and homes to celebrate the birth of our savior, Jesus Christ, by commencing the season of Advent. In the weeks leading up to Christmas, we have a unique opportunity to enjoy devotions and customs that can help us truly embrace this special season.

During the hubbub of holiday parties and trips to the mall, it seems especially crucial to pause as a family nightly and embrace quiet prayer. You can simply light a candle in the center of the dinner table and pause for quiet reflection prior to dinner. Other family devotions might include increased attendance at daily Mass, time spent in Eucharistic adoration, prayer of the Rosary as a family or time spent reading scripture together each evening.

Consider embracing some of the following time-honored Advent traditions in your home. Create an Advent wreath with evergreen branches and candles of violet and rose. Make a Jesse tree using a large branch bare of leaves and place a small ornament on it daily tracing the lineage of Jesus. Advent calendars found in card stores also can have a daily "door" to open for each day with a scripture reference to help us grow spiritually during this joyful time of anticipation.

HOSPITAL VISITS Catholics who are patients in UPMC St. Margaret Hospital, Aspinwall, are served by several priests in the area who are available for the Sacrament of Anointing. Parishioners from St. Scholastica Parish bring Holy Communion to Catholic patients. If a family member or friend is a patient at St. Margaret's, tell the attending nurse that you would like a priest to visit or a Eucharistic minister to bring Communion. She will notify the pastoral care department. Priests and Eucharistic ministers serve all Catholics, no matter what parish they are members of. Remember, if you want Father Almado to visit a family member or friend in any area hospital, you must call the parish office. Because of privacy laws, hospitals are not permitted to call churches to notify them when a parishioner is admitted.

CHRIST THE DIVINE TEACHER CATHOLIC ACADEMY Christ the Divine Teacher Catholic Academy is now accepting registrations for Pre-K through 8th grades. They are excited to show you their school and financial assistance is available to qualified candidates. Please call to arrange a tour or for more information call 412-781-7927 or www.cdtcatholicacademy.org. In addition, the school is also having a year-round fundraiser to earn free equipment and supplies. Please clip UPC's from Campbells, Pepperidge Farms, Swanson and Market Day products and save the lids from Prego and V-8 juices. These can be dropped off in the collection bin at the rear of any of our three churches.



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A FOND FAREWELL Father Ambrose will return to his homeland of Nigeria in mid-December to teach theology in a seminary. His presence in our community will be greatly missed and we thank him for his good service. If anyone would like to give Father Ambrose a gift, feel free to bring it to the Parish Office before December 13 and we will be sure that he receives it.

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

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!!!

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Christmas gift for each paid admission on December 21

LARGE PAPER GROCERY BAGS ARE ALWAYS NEEDED!

For more information, call Marie at 412-781-3388.

SICK CHILDREN NEED EXTRA LOVE, SAYS POPE

Pope Benedict XVI appealed for a careful balance between "insisting and desisting" in therapies administered to seriously ill children, but above all, he said, these little patients need special amounts of love.

The Pope affirmed this when he received participants in the international conference sponsored by the Pontifical Council for Health Care Ministry in which the focus was, "Pastoral Care in the Treatment of Sick Children."

"At times medical research is faced with difficult choices when it is a question of, for example, achieving a correct balance between insisting and desisting in therapy to ensure treatments that are appropriate to the real needs of the little patients, without giving into the temptation of carrying out experiments with them," the Holy Father said. "It is not superfluous to recall that the reason for every medical intervention must be the consequent true good of the child, considering his dignity as a human individual with full rights."

The Pontiff said a child patient "must always be cared for with love to help him cope with suffering and sickness, including before birth, in the measure appropriate to his situation." And, he added, special concern must be given to the child's family, ensuring that there is constant communication with them, given "the emotional impact, due to the illness and the treatments to which the child is subjected, which are often particularly invasive. If health agents, doctors and nurses feel the weight of the little patients; sufferings, it is impossible to imagine how great is the suffering felt by the parents."

"Every health and care institution, especially if it is animated by a genuine Christian spirit, has the duty to offer children the maximum of its competence and humanity. The sick child understands the language of tenderness and love expressed through patient and generous service, full of care, fostered in believers by the desire to manifest the same predilection that Jesus felt for little ones."

FAITHFUL CHRONICLES
by Father Frank D. Almada

Remember that Heinz ketchup commercial, in which the bottle is unopened and every so slowly, slowly, the ketchup oozes out, to the tune of "Anticipation" by Carly Simon? It's all in the waiting. Many times as I have climbed into a car or made the trek to the airport to begin a vacation I've thought, half of the joy of the vacation is the anticipation of it. Children know this. I remember asking a little girl how old she was. She blurted out, "Six, and a half, and a little more!" She couldn't wait until her seventh birthday.

The Church understands such feelings. So we don't just celebrate the birthday of Jesus, we anticipate it in the season of Advent. We mull over the heritage of the prophets who anticipated a savior. We reread the very familiar stories of Zechariah, Elizabeth and their son John, of Mary and the angel Gabriel and Joseph the just, of arduous travel to Bethlehem, of shepherds and hosts of angels, of magi and wondrous gifts, of refugees fleeing to Egypt and dreams of a better world.

The Church asks us to take some time to do this "work" of anticipation. We are called to slow down, to pray and read and reflect as we wait for the Nativity. But I will spill the beans – I'm a hypocrite. I tell others to slow down yet I'm no better at slowing down than you are. I crank out my Christmas cards at the last minute. I obsess over the playoff possibilities of the Steelers while spiritual reading gets dusty on my shelf. I ignore the wisdom of the pregnant Mary as she patiently waits for the birth of her son and wonders whether anyone will give her hospitality. I worry about my foolish whims instead of the tangible needs of the poor around me.

I have changed one behavior which makes Advent waiting special. One year I realized that I barely glanced at all the Christmas cards which family and friends sent me in the hectic days of December. I was upset that I didn't appreciate these small but sincere acts of love. So now I don't open any Christmas cards during Advent. I put them in a special pile. On Christmas Day, after all the Masses have been celebrated, the collections bagged, and the churches locked up, I get into comfortable clothes, a glass of wine at hand (and the tv off!), and slowly open each card. I read every word of every letter. I linger over the photos of children enclosed. I make notes of people I have to call. And I enjoy the Christmas communion of loved ones who have extended their friendship to me.

Can this Advent be different for me, less hectic, more prayerful? I don't know. But I'm going to give it another try. Maybe 15 more minutes of reading and praying daily. Maybe a few phone calls to reconnect with long lost friends. Maybe just sitting in the church in silence, aware of the Divine Presence ever around me. Maybe I might be less of an Advent hypocrite this year. If so, it'll be an even better Christmas.

Schedule of Masses for the Week

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

MON., DEC. 1

7:30 AM MOJ COMMUNION SERVICE

TUE., DEC. 2

7:30 AM MOJ COMMUNION SERVICE

WED., DEC. 3

7:30 AM MOJ CAROL ANN DAHLER by brothers and sisters

THU., DEC. 4

7:30 AM MOJ SCOTT AND SUBASIC FAMILIES by the family

FRI., DEC. 5

7:30 AM MOJ BARBARA KUCHTA by family

SAT., DEC. 6

4:00 PM MOJ BLEST ARE THEY
6:00 PM MOJ ANTHONY R. PUGLIESE by family

SUN., DEC. 7

8:30 AM SJC FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE
CATHOLIC COMMUNITY IN SHARPSBURG
10:30 AM STM EDWARD J. IMHOF by wife, Barbara, children and
grandchildren

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

MERCY HOSPITAL SCHOOL OF NURSING The Mercy Hospital School of Nursing Alumni presents, "Health Care Beginnings Under the Leadership of Religious Orders" on Tuesday, December 2 at Sr. Ferdinand Clark Auditorium. Registration begins at 5:00 p.m. with dinner at 5:30 p.m. and presentations starting at 6:00 p.m. by John Bavaro, Professor of Health Services Administration at Slippery Rock University and Sister Louise Grundish, a Sister of Charity. The cost is \$15 and to register, call Michelle Buraczewski at 412-232-8168.

FAMILY PERSPECTIVE Today's gospel warns about routines and specifically mentions eating and drinking, raising a family, working and preparing meals. Stay awake because routines can numb you to God breaking into your daily life, calling you to higher ground, "when you least expect."

PARENTING POINTERS Although the best strategy for dealing with the television is often to turn it off, parents can also use TV to teach. Watch a program with your child and talk back to the TV. "Hmmm, that commercial sure is trying to trick us?" Or, "I can't believe that kid just back-talked to his mom. What do you think the parent should do?"

ST. VINCENT de PAUL SOCIETY As we begin Advent we are called to "Be watchful! Be alert" as we stand in joyful anticipation for the grace of Christmas to once again bless our lives. Your gift in the St. Vincent de Paul Poor Box will help the poor to celebrate the grace of God's love this Christmas.

#515550

Catholic Community in Sharpsburg

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Office: 412-784-8700

Attn: Rosemarie

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Brother 5140