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FINAL

'Numbing feeling' heading into Lent

Members of St. Joseph the Worker Parish mourn mid-March closings of 7 churches

By Lindsay Shachnow
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Ryan McCartney was baptized in Swissvale's St. Anselm Church.

It's where he received his First Communion. And where the burials of his father and grandmother were arranged.

But on March 12, the decades-old church will permanently close its doors.

"It's a numbing feeling," said Mr. McCartney, 44, of Braddock Hills.

"It's been home for me."

St. Anselm is one of seven

churches in the St. Joseph the Worker Parish slated to shutter mid-March, displacing hundreds of parishioners. It is the most recent widespread shutdown, following years of closures and mergers within the Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh.

Just one church in the parish — St. Maurice in Forest Hills — will remain open.

The announcement has left Pittsburgh's Catholics reeling, and impacted church members say the timing of the closures is an added blow

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Sebastian Foltz/Post-Gazette

Swissvale Mayor Deneen Swartzwelder stands in front of Madonna del Castello Church in Swissvale on Friday. She grew up going to the church, which is scheduled to close next month.

PROGRESS STALLS IN ENDING SHUTDOWN

Congress digs in over DHS oversight

By Aamer Madhani
Associated Press

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. — Lawmakers and the White House offered no signs of compromise Sunday in their battle over oversight of federal immigration officers that has led to a pause in funding for the Department of Homeland Security.

A partial government shutdown began Saturday after congressional Democrats and President Donald Trump's team failed to reach a deal on legislation to fund the department through September. Democrats are demanding changes to how immigration operations are conducted after the fatal shootings of U.S. citizens Alex Pretti and Renee Goodby by federal officers in Minneapolis last month.

Congress is on recess until Feb. 23, and both sides appear dug into their positions. The impasse affects agencies such as the Transportation Security Administration, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, U.S. Coast Guard, the Secret Service, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

The work at ICE and CBP goes on unabated because Trump's tax and spending cut law from 2025 provided billions more

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STATE

Lawmakers question ICE arrests

Those with work visas, no criminal record cited

By Jacob Geanous
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

U.S. Rep. Summer Lee sent a congressional inquiry last week to Immigration and Customs Enforcement demanding the agency provide justification for the arrest of a man in Brentwood.

Ms. Lee, D-Swissvale, said the man, Maklim Gomez Escalante, 35, had a valid work permit and no criminal record when he was arrested in mid-January. He is being held in Moshannon Valley Processing Center in Phillipsburg, Pa., the largest immigration detention center in the Northeast.

The congresswoman said in a news release that Mr. Escalante's wife learned from another detainee at Moshannon on Feb. 2 that her husband was hospitalized after experiencing stroke-like symptoms. He has been returned to Moshannon but is experiencing partial facial paralysis,

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Alexandra Wimley/Post-Gazette photos

Attendees walk through vehicles at the Pittsburgh International Auto Show on Sunday at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center, Downtown. More than 150 vehicles were staged across the convention center.

DRIVE TIME

Annual auto show revs up spring car season

By Jacob Geanous
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

For Bob and Lorraine Drelick, making the trip from Weirton, W.Va., to the Pittsburgh International Auto Show beats driving from dealership to dealership to find their next set of wheels.

The couple, both 68, were looking for a new SUV — something within their price range — after they bought their last vehicle, a Ford truck, after attending Pittsburgh's largest car show two years ago.

Instead of shopping at dealerships, the couple said they prefer auto shows because they provide all makes and models under one roof without the pressure to make an immediate purchase.

"It's refreshing," Mr. Drelick said. "That's how we buy our cars. We come to the car show so we can see the selection, then get a dealer to see what they'll give us for our car."

The Drelicks were among the thousands who attended the 81st Pittsburgh International Auto Show at Downtown's David L. Lawrence Convention Center — which showcased more than 100 vendors and vehicles from dozens of manufacturers — during its third day on Sunday.

This year's auto show kicked off Thursday with a ribbon cutting led by Mayor Corey O'Connor at a "Dancing With the Cars" gala hosted by the Greater Pittsburgh Automobile Dealers Association.

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Pittsburgh International Auto Show visitors examine a Dodge Charger on Sunday at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center.

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Weather

Morning fog, then partly sunny. Daytime high, 50; tonight's low, 37.

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