

**ST. ALPHONSUS CHURCH BULLETIN**

**FOR**

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 2, 2009**

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – AUGUST 2, 2009

# *Saint Alphonsus*

## Roman Catholic Church

A Pennsylvania Charitable Trust

750 Pittsburgh Street • Springdale, PA • 15144

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Web Page Address: [www.stalphonsuschurch.com](http://www.stalphonsuschurch.com)

Administrator: Rev. George E. Saladna, S.T.L., S.S.L.

Weekend Assistant: Rev. James P. McDonough, S.T.L., J.C.L.



*Parish Established September 9, 1901      Church Dedicated September 5, 1926*

### SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

**SUNDAY MASS:** Sat. 5:00 P.M. and Sun. Morn. at 8:00 A.M. & 11:00 A.M.

**WEEKDAY:** Mass held in Chapel next to Church. See bulletin each week or call Rectory for schedule of the 8:00 A.M. Mass which is not held every day (never on Sat morn).

**HOLY DAYS OF OBLIGATION:** these days vary in time and obligation from year to year. See bulletin or call Rectory each time for details.

**CONFESSIONS:** Sat. from 3:30 to 4:30, and anytime by appointment.

**MARRIAGE, BAPTISM:** call parish office (six months before marriage).

**COMMUNION CALLS AND OTHER SERVICES:** call office for information.



**New Parishioners:** We welcome new parishioners whether newly moved into the area or those who have fallen off through inactivity. Welcome! Register by calling or coming to the parish office. Become an active, attending and supporting member of the parish. And please let us know if you move away or have your telephone or address changed. Thank you.

**Church Hall Telephone:** ..... (724) 274-2547

**Diocese Victim Assistance Hotline**..... 1-888-808-1235

### PARISH OFFICES & STAFF

**ADMINISTRATIVE CENTER (RECTORY:** former Convent building)

(724) 274-5084

Marsha Etzrodt, Secretary

**Office Hours:** Mon. - Thur.: 8 to 4, Fri.: 8 to Noon

**LIGUORI CENTER OFFICES** (school building side entrance)

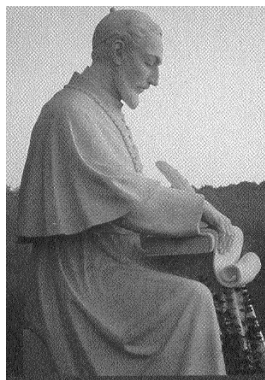
(724) 274-2547

**CCD & Youth Min.** - Karen Mueller

**Social Services** - Cathy Moxie

**Music Director/Organist** – Vickie Roof

CATHOLIC  
DIOCESE OF  
PITTSBURGH  
ALLEGHENY  
VALLEY DEANERY



**THIS PAST SATURDAY, AUGUST 1, WAS THE  
FEAST OF ST. ALPHONSUS, PATRON OF  
OUR PARISH**

St. Alphonsus de Liguori, Bishop of Sant'Agata Dei Goti, Doctor of the Church, and Founder of the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer (the Redemptorists). Born: 1696, entered into eternal life: 1787 (at age 90)

Our patron Saint was a Neapolitan, born near Naples, Italy in 1696 of Don Joseph de' Liguori, Captain of the Royal Navy, and Donna Anna Cavalieri. His father put him under tutors at an early age and at the age of 16 he was declared a doctor of civil and also of canon (church) law. It is said that in eight years of practice of law he never lost a case.

When Alphonsus was 21 his father wanted to arrange a marriage for him, but it never came to anything. In his young life, the future saint became a bit slack in religious practice, and developed an affection for "society life" and fashionable amusements, but he had the grace and good will to avoid serious sin. In the year 1723, at age 27, he made a private resolution never to marry.

While visiting the sick in a hospital for incurables he twice heard an interior voice telling him to "leave the world and give yourself to me." As a result he left the practice of law, began the study of theology, and, in 1726 at age 30 was ordained to the priesthood. For the next two years he was engaged in missionary work throughout the Kingdom of Naples (the southern third of what is now Italy). The early 18<sup>TH</sup> century was a time of pompous oratory and florid verbosity in the pulpit – a fruit of the Renaissance out of control – and of rigorism in the confessional – a fruit of Jansenism. St. Alphonsus repudiated both of these extreme characteristics, steering a course of moderation. "I have never preached a sermon which the poorest old woman in the congregation could not understand," he said. And he treated his penitents as souls to be saved rather than as criminals to be punished or frightened. He is said never to have refused absolution to a penitent.

In the year 1732 St. Alphonsus established what is now known as the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer, the "Redemptorists." St. Alphonsus is so well known as a moral theologian, for his writings, and for his efforts in founding the Redemptorists, that his eminence as a missionary has been overshadowed; but from 1726 till 1752 he was preaching up and down the Kingdom of Naples, especially in villages and rural settlements, and with the greatest of success. His confessional was always crowded, hardened sinners returned to the healing sacraments in great numbers, enemies were reconciled, family feuds healed, and he established the practice, characteristic of the method of his followers, of returning some months after a mission was closed in order to confirm and consolidate the work.

St. Alphonsus led a life of extraordinary industry: guiding and fostering his new congregation through troubles and opposition, ministering to individual souls, conducting missions all over Naples and Sicily, even finding time to write hymns, compose music and paint pictures. The general opinion of him, voiced by a contemporary priest, "If I were Pope, I would canonize him without further delay!"

When he was 66 years old, Pope Clement XIII made St. Alphonsus the Bishop of a little diocese, Sant'Agata dei Goti, a small place near Naples, between Benevento and Capua. When the messenger from Rome came to announce the appointment, calling "Alphonsus" my "Most Illustrious Lord," St. Alphonsus read it through and handed it back to him saying, "Please do not come back any more with your 'Most Illustrious' nonsense. It would be the death of me." But the Pope would take no refusal, and Alphonsus was consecrated a Bishop. He instituted a reform of his small new diocese (it had only about 30,000 souls). He sent out bands of priests to conduct missions. Alphonsus recommended only two things to them: have simplicity in the pulpit and have charity in the confessional.

In 1767 at age 71 St. Alphonsus was afflicted with terrible rheumatic pains which developed into a sickness from which he was not expected to recover. After a year of this suffering, he recovered, but he was left with a permanent and incurable bending of the neck, familiar from the portraits of him. Finally, in 1775, St. Alphonsus asked Pope Pius VI for permission to resign his Diocese, and the request was granted.

But Alphonsus still had 12 more years to live. He suffered much in his final years, not only physically – old age, crippled, deaf, poor sight – but also from enemies within and without the Church. His new religious community, the Redemptorists, was often misunderstood or envied, and difficulties were encountered in getting the new Rule approved by

either Pope or King. But St. Alphonsus bore all these troubles with utmost patience.

His death came peacefully, finally, on the night of July 31—August 1, 1787, when he was within two months of his 91<sup>ST</sup> birthday. He was beatified in 1816, canonized in 1839, and declared a “Doctor” (Great Teacher) of the Church in 1871.

We ask our great Patron Saint, “PRAY FOR US!”

-ABRIDGED from the article on St. Alphonsus from Butler’s “Lives of the Saints”, Volume III, edited by H. Thurston, S.J. and Donald Attwater, N. York: P. J. Kennedy and Sons (1956).

SCHEDULE OF MASSES FOR THIS WEEK

- MONDAY, AUGUST 3 – Weekday Celebration (18<sup>Th</sup> Week in Ordinary Time)
8:00 AM Mary Pulliam
TUESDAY, AUGUST 4 – St. John Vianney, “Cure of Ars”
8:00 AM Clair H. Faith
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5 – Our Lady of the Snows
8:00 AM Olga Mehalic
THURSDAY, AUGUST 6 – Transfiguration of the Lord
8:00 AM Sophia Tady
FRIDAY, AUGUST 7 – Votive Mass of the Sacred Heart
8:00 AM Alice Susa
SATURDAY, AUGUST 8 – No Mass on Saturday morning
5:00 PM [For Sunday] Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence Martin
NEXT SUNDAY, AUGUST 9 – Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
8:00 AM For all Parishioners, Liv. & Dec.
11:00 AM Minnie Mazzoli (Birthday)

Your Ministry of Support

Thank you for your offerings to Saint Alphonsus Parish For Sunday, July 26, 2009

Offertory ..... \$4,355.21
Parish Share..... \$435.00

PLEASE REMEMBER ST. ALPHONSUS PARISH IN YOUR WILL

TODAY’S SPECIAL COLLECTION is the monthly collection for capital improvements to our parish for repairs and renovations. We thank you for your kind and generous support of St. Alphonsus Parish.



CONFIRMATION DATE ANNOUNCED

Bishop Zubik has informed us that he will come to St. Alphonsus Church to administer the Sacrament of Confirmation on Wednesday, September 2, at 7:00 PM. Included with our candidates will be those from Our Lady of Victory Church in Harwick.

ST. ALPHONSUS PARISH PICNIC NEXT SUNDAY, AUGUST 9, 2009

ON OUR PARISH GROUNDS

Yes, we plan to attend the Parish Picnic on Sunday, August 9

NAME

NUMBER OF ADULTS

NUMBER OF CHILDREN (list ages)

Please drop this slip in the basket, or bring it or mail it to the Parish House by Thursday, August 6.

CCD NEWS – CCD classes for 2009-2010 will begin on Catechetical Sunday, September 20. Classes are for parishioner children in grades 1-8. We have no pre-school. We will have a Kindergarten group if we have enough, otherwise Kindergarten children are welcome to be part of Grade 1 if parents so desire. There will soon be more news in the bulletin about registration for CCD. Obviously, it is expected that by “parishioner children,” we mean families who are serious about the obligation of attending and bringing children to Mass on Sundays. Keep reading the bulletin for all news about our CCD program.

ENTERTAINMENT BOOKS COMING IN AUGUST - “Entertainment” coupon/discount books will be offered again for sale by our Parish Social Services. Price will again be \$20. They will arrive in August, and notice will be placed in the bulletin. These books offer great savings and also make fine gifts. Keep looking in the bulletin for more information as it become available.