

ST. ALPHONSUS CHURCH BULLETIN

FOR

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2008

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT – DECEMBER 14, 2008

# *Saint Alphonsus*

## Roman Catholic Church

A Pennsylvania Charitable Trust

750 Pittsburgh Street • Springdale, PA • 15144

Phone: 724-274-5084 • Fax: 724-274-7035 • e-mail: [stalphonsus@verizon.net](mailto:stalphonsus@verizon.net)

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

### 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



© J. S. Paluch Co., I

### O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL

A while back we were rightly shocked at the news of an attempt of a deranged area woman who attacked a pregnant neighbor, kidnapped her and took her to the woods where she tried to cut out the fetus and claim it was her own, she herself having pretended to be pregnant.

How horrible, everyone thought. How could anyone do that to another person, and especially to a child? Who in their right mind could even think of such a deed, let alone carry it out?

And yet, this goes on every day with hardly anyone noticing or caring. Abortion has become commonplace in this country, and it has been declared legal by the Supreme Court of the United States which says that a woman has a "right to privacy," that she can do whatever she wants with her own body.

Well, does that "right" extend to another body? To the body of the child growing in her womb? Is the child's right to life trumped by the right of the mother to do what she wants with the life conceived and growing within her? We would not (I hope) ever condone someone taking and killing a month old baby, a little, defenseless baby. How about a little, even more defenseless baby still in the womb waiting to be welcomed into the light of day?

Compared to people who choose abortion on demand, for any reason, at any stage of development, the strange woman who tried to cut the baby out of her neighbor's womb had one big thing in her favor – she at least wanted to let the child live. She wanted the baby! She wanted to keep it and call it her own. Would that all pregnant women would want to keep their babies and call them their own.

We are preparing to celebrate the **BIRTH** of Jesus, our Savior. God comes among us, born of a woman, born in our flesh. Mary loved and cherished her child. She protected him, nourished him, and gave him to us so that he could teach us, forgive us, suffer and die for us,

and rise from the dead as a pledge of our own resurrection. As we contemplate the miracle of Christmas, let us ask for a renewal of our devotion to life, life in all stages, from the cradle to the grave.

Even though abortion may be legal, it is nonetheless a terrible crime, against nature and against the Lord of Life.

-- Fr. Saladna

### THE SAD SCORE ON ABORTION SINCE 1973 – 35 YEARS 49,914,779 ABORTIONS PERFORMED

Abortion was legalized in the United States 35 years ago on January 22, 1973. Since then almost 50 million babies have lost their lives to abortion in this country. For every 3 babies born, 1 is aborted. One third of all women in the U.S. will have an abortion by the time they are age 45. Only 1% of abortions are done for cases of rape, and only ½ of one percent for incest. Abortion is legal until the moment of birth in all 50 states.

---

### SCHEDULE OF MASSES FOR THIS WEEK

---

#### MONDAY, DECEMBER 15 – Advent Weekday

8:00 AM Joseph Kosobucki

#### TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16 – No Mass scheduled for today

#### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17 – Advent Weekday

8:00 AM Bill Hurley

#### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18 – Advent Weekday

8:00 AM Anna Mae Tutak

#### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19 – Advent Weekday

8:00 AM Deceased members of the Skripets Family

#### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20 – No Mass on Saturday morning

5:00 PM [For Sunday] Martha B. Adams (Anniv.)

#### NEXT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21 – Fourth Sunday in Advent

8:00 AM For all Parishioners, Liv. & Dec.

11:00 AM Living and Deceased members of the Dietrick and Milbert Families

**REST IN PEACE** -- The parish family of Saint Alphonsus wishes to extend their deepest sympathy to the family of Delta Casasent. Please remember the deceased and her family in your prayers.

**2009 CATHOLIC ART CALENDARS** – Courtesy of Mr. Chuck Jarvie of the Jarvie Funeral Home, you will find 2009 Calendars at the doors of the Church. Please help yourselves. Take no more than you need so there will be enough for every family. We appreciate very much the many kind favors Mr. Jarvie does for the Church.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE:** for all those who are required to attend an “In-Service” presentation of “**AWARENESS TRAINING FOR PROTECTING GOD’S CHILDREN.**”

This 3 hour presentation will be held in our **CHURCH HALL** on Sunday, January 18, 2009, from 12 Noon to 3 PM.

If you have questions, call Karen at 724-274-2547 or Marsha at 724-274-5084.

### LOOKING AHEAD

#### SPECIAL CONFESSION TIMES FOR CHRISTMAS:

1. Regular: every Saturday afternoon from 3:30 to 4:30 PM.
2. **SPECIAL: Monday, December 22** – Three priests hearing from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM.
3. **Tuesday, December 23** – 5:30 PM to 7:00 PM.

#### CLEANING AND DECORATING THE CHURCH –

Saturday, December 20, 8:00 AM to 10:00 AM. See urgent notice on this page.

#### MASS SCHEDULE FOR CHRISTMAS:

December 24, Wednesday	-	5:00 PM
December 24, Wednesday	-	10:00 PM
December 25, Thursday	-	8:00 AM
December 25, Thursday	-	11:00 AM

#### MASS SCHEDULE FOR MARY, MOTHER OF GOD (NEW YEAR'S DAY)

December 31, Wednesday	-	5:00 PM
January 1, Thursday	-	8:00 AM
January 1, Thursday	-	11:00 AM

**ADVENT RETREAT FOR WOMEN** – Friday, December 19 at LaVerna House (Shaler). Theme: Franciscans and the Meaning of Christmas. Time: 6-9 PM, includes simple meal. Cost: \$10. To register call 412-515-7708 by December 16.

**TURKEY VOUCHER ENVELOPES** – A wonderful Thanksgiving/Christmas tradition in the parish is the so-called **TURKEY VOUCHER**. Your donation in the “Turkey Voucher” envelope (found near the Church doors) will assist the hungry and the poor, especially during the holidays, either through our Parish Social Services Program and the Ladies of Charity, or through the Lower Valley Food Bank. Your name on the envelope is optional in case you wish to remain anonymous. Follow instructions on the envelopes. Thank you very much.

#### HOLIDAY DECORATION OFFERING ENVELOPES –

In your envelope packets you will find the traditional envelope for Holiday Decorations, with a place to mark the name of someone you would like to remember by your offering. Our special Christmas Day bulletin insert for December 25 will contain the names of these “memorials.” In order to be published, they must be received here no later than Friday, December 19. Please mark the names clearly (print rather than script). The money received will be used toward our Parish Share assessment.

**OPLATKY (CHRISTMAS WAFERS)** – Oplatky will again be available this year through our Parish Social Services. A colorful packet of 10 wafers (8 white, 2 pink) is sold for \$5.00, with proceeds going to Social Services in their outreach to the elderly and sick. They will be sold in the Activity Room after all Masses each Sunday before Christmas, beginning this weekend.

#### URGENT NOTICE! CLEANING AND DECORATING FOR CHRISTMAS

The date has been changed to this coming Saturday, December 20, beginning at 8:00 AM in the Church Hall. We did it all last year in just about two hours, and we need you again. The more the merrier. We need your help to polish up the Church and hang the decorations and put up the trees, etc. Everyone is welcome! We need you all!

**Note that the original date for this project has been changed. The new date is Saturday, December 20.**

We meet at 8:00 AM in the Church Hall. We begin with coffee and donuts.

## FROM POPE BENEDICT

**GOD, BY ENTERING HISTORY, GIVES US HIS TIME**

Vatican City, Nov. 30, 2008 (VIS) At midday today, the First Sunday of Advent, Benedict XVI appeared at the window of his study overlooking St. Peter's Square to pray the Angelus with the thousands of pilgrims gathered there.

Advent, which opens the new liturgical year, "invites us to reflect upon the dimension of time", said the Pope. Many people in our own day, he noted, complain of "a lack of time, because the rhythm of daily life has become so frenetic for everyone. Yet even on this subject, the Church has 'good news' to bring. God gives us His time. We always have little time. For the Lord, especially, we do not know how, or sometimes do not want to, find it. And yet God has time for us. He gives us His time, because He entered history with His word and His works of salvation, opening it to eternity and making it a history of alliance.

"From this point of view", he added, "time is, in itself, already a fundamental sign of God's love: a gift which man can either value or waste, understand its significance or superficially ignore".

The Pope then went on to identify the three cardinal moments of time which mark the history of salvation: creation, incarnation-redemption, and 'parusia' which includes the final judgment. "These three moments, however, are not to be understood in mere chronological succession", he said. "Creation is, indeed, the origin of everything but it is also continuous and operates over the entire span of cosmic development, until the end of time. Incarnation-redemption too, although it took place at a specific historical moment, the period of Jesus' time on earth, nonetheless extends its range of action to all time that preceded and followed. And in their turn the second coming and final judgment, decisively anticipated in the Cross of Christ, exercise their influence on the behavior of mankind in all ages".

"The Lord comes continually into our lives. On this first Sunday we are again powerfully presented with Jesus' call to 'remain vigilant' because at a time that only God knows each will be called to account for his or her life. This means", he concluded, "detachment from worldly things, sincere penitence for one's errors, effective charity towards others and, above all, humble and trusting abandonment in the hands of God, our tender and merciful Father".

VIS (Vatican Information Service)

## CONGRATULATIONS TO:

- **Miss Dominique Renae Knauer**, who was baptized last Sunday, December 7. May the life Jesus gives in Baptism blossom for her and all the baptized, into eternal life.
- **Mark Alese**, who took his First Degree in the Knights of Columbus on October 15.

**CONGRATULATIONS to Marsha J. Etzrodt** – In 1999, Bishop Wuerl, on the Feast of Epiphany, established a special award called the Manifesting the Kingdom Award, meant to honor the men and women who have generously given of themselves to enrich the life of the parishes in the Diocese of Pittsburgh.

This award has been presented on four occasions, since then, and we have had four of our parishioners honored by the Bishop of Pittsburgh for their special devotion to and efforts on behalf of Saint Alphonsus Parish: Mr. Raymond Mickelic (1999), Mrs. Catherine A. Moxie (2001), Mrs. Marguerite M. Mosovsky (2003), and Mrs. Loretta D. Garrigan (2006).

Bishop David A. Zubik is continuing this fine tradition and has announced his newest selections for this award to be given at Saint Paul Cathedral on Sunday, January 25, 2009. Named as the recipient from our parish this time is Marsha J. Etzrodt. She is our beloved Secretary, Bookkeeper, Receptionist, and the wearer of all kinds of "hats," for there is nothing that she would not do for this parish, its works and programs. Marsha has been at her job(s) for 23 years (replacing her mother, Helen Sherrieb, who held the position for 13 years before Marsha). Everyone knows Marsha, for she is the heart of our parish, loved by all.

She will receive the Manifesting the Kingdom Award as a representative of all the wonderful men and women from Saint Alphonsus who so willingly and generously give themselves to the service of the Church.

We congratulate and thank Marsha. May the Lord Jesus continue to bless her and her family, and her parish.

---

**LOWER VALLEY MEALS ON WHEELS** program is in great need of volunteers to cook meals. It only requires 3 hours a month and we work out of the St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Springdale, Please call Paulette to volunteer or for more information at 724-224-6685.

*Christ has no body now but yours  
 No hands, no feet, on earth but yours  
 Yours are the eyes through which He looks  
 Compassion on this world.  
 Yours are the feet  
 With which He walks to do good.  
 Yours are the hands  
 With which He blesses all the world  
 Yours are the hands, yours are the feet.  
 Yours are the eyes, you are His body.  
 Christ has no body now but yours,  
 No hands, no feet on earth but yours.  
 Yours are the eyes, through which He looks  
 Compassion on the world.  
 Christ has no body now on earth but yours.  
 - Saint Teresa of Avila*

**FROM POPE BENEDICT XVI**

**IMMACULATE CONCEPTION: VICTORY OVER ORIGINAL SIN**

Vatican City, Dec. 8, 2008 (VIS) – At midday today, Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, Benedict XVI appeared at the window of his study to pray the Angelus with 40,000 pilgrims gathered in St. Peter’s Square below.

Today’s solemnity, said the Pope, “reminds us of two fundamental truths of our faith: original sin, and the victory over that sin of the grace of Christ, a victory that shines out sublimely in Mary Most Holy”.

“The existence of what the Church calls ‘original sin’,” he explained, “is unfortunately overwhelmingly obvious, if only we look around ourselves, and above all within ourselves. The experience of evil is, in fact, so consistent that it is self-evident and raises within us the question: where does it come from? For believers in particular, the question is even deeper: if God, Who is absolute good, has created everything, whence does evil come”?

“The first pages of the Bible”, the Holy Father added, “answer this fundamental question which faces every human generation, with the story of creation and the fall of the first fathers. God created everything for existence, in particular he created human beings in His own image. He did not create death, this entered the world through the envy of the devil who, rebelling against God, also drew men into deceit, inducing them to rebel. This is the drama of freedom, which God accepts completely for the sake of love, while promising that a Son born of woman will crush the head of the ancient serpent”.

He went on: “From the beginning, the ‘eternal counsel’, to use Dante’s expression, has a ‘preordained term’: the Woman predestined to become mother of the Redeemer, of the One Who humbled Himself to the utmost in order to lead us back to our original dignity. This Woman has a face and a name: ‘full of grace’, as the angel called her in Nazareth. She is the new Eve, wife of the new Adam, destined to be mother of all the redeemed, the first to be liberated from the original fall of our first fathers”.

“In Mary Immaculate we contemplate the reflection of the Beauty that saved the world: the beauty of God that shines out on the face of Christ”.

- VIS

**NEWS AND INFORMATION SITE FOR CATHOLICS**

– The Knights of Columbus has launched a brand-new Internet-based news and information service for Catholics everywhere – Headline Bistro. The new Web site provides a quick digest of daily news of interest to Catholics. Whether it relates to world affairs, politics or news specifically about the Catholic Church, you’ll find links to the original sources here. You’ll also find video clips, detailed state-by-state information about voting and public policy, and recommended books. The web address is: [www.headlinebistro.com](http://www.headlinebistro.com).

**THANK YOU FROM CATHOLIC CHARITIES!** (Last Sunday’s special collection amounted to \$631.55). On behalf of Catholic Charities and those we serve, I extend our deepest gratitude to everyone who donated to Catholic Charities during the unprecedented second collection held in all churches of the Diocese last weekend. Because of your generosity, Catholic Charities is now in a better position to help our neighbors in need who are challenged by the current state of the economy. Together, we are joy to their world, the joy that comes from answering the Christian call to serve from Our Lord, Jesus Christ. Merry Christmas and thanks again.

- Susan Rauschler, Executive Director  
 Catholic Charities

**Your Ministry of Support**

Thank you for your offerings to Saint Alphonsus Parish  
 For Sunday, December 7, 2008 and  
 Immaculate Conception

Offertory. ....	\$6,033.00
Parish Share.....	\$570.00
Catholic Charities Collection.....	\$631.55

**PLEASE REMEMBER SAINT ALPHONSUS CHURCH IN YOUR WILL**

The special **second collection this weekend, will be our Repair and Improvement Fund** (moved from the first Sunday of the month, December 7).