

ST. ALPHONSUS CHURCH BULLETIN

FOR

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2008

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT – DECEMBER 21, 2008

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

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.

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



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

CATHOLIC
DIOCESE OF
PITTSBURGH
ALLEGHENY
VALLEY DEANERY

May it be done to me
according
to your
word



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THE VISIT

Today's Gospel, on this last Sunday in Advent, is about a visit. Mary, who has just said "yes" to God's invitation for her to become the human Mother of his eternal son, does not sit at home like a pregnant queen, waiting to be served hand and foot. No, Mary hastens through the hill country of Judea to visit her cousin, Elizabeth, who is also pregnant with the one who would be known as John the Baptist. Mary does not think of herself and her needs, but like the perfect woman she is, she thinks of her older relative and how she can help her.

This "visitation" is not just a visit of Mary to Elizabeth. It is much more, for it is a visit of Jesus to John the Baptist. And John knew who was visiting, for he jumped for joy in his mother's womb when Jesus came to his house.

Later in his life, Jesus would say to his disciples that he came, "not to be served, but to serve." The beauty of these "Christmas visits" is that the lesser is always the one who is visited by the greater. God condescends and comes down to our level, so that we can see and know and love him. He does not hold on to his power and try to lord it over us (although he certainly could "Lord" it over everyone!) He lowers himself in the Incarnation and dwells among us. Elizabeth is overcome by the visitation of Mary (and Jesus) to her home, and she is happily astounded that "the mother of my Lord should come to me." "Who am I to deserve all this?" she asks.

As we prepare for Christmas and think about gifts and food and visits, we should try to keep the proper order of events. Our primary concern should be that we keep the spirit of the original "visitor" – by thinking not so much about who may be coming to visit us, but rather about who it might be who needs our visit, our gifts, our joy and our love.

He who exalts himself shall be humbled, but he who humbles himself shall be exalted.

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL!

-- Fr. Saladna

SCHEDULE OF MASSES FOR THIS WEEK

MONDAY, DECEMBER 22 – Advent Weekday

8:00 AM Bill Hurley

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 23 – Advent Weekday

8:00 AM Elizabeth "Liz" Gruden (Anniv.)



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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24 – CHRISTMAS EVE

5:00 PM Betty Basilone (Birthday)

10:00 PM Paul Blume

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25 – CHRISTMAS DAY

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

11:00 AM Stella Mazak

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 26 – No Mass scheduled for today

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 27 -- No Mass on Saturday morning

5:00 PM [For Sunday] Jim Mann

NEXT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28 – Holy Family of Nazareth

8:00 AM Anton Mazak

11:00 AM For all Parishioners, Liv. & Dec.

FOR OUR CHRISTMAS MASSES, a word of advice: try to avoid the **RUSH** at the 5:00 PM Wednesday Christmas Eve Mass. This first Mass of Christmas is always extremely crowded. If you choose to attend this particular Mass you may find yourself with "no room in the inn." The other three Masses at 10 PM Wednesday eve, and at 8:00 and 11:00 AM Christmas Day (Thursday morning), will be less crowded and more comfortable. Note that there is no midnight Mass. The 10:00 PM Christmas Eve Mass has proven to be far more convenient and popular.

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE – Yearly boxed sets of envelopes for use by little children and young people can be found in the Activity Room. Little kids like to feel they belong and are important, and so they are. A good way to show this is for them to have their own envelopes and to learn that every little bit helps. God does not measure the amount, but rather the good heart and good will. Thus, these envelopes are not intended as moneymakers, but as a teaching tool. They should be taught to take a penny or nickel or whatever from their own piggy bank, and give something each week, as do the "big people."

Take these envelopes from the Activity Room. No need to write names or numbers from the box, for we do not record these donations. They are recorded in the book of the one who loves the little children and who encourages them to come to him, Jesus himself.

CATHY MOXIE OF SOCIAL SERVICES AND THE LADIES OF CHARITY thank you all for your kind and generous response to the GIFT TAG TREE. A total of 172 gifts were purchased by our parishioners – 100 to clients of the Food Bank in Springdale and 72 for the abused women and children at the Alle-Kiski Area Hope Center. The recipients of your goodness will bless and pray for you as you thought of them in their time of need.

CD OF A would like to thank everyone who donated money to purchase telephone calling cards for our troops. Three units of troops received 6,750 minutes of call time.

**ST. ALPHONSUS ROMAN
CATHOLIC CHURCH**
750 Pittsburgh Street
Springdale, PA 15144

Telephone: 724-274-5084

Rev. George E. Saladna, Pastor



FR. SALADNA IS CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF HIS ORDINATION TO THE PRIESTHOOD THIS WEEKEND. He was ordained in Rome for the Diocese of Pittsburgh on Saturday, December 20, 1958. Since most people never go to or see the ordination of a priest, the essentials of the ceremony are found on another page of this bulletin.

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.

TODAY IS THE LAST CCD CLASS THIS YEAR. No CCD classes until Sunday, January 4, 2009.

NOTE: There is no Baby Jesus School on Sundays when there is no CCD.

2009 CHURCH CALENDARS have been provided to our parishioners by the **JARVIE FUNERAL HOME**. They are found in the lobbies of the Church. Please help yourselves. Our thanks to Mr. Jarvie for the many fine things he does for our parish.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS state-wide sweepstakes program to raise money for scholarships announces the sixteen winners whose names were drawn on December 8. Three from our area, of whom two were from McKeesport. The third name was Fr. Charles Bergman, a retired priest from our Diocese, living at Saint John Vianney Home for retired priests. Guess what Fr. Bergman won: a 19.5 hp John Deere Tractor. I'm sure he won't be saying, "Just what I needed!"

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY ORDERS...SENDING WORKERS INTO THE VINEYARD

On this weekend as I celebrate the 50TH Anniversary of my ordination, it is fitting to discuss the **SACRAMENT** by which the Lord Jesus constitutes and sends men to be the workers in the vineyard.

All sacraments are visible signs, instituted by Christ, which not only symbolize, but also effect or cause the grace of the sacrament, in Jesus' name and by his power. In Holy Orders (for Deacons, Priests, and Bishops), as in all sacraments, there are what we call the "matter and the form" – the matter being the visible rite or symbolic gesture, and the form being the prayer said by the one administering the sacrament. For Holy Orders, the "matter" is the imposition of hands, or "laying on of hands" by the ordaining Bishop, while the "form" is the prayer of consecration also said by the Bishop.

These prayers (below) help us to understand and appreciate Holy Orders as a gift to the Church, not so much for the benefit of the priest alone, but principally for all the faithful, since the priest is taken from the community and set aside to minister, in the name of Jesus, to the needs of all.

Bishop's Exhortation to the Candidates

My sons, you are now to be advanced to the order of the presbyterate. You must apply your energies to the duty of teaching in the name of Christ, the chief Teacher. Share with all mankind the word of God you have received with joy. Meditate on the law of God, believe what you read, teach what you believe, and put into practice what you teach.

Let the doctrine you teach be true nourishment for the people of God. Let the example of your life attract the follower of Christ, so that by word and action you may build up the house which is God's Church.

In the same way you must carry out your mission of sanctifying in the power of Christ. Your ministry will perfect the spiritual sacrifice of the faithful by uniting it to Christ's sacrifice, the sacrifice which is offered sacramentally through your hands. Know what you are doing and imitate the mystery you celebrate. In the memorial of the Lord's death and resurrection, make every effort to die to sin and to walk in the new life of Christ.

When you baptize, you will bring men and women into the people of God. In the sacrament of penance, you will forgive sins in the name of Christ and the Church. With holy oil you will relieve and console the sick. You will celebrate the liturgy, and offer thanks and praise to God throughout the day, praying not only for the people of God but for the whole world. Remember that you are chosen from among God's people and appointed to act for them in relation to God. Do your part in the work Christ the Priest with

genuine joy and love, and attend to the concerns of Christ before your own.

Finally, conscious of sharing in the work of Christ, the Head and Shepherd of the Church, and united with the bishop and subject to him, seek to bring the faithful together into a unified family and to lead them effectively, through Christ and in the Holy Spirit, to God the Father. Always remember the example of the good Shepherd who came not to be served but to serve, and to seek out and rescue those who were lost.

Prayer of Consecration

Come to our help,
 Lord, Holy Father, almighty and eternal
 God;
 you are the source of every honor and
 dignity,
 of all progress and stability.
 You watch over the growing family of man
 by your gift of wisdom and your pattern of
 order.
 When you had appointed high priests to
 rule
 your people,

You chose other men next to them in rank
 and dignity
 to be with them and to help them in their
 task;
 and so there grew up
 the ranks of priests and the office of
 levites,
 established by sacred rites.

(continued on next page)

In the desert
you extended the spirit of Moses to
seventy wise men
who helped him to rule the great company
of his
people.

You shared among the sons of Aaron
the fullness of their father's power,
to provide worthy priests in sufficient
number
for the increasing rites of sacrifice and
worship.
With the same loving care
you gave companions to your Son's
apostles
to help in teaching the faith;
they preached the Gospel to the whole
world.

Lord,
grant also to us such fellow workers,
we are weak and our need is greater.

Almighty Father,
grant to these servants of yours
the dignity of the priesthood.
Renew within them the Spirit of holiness.
As co-workers with the order of bishops
may they be faithful to the ministry
that they receive from you, Lord God,
and be to others a model of right conduct.

May they be faithful in working with the
order of
bishops,
so that the words of the Gospel may reach
the ends of
the earth,
and the family of nations,
made one in Christ,
may become God's one, holy people.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ,
your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy
Spirit,
one God, forever and ever.
Amen.

REST IN PEACE -- The parish family of Saint
Alphonsus wishes to extend their deepest sympathy to
the family of James Zigarella. Please remember the
deceased and his family in your prayers.



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.



SECOND COLLECTION ON CHRISTMAS DAY

A longstanding tradition in the Diocese of Pittsburgh on
Christmas Day is the Christmas Charities Collection for
Children and Youth. The proceeds from this collection
are used to support a number of programs in our
diocese, which serve many children and young people
who depend on our generosity and our loving concern
for them.

I ask you to bring this collection to the attention of your
parishioners, which is to be taken at all Masses on
Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. As has been our
customary practice in the past, this collection is
credited to your Parish Share Goal. All proceeds of this
appeal are to be sent to the Central Accounting Office
in the usual manner as soon as possible.

I thank you and your parishioners in advance for your
wonderful generosity to this successful annual
collection, the so-called orphans' collection.

-Bishop David Zubik

Your Ministry of Support	
Thank you for your offerings to Saint Alphonsus Parish For Sunday, December 14, 2008	
Offertory	\$5,664.50
Parish Share	\$1,084.00
PLEASE REMEMBER SAINT ALPHONSUS CHURCH IN YOUR WILL	