

ST. ALPHONSUS CHURCH BULLETIN

FOR

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2009

HOLY FAMILY – DECEMBER 27, 2009

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

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.

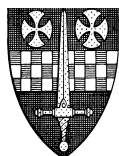
WEEKDAY: Mass held in Chapel next to Church. See bulletin each week or call Rectory for schedule of the 8:00 A.M. Mass which is not held every day (never on Sat morn).

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.



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

Diocesan 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)

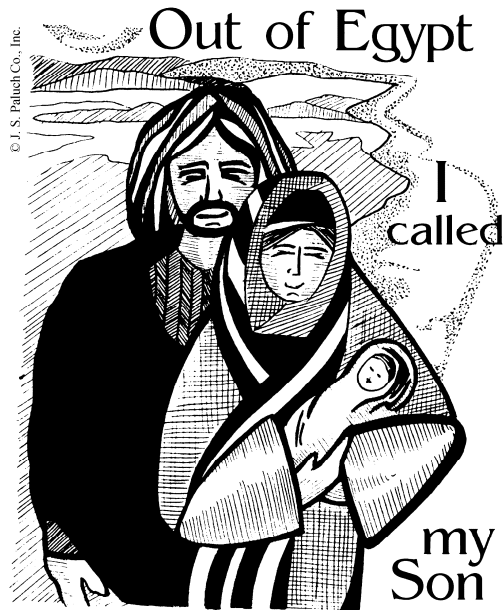
(724) 274-2547

CCD & Youth Min. - Karen Mueller

Social Services - Cathy Moxie

Music Director/Organist – Vickie Roof

CATHOLIC
DIOCESE OF
PITTSBURGH
VICARIATE
NO. 4



Today we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family of Nazareth. By this feast we emphasize the human nature of Christ. He was not only what he always was and always had to be – Son of the Eternal Father and the Second Person of the Holy Trinity – but he was also Son of Mary, born of a woman, born under the Law, a man like us in all things except sin.

Jesus came not only to take on our flesh but to live in his human flesh, in his human nature, as we do: in a family setting. Truly, it was a remarkable family: the God-Man was the child in the family; a perfect, sinless woman was the Mother; and a self-effacing “just man,” Joseph, was head of the family and the foster-father of Christ.

And the wonder of it all is that **IN SPITE OF WHAT AND WHO** those persons were they still remained a “hidden, normal, average, routine” family. No one would have suspected that they were so special until Jesus would come out and make his debut. Yet, this Holy Family was so “average” that the neighbors laughed when Jesus got up in his own synagogue at Nazareth and told them that prophecies of old were being fulfilled in him.

God chose to live in a family setting to teach us how important we are to him and how precious and sacred families are to be. Even though ours, like the Holy Family of Nazareth, might not be very spectacular, the family we live in and come from is the means which Almighty God chooses to teach us the meaning and the beauty of life.

Our faith requires us not only to believe that Jesus was God, but also that he is truly human. And because he is human, he wills that his Church, by which humans can communicate with the Almighty, must also be

human. The lesson of the Holy Family for us is to appreciate the little things of life, to realize how precious we are in the sight of God, how he is pleased with us when we perform the duties of our state of life. We don't have to be “high and mighty” to make God happy. The one who really is “high and mighty” came among us as our brother in the flesh to teach us the value of being “poor and lowly.”

-- Fr. Saladna

SCHEDULE OF MASSES FOR THIS WEEK

MONDAY, DECEMBER 28 – Holy Innocents

8:00 AM Delta Casasent

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 29 – St. Thomas Becket, Bishop

8:00 AM Alice Susa

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 30 – Sixth Day in Christmas Octave

8:00 AM Nancy Lochrane

JANUARY 1, 2010
FEAST OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD
OCTAVE DAY OF CHRISTMAS
CIVIL NEW YEAR'S DAY
HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION (Masses as for a Sunday)



MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31 – [For Friday]

5:00 PM For all Parishioners, Liv. & Dec.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 1

8:00 AM Anna H. Grebb

11:00 AM Fr. Joseph Kopecky

SATURDAY, JANUARY 2 -- No Mass on Saturday morning

5:00 PM [For Sunday] Deceased members of the Lawson and Doherty Families

NEXT SUNDAY, JANUARY 3 – Epiphany of Our Lord

8:00 AM Raymond Sharkins

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

REST IN PEACE – The parish family of Saint Alphonsus wishes to extend their deepest sympathy to the families of John Razdik and Walter Rolniak. Please remember the deceased and their families in your prayers.

CCD AND BABY JESUS SCHOOL – CCD classes and Baby Jesus School will be OFF until Sunday, January 10, 2010.

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.

NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS?

Dear Lord,

So far today, I'm doing all right. I have not gossiped, lost my temper, been greedy, grumpy, nasty, selfish or self-indulgent. I have not whined, complained, cursed, or eaten any chocolate. I have charged nothing on my credit card. But I will be getting out of bed in a minute, and I think that I will really need your help then.

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

Telephone: 724-274-5084

Rev. George E. Saladna, Pastor

TURN TO THE VIRGIN MARY IN TIMES OF DIFFICULTY

VATICAN CITY, 8 DEC 2009 - At midday today, Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Benedict XVI appeared at the window of his study to pray the Angelus with pilgrims gathered in St. Peter's Square below.

The Holy Father commented on the title of "Immaculate" by referring to the book of Genesis and the account of the Annunciation in the Gospel of St. Luke. "It is through woman that God Himself will triumph", he said. "That woman is the Virgin Mary from whom was born Jesus Christ Who, with His sacrifice, defeated the ancient tempter once and for all. For this reason, in so many paintings and statues of the Immaculate, she is shown in the act of crushing a serpent under her foot.

For his part", he added "the Evangelist Luke shows us the Virgin Mary receiving the announcement from the heavenly messenger. She appears as the humble and authentic daughter of Israel, the true Zion in which God wishes to establish His dwelling. She is the branch from which the Messiah, the just and merciful King, will grow. ... Unlike Adam and Eve, Mary remains obedient to the Lord's will. With all of herself she pronounces her 'yes' and fully places herself at the disposal of the divine plan. She is the new Eve, the true 'mother of all creatures'; that is, of everyone who, through faith in Christ, receives eternal life".

"What an immense joy it is", Pope Benedict exclaimed, "to have Mary Immaculate as our mother! Whenever we experience our own fragility and the lure of evil, we can turn to her and our hearts receive light and comfort. Even in the trials of life, in the storms that unsettle our faith and hope, we know that we are her children and that the roots of our life lie deep in the infinite grace of God. In her the Church, though exposed to the negative influences of the world, always finds a star by which to guide herself and to follow the route Christ shows her. Mary is, in fact, the Mother of the Church, as solemnly proclaimed by Pope Paul VI and Vatican Council II".

The Pope concluded by rendering thanks unto God "for this marvelous sign of His goodness", and by entrusting to the Virgin Immaculate "each one of us, our families and communities, the whole Church and the world entire".

-Vatican Information Service

Our Ministry of Support

Thank you for your offerings to Saint Alphonsus Parish for Sunday, December 20, 2009

Offertory \$4,623.96
Parish Share \$2,975.00

PLEASE REMEMBER SAINT ALPHONSUS CHURCH IN YOUR WILL

The special second collection next Sunday, January 3, will be the monthly collection for repairs and improvements to our Church. We thank you for your kind and generous support of St. Alphonsus Parish.