

ST. ALPHONSUS CHURCH BULLETIN

FOR

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2009

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – FEBRUARY 1, 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.

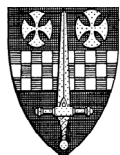
WEEKDAY: Mass held in Chapel next to Church. See bulletin each week or call Rectory for schedule of the 8:00 A.M. Mass which is not held every day (never on Sat morn).

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

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)

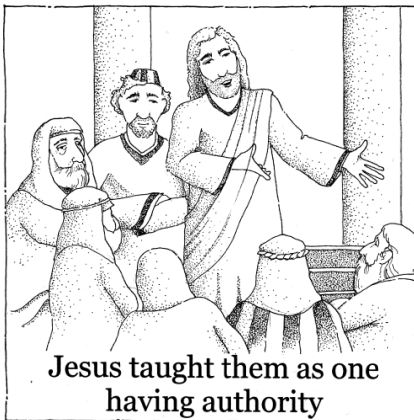
(724) 274-2547

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., Inc.

THE PRESENTATION

This week, on February 2, the Church celebrates the Feast of the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple at Jerusalem.

The Presentation of Jesus in the temple as an infant, by his parents, Joseph and Mary, is a beautiful example of the unbelievable humility of God Almighty and how precious we all are in the eyes of the Lord.

All things come from God from the loving hands of our good Creator. Nothing that exists can do so without God's calling it and keeping it into existence. Thus, in the Old Testament the Jewish people had the holy practice of recognizing this fact by making a "sacrifice" of the "first fruits" they were given: the first-born of humans and animals, of produce of the fields, of anything, was given back to God, "off the top," the "cream of the crop," as it were, to show that it came from the loving hands of God in the first place.

The first-born son in a family, the first-born male animal in the flock, was considered God's, and to show this it was the practice of offering it as a holocaust – killing it and burning it completely on the altar. God would not demand that people slaughter their sons to show their dependence on him (although the story of Abraham and Isaac demonstrates how a faith-filled good man was ready and willing to obey God by offering His only son as a sacrifice), but the law demanded that at least a substitute be offered in place of the human sacrifice.

With this as a background, Joseph and Mary brought the baby Jesus to the Jerusalem temple, to carry out the prescriptions of the law. They were going to present Him in the temple, to offer a sacrifice (in place of Jesus) to exchange him and "buy him back" from God, and since they were poor their sacrifice was small, just a few pigeons or turtledoves.

The great humility of the true God shows itself here. If anyone could claim an exemption from this law, it was Jesus and his parents. Jesus was God, the Son of the Father. Jesus was the Temple of the Holy Spirit. But

they did not complain, they did not hesitate. They simply kept the requirements of the law of Moses, and gave us the example we need to motivate us to keep the laws which bring us to our fulfillment.

Finally, we realize, too, that what God would not ask of us (to kill our own first-born as a way of showing our utter dependence on him), he would not hesitate to do for us, as he sent Jesus as the Paschal Victim, his first and only Son, to truly offer himself and willingly die a bloody death on the cross, as our ransom and our savior.

As we celebrate the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple, let us remember that we, too, have been presented in the new Temple at our Baptism, and that every good thing we have and every good thing we are comes from the gracious hand of the God who made us all.

-- Fr. Saladna

SCHEDULE OF MASSES FOR THIS WEEK (Fourth Week of Ordinary Time)

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2 – Presentation

8:00 AM Rita Mickelic

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3 – Saint Blaise

8:00 AM Rose Taylor

NOTE: The Blessing of Throats will take place during this Mass. The "Book of Blessings" says the following about the Blessing of Saint Blaise:

"The Blessing may be given at Mass after the homily or after the Prayer of the Faithful, or even in place of the final blessing of the Mass, but since this is part of the celebration of Saint Blaise Feast Day, the blessing of throats should not be moved to other days."

Last year (February 2008) we had under 60 people who attended this Mass and blessing. Since our Chapel can easily accommodate that many people, we will have the Mass and Blessing of Throats in the chapel for convenience (and warmth) of everyone.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4 – St. Thomas Aquinas

8:00 AM Carol Tabacheck

Followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and all day adoration till 7:00 PM.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5 – No Mass scheduled for today

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6 – Paul Miki, Martyr and Companions

8:00 AM Elizabeth Gruden

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7 – No Mass on Saturday morning

5:00 PM [For Sunday] Minnie Mazzoli

NEXT SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8 – Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 AM Jim Carroll

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

**YEAR OF ST. PAUL
EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION SCHEDULE**

To honor the life of Saint Paul, "Apostle to the Gentiles," each parish in the Diocese of Pittsburgh has been asked to schedule two days on which the Blessed Sacrament is to be exposed for adoration, giving thanks to God for the blessings in the church through Christ's Apostles, especially SS Peter and Paul.

One of our days will be this **WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2009**. The daily Mass at 8:00 AM will be followed by Exposition, and parishioners will be invited to visit through the day until closing at 7:00 PM.

This period of Adoration on February 4 will take place **IN THE CHAPEL**, not in the main Church. Please think and pray about this wonderful opportunity to honor Christ present in the Sacrament of Love, and plan to spend some time in prayer for the parish, the Diocese and the Universal Church, asking St. Paul to continue to intercede for our needs.

The Chapel is the building next to the Church, entered by the porch door.

**2009 PARISH SHARE PROGRAM
TO BEGIN ON SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2009**

The annual PARISH SHARE PROGRAM begins its 30TH year on Sunday, February 22, 2009.

The PSP is the diocesan-wide appeal to members of the Church of Pittsburgh (Diocese) for the support of the Bishop and all the programs of the Diocese, programs which are not able to be sustained by individual parishes.

Thus, each parish is assessed a certain amount, depending on its annual income from the previous year, which assists the Bishop as chief shepherd and administrator of all these programs and institutions operated by and in the name of the Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh.

You will be hearing more in the weeks to come about this great collection for the Diocese. Our own parish "share" for this year is \$44,929. Our people have always been generous not only to the parish but also to the Diocese, and we are certain that you will once again do your best to help us meet our goal and even to exceed it.

EMAIL – Computer use, including email, etc, is becoming more and more common, even by older people who might ordinarily be suspicious of "new-fangled contraptions" like computers. If you would like to be added to our emailing list for the weekly Bulletin, just drop a note with your email address and we will make sure you are a recipient of the Bulletin each Wednesday (for the following Sunday). And, speaking of "updating," please let us know if your phone number changes (especially with so many people moving to cell phones) or your address, or whatever, so we can have a way to contact you when necessary.

—

WOMEN'S RETREAT – Saturday, February 7 at Mount Alvernia; Theme: Franciscan Solitude; Cost: \$50 includes lunch and supper with exposition of the Blessed Sacrament; Reconciliation and Sunday's Liturgy. Call 412-215-7708 to register or email: guidance@nauticom.net.

—

TODAY – SOUPERBOWL OF CARING

February 1st marks 20 years since a Youth Group in North Carolina addressed the issue of hunger in their community with this Super Bowl Sunday prayer:

"Lord, as we enjoy the Super Bowl Football Game, help us to be mindful of those without even a bowl of soup to eat."

This prayer so inspired this group of young people that they invited 21 other congregations to join them in collecting \$5,700 which was donated to local charities that provide assistance to those in need.

Over the past 20 years, more than \$50 million has been raised for organizations that fight hunger. The Souper Bowl of Caring has become a powerful nationwide movement that touches more lives each year.

Be a part of this movement that begins in our own backyard and reaches across the nation, sharing God's love with those who need our compassion and care. Please give generously as our youth collect donations on Super Bowl Sunday, today, at the Church doors, after each Mass. Every penny collected will go to help our neighbors in need through the Lower Valley Food Bank. Thank you.

AND MAY OUR STEELERS BE SUPER FOR THE SIXTH TIME! ONE FOR THE BIG TOE!

YOUTH GROUP MEETING – The February meeting of the Youth Group will take place **today, SUNDAY, February 1, at 9:15 AM**, in the Liguori Center. (Meetings will always be on the first Sunday of the month). Please plan to attend if you are in the High School grades.

LOVEWALK FOR THE POOR – SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8 – The 19th Lovewalk for the Poor is scheduled for 2 PM on Sunday, February 8. Traditionally it takes place on the weekend before Valentine’s Day at Sacred Heart parish in Shadyside. The event has several parts to it, the first being a Mass at the Church. Next, the participants take donated items that they bought and walk a mile to a local soup kitchen, where they drop off the donated items. In the soup kitchen there are hot chocolate, cookies and service tables. This year our primary beneficiary is Roselia Center of Catholic Charities. Roselia Center provides a home-like residential setting for pregnant and parenting young women, ages 14-25 and their infants. Located in the Oakland area of Pittsburgh, Roselia offers a wide-range of services such as counseling, childbirth/parenting education, life skills training and a comprehensive school program. We ask you to please mark this event on your calendar. For more information please visit: www.diopitt.org/education/Lovewalk.html.

DIOCESAN ADULT LECTURE SERIES – What does the future look like for the youth and faith? Join us for an evening with Colleen Carroll Campbell who has thought, investigated, and written about this very interesting subject. Mrs. Campbell will present a lecture centered on 1 Timothy 4:12, **“Let no one have contempt for your youth, but set an example for those who believe.”** The talk is entitled: *Have No Contempt for Their Youth: The Story of Today’s New Faithful*. Colleen Carroll Campbell is an author, columnist, television and radio host and former White House speechwriter. After beginning her career as a reporter at the Memphis Commercial Appeal, she wrote *The New Faithful: Why Young Adults Are Embracing Christian Orthodoxy* and is now a fellow at the Washington, D.C. based Ethics and Public Policy Center. We invite you to join us for her presentation to be held at St. Paul’s Seminary Auditorium, Thursday, February 5, 7:30 PM. Continuing education credit is available for priests, deacons, and catechists. The lecture is free. All are welcome to attend. Bring a friend.

LADIES OF CHARITY will hold their February meeting tomorrow, February 2, at 7 PM.

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

- Baby Gabrielle Florence Hutter, daughter of Carl Joseph and Carrie Marie (Basar) Hutter, who will be baptized today.

WORLD MARRIAGE DAY will be celebrated on Sunday, February 8. We will incorporate the day into our Masses that day, in the General Intercessions and a prayer after communion. May God bless and strengthen the commitment made by all married couples on the day they were joined together in Christ.

SPECIAL AUCTION FOR SPECIAL PEOPLE – McGuire Memorial, a ministry of the Felician Sisters, cares for severely and profoundly disabled children and adults and is located in New Brighton, PA. The agency is raffling off two (2) Mini Cooper automobiles on February 21. If you are interested in purchasing a ticket for \$25, please call 724-843-0365 or go to their website: www.mcguirememorial.org for ticket purchases or additional information.

HAVE YOU BEEN THINKING ABOUT LIFE AS A PRIEST, SISTER OR RELIGIOUS BROTHER? The Pittsburgh Religious Vocation Council and the Serra Clubs of the Pittsburgh Diocese are sponsoring a Vocation Awareness Weekend at the Martina Spirituality Center, 5244 Clarwin Avenue, West View. The event will begin on Friday, March 27, at 6:30 PM and end Sunday, March 29 at 12:30 PM. The weekend is open to Catholic men and women, ages 18 to 55. There is no cost to the attendees. For information about registration call the Department for Consecrated Life at 412-456-3068.

Your Ministry of Support

Thank you for your offerings to Saint Alphonsus Parish
For Sunday, January 25, 2009

Offertory	\$4,160.35
Parish Share	\$155.00

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

TODAY’S SPECIAL COLLECTION is the monthly collection for capital improvements to our parish and to help pay our pledge to the Cathedral for repairs and renovations. We thank you for your kind and generous support of the parish and the Diocese. By the way, our pledge to the Cathedral (\$4,500) will be fully paid after the first Sunday of March, thanks to your kindness.

MEMORIAL GIFTS

Thank you for the following donations to the St. Alphonsus Memorial Fund:

IN MEMORY OF JOSEPH KOBOLKA by Dave and Carol Finley; Anna Mae DeSantis; Gerry and David Tomayko; Andrew C. Zilla; Charles and Rosalie Zimmerman; Mark and Diana Alese and Sons; Joseph Gajdosik Family; Rich and Eileen Miller.

IN MEMORY OF TRISHA PANZINO by Fran and Cathy Moxie.

IN MEMORY OF ALICE SUSA by John and Rae Ann Tabis; Richard and Lois Tabis; Susan and Michael Sample; Mary and Gordon Sarti; Amelia F. Kosdroosky; Gary and Marlene Deily; Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Stanisky; Bob and Roberta Sarniak;

**GILMARY
A CATHOLIC RETREAT CENTER
“In the service of Mary”**

Our name, Gilmary, can be translated as “servant of Mary.” We take our inspiration from the story of the wedding Feast at Cana (Jn. 2).

Mary, seeing that there was no more wine, told the servants to do whatever Jesus would direct. Jesus told them, “Fill the jars with water.” So, they filled them to the brim and Jesus turned the water into wine – not just any wine, but the most exquisite wine. We, the staff at Gilmary, like those servants at Cana, seek to provide a place and an environment where Jesus can work miracles – where He can provide something exquisite for the guests of our retreat center.

We entrust our work and our guests to Mary, Our Mother, relying on the depth of her love for her spiritual children and upon her intercession.

Gilmary Center is located at 601 Flaugherty Run Road, Coraopolis, PA. Call Gilmary Center at 412-264-8400 for pricing on use of their facilities for your next retreat, day of recollection, meal event, conference or meeting.

**THE REAL PRESENCE OF CHRIST IN THE
BLESSED SACRAMENT**

As we participate this Wednesday, February 4, in the rotation of Churches having Eucharistic Adoration in this year of Saint Paul, it would be helpful to refresh ourselves on the teaching of our Church about Jesus' love for us in granting us the Sacrament of His Body and Blood.

Questions and Answers, from a Statement of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, on “The Real Presence of Jesus Christ in the Sacrament of the Eucharist.” (We have abridged the answers).

Q. WHY DOES JESUS GIVE HIMSELF TO US AS FOOD AND DRINK?

A. At Mass, Jesus offers himself in an unbloody manner, representing what he did for us on Calvary, and he also sets the table for us, giving us food and drink, his own Body and Blood. The Lord had said, “Unless you eat my flesh and drink my blood, you have no life in you.” Thus, Jesus gives himself to us because he loves us and wants to remain always with us in this special way.

Q. WHY IS THE EUCHARIST NOT ONLY A MEAL BUT ALSO A SACRIFICE?

A. It is a sacrifice, for Jesus said that this was the reason he came to this world, that he might, out of obedience, offer himself as a victim for our sins. At the holy meal, we recall this greatest event in the life of Christ, his becoming the Lamb of God, who took away the sins of the world by his own sacrifice. Jesus said that no one can have greater love than to lay down his life for his friends.

Q. WHEN THE BREAD AND WINE BECOME THE BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST, WHY DO THEY STILL LOOK AND TASTE LIKE BREAD AND WINE?

A. What is changed is not the “accidental features” of bread and wine, but rather the “substantial” essence. By “accidental” features we mean those features which do not necessarily have to be present in bread or wine (or anything). Bread might be white, or black, or unleavened or leavened, etc. These features can change and the bread would still be bread. But the “substance,” i.e., the essence, that which makes bread bread and which must always be present for it to be bread...this “substance” is changed. So, by Christ's divine power, in the consecration at Mass, that which makes bread bread and that which makes wine wine, is now changed into that which makes Christ's body his body, and that which makes Christ's blood his blood. These “accidents” (sight, taste, feel, etc.) remain, but the bread is changed into the body and the wine is changed into the blood of Jesus. This is the essence of what is technically called the “transubstantiation,” or the changing of one substance into another.

THIS SUBJECT WILL BE CONTINUED IN A LATER BULLETIN