

**ST. ALPHONSUS CHURCH BULLETIN  
FOR  
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2010**

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – FEBRUARY 14, 2010

# 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.

### 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

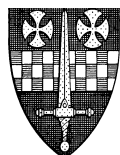
**LIGUORI CENTER OFFICES** (school building side entrance)

(724) 274-2547

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

**Social Services** - Cathy Moxie

**Music Director/Organist** – Vickie Roof

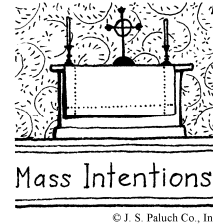


**New Parishioners:** We welcome new parishioners whether newly moved into the area or those who have fallen off through inactivity. Welcome! Register by calling or coming to the parish office. Become an active, attending and supporting member of the parish. And please let us know if you move away or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

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

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

CATHOLIC  
DIOCESE OF  
PITTSBURGH  
VICARIATE  
NO. 4




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**SCHEDULE OF MASSES  
FOR THIS WEEK**

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**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 15** – Weekday Celebration  
(6<sup>TH</sup> Week in Ordinary Time)

8:00 AM Mary Desmone

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16** – Weekday Celebration  
(Mardi Gras)

8:00 AM Alice Susa

In today's Gospel passage from Saint Luke, Jesus talks about "happiness." In describing what can really make us happy, Our Lord certainly goes against what we would call "conventional wisdom." He says that we are "happy" if we are poor, hungry, sad, hated and ostracized, slandered for His name's sake, etc. And he emphasizes it by stressing that the opposite will make us be filled with woe – "woe to you who laugh now, you shall weep in your grief," etc.

Jesus does not sound like someone who wants to attract followers. He does not sound like someone who wants to be popular. He does not sound like someone who will go far in life.

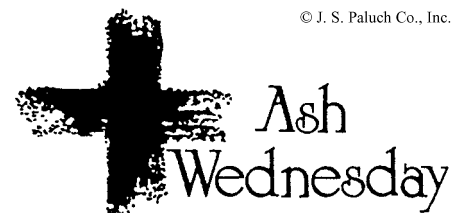
Jesus, of course, does want to attract followers. But he wants people to follow him for the right reason. He does want to be popular, but he wants people to love him because they believe in his promises. He does not go past age 33 in this life, but it was because of his death that it now becomes possible for us all to live forever in happiness with God.

There is a big difference between "happiness" and "pleasure." The happiness that Jesus preaches and promises is an interior happiness that no one can take away from us. It is the happiness that comes with the realization that (as Saint Paul says) "whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord."

We should measure all things in our life against the "bottom line," which is how it fits into the aspect of eternity. Whatever will lead us into eternal life is something that will make us happy, even though it may not give us much pleasure now. Whatever will lead us away from our eternal goal is not worth doing or having now, no matter how much pleasure we get out of it, if it will take us away from God.

Let us seek after and use the good things of this life in such a way that we do not lose the good things of the life to come.

-- Fr. Saladna



**BEGINNING OF LENT:  
ASH WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17**

**ASH WEDNESDAY:**

**7:00 AM** [Mass with Imposition of  
Ashes] – Deborah Strama Mann

**12:00 Noon** [Not a Mass. Brief Service of  
the Word, with Imposition of  
Ashes]

**7:00 PM** [Mass, with Imposition of  
Ashes] – Leona and Alex  
Mock

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18** – No Mass scheduled  
for today

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 19** – Lenten Weekday

8:00 AM Margaret Blume

7:00 PM Stations of the Cross with Benediction

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20**– No Mass on Saturday  
morning

5:00 PM [For Sunday] Raymond Carrigan

**NEXT SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21** – First Sunday of  
Lent

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

11:00 AM Joseph and Elizabeth Tabacek



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**World Marriage Sunday** will be observed today, Sunday, February 14, (Valentine's Day). Special prayers will be incorporated into the General Intercessions, asking God's

blessing on all married couples and those preparing for marriage.

#### A THOUGHT FOR ASH WEDNESDAY (February 17)

The imposition of Ashes is not a blessing. It is a concrete mark of our repentance. As such, it is not passively received, but indicates a readiness to undertake the discipline of Lent, in preparation for celebrating the Easter mystery. A person is not "just getting Ashes." They are committing themselves to repentance. Catholics are reminded when ashes are imposed to "turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel."

**THEREFORE**, since children below the age of reason (age 7 and below) are not candidates for the Church's penitential discipline (Penance), it seems inappropriate to include them in the marking with ashes. As a matter of universal practice, the Church does not judge them capable of dealing with the matter of sin from which they are to "turn away." – Newsletter, Department for Worship of the Diocese.

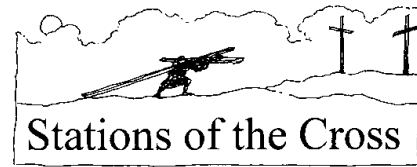
Bottom line: Young children should not be brought up for ashes. The innocent are not guilty of sin and have no need of repentance.

**"SOUPER" BOWL OFFERING** – Since most people could not attend Mass last weekend, the planned solicitation for the **FOOD BANK** will be held this weekend, February 14, at the Church doors, after each Mass. We thank you for the **FOOD BANK**.

**MOST PEOPLE** missed the Bulletin last Sunday, so today you will find **BOTH** this week's Parish Bulletin and last week's bulletin.

**OUR YOUTH GROUP** will meet next Sunday, February 21, after the 8:00 AM Mass. Meet in the Liguori Center.

**THE 2010 PARISH SHARE PROGRAM BEGINS** today, and continues through next February. See details in the Bulletin(s) and in the mailing you have received. Thanks for your support of the Diocese of Pittsburgh.



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**BEGINNING THIS FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 19, WE WILL HAVE STATIONS OF THE CROSS WITH BENEDICTION** every Friday in Lent at 7:00 PM. Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend this wonderful and traditional meditation on the suffering and death and resurrection of Jesus, our Savior.

#### LENTEN REGULATIONS

**(Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, 17, 2010)**

1. Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of fast and abstinence. The Fridays of Lent are days of abstinence in the United States.
2. The obligation of abstinence (refraining from eating meat) begins at the age of 14. The law of fasting (limiting oneself to one full meal and two lighter meals) obliges all between the ages of 18-59. No one should consider this obligation lightly.
3. Those individuals who have a medical condition in which fasting may be considered harmful are not obliged to fast, but should perform some other acts of penance or charity.
4. Pastors and parents are to see to it that minors, though not bound by the law of fast and abstinence, are educated in the authentic sense of penance and encouraged to do acts of penance suitable to their age.

#### Our Ministry of Support

Thank you for your offerings to Saint Alphonsus Parish  
For Sunday, February 7, 2010

Collection totals for Sunday, February 7, will be reported in the February 21<sup>ST</sup> bulletin.

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

## Saint Alphonsus Roman Catholic Church



### 2010 Parish Share Program

**We ask you to pledge a  
minimum gift of \$150.00 to  
the 2010 Parish Share  
Program.**

#### **WHY SUPPORT THE DIOCESE**

A Diocese is not simply a group of individual parishes which come together in some artificial way or which exist simply for the convenience of the individual parishes which make it up. A Diocese is a grouping of peoples and Churches around a Bishop, located in a particular geographic area, and officially and canonically established by the Holy Father. It is not an abstract entity. It is a living body made up of a Bishop, priests, religious, and people united as one in Jesus Christ. A Diocese is not an appendage to a parish. On the contrary, it is the center of all parishes in that area; the source of all sacramental and liturgical life in that place as well as the seat of governance for all the Faithful. In truth, the Diocese is the center, the home of the Bishop and the Cathedral or Bishop's Church. All other priests and parishes are extensions of the principal Priest and the principal Church. The Parish Share Program is our way of supporting our Bishop and our Bishop's programs for our Diocese.

#### **WHAT PROGRAMS ARE PROVIDED BY THE DIOCESE?**

There are three general types of programs:

1. The daily, routine operation of the Bishop's office and the program for the entire Diocese. This includes programs for priests, religious, and laity; regular services to the parishes; routine work in marriage preparation; education for those of all ages; chaplains for Catholic and other institutions; relations with other religious groups, public authorities, and other agencies.
2. There are programs which can be accomplished only by pooling the resources of the entire Diocese to provide for the life of the Catholic Community, such as homes for aged, hospitals, schools for the retarded, the deaf, the blind, education of young men for the priesthood; vocation programs for those aspiring to the priesthood or religious life. No single parish can handle these works, but together such undertakings can be done effectively. Thus, all share in the effort as all share in the good accomplished. And all these programs are necessary for a healthy and full life within the Catholic Community.
3. There is an entire area of social programs and activities, including both spiritual and corporal works of mercy, which are performed in the name of the Church and which provide both presence and witness for the Catholic Community in the general community. This way programs and services are provided to the general community in the name of the total Catholic Community.

#### **WHAT WOULD BE A SUITABLE GIFT?**

A suitable gift would be what you are able to give. Keep in mind that many people are out of work this year and if we are to have a successful Campaign, those who can give more should give more. Some of your neighbors are unemployed and unable to help as they usually do. Make a pledge rather than a single gift. A pledge means you will spread your gift over a period of months rather than putting it into a single payment. It is the American way of taking care of our responsibility. Be guided by these facts: a tank of gas costs about \$40.00; one carton of cigarettes costs about \$40.00; one night on the town costs about \$40.00 per person. Your gift to the Diocese – given only once a year – should be a sacrifice.

**PLEASE DO YOUR SHARE – SUPPORT PARISH SHARE  
2010 PARISH SHARE BEGINS TODAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2010**

**POPE BENEDICT ON THE  
"PREACHER OF THE GOSPEL" – ST. DOMINIC**

VATICAN CITY, 3 FEB 2010 - In today's general audience, held in the Vatican's Paul VI Hall, the Pope spoke about the life and work of St. Dominic de Guzman, founder of the Order of Preachers, or Dominican Order.

St. Dominic was born in Caleruega, near the Spanish city of Burgos, in the year 1170. While still a student he "distinguished himself for his interest in the study of Sacred Scriptures and his love for the poor". Having been ordained a priest he was elected as canon of the cathedral of Osma, however "he did not consider this as a personal privilege, nor as the first step in a brilliant ecclesiastical career; rather, as a service to be rendered with dedication and humility. Do not career and power represent a temptation to which even those who have roles of leadership and government in the Church are not immune?" the Pope asked.

He then explained how the bishop of Osma "soon noted Dominic's spiritual qualities and sought his collaboration. Together they travelled to northern Europe on diplomatic missions. ... On his journeys Dominic became aware of ... the existence of peoples still un-evangelized, and of the religious divides that weakened Christian life in the south of France, where the activity of certain heretical groups created disturbance and distanced people from the truth of the faith".

Pope Honorius III asked Dominic "to dedicate himself to preaching to the Albigensians" and he "enthusiastically accepted this mission, which he undertook through the example of his own life of poverty and austerity, through preaching the Gospel and through public discussions".

"Christ", the Pope went on, "is the most precious treasure that men and women of all times and places have the right to know and love! It is consoling to see how also in today's Church there are many people (pastors and lay faithful, members of ancient religious orders and of new ecclesial movements) who joyfully give their lives for the supreme ideal of announcing and bearing witness to the Gospel".

As more and more companions joined him, Dominic established his first house in the French city of Toulouse, from which the Order of Preachers came into being. "He adopted the ancient Rule of St. Augustine, adapting it to the requirements of an itinerant apostolic life in which he and his confreres would move from one place to another preaching, but always returning to their convents, places of study, prayer and community life".

St. Dominic, the Holy Father continued, "was keen that his followers should have a solid theological formation, and did not hesitate to send them to the universities of the time". There they dedicated themselves to the study of theology, "founded on Holy Scripture but respectful of the questions raised by reason".

The Pope encouraged everyone, "pastors and lay people, to cultivate this 'cultural dimension' of the faith, that the beauty of Christian truth may be better understood and the faith truly nourished, strengthened and defended. In this Year for Priests, I invite seminarians and priests to respect the spiritual value of study. The quality of priestly ministry also depends on the generosity with which we apply ourselves to studying revealed truths".

Dominic died in Bologna in 1221 and was canonized in 1234. "With his sanctity, he shows us two indispensable means for making apostolic activity more incisive", the Pope concluded; "firstly, Marian devotion", especially the praying of the Rosary "which his spiritual children had the great merit of popularizing", and secondly, "the value of prayers of intercession for the success of apostolic work".

- Vatican Information Service

**ASH WEDNESDAY**

Prayer, fasting, and almsgiving: these disciplines, prescribed by Jesus himself in the Sermon on the Mount, along with strict instructions not to flaunt them in public to win recognition and praise (Matthew 6:1-18), have been embraced by all the saints at the beginning of every Lent for almost two thousand years. But mention Lent, and many react with a grimace or slight shudder—even now, years after official obligations have been reduced to a minimum! No wonder the Eastern Rite's "Lenten Announcement" sounds surprising: "Let us receive with joy, O faithful people, the divinely inspired announcement of Lent! The Lenten Spring shines forth! Begin the fast with joy! Let us fast from passions as well as food, taking pleasure in the good works of the Spirit, and accomplishing them in love!" Saint John Chrysostom, whose feast is September 13, elaborates: "Do you fast? Give proof by your works. If you see a poor person, take pity. An enemy, be reconciled. A friend gaining honor, don't be jealous." A positive approach! May the saints help us keep such a Lent!

—Peter Scagnelli, © Copyright, J. S. Paluch Co.