

ST. ALPHONSUS CHURCH BULLETIN

FOR

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2009

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – FEBRUARY 15, 2009

Saint Alphonsus

Roman Catholic Church

A Pennsylvania Charitable Trust

750 Pittsburgh Street • Springdale, PA • 15144

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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



In today's second reading, Saint Paul, writing to the Corinthians, sends us all a timely message about community and the right attitude toward life: in everything we do and say we should seek the common good. Saint Paul writes, "give no offense to Jew or Greek or to the Church of God, just as I try to please all in any way I can, by seeking not my own advantage but that of the many."

This is what Christianity is all about: being selfless and thinking about others. Almighty God Himself did not hoard His glory and goodness, but spreads it around, as it were, by creation. The creation of the universe and the making of man as head of the universe is a demonstration of the fact that community is the goal of love. Too many people think that religion is nothing more than a "vertical connection" between self and God, considering other people as a distraction from our love of God. But there has to be another dimension to religion, and that is the one Jesus brought to it. It involves the "horizontal connection" between all of us who are brothers and sisters of Christ, children of our heavenly Father. If we do not care about each other, about the community we form in the Church, then we do not have the attitude of Christ. Our judgment on the final day will involve more about how we have treated each other than how we have treated God. Jesus tells us, "how can you say you love the Father whom you have never seen, if you do not love your brother and sister whom you can see?"

Let us renew our intention to seek not our own advantage, but rather that of the many.

-- Fr. Saladna

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

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 16 – Weekday Celebration

8:00 AM Alice Susa

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17 – Weekday Celebration

8:00 AM Mary Premick

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18 – Weekday Celebration

8:00 AM Delta Casasent

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19 – No Mass scheduled for Thursday

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20 – Weekday Celebration

8:00 AM Deborah Strama Mann

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21 – No Mass on Saturday morning

5:00 PM [For Sunday] Living and Deceased Members of the Desmone and Romito Families

NEXT SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22 – Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 AM Raymond J. Carrigan (Anniv.)

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



LENT IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER – This year, Easter is Sunday, April 12. Ash Wednesday is on February 25. Lenten program this year will include our regular schedule of religious events, plus Stations of the Cross on Friday evenings at 7:00 PM.

A THOUGHT FOR ASH WEDNESDAY (February 25)

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.

Saint Alphonsus Roman Catholic Church



2009 Parish Share Program

We ask you to pledge a minimum gift of \$150.00 to the 2009 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 program 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 something very special. It should be a sacrifice.

PLEASE DO YOUR SHARE – SUPPORT PARISH SHARE
2009 PARISH SHARE BEGINS FEBRUARY 22, 2009

**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.

SCOUT SUNDAY – NEXT SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22

At next Sunday's 11:00 AM Mass our Scout Troop #504 will observe annual **SCOUT SUNDAY**, with a brief presentation of awards and a history of past activities. Mr. Fran Moxie will lead the brief presentation after Communion and before the dismissal. We are proud of the leaders and members of our Boy Scout Troop and are grateful to them for their service to our parish and the community at large.

RECEIVING OUR SUNDAY BULLETIN VIA COMPUTER – Our website is www.stalphonsuschurch.com. Go to this website and click on "Bulletins" and you will see the bulletin, which is posted on the website every Wednesday (for the following Sunday). There is no need for us to send you an email, since you can access the bulletin yourselves if and when you please.

WHEN YOU COMPLAIN ABOUT YOUR HOME GAS BILL – remember your "Church Home" gas bill. Our bill for January (Church Building, School Building and Parish House/Chapel combined) came to \$6,545.64. Are you helping to pay your Church bills?

ALLE-KISKI MEDICAL CENTER in Natrona Heights will offer sessions at the Charles W. Young Conference Center to make the public aware of and how to treat/avoid the following medical problems:

- a) Sleep Apnea – March 2, 2:00 PM
- b) Colorectal Cancer – March 19, 6:00 PM
- c) Breaking the Smoking Habit – March 16 – April 27, 6 to 7:30 PM
- d) Eye Health and Aging – March 24, 2:00 PM

For information on all these sessions, call 724-226-7021.

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, February 8, 2009	
Offertory	\$5,102.40
Parish Share	\$1,050.00
PLEASE REMEMBER SAINT ALPHONSUS CHURCH IN YOUR WILL	

FROM POPE BENEDICT

ABSENCE OF GOD IS MANKIND'S MOST
PROFOUND SICKNESS

VATICAN CITY, 8 FEB 2009 - At midday today, Benedict XVI appeared at the window of his private study to pray the Angelus with the faithful gathered in St. Peter's Square below.

The Pope commented on today's Gospel reading which relates the healing of Simon's mother-in-law and of many other sick people. "The healing of the sick occupied a large part of Christ's public ministry", said the Pope, "and it invites us once again to reflect upon the meaning and importance of sickness in all the situations in which human beings may find themselves".

The Holy Father recalled how this Wednesday marks the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes and the World Day of the Sick. "Despite the fact that sickness forms part of the human experience", he said, "we are unable to accustom ourselves to it, not only because it is sometimes so serious and oppressive, but essentially because we are made for life, for a complete life. Rightly enough, our 'interior instinct' leads us to think of God as fullness of life, as eternal and perfect Life.

"When we are tried by sickness", he added, "and all our prayers seem ineffective, doubt arises within us and we ask ourselves in anguish: what is God's will? It is to this question that we find an answer in the Gospel. ... Jesus leaves us in no doubt: God - Whose face Christ Himself revealed to us - is the God of life Who frees us from all evil. The sign of His power of love is the healing He accomplishes, thus demonstrating that the Kingdom of God is near and restoring men and women to their full integrity of soul and body".

The Pope went on: "I say that these acts of healing are signs: they guide us towards Christ's message, they guide us towards God and they help us understand that man's real and most profound sickness is the absence of God, the absence of the source of truth and love".

"Thanks to the action of the Holy Spirit, Jesus' activity is prolonged in the mission of the Church. Through the Sacraments it is Christ Who communicates His life to multitudes of brothers and sisters. He also heals and comforts countless sick people through the many healthcare activities which Christian communities promote with fraternal charity, thus revealing the face of God and His love".

"Let us pray for all the sick, especially those seriously ill who are unable to look after themselves but are totally dependent upon the help of others. May each of them experience, in the care of those near them, the power of God's love and the richness of His salvific grace".

- Vatican Information Service

PAPAL MESSAGE FOR LENT 2009

Vatican City, 3 Feb 2009 – Made public today was the 2009 Lenten Message of the Holy Father Benedict XVI. The text, dated 11 December 2008, has as its title a verse from the Gospel of St. Matthew: "He fasted for forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was hungry". The full translation of the document is given below:

"At the beginning of Lent, which constitutes an itinerary of more intense spiritual training, the Liturgy sets before us again three penitential practices that are very dear to the biblical and Christian tradition – prayer, almsgiving, fasting – to prepare us to better celebrate Easter and thus experience God's power that, as we shall hear in the Paschal Vigil, 'dispels all evil, washes guilt away, restores lost innocence, brings mourners joy, casts out hatred, brings us peace and humbles earthly pride'. For this year's Lenten Message, I wish to focus my reflections especially on the value and meaning of fasting. Indeed, Lent recalls the forty days of our Lord's fasting in the desert, which He undertook before entering into His public ministry. We read in the Gospel: 'Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was hungry'. Like Moses, who fasted before receiving the tablets of the Law and Elijah's fast before meeting the Lord on Mount Horeb, Jesus, too, through prayer and fasting, prepared Himself for the mission that lay before Him, marked at the start by a serious battle with the tempter."

"We might wonder what value and meaning there is for us Christians in depriving ourselves of something that in itself is good and useful for our bodily sustenance. The Sacred Scriptures and the entire Christian tradition teach that fasting is a great help to avoid sin and all that leads to it. For this reason, the history of salvation is replete with occasions that invite fasting. In the very first pages of Sacred Scripture, the Lord commands man to abstain from partaking of the prohibited fruit: 'You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die'."

"In the New Testament, Jesus brings to light the profound motive for fasting, condemning the attitude of the Pharisees, who scrupulously observed the prescriptions of the law, but whose hearts were far from God. True fasting, as the divine Master repeats elsewhere, is rather to do the will of the Heavenly Father, who 'sees in secret, and will reward you'. He Himself sets the example, answering Satan, at the end of the forty days spent in the desert that 'man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God'. The true fast is thus directed to eating the 'true food', which is to do the Father's will. If, therefore, Adam disobeyed the Lord's command 'of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat', the believer, through fasting, intends to submit himself humbly to God, trusting in His goodness and mercy."

- Vatican Information Service