

ST. ALPHONSUS CHURCH BULLETIN

FOR

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2009

SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – FEBRUARY 22, 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.

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

FAITH, HOPE AND CHARITY: GOD'S GIFT TO THE BAPTISED

VATICAN CITY, 11 FEB 2009 – In his general audience, held this morning in the Paul VI Hall, the Pope began a new series of catecheses dealing with the great writers of the Eastern and Western Church during the Middle Ages. The focus of his attention today was St. John Climacus, who was born in 575 and died sometime after 650.

“Amid the mountains of Sinai, where Moses encountered God and Elijah heard His voice, John lived and recounted his spiritual experiences”, said the Holy Father. “At the age of around twenty he decided to live as a hermit in a cave at the foot of the mountains, in a place known as Tola some eight kilometres from the current monastery of St. Catherine. After forty years of hermitic life ... he was appointed as ‘hegumen’ of the great monastery of Mount Sinai”.

The saint “became famous for his work the ‘Scala’ (Klimax), a complex treatise on spiritual life in which John describes the monk’s path from renouncing the world to perfection of love, a path which, according to the book, has thirty steps”.

“This path”, the Pope continued, “may be summarized in three phases: the first is expressed in a break with the world in order to return to the state of evangelical infancy, which is true infancy in the spiritual sense”.

The second phase, Benedict XVI explained, “consists of the spiritual struggle against the passions”. For John Climacus “it is important to be aware that passions are not bad in themselves, they become so through the bad use that man’s freedom makes of them. If purified, the passions open man to the way that leads to God”.

“The last phase of the path, covering the last seven steps of the ‘Scala’, is Christian perfection”, said the Pope. “The first three of these steps are simplicity, humility and discernment, of which John, in harmony with the Desert Fathers, feels the last to be the most important, discernment. In this way it is possible to achieve tranquility of heart (‘esichia’), thanks to which the soul can approach the abyss of the divine mysteries. The state of tranquility, of inner peace, prepares the adept for prayer, which in John has a dual function: ‘bodily prayer’ and ‘prayer of the heart’”.

The last of the thirty steps is dedicated to “faith, hope and, above all, charity. John also speaks of charity as ‘eros’ (human love), an image of the nuptial bond between the soul and God. John is convinced that an

intense experience of ‘eros’ makes the soul progress much more than the harsh struggle against the passions”.

“Can the existence of a man who spent all his life on Mount Sinai so long ago”, asked the Holy Father, “still say anything to us today? At first glance the answer may appear to be no, but if we look a little closer we see that the monastic life is simply a symbol of the baptismal life, of Christian life”.

The Holy Father highlighted the importance of the fact that the last steps of the “Scala” correspond to the fundamental virtues: faith, hope and charity. “They are not accessible only to moral heroes but are a gift of God to all the baptized, in them our life grows”, he said.

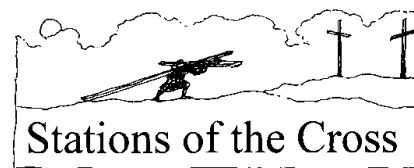
“Faith is fundamental because it means renouncing our own arrogance, rejecting the pretension of judging alone without entrusting ourselves to others. What we must do is entrust ourselves only to Sacred Scripture, the Word of the Lord, look with humility to the horizon of the faith so as to enter into the vastness of the universal world, the world of God”.

“Through hope we transcend everyday life”, Pope Benedict concluded. Thus “our lives become great and we can support our daily fatigue and disappointments, we can be good to others without expecting any reward. Only when there is God – the great hope to which we are drawn – can we take the little steps of our lives and so learn charity. In charity is hidden the mystery of prayer, of personal acquaintance with Jesus”.

- Vatican Information Service



REST IN PEACE – The parish family of Saint Alphonsus wishes to extend their deepest sympathy to the families of William J. Golebieski, Alice Fortun and Romano Vergerio. Please remember the deceased and their families in your prayers.



BEGINNING THIS FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 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.

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

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23 – Saint Polycarp, Bishop and Martyr

8:00 AM George Jaros

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24 – Weekday Celebration (Mardi Gras)

8:00 AM Joseph Parise



WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25 – Ash Wednesday (Lent Begins)

7:00 AM **Mass with Distribution of Ashes** –
For all Parishioners, Liv. & Dec.

12:00 Noon **Distribution of Ashes (No Mass)**

7:00 PM **Mass and Distribution of Ashes**
(This will be the principal Mass for
Ash Wednesday) – Paul Blume

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26 – No Mass scheduled for Thursday

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27 – Lenten Weekday

8:00 AM Alice Susa

7:00 PM Stations of the Cross and Benediction

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28 – No Mass on Saturday morning

5:00 PM [For Sunday] Delta Casasent

NEXT SUNDAY, MARCH 1 – First Sunday of Lent

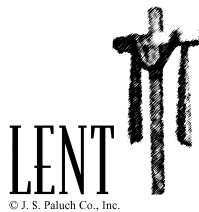
8:00 AM Elizabeth “Liz” Gruden

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

LENTEN REGULATIONS

(Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 25, 2009)

1. As the season of Lent draws near, it is helpful to recall the discipline of the Church with regards to fast, abstinence and other forms of penance.
2. Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of fast and abstinence. The Fridays of Lent are days of abstinence in the United States.
3. 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.



4. 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.
5. 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.
6. All members of the Church are encouraged to do acts of penance and charity during the Lenten season beyond what is strictly prescribed by the law.
7. As a general rule, a request for a dispensation from the obligation of abstinence on Fridays of Lent will not be considered unless some very serious reason is present. The attendance at social events, banquets, wedding rehearsals or receptions are not considered sufficient reason to request a dispensation.

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.

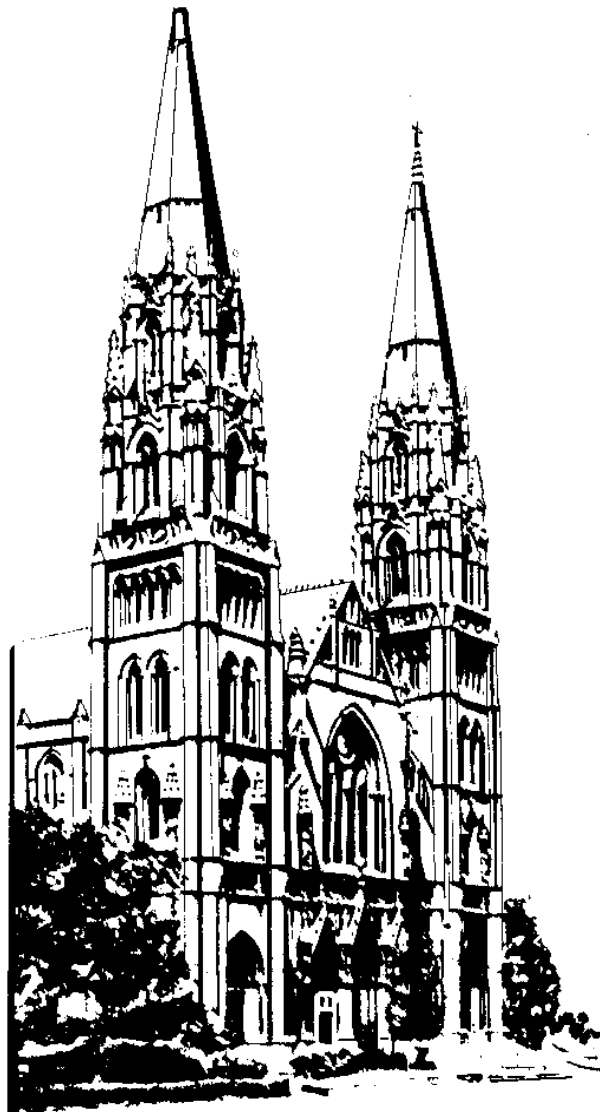
Bottom line: Young children should not be brought up for ashes. The innocent are not guilty of sin and have no need of repentance.

TODAY, the 2009 PARISH SHARE PROGRAM

begins. We are grateful to all our parishioners for your support of the Diocese of Pittsburgh, which is our “Mother Church.” Today’s bulletin contains more information about this annual drive, and you will have already received information and directions in the mail this past week.

CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF PITTSBURGH

St. Paul Cathedral



2009 PARISH SHARE PROGRAM

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

Saint Paul's Cathedral in Oakland is the Mother Church, the Cathedral Church, of our Diocese, and it represents all the parish Churches which make up the Diocese of Pittsburgh: some 225 in all, gathered around and coming from the Pastoral authority of our Bishop, Most Rev. David Zubik.

The Apostle Paul calls the Church the "Body of Christ." All members of the Body depend on each other. So it is in the Church: we are the Church. We are Christ's Body, and we depend on each other.

Today, Sunday, February 22, 2009, the annual 2009 Parish Share Program Lenten Campaign begins.

The Diocesan goal is over 13 million dollars. Our own parish share goal is **\$44,929**.

We are asking you to contribute your own fair share of the amount: a minimum yearly gift pledge of \$150, which amounts to only three dollars a week.

Again this year, as in the past, we are making this appeal to you, our parishioners and friends, through this bulletin flyer, other notices in the mail, especially by the pledge card and return envelope which you have already received in the mail.

We hope that you see in this appeal the opportunity of supporting our Bishop, our Parish and our Diocese through your own sacrifice. Giving to the Church is something that should be a regular part of our life. It should be consistent, planned, sacrificial and loving. Our giving is truly a reflection of our Faith.

Please support the 2009 Parish Share Program.

THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS YOU.

Sincerely and gratefully,

(Rev.) George E. Saladna
Administrator

SCOUT SUNDAY is observed today, Sunday, February 22. Boys and leaders from our Troop #504 will briefly outline some recent projects and awards. We are very proud of our Scout Troop and encourage boys to join the scouting movement.

CCD AND YOUTH GROUP NEWS

TODAY, FEBRUARY 22, PARENTS OF OUR CCD STUDENTS IN GRADES 5 THROUGH 8 will attend a meeting in the Liguori Center for a discussion of the "Catholic Vision of Love," which centers on teaching sexuality to young people in light of Christian principles.

OUR YOUTH GROUP will hold their next meeting, next Sunday, March 1, in the Liguori Center, beginning at 9:15 AM.

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY – Workshop and Concert for Young Adults at Our Lady of Grace Parish on February 28. Don't miss this one of a kind event. MGO Media invites you to a two part event with speaker and musician Daniel "Rodan" Weikert. Cataclysmic Christianity, a workshop on conversion for Catholics in their 20's and 30's, will begin at 4 PM. Dinner will be provided for all workshop participants. Following 6 PM Mass, stay and hear Weikert in concert. Both workshop and concert are free. A great way to kick off Lent.

MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH MINISTRY – Lead retreat, April 18-19, Camp Guyasuta. Come join 96 young people from the Diocese of Pittsburgh at an overnight leadership experience designed for middle school students in grades 7 and 8. Middle School youth will explore creative ways to deal with peer pressure; skills for making decisions and resolving conflict. Overnight accommodations, meals and t-shirt are included with the special addition of the Challenge Course which offers initiative games, low course elements, high course elements and climbing/rappelling tower. Cost is \$75. Come discover that Christian leadership is based on the example of Christ who did not come to be served, but to serve. Information and registration forms are available in the Activity Room. Register early to hold your spot. Registration is limited to the first 48 boys and 48 girls. Registration deadline: April 6.

DUQUESNE UNIVERSITY'S GRADUATE COLLEGE FAIR will be held on Sunday, March 29 from 1:30 PM to 4:00 PM in the Duquesne Union Ballroom. Current college students and professionals can meet with graduate admission representatives from some of the best colleges and universities in the region. Call Duquesne's Office of Admissions at 412-396-6222.

DIOCESAN ADULT LECTURE SERIES – This past summer we witnessed the drama of the Olympics. We see that St. Paul uses the analogy of a race to illuminate the deeper drama of the life of Faith. On March 4, Dr. Anthony Esolen will talk on Catholicism: *The Last Hope for a Dying Culture* about the Pauline passage of 2 Timothy 4:7, "I have competed well; I have finished the race; I have kept the faith." Dr. Anthony Esolen is a Professor of English at Providence College in Rhode Island, who specializes in Shakespeare, Milton, Spenser, and other Renaissance and medieval literature. In addition to having published a three-volume translation of Dante's Divine Comedy, he is the author of *Ironies of Faith: The Laughter at the Heart of Christian Literature* and *The Politically Incorrect Guide to Western Civilization*. You are invited to join us for Dr. Esolen's presentation to be held at St. Paul's Auditorium, Wednesday, March 4, at 7:30 PM.

EVENING OF REFLECTION – The semi-annual Evening of Reflection for those who are Separated or Divorced, sponsored by the Office for Family Life and Catechesis of the Diocese of Pittsburgh, will be offered on Wednesday, March 25, from 7-9 PM at St. Paul Seminary (Domenec Hall) Crafton. The presenter will be Fr. Eugene Lauer, a priest of the Diocese of Pittsburgh. Fr. Lauer is the author of four books and numerous articles on the relationship between theology and daily life. The topic for the evening will be, "Unanswered Prayers: An Ongoing Christian Mystery." There is no charge for the evening but a free will offering will be accepted. For further information call 412-456-3160.

Your Ministry of Support

Thank you for your offerings to Saint Alphonsus Parish
For Sunday, February 15, 2009

Offertory	\$4,838.00
Parish Share	\$3,239.00

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

NEXT SUNDAY'S SPECIAL SECOND COLLECTION
will be the monthly collection for Capital Improvements to our Parish and to complete our pledge for repairs and renovations to St. Paul Cathedral in Oakland. We thank you for your own kind and generous support of our Church and our Diocese. This month's payment to the Cathedral will complete our pledge of \$4,500.