

ST. ALPHONSUS CHURCH BULLETIN

FOR

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2010

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – FEBRUARY 7, 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

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

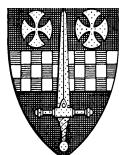
LIGUORI CENTER OFFICES (school building side entrance)

(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

Diocesan Victim Assistance Hotline 1-888-808-1235

CATHOLIC
DIOCESE OF
PITTSBURGH
VICARIATE
NO. 4



In today's Gospel episode, we hear about the miraculous catch of many fish, at the command of Jesus to "go out into the deep water" after Peter and the others had fished all night in vain by themselves.

This is the crux of the story. By themselves they were not much good, but with the presence and the help and direction of Jesus what heretofore had been useless became very productive. They filled two boats until they nearly sank.

All this was done to introduce a new command of Jesus, a command by which the Apostles' lives were to be changed. From fishermen they were now to become fishers of men. And even though this new task seemed impossible to them, they would have the experience of Jesus' power in helping them to catch fish to make them realize that he would be with them in helping them to attract people to the message and life of God.

This required a lot of faith, of course. The command of Jesus to "go out into the deep water" is symbolic of that faith. In deep water they left their own security and had to rely on God. Nearer to shore they could count on their own devices to save them, but out in the deep water there was nothing but the presence and love of Christ to get them through their mission.

This is what Jesus wants us to do with our lives, too. He wants us to go out into deep water, to trust in him, to realize that he is always with us in whatever task he gives us, and if we trust him, we will always succeed.

It was not enough for the Apostles to say to Jesus, "we have fished all night. There is nothing there." He told them the fish are where he put them, not where they expected to find them. This is what it means to be open to our surprising Savior. We are not to lead him, he is to be **OUR** leader. God is not abandoning us, and he never will. If we do not find him, if we do not have vocations, if we find no one willing to "bite," it is because we are looking in the wrong places.

-- Fr. Saladna

MASS INTENTIONS

© J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

SCHEDULE OF MASSES FOR THIS WEEK (Fifth Week in Ordinary Time)

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 8 – Weekday Celebration (5TH Week In Ordinary Time)

8:00 AM Jim Carroll (Birthday)

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 9 – Weekday Celebration

8:00 AM Ray Hutzler

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10 – Saint Scholastica

8:00 AM Genevieve Trefelner Smith

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11– No Mass scheduled for today

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12 – Weekday Celebration

8:00 AM Elizabeth "Liz" Gruden

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13– No Mass on Saturday morning

5:00 PM [For Sunday] Fred Chesaro (Birthday)

NEXT SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14 – Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time (World Marriage Day)

8:00 AM Agnes Anker

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



World Marriage Sunday will be observed next 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.

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND- February 19-21 at the Tofftress Resort, State College, PA. For more information or to register call 412-635-7775.

THANK YOU ALL VERY MUCH

We want to sincerely thank our good people for your wonderful and generous response to the many appeals and collections in recent weeks to various causes:

1. For the victims of the tragic earthquake in Haiti which leaves all of us in a state of shock when we contemplate how fragile our existence on this earth is. Your donations were given to Catholic Relief Services which we trust to quickly and efficiently get your help to those who need it with a minimum of waste and corruption.
2. To the Little Sisters of the Poor who came to our parish last Sunday, January 31, and were received so warmly and generously by the congregation at our three weekend Masses. The Sisters are grateful to all for your kindness.
3. Today's Super Bowl ("Souper" Bowl) collection to be taken at the doors of the church, with your dollar given to the local Food Bank (Lower Allegheny Valley Food Bank) to help the needy/hungry in our own area.
4. Support of our own parish, and our diocese. We are always asking for your support, and the 2010 Parish Share Program, the annual appeal of our Bishop for Diocesan programs, about which today's bulletin insert gives details. Remember, too, that our own parish has very high utility bills, especially in the cold months of winter. For example, our gas bills for the Church, School, Liguori Center and Parish office buildings just for the one month of January amounted to a total of \$5,056.

So, for all this we thank you and we appreciate the sacrifice you are making in these difficult days not only to maintain your own homes and family but also to provide for your "Church home" and the "family" of the Church.



souperbowl.org

"SOUPER BOWL" – today, Sunday, February 7, Super Bowl Sunday, the members of the Youth Group will be outside the doors of the Church after all Masses to solicit a donation for the Food Bank of the Lower

Allegheny Valley. This annual solicitation is a nice opportunity for our parishioners to reach out to this organization.

Drop a dollar in a soup pot on Super Bowl Sunday as you leave Mass. Your donation will go directly to our Lower Valley Food Bank. With your help, more dollars will be raised, more lives will be changed, and more young people will experience the joy of serving Christ by serving others.

MEMORIAL GIFTS

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

IN MEMORY OF VICTOR BORDELL by Cecilia Zastawniak.

IN MEMORY OF ANDREW CHLODNEY by Dee Frasier.

IN MEMORY OF MARY DESMONE by Dorothy Boyle.

IN MEMORY OF DELBERT FUNKHOUSER by Kayser Family; Gail Zilla; Buddy and Paula Holmes; Helen Marchek; Louise Vandenburg; Vickie Roof; Janice and Jim Dugan; Debbie, Joe and Marissa Kandziolka; M/M Pepper Kandziolka.

IN MEMORY OF RAYMOND HUTZLER by Fran and Cathy Moxie; Chuck and Millie Evans; Dorothy Boyle; Dolly Bosman, Jim, Lisa, Andrew and Becca Bosman, John, Sharon, Alyssa and Alexis Arce; Rosalie Zimmerman; James and Rose Marie Oravitz, Jr.; M/M David Prevost and Family; Dave, Lidia, Seth and Jordan Thompson; Vitale Pascarella.

IN MEMORY OF JOHN KOLESAR by Dorothy Boyle.

IN MEMORY OF ALEX MOCK by Chris, Christina and Jacob Race; Chuck and Millie Evans.

IN MEMORY OF JOHN RAZDIK by Dorothy Boyle.

IN MEMORY OF WALTER ROLNIAK by Dorothy Boyle.

IN MEMORY OF HELEN ZOTT by Ann Iacino; Dorothy Boyle.

FOOD BANK NEWS

As we begin 2010, The Lower Valley Community Food Bank would like to thank you for your help in prior years to feed the hungry in our area.

A non-profit organization, we distribute food twice a month to approximately 180 families (650 individuals). We purchase the majority of our food supply from the Greater Pittsburgh Food Bank. However, some of the items needed to feed the children a healthy, nutritious meal are not always available. Some of the items needed are: peanut butter, jelly or jam, macaroni and cheese, crackers, packets of side dishes, cereal, pancake mix, syrup, canned soup, canned tomato products, toilet paper, paper towels and tissues.

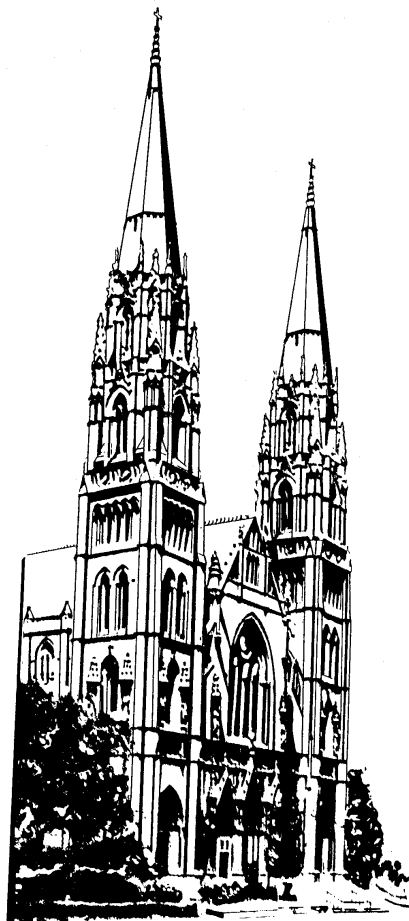
Our Ministry of Support

Thank you for your offerings to Saint Alphonsus Parish
For Sunday, January 31, 2010

Offertory\$3,894.00
Parish Share\$395.00

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

2010 PARISH SHARE PROGRAM



1906--2007
OUR CATHEDRAL CELEBRATED
IT'S CENTENNIAL IN 2007

February 7, 2010

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 the Bishop.

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.

In one week from now, on Sunday, February 14, 2010, the annual 2010 Parish Share Program Lenten Campaign begins.

The Diocese goal is over 14 million dollars. Our own **parish share goal is \$40,498.**

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 the bulletin. Other notices, especially the pledge card and return envelope will arrive in the mail this week.

We hope that you see in this appeal the opportunity of supporting our Bishop. Our Parish and our Diocese depend upon your 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 2010 Parish Share Program.

THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS YOU.

Sincerely and gratefully,

Fr. George E. Saladna
Administrator

**POPE BENEDICT ON
ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI**

FRANCIS OF ASSISI, A GIANT OF SANCTITY

VATICAN CITY, 27 JAN 2010 - Benedict XVI dedicated his catechesis during the general audience, held this morning in the Paul VI Hall, to St. Francis of Assisi (1181/82-1226), a "true 'giant' of sanctity who continues to enthral many people of all ages and religious beliefs".

Francis, the Pope explained, was born into a rich family and passed a carefree youth. At the age of twenty he took part in a military campaign and was taken prisoner. On his return to Assisi he began a process of spiritual conversion that gradually led him to abandon worldly life. In the hermitage of St. Damian, Francis had a vision of Christ, Who spoke to him from the crucifix inviting him to repair His Church.

This call "contains a profound symbolism", said the Holy Father, because the ruinous condition of the hermitage also represented "the dramatic and disquieting situation of the Church at that time, with her superficial faith that neither formed nor transformed life, her clergy little committed to its duties, and the interior decay of her unity due to the rise of heretical movements. Yet nonetheless, at the middle of that Church in ruins was the Crucifix, which spoke and called for renewal, which called Francis".

Pope Benedict also remarked upon the coincidence between that event in Francis' life and the dream of Pope Innocent III in the same year of 1207. The Pope had dreamt that the basilica of St. John Lateran was about to collapse, and a "small and insignificant" friar held it up to prevent its fall. Pope Innocent recognized the friar in Francis, who came to see him in Rome two years later.

"Innocent III", said Benedict XVI, "was a powerful Pontiff, who possessed profound theological culture as well as great political power, but it was not he who renewed the Church. It was the 'small and insignificant' friar, it was Francis, called by God. Yet it is important to recall that Francis did not renew the Church without the Pope or against the Pope, but in communion with him. The two things went together: Peter's Successor, the bishops and the Church founded on apostolic succession, and the new charism that the Spirit had created at that moment to renew the Church".

Having renounced his paternal inheritance in 1208, the saint elected to live in poverty and dedicate himself to preaching. A year later, accompanied by his first followers, he travelled to Rome to present his project for a new form of Christian life to Pope Innocent III.

Referring then to the philosophical debate concerning, on the one hand, the Francis of tradition and, on the other, the Francis some scholars define as historical, the Pope explained that the saint "wished to follow the Word of Christ ... in all its radical truth", but at the same time "he was aware that Christ is never 'mine' but 'ours', that 'I' can never possess Him, that 'I' can never rebuild against the Church, her will and her teaching".

It is also true that at first Francis "did not wish to create a new order" with all the due canonical procedures. However, not without disappointment, he came to understand "that everything must have its order and that the law of the Church is necessary to give form to renewal. Thus he entered with all his heart into communion with the Church, with the Pope and the bishops".

The Holy Father recalled how St. Clare also joined the school of St. Francis, and he praised the fruits that the Second Order of St. Francis, the Poor Clares, has brought to the Church. He then went on to speak of Francis' 1219 voyage to Egypt, where he met the Sultan Melek-el-Kamel and preached the Gospel of Jesus Christ. "In an age marked by an ongoing conflict between Christianity and Islam, Francis, armed only with the faith and his personal gentleness, effectively followed the path of dialogue. ... His is a model which even today must inspire relations between Christian and Muslims: promote dialogue in truth, in reciprocal respect and mutual understanding".

The Pope also referred to the possibility that Francis might have visited the Holy Land and pointed out that the saint's spiritual children have made the Holy Places a privileged place for their mission. "I think with gratitude", he said, "of the great merits of the Franciscan Custody of the Holy Land".

Francis, who died in 1226, "lying on the bare earth" of the Porziuncola, "represents an 'alter Christus'", and this "was, in fact, his idea, to imitate Christ's virtues. In particular, he wished to give fundamental value to interior and exterior poverty, also teaching this to his spiritual children. The witness of Francis, who loved poverty in order to follow Christ with complete devotion and freedom, continues to be, also for us today, an invitation to cultivate interior poverty so as to develop our trust in God, with a sober lifestyle and a detachment from material goods.

"In Francis", the Pope added, "love for Christ was expressed in a special way in the adoration of the Blessed Sacrament of the Eucharist". He also mentioned the saint's great admiration for priests "because they have received the gift of consecrating the Eucharist. Let us never forget", he said, "that the sanctity of the Eucharist requires us to be pure, to live in a manner coherent with the Mystery we celebrate".

Another characteristic of the saint's spirituality was "the sense of universal fraternity and love for nature which inspired him to write the 'Laudes Creaturarum'. This is a very relevant message because. the only form of sustainable development is that which respects creation and does not harm the environment", and "even the construction of lasting peace is linked to respect for the environment. Francis reminds us that that the creation reflects the wisdom and benevolence of the Creator".

The Holy Father concluded by describing Francis as "a great saint and a joyful man. There exists, in fact, an intimate and indissoluble bond between sanctity and joy. A French author once wrote that only one sadness exists in the world: that of not being saints".