

ST. ALPHONSUS CHURCH BULLETIN

FOR

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2009

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – FEBRUARY 8, 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



Today's Gospel reading, taken from the beginning of Saint Mark's Gospel, portrays Jesus working wonders and preaching the good news of the Kingdom of God.

In this short Gospel passage, St. Mark talks about Jesus fighting the devil. This combat is referred to three times: "They brought to him all who were possessed by demons,".... "He cured many who were sick, and he drove out many demons,".... "He went into their synagogues, preaching and driving out demons throughout the whole of Galilee."

The Scriptures zero in and point out the real culprit who is responsible for all our trouble: Satan, the antagonist, the evil one who is opposed to God and who hates God and who wants to steal us away from God. He is the adversary who seduced mankind in the first place, using deceit and lies to portray himself as our friend and to make God into the "bad guy," and he is still allowed to roam around seeking the destruction of souls until that end time when Jesus will put him in his place for good.

In our spiritual journey through this life, it is important to realize who our enemies are, how they try to seduce us, and how Jesus is our hope and our Savior. Jesus comes as our hero, doing battle with the devil whom Jesus labels as the "prince of the world." Even though left alone we would certainly fail in our struggle to be good, Christ will always be there for us, driving out the demon from our lives if only we have enough sense to call upon him and trust him.

Finally, we should realize how precious we are in the eyes of God, how much we mean to him, and how he thinks us worthy of salvation, worthy of the death of his son. Let us pray for the grace to stick to Jesus as he fights against our devils. Let us pray for the realization that he gives us strength to rise above our natural selves and have the ultimate victory over Satan.

-- Fr. Saladna

Mass Intentions



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

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 9 – Weekday Celebration

8:00 AM August Jursa

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10 – St. Scholastica

8:00 AM Catherine Pillitteri

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11 – Our Lady of Lourdes

8:00 AM Julia Tassotti

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12 – No Mass scheduled for today

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13 – Weekday Celebration

8:00 AM Margaret Blume

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14 – No Mass on Saturday morning

5:00 PM [For Sunday] 40TH Wedding Anniversary: Pat and Charlie Bush

NEXT SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15 – Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

11:00 AM Joseph and Elizabeth Tabacek

THANK YOU VERY MUCH – The game was Super-Super-Super, and so were **YOU** "Souper" fans. The collection for the Lower Valley Food Bank came to **\$805.53**, which will be put to good use for the needy. This collection, and others like it, is important. Even though many people are the "visible hungry" (homeless or chronically unemployed) most hunger isn't as easy to see. Many are employed but do not earn enough to adequately feed their families: the working poor. Others are hard working families who fall on hard times such as major illness and no health insurance, or job loss, or seniors dealing with the soaring cost of medication, etc.

So, thank you again for caring for them through the generosity you demonstrated in the "Souper Bowl" collection last Sunday, and wasn't it a magnificent and memorable and super win!

ST. ALPHONSUS CHURCH

SPRINGDALE, PA

2009 PARISH SHARE

To Parishioners and Friends of Saint Alphonsus Church:

Once again, it's Parish Share Program (PSP) Time

WHAT IS IT? A special, once a year, campaign to raise money for the ordinary and extraordinary works of the **CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF PITTSBURGH** of which our own parish of Saint Alphonsus Liguori is an integral part, and is thus called upon to give its own "parish share" or "fair share."

WHAT IS THE GOAL? WHAT IS OUR SHARE? The overall **DIOCESAN GOAL** is approximately \$15 million. Two-thirds of the expenses of the Diocese of Pittsburgh come from this very important annual appeal, the "parish share program."

Our own **PARISH GOAL** this year is \$44,929, and is based on our last year's "assessable income," with each parish "taxed" at the same rate. Some parishes pay less, some pay more, but the rate is the same (about 17.5%) for all parishes.

AN INDIVIDUAL GOAL of \$150 is suggested and encouraged for wage earners, a minimum pledge/gift. Many will be able to, and **SHOULD** pledge more, as in previous campaigns. We hope and pray that everyone will participate in some way. A pledge of \$150 a year for the many good works and important programs provided by our **DIOCESE OF PITTSBURGH** through the Parish Share Program amounts to **LESS THAN THREE DOLLARS A WEEK**. This small sacrifice become even easier when the pledge is honored in payments stretched out over the next ten months.

WHEN DOES THIS CAMPAIGN BEGIN?

Sunday, February 22, 2009. Actually, the PSP never really ends, for once one campaign year ends, a new campaign year begins. Parish Share has been around since 1979, thirty years. Like love and charity, giving never ends, and our devotion to our parish is like devotion to our families...it is always ongoing.

You will soon receive your personalized gift/pledge card in the mail, with instructions, together with other descriptions of the annual Parish Share Program. In this way, we are reaching out to you, asking you to support wholeheartedly this great campaign for our Bishop and the works of our Diocesan Church.

HOW DO I PARTICIPATE? Participate by letting your gift be a sacrifice of love. A gift of \$150 is less than \$3 per week. We urge you to consider the importance of this great annual collection and how much our Bishop and our Diocese depend on it. We ask you to consider, also, how easy it is to do so much when everyone does his own little bit. We urge you to make a pledge, a \$150 minimum gift, with a down payment on Sunday, February 22, 2009, and the balance to be paid through the rest of the year.

Your ordinary monthly envelope packets which you receive throughout the year will also contain a "**Parish Share Envelope**", one for each month, by which you can follow up on your pledge or continue to make PSP gifts without any specific pledge.

Outright contributions (no pledge "installments") will, of course, be welcomed and gratefully accepted, but the "pledge system" will enable you to give more and at the same time make the small sacrifice even easier.

Please be generous. Thank you all very much.

Fr. Saladna

CCD AND YOUTH GROUP NEWS

- A) **YOUTH GROUP MEMBERS:** T-shirt order forms are now available in the Activity Room. Orders can be dropped off at the Rectory or given to Mrs. Mueller in the CCD Office. Please note that the **DEADLINE** for ordering this year's T-shirt is Sunday, February 22, 2009.
- B) **ATTENTION ALL SEVENTH AND EIGHTH GRADERS** – You are invited to attend a LEAD training program to be held at CAMP GUYASUTA, Sharpsburg, on Saturday, April 18 and Sunday, April 19. Overnight accommodations, meals, and t-shirts are included with the special addition of the Challenge Course, which offers initiative games, low and high course elements, and a climbing/rappelling tower. This program is sponsored and supervised by the Middle School Youth Ministry Department of the Diocese of Pittsburgh. For more information, please call Mrs. Mueller at 412-828-3007.
- C) **ATTENTION ALL PARISHIONERS** – The CCD program is in need of specific “recyclables” for use in our program. We need egg cartons, paper half-gallon milk cartons (thoroughly rinsed) and clean plastic peanut butter jars. Please place these materials in the blue bin in the Activity Room. Your help is appreciated. Thank you very much.
- D) **THE SECRETARIAT FOR EDUCATION** and the Department for Youth and Young Adult Ministry are expected to sponsor the 2009 High School Rally for Spring. The theme for this rally, scheduled for Saturday, March 14, at LaRoche College is “Living Out Stewardship: Praying, Sharing and Serving.” This Lenten day will provide students in grades 9-12 opportunities for prayer, sharing and service challenging all of us to become more faithful followers of Jesus Christ. The day will conclude with Mass celebrated by Bishop Paul Bradley. Cost is \$15 per person. Please help us welcome a new season. Reservation forms for this event are in the Activity Room. Contact Mrs. Mueller for additional information.



WORLD MARRIAGE DAY will be celebrated today, 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.

SAINT PAUL SEMINARY OPEN HOUSE – Saint Paul Seminary in Crafton is hosting an Open House on Sunday, February 15, for all high school, college, and career age men interested in learning more about the priestly formation program and seminary life. The schedule begins with Mass at 9:30 AM with Bishop Zubik presiding and includes brunch, a tour of the seminary, and presentations by the seminarians. For more information or to register, please contact the Office for Vocations at 412-456-3123.

Your Ministry of Support

Thank you for your offerings to Saint Alphonsus Parish
For Sunday, February 1, 2009

Offertory	\$5,767.00
Parish Share	\$686.00

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

CHRIST GIVES MEANING TO OUR SUFFERING

VATICAN CITY, 1 FEB 2009 - At midday, before praying the Angelus with faithful gathered in St. Peter's Square, Benedict XVI recalled the fact that today in Italy marks the Day for Life, the theme of which this year is: "The power of life in suffering".

"Jesus always taught His disciples that in order to enter into glory He had to suffer, to be rejected, condemned and crucified. Suffering was an integral part of His mission", said the Pope.

"Jesus suffered and died on the cross for love. In this way He gave meaning to our own suffering, a meaning that many men and women of all ages have understood and made their own, thus experiencing profound serenity even amid the bitterness of harsh physical and moral trials".

Recalling then the theme of the Day for Life, a theme chosen by Italian bishops, the Pope explained how it reflects "the pastors' love for their people and the courage to announce the truth, the courage to say clearly, for example, that euthanasia is a false solution to the drama of suffering, a solution unworthy of humankind.

"The true response cannot, in fact, be that of delivering people to death, however 'sweet' a death it may be, but of bearing witness to the love that helps people face pain and agony in a human way. We can be certain that no tear, either of those who suffer or of their loved ones, is lost before God".

The Holy Father concluded by entrusting to the protection of the Virgin Mary people who suffer "and those who work day after day to support them, serving life at every stage: parents, healthcare workers, priests, religious, researchers, volunteers, and many others".

- Vatican Information Service

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HOMEMADE MEAT RAVIOLI DINNER – today, Sunday, February 8 at Holy Family Church, Creighton, Serving 12 Noon to 5 PM. Adults: \$9, Children: \$5.

PROTECT THE VITAL COHESIVE ROLE OF THE FAMILY

VATICAN CITY, 2 FEB 2009 - This morning in the Vatican, the Holy Father received the Letters of Credence of Janos Balassa, the new ambassador of Hungary to the See.

In his English-language address to the diplomat, the Pope explained how "the forces that govern economic and political affairs in the modern world need to be ... built upon an ethical foundation, giving priority always to the dignity and the rights of the human person and the common good of humanity.

"In view of its strong Christian heritage, stretching back over a thousand years, Hungary is well placed to assist in the promotion of these humane ideals within the European community and the wider world community, and it is my hope that our diplomatic relations will serve to support this vital dimension of your country's contribution to international affairs".

Referring then to his Message for the 2008 World Day of Peace in which he had "stressed the primordial importance of the family for building peaceful community relations at every level", the Holy Father noted how "in much of modern Europe the vital cohesive role that the family has to play in human affairs is being called into question and even endangered as a result of misguided ways of thinking that at times find expression in aggressive social and political policies.

"It is my earnest hope", he added, "that ways will be found of safeguarding this essential element of our society, which is the heart of every culture and nation. One of the specific ways government can support the family is by assuring that parents are allowed to exercise their fundamental right as the primary educators of their children, which would include the option to send their children to religious schools when they so desire".

Benedict XVI then highlighted how the Catholic church in Hungary, "after decades of oppression, sustained by the heroic witness of so many Christians, ... has emerged to take her place in a transformed society, able once more to proclaim the Gospel freely. She seeks no privileges for herself, but is eager to play her part in the life of the nation, true to her nature and mission".

He concluded: "As the process continues of implementing the agreements between Hungary and the Holy See - I think of the recently signed memorandum on religious assistance for the armed forces and border police - I am confident that any outstanding questions affecting the life of the Church in your country will be resolved in the spirit of good will and fruitful dialogue which has characterized our diplomatic relations ever since they were so happily restored", in 1990.

- Vatican Information Service