

ST. ALPHONSUS CHURCH BULLETIN

FOR

SUNDAY, JANUARY 10, 2010

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD -- JANUARY 10, 2010

Saint Alphonsus

Roman Catholic Church

A Pennsylvania Charitable Trust

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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

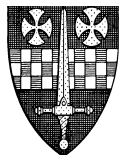
LIGUORI CENTER OFFICES (school building side entrance)

(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

Diocesan Victim Assistance Hotline 1-888-808-1235

CATHOLIC
DIOCESE OF
PITTSBURGH
VICARIATE
NO. 4

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Here is my servant whom I uphold

SIGNS OF OUR LIFE

Today, we celebrate the **BAPTISM OF THE LORD**. Jesus is baptized by John in the Jordan River and introduced to the people by John and by the Holy Spirit who descends on him in the form of a dove.

A lot of people ask why Jesus was baptized. After all, he was God and had no need to repent or reform. This is true, and even John protests, saying, "You should be baptizing me, and not the other way around." However, Jesus tells John to let it happen, for in doing all these things, even though it was not necessary, Jesus is giving us an example of obedience to the will of God.

An even better question would be, "Why are **WE** baptized?" Why do we receive **ANY** of the Sacraments? Why do we have to confess our sins to the priest? Why do we have to have hands imposed on our heads and be anointed with oil when we are Confirmed? Why do we have to receive Holy Communion? Why do we have to go through a ceremony when we are married in the Church?

It all has to do with **SIGNS**. We need signs in our lives because we cannot see the mind or the heart or the spirit of our God. We need to be reminded through visible signs of the presence of the healing, of mission and other abstract concepts. These notions are beyond the body, and signs are representations of them. For example, at a wedding, the couple exchange not only vows but also give rings, and when they place the ring on each other's finger, they say, "Take this ring, which is a **SIGN** of my love for you and my faithfulness."

This is what **BAPTISM** is and what **ALL THE SACRAMENTS ARE**: signs. Signs (ceremonies, words, actions) which represent and actually produce and cause the effect they signify.

To get back to our original question, why do we have to be baptized? – the answer is so **WE** can know and feel and experience the presence of God in our souls and our lives. We who are made up of body and soul, and

whose soul comes to know things through the body...we need to have **SIGNS** (Sacraments) that these things are happening to us.

So let those who complain and say, "We don't have to confess our sins to the priest," also say, "We don't have to have Baptism for our babies," or "We don't have to have anointing for our bodies," or "We don't have to have Communion for our souls."

Accepting the **SIGNS** of the Church is the same as accepting the will of Christ for us. And Jesus gives us all these Sacraments for our benefit and convenience, not for his. He doesn't need them. We do.

Let us renew our own Baptism vows today as we celebrate the Baptism of Christ by John.

-- Fr. Saladna



SCHEDULE OF MASSES FOR THIS WEEK

- MONDAY, JANUARY 11** – Weekday Celebration
8:00 AM Katie Meyers
- TUESDAY, JANUARY 12** – Weekday Celebration
8:00 AM Helen Zott
- WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 13** – Weekday Celebration
8:00 AM Deceased members of the Fenn and Kuchta Families
- THURSDAY, JANUARY 14** – **No Mass this morning**
- FRIDAY, JANUARY 15** – Weekday Celebration
8:00 AM Michael J. Faith
- SATURDAY, JANUARY 16** -- **No Mass on Saturday morning**
5:00 PM [For Sunday] Paul Soulcheck, Jr. (Anniv.)
- NEXT SUNDAY, JANUARY 17** – Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
8:00 AM For all Parishioners, Liv. & Dec.
11:00 AM Nancy and Catherine Pillitteri

CCD AND BABY JESUS SCHOOL – CCD classes and Baby Jesus School will resume today, Sunday, January 10, 2010.

JESUS IS THE SAVIOR AND LIBERATOR OF MANKIND

VATICAN CITY, 25 DEC 2009 - At midday today, Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord, the Holy Father pronounced his traditional Christmas Message from the central loggia of the Vatican Basilica, and imparted the "Urbi et Orbi" blessing.

Extracts of the Message are given below:

"The liturgy of the Mass at Dawn reminded us that the night is now past, the day has begun; the light radiating from the cave of Bethlehem shines upon us".

"The light of that first Christmas was like a fire kindled in the night. All about there was darkness, while in the cave there shone the true light 'that enlightens every man'".

"Today too, in those who encounter that Child, God still kindles fires in the night of the world, calling men and women everywhere to acknowledge in Jesus the 'sign' of His saving and liberating presence and to extend the 'us' of those who believe in Christ to the whole of mankind.

"Wherever there is an 'us' which welcomes God's love, there the light of Christ shines forth, even in the most difficult situations. The Church, like the Virgin Mary, offers the world Jesus, the Son, Whom she herself has received as a gift, the One Who came to set mankind free from the slavery of sin".

"Today too, on behalf of a human family profoundly affected by a grave financial crisis, yet even more by a moral crisis, and by the painful wounds of wars and conflicts, the Church, in faithful solidarity with mankind, repeats with the shepherds: 'Let us go to Bethlehem', for there we shall find our hope.

"The 'us' of the Church is alive in the place where Jesus was born, in the Holy Land, inviting its people to abandon every logic of violence and vengeance, and to engage with renewed vigor and generosity in the process which leads to peaceful coexistence. The 'us' of the Church is present in the other countries of the Middle East. How can we forget the troubled situation in Iraq and the 'little flock' of Christians which lives in the region? At times it is subject to violence and injustice, but it remains determined to make its own contribution to the building of a society opposed to the logic of conflict and the rejection of one's neighbor.

"The 'us' of the Church is active in Sri Lanka, in the Korean peninsula and in the Philippines, as well as in the other countries of Asia, as a leaven of reconciliation and peace.

"On the continent of Africa she does not cease to lift her voice to God, imploring an end to every injustice in the Democratic Republic of Congo; she invites the citizens of Guinea and Niger to respect for the rights of every person and to dialogue; she begs those of Madagascar to overcome their internal divisions and to be mutually accepting; and she reminds all men and women that they are called to hope, despite the tragedies, trials and difficulties which still afflict them.

"In Europe and North America, the 'us' of the Church urges people to leave behind the selfish and technicist mentality, to advance the common good and to show respect for the persons who are most defenseless, starting with the unborn. In Honduras she is assisting in the process of rebuilding institutions; throughout Latin America, the 'us' of the Church is a source of identity, a fullness of truth and of charity which no ideology can replace, a summons to respect for the inalienable rights of each person and his or her integral development, a proclamation of justice and fraternity, a source of unity.

"In fidelity to the mandate of her Founder, the Church shows solidarity with the victims of natural disasters and poverty, even within opulent societies. In the face of the exodus of all those who migrate from their homelands and are driven away by hunger, intolerance or environmental degradation, the Church is a presence calling others to an attitude of acceptance and welcome. In a word, the Church everywhere proclaims the Gospel of Christ, despite persecutions, discriminations, attacks and at times hostile indifference. These, in fact, enable her to share the lot of her Master and Lord".

Following his Message, the Pope extended Christmas greetings in 65 languages and imparted his blessing "Urbi et Orbi" (to the city and the world).

- Vatican Information Service

THE PITTSBURGH DIOCESE is home to two nationally recognized educational programs for children with special needs: St. Anthony School Programs and DePaul School for Hearing and Speech (Formerly known as The DePaul Institute). A special collection to benefit these two organizations will be taken **next weekend, January 17, 2010 at all Masses in every parish.**

St. Anthony School Programs provide Catholic special education to children with development delays and autism in 10 schools within the Diocese and a college-age program located on the Duquesne University campus. DePaul School for Hearing and Speech teaches children who have moderate to profound hearing loss how to listen, learn and speak, so that these children may live without boundaries in our hearing and speaking world.

Your donation will help St. Anthony School Programs and DePaul School for Hearing and Speech to further their goals. Your generosity will help these organizations forever improve the lives of their students and families.

Our Ministry of Support	
Thank you for your offerings to Saint Alphonsus Parish For January 1 and Sunday, January 3, 2010	
Offertory	\$7,619.00
Parish Share	\$3,107.00
PLEASE REMEMBER SAINT ALPHONSUS CHURCH IN YOUR WILL	