

**ST. ALPHONSUS CHURCH BULLETIN**

**FOR**

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 17, 2010**

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – JANUARY 17, 2010

# *Saint Alphonsus*

## Roman Catholic Church

A Pennsylvania Charitable Trust

750 Pittsburgh Street • Springdale, PA • 15144

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Web Page Address: [www.stalphonsuschurch.com](http://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.



**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

### 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

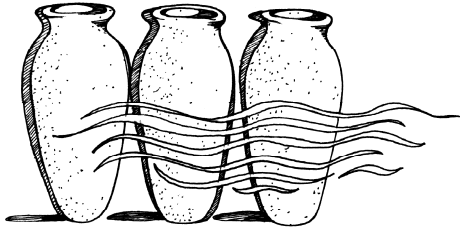
**CCD & Youth Min.** - Karen Mueller

**Social Services** - Cathy Moxie

**Music Director/Organist** – Vickie Roof

CATHOLIC  
DIOCESE OF  
PITTSBURGH  
VICARIATE  
NO. 4

You have kept  
the good wine



until now

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### YOU HAVE KEPT THE BEST TILL LAST

On this first Sunday after the Christmas Season, the Gospel story is about Jesus' miracle at Cana, when he changed the water into wine at the request of his mother, Mary.

This episode is reported by St. John, who calls it a "sign" instead of a miracle. John tries to show in his Gospel not only what Jesus did then and there, but also what it means for us here and now.

The key sentence in today's Gospel selection is uttered by the headwaiter at the wedding, when he tells the bridegroom, "You have saved the best until last, you have kept the good wine until now." Jesus is the new wine, the best wine, fulfilling and replacing all that went before him. Those who know and love and follow Christ can never return to what they had before. As the Lord himself said on another occasion, "I have come not to abolish the law and the prophets, but rather to bring them to perfection."

At the wedding in Cana, before Jesus made wine out of water, he told the waiters to first fill the containers with water. Certainly, the Lord could have made the wine out of nothing, but he insisted that they first provide what they could; water, and then he transformed it into the "best" wine they ever tasted. So it is in our life – Jesus asks us to do our best, to provide what we can as we struggle on our pilgrim way, and after we have done what we can the Lord provides the rest.

The same Jesus who was present with his mother and apostles at Cana in Galilee 2,000 years ago is still present today, still working his wonders, still providing the wine of sanctifying grace, still saving the best until last. And that best is here now for us, inviting us to the banquet of eternal life.

-- Fr. Saladna

### Mass Intentions




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

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- MONDAY, JANUARY 18** – Weekday Celebration  
8:00 AM Alice Susa
- TUESDAY, JANUARY 19** – Weekday Celebration  
8:00 AM Deceased members of the Fenn  
and Kuchta Families
- WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 20** – Weekday Celebration  
8:00 AM Mary Pulliam
- THURSDAY, JANUARY 21** – **No Mass scheduled  
for today**
- FRIDAY, JANUARY 22** -- Weekday Celebration  
8:00 AM Oliver and Julia Tassotti
- SATURDAY, JANUARY 23** – **No Mass on Saturday  
morning**  
5:00 PM [For Sunday] For all Parishioners,  
Liv. & Dec.
- NEXT SUNDAY, JANUARY 24** – Third Sunday in  
Ordinary Time  
8:00 AM Carol Sobotka (Birthday)  
11:00 AM Mary Desmone

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**REST IN PEACE** -- The parish family of Saint  
Alphonsus wishes to extend their deepest sympathy to  
the family of Raymond Hutzler. Please remember the  
deceased and his family in your prayers.

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# IMPORTANT MESSAGE!

**ATTENTION ALL PARENTS OF 5<sup>TH</sup>, 6<sup>TH</sup>, 7<sup>TH</sup> AND 8<sup>TH</sup>  
Graders in our CCD Program:** There will be a brief  
parent information meeting today after the 8:00 AM  
Mass to discuss the Diocese of Pittsburgh's Catholic  
Vision of Love Program. All are encouraged to attend.



**YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS**

**Souper Bowl of Caring: Sunday, February 7, 2010**

More than 20 years ago, the Souper Bowl of Caring began with a simple prayer from a single youth group:

“Lord, as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us to be mindful of those without even a bowl of soup to eat.”

Since that day, more than \$60 million has been raised for local charities across the country through the Souper Bowl of Caring. It has become a powerful movement that is transforming Super Bowl weekend in to the nation’s largest youth led weekend of giving and serving.

Through this mission, young people learn what it’s like to make a positive difference in the world as they collect food, raise money and volunteer to work in charities.

Please be part of this movement that is sharing God’s love with those in need. Please give generously on Souper Bowl Sunday. Every dollar donated goes to the Lower Valley Food Bank, our 2010 Souper Bowl of Caring charity of choice.

**LOVEWALK FOR THE POOR: Sunday, February 14, 2010, 2 PM, Sacred Heart Parish.** The Lovewalk for the Poor is a spiritual, social and service event aimed to aid the poor of our Diocese. After celebrating Mass with Bishop Zubik at Sacred Heart Parish, we will march to the East End Cooperative Ministries, carrying our donations for the Rosalia Center. There, St. Alphonsus Youth Ministry will set up a service table, providing service activities for over 2,000 participants. If you would like to participate this year, please contact Mrs. Mueller at 412-841-2017. Additional information and permission slips are in the Activity Room.

**CATHOLIC LONG TERM CARE NETWORK  
AT LAST THERE IS SOMEWHERE TO GO....  
...for information about aging and long-term care.**

Often, Catholics are not sure where to turn when an immediate decision must be made concerning the care of a loved one. They may not even be sure what questions to ask.

The Catholic Long Term Care Network (CLTCN) has established a Web site ([www.cltcn.org](http://www.cltcn.org)) and information to assist you in making decisions about care. Be sure to visit their website before you need it.

The Catholic Long Term Care Network is nine care-giving organizations providing services for the elderly that reflect Gospel values and Catholic traditions.

It is their mission “to provide high quality care to those who need it, thus continuing to witness the church’s tradition of ministry and service.”

If you share responsibility for a loved one, we encourage you to seek information about care before the need arises.

**SHARING YOUR VALUES – SHARING THE CARE**

Little Sisters of the Poor (North Side)	412-761-5373
Marian Hall Home (Bellevue)	412-761-1999
Marian Manor (Greentree)	412-563-6866
Mt. Macrina Manor (Uniontown)	724-437-1400
St. Anne Home (Greensburg)	724-837-6070
Villa St. Joseph (Baden)	724-869-6300
Vincetian de Marillac (Pittsburgh)	412-361-2833
Vincetian Home (North Hills)	412-366-5600
Vincetian Regency (North Hills)	412-366-8540

**SURPRISES**

Life is full of surprises, some pleasant, some not. The scriptures are filled with stories of God’s surprises cropping up when they are least expected: younger children obtaining the inheritance; the lowliest being seated highest up; an itinerant preacher, killed like a criminal, exalted to eternal, heavenly glory.

Anybody who has planned a wedding or similar event knows that they are filled with opportunities for surprises. For the bridegroom in today’s Gospel story, who has no direct contact with Jesus, the pleasant surprise came because somebody else paid attention and had faith in Jesus.

We may think that the point of today’s familiar story of the wedding at Cana is that when we have faith in Jesus, our lives will be pleasantly changed. A Christian, however, needs to have a broader perspective and realize that to have faith in Christ means that somebody’s life—not necessarily our own—will be surprised for the better.

## SAFEGUARD THE FAMILY FOUNDED ON MARRIAGE

VATICAN CITY, 27 DEC 2009 - Before praying the Angelus on this Sunday of the Holy Family, the Pope reminded the faithful gathered in St. Peter's Square that "God wished to reveal Himself by being born in a human family, and hence the human family has become an icon of God.

"God is Trinity", he added. "He is communion of love, and the family - with all the difference that exists between the Mystery of God and His human creature - is an expression thereof which reflects the unfathomable mystery of God-Love. The human family is, in a certain sense, the icon of the Trinity because of the love between its members and the fruitfulness of that love".

Commenting then on today's Gospel reading which narrates how the twelve-year-old Jesus stayed behind in the Temple without His parents' knowledge, the Pope explained that "Jesus' decision to remain in the Temple was above all the fruit of his intimate relationship with the Father, but also the fruit of the education received from Mary and Joseph".

And he went on: "Here we may catch a glimpse of the authentic meaning of Christian education. It is the result of a collaboration that must always be sought between the educators and God. The Christian family is aware that children are God's gift and project. Hence it cannot consider them as its own possessions but, serving God's plan through them, is called to educate them in the greatest of freedoms which is that of saying 'yes' to God in order to accomplish His will".

The Holy Father then addressed some remarks to participants in the Feast of the Holy Family which is being celebrated today in Madrid, Spain. "God, by having come into the world in the bosom of a family, shows that this institution is a sure way to meet and know Him, and a permanent call to work for the loving unity of all people. Thus, one of the greatest services which we as Christians can offer our fellow men and women is to show them the serene and solid witness of a family founded upon marriage between a man and a woman, defending it and protecting it, because it is of supreme importance for the present and future of humankind.

"In truth, the family is the best school in which to learn to live the values that dignify individuals and make peoples great. There too sufferings and joys are shared, as everyone feels cloaked in the affection that reigns in the home by the mere fact of being members of the same family".

Benedict XVI prayed to God that family homes may always experience "this love of total commitment and fidelity which Jesus brought into the world by His birth, nourishing and strengthening it with daily prayer, the constant practice of virtue, reciprocal understanding and mutual respect.

"I encourage you - trusting in the maternal intercession of Mary Most Holy, Queen of Families, and the powerful protection of St. Joseph, her husband - tirelessly to dedicate yourselves to this beautiful mission the Lord has placed in your hands. Be sure of my closeness and affection", he concluded, "and I pray you carry a very special greeting from the Pope to those of your loved ones who suffer greatest need and difficulties".

- Vatican Information Service

## Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

### "SEEING IS BELIEVING"

Turn that saying around and you get "Believing is seeing." Faith is the gift of looking right through and beyond what is obvious. Believing is seeing what lies beyond sight. Isaiah had faith. He saw right through and beyond the "forsaken" and "desolate" circumstances of the people. Isaiah saw through to the faithfulness and love of God—and dared to proclaim it.

Saint Paul had faith. Faced with ordinary people struggling with ordinary jealousies and divisions, he told them (and tells us) to look beyond the obvious. One person heals, another works wonders, another preaches. People have different functions. But so what? Behind the different gifts is "one and the same Spirit [who] produces all these" gifts (1 Corinthians 12:11).

Jesus' disciples were developing faith. Through the "signs" of this ordinary-seeming man who went with his mother to a wedding reception, they began to see beyond the visible, to discern divinity at work in him.

### IT TAKES PRACTICE

Like the disciples, we are developing faith. We are discovering that there is a world beyond the world at the tip of our noses. Call it the world of the Spirit; call it the supernatural; call it what you will. But behind what is obvious lies a divine presence, a hidden reality.

And yet not completely hidden. With faith, we glimpse the hand of God at work, especially in our own lives. But if not looked for, that divine hand surely will remain unseen. When we try to see how everything works for our good, we begin to see the signs of divine love gently moving us. The excitement of a new job or the possibilities opened up by losing a job; warm sunshine or cold rain; winning or losing—it's a matter of opening up our eyes to the benefits of everything.

Not always easy, of course. But it certainly doesn't take a saint. It takes practice. We must look at our lives and see beyond the obvious. We must practice looking for the miracle, the sign, the presence of the Spirit.

**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.

We appreciate your donation to help those families in need, especially during the cold winter months.

**DEEPENING MY RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD: Day of Reflection for Single Women 18-35.** Registration by Friday, January 29. Overnight beginning Friday, February 5, 7:30 PM; ending Saturday, February 6 at 7:30 PM. Includes: presentations, Eucharistic adoration, Mass, meals and discussion. For more information call Sister of St. Francis at Mt. Alvernia at 412-821-2200, x 430.

**Our Ministry of Support**

Thank you for your offerings to Saint Alphonsus Parish  
For Sunday, January 10, 2010

Offertory ..... \$4,264.00  
Parish Share..... \$696.00

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

**ST. ANTHONY SCHOOL COLLECTION – TODAY, SUNDAY, JANUARY 17.** The Pittsburgh Diocese is home to two unique and nationally recognized education programs for special needs children: St. Anthony’s School Programs and the DePaul Institute. A special collection will be taken up in every parish at all Masses this weekend. St. Anthony’s provides a Catholic education to children with developmental delays and autism in 11 schools within the Diocese and at Duquesne University. The DePaul Institute teaches children who are deaf or hearing impaired how to speak clearly and understand speech with confidence in order for these children to take their full place in our hearing and speaking world. Your donation will help both of these organizations forever improve the lives of their students.

**UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS**

**Stop Abortion Funding in Health Care Reform!  
Protect Conscience  
Ensure Affordable Health Coverage  
Allow Immigrants to Purchase Private Health Insurance**

As long-time advocates of health care reform, the U.S. Catholic bishops continue to make the moral case that genuine health care reform must protect the life, dignity, consciences and health of all, especially the poor and vulnerable. Health care reform should not advance a pro-abortion agenda in our country.

- On November 7, the U.S. House of Representatives passed major health care reform that reaffirms the essential, longstanding and widely supported policy against using federal funds for elective abortions and includes positive measures on affordability and immigrants.

- On December 24, the U.S. Senate rejected this policy and passed health care reform that requires federal funds to help subsidize and promote health plans that cover elective abortions. All purchasers of such plans will be required to pay for other people’s abortions through a separate payment solely to pay for abortion.

- Outside the abortion context, neither bill has adequate conscience protection for health care providers, plans or employers.

- These two bills must now be combined into one bill that both the House and Senate will vote on in final form. Provisions against abortion funding and in favor of conscience protection, affordability, and immigrants’ access to health care must be part of a fair and just health care reform bill, or the final bill must be opposed.

**ACTION:** Contact your Representative and Senators today by e-mail, phone or FAX.

- To send a pre-written, instant e-mail to Congress go to [www.usccb.org/action](http://www.usccb.org/action).

- Call the U.S. Capitol switchboard at: 202-224-3121, or call your Members’ local offices. Contact information can be found on Member’s web sites at [www.house.gov](http://www.house.gov) and [www.senate.gov](http://www.senate.gov).